

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Regulated Industries

BILL: SB 1014

INTRODUCER: Senator Mayfield

SUBJECT: Provision of Municipal Utility Service to Owners Outside the Municipal Limits

DATE: February 2, 2026

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. Schrader	Imhof	RI	Pre-meeting
2.		CA	
3.		RC	

## **I. Summary:**

SB 1014 prohibits municipal water and wastewater utilities from declining to extend water or wastewater service to a property outside of the corresponding municipality's corporate limits solely based on the owner of such property's refusal to allow the property to be annexed by the municipality. In addition, the bill creates a procedure and requirements to determine when such utilities must extend service to a customer outside the municipality's corporate limits.

## **II. Present Situation:**

### **Florida Public Service Commission**

The Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) is an arm of the legislative branch of government.<sup>1</sup> The role of the PSC is to ensure Florida's consumers receive utility services, including electric, natural gas, telephone, water, and wastewater, in a safe and reliable manner and at fair prices.<sup>2</sup> In order to do so, the PSC exercises authority over utilities in one or more of the following areas: rate base or economic regulation; competitive market oversight; and monitoring of safety, reliability, and service issues.<sup>3</sup>

### ***Water and Wastewater Utilities***

Florida's Water and Wastewater System Regulatory Law, ch. 367, F.S., regulates water and wastewater systems in the state. Section 367.011, F.S., grants the PSC exclusive jurisdiction over each utility with respect to its authority, service, and rates. For the chapter, a "utility" is defined

<sup>1</sup> Section 350.001, F.S.

<sup>2</sup> See Florida Public Service Commission, *Florida Public Service Commission Homepage*, <http://www.psc.state.fl.us> (last visited Dec. 3, 2025).

<sup>3</sup> Florida Public Service Commission, *About the PSC*, <https://www.psc.state.fl.us/about> (last visited Dec. 3, 2025).

as “a water or wastewater utility and, except as provided in s. 367.022, F.S., includes every person, lessee, trustee, or receiver owning, operating, managing, or controlling a system, or proposing construction of a system, who is providing, or proposes to provide, water or wastewater service to the public for compensation.” In 2024, the PSC had jurisdiction over 153 investor-owned water and/or wastewater utilities in 40 of Florida’s 67 counties.<sup>4</sup>

Section 367.022, F.S., exempts certain types of water and wastewater operations from PSC jurisdiction and the provisions of ch. 367, F.S. (except as expressly provided in the chapter). Such exempt operations include: municipal water and wastewater systems, public lodging systems that only provide service to their guests, systems with a 100-person or less capacity, landlords that include service to their tenants without specific compensation for such service, and mobile home parks operating both as a mobile home park and a mobile home subdivision that provide “service within the park and subdivision to a combination of both tenants and lot owners, provided that the service to tenants is without specific compensation,” and others.<sup>5</sup> The PSC also does not regulate utilities in counties that have exempted themselves from PSC regulation pursuant to s. 367.171, F.S. However, under s. 367.171(7), F.S., the PSC retains exclusive jurisdiction over all utility systems whose service crosses county boundaries, except for utility systems that are subject to interlocal utility agreements.

### ***Municipal Water and Sewer Utilities in Florida***

A municipality<sup>6</sup> may establish a utility by resolution or ordinance under s. 180.03, F.S. A municipality may establish a service area within its municipal boundary or within five miles of its corporate limits of the municipality.<sup>7</sup>

Under s. 180.19, F.S., a municipality may permit another municipality and the owners or association of owners of lands outside of its corporate limits or within another municipality’s corporate limits to connect to its utilities upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between the municipalities.

### ***Municipal Water and Sewer Utility Rate Setting***

The PSC does not have jurisdiction over municipal water and sewer utilities, and as such, has no authority over the rates for such utilities. Municipally-owned water and sewer utility rates, revenues, and territories are regulated by their respective local governments, sometimes through a utility board or commission.

### ***Municipal Water and Sewer Utility Rates for Customers Outside of Corporate Limits***

Section 180.191, F.S., provides limitations on the rates that can be charged to customers outside their municipal boundaries. A municipality may charge the same rates outside as inside its municipal boundaries, but may add a surcharge of not more than 25 percent to those outside the

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<sup>4</sup> Florida Public Service Commission, *2025 Facts and Figures of the Florida Utility Industry*, p. 4, <https://www.floridapsc.com/pscfiles/website-files/PDF/Publications/Reports/General/FactsAndFigures/April%202025.pdf> (last visited Jan. 29, 2026).

<sup>5</sup> Section 367.022, F.S.

<sup>6</sup> Defined by s. 180.01, F.S., “as any city, town, or village duly incorporated under the laws of the state.”

<sup>7</sup> Section 180.02, F.S., *see also* s. 180.06, F.S.

boundaries.<sup>8</sup> The fixing of rates, fees, or charges for customers outside of the municipal boundaries, in this manner, does not require a public hearing.

Alternatively, a municipality may charge rates that are just and equitable and based upon the same factors used in fixing the rates for the customers within the boundaries of the municipality. In addition, the municipality may add a 25 percent surcharge. When a municipality uses this methodology, the total of all rates, fees, and charges for the services charged to customers outside the municipal boundaries may not be more than 50 percent in excess of the total amount the municipality charges consumers within its municipal boundaries, for corresponding service.<sup>9</sup> Under this scenario, the rates, fees, and charges may not be set until a public hearing is held and the users, owners, tenants, occupants of property served or to be served, and all other interested parties have an opportunity to be heard on the rates, fees, and charges. Any change in the rates, fees, and charges must also have a public hearing unless the change is applied pro rata to all classes of service, both inside and outside of the municipality.<sup>10</sup>

The provisions of s. 180.191, F.S., may be enforced by civil action. Whenever any municipality violates, or if reasonable grounds exist to believe that a municipality is about to violate, s. 180.191, F.S., an aggrieved party may seek preventive relief, including an application for a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or other order.<sup>11</sup> A prevailing party under such an action may seek treble damages and, in addition, a reasonable attorney's fee as part of the cost.<sup>12</sup> Section 180.191, F.S., applies to municipally owned water and sewer utilities within the confines of a single county and may apply, pursuant to interlocal agreement, to municipally owned water and sewer utilities beyond the confines of a single county.

## **Municipal Annexation**

A municipality may propose to annex any area of contiguous, compact, unincorporated territory by ordinance or may be petitioned for annexation by owner(s) of "contiguous... and reasonably compact" real property.<sup>13</sup> An area is considered "contiguous" if a substantial part of its boundary is coterminous with a part of the boundary of the municipality.<sup>14</sup> An area is compact if it is concentrated in a single area and does not create enclaves, pockets, or finger areas.<sup>15</sup> All lands to be annexed must be in the same county as the annexing municipality.<sup>16</sup>

The exact method of municipal annexation is proscribed by general law and includes involuntary and voluntary means of producing new municipal boundaries. Voluntary annexation, as provided by law, does not apply to municipalities in counties with charters which provide for an exclusive method of municipal annexation.<sup>17</sup> In such cases, the means established by county charter prevail.

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<sup>8</sup> Section 180.191(1)(a), F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Section 180.191(1)(b), F.S.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> Section 180.191(2), F.S.

<sup>12</sup> Section 180.191(4), F.S.

<sup>13</sup> Sections. 171.0413(1) and 171.044(1), F.S.

<sup>14</sup> Section 171.031(11), F.S.

<sup>15</sup> Section 171.031(12), F.S.

<sup>16</sup> Section 171.045, F.S.

<sup>17</sup> Section 171.044(4), F.S.

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

**Section 1** of the bill amends s. 180.19, F.S., to prohibit municipal water and wastewater utilities (municipal utility) from declining to extend water or wastewater service to a property outside of the corresponding municipality's corporate limits solely based on the owner of such property's refusal to allow the property to be annexed by the municipality. In addition, the bill creates a procedure and requirements to determine when municipal utilities must extend service to a customer outside the municipality's corporate limits. Specifically, a municipal utility must extend service if:

- The property is not within the service territory of another water or wastewater utility, as applicable;
- The municipal utility has sufficient capacity to serve the property's anticipated water or wastewater load, as applicable; or
- The property is within 2,000 meters of the municipal utility's facility<sup>18</sup>, measured by the closest property boundary line from such facility.

A municipal utility is deemed to have sufficient capacity if it has the infrastructure, water supply, and managerial and financial ability to reliably meet current and reasonably anticipated future water demands and treat wastewater flows while maintaining compliance with applicable state and federal drinking water and wastewater standards and requirements.

The section provides that, upon an application for service by a property owner pursuant to the section, the municipal utility must:

- Determine within 90 days whether it has sufficient capacity to provide service to the given property.<sup>19</sup>
- Provide the owner, in writing, with its determination and the reasons for such determination.
- If the municipal utility has sufficient capacity, it must provide the owner with the anticipated fees, charges, contributions, and any other requirements to connect the property to the municipal utility under its existing fee, charge, and contribution structure.

Once the requirements are met by the customer, the municipal utility must connect them in a timely manner with its system and provide service.

For such applications, the municipal utility may establish minimum application requirements that include the customer providing a reasonable estimate of their water and wastewater load, the nature of any property development, and the payment of an application fee to cover the reasonable costs associated with conducting the capacity determination and assessing anticipated fees, charges, contributions, and other requirements to potentially connect the property.

If a municipal utility does not allow such customers to connect to their system in violation of the section, the owner may bring a civil enforcement action to enforce the provisions of the bill. If

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<sup>18</sup> The bill defines a "facility" as "a water treatment facility, a wastewater treatment facility, an intake station, a pumping station, a well, and other physical components of a water or wastewater system; pipes, tanks, pumps, or other facilities that transport water from a water source or treatment facility to the consumer; and pipes, conduits, and associated appurtenances that transport wastewater from the point of entry to a wastewater treatment facility."

<sup>19</sup> The determination may account for any anticipated development on such property.

the property owner prevails in the action, they may seek injunctive relief and recover reasonable attorney fees and court costs from the municipal utility. The court is required to order the municipal utility to connect to the property.

**Section 2** provides an effective date of the bill of July 1, 2026.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends section 180.19 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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