

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to the expenditure of public funds by  
3       local governments; creating s. 11.063, F.S.; providing  
4       a short title; providing definitions; prohibiting  
5       local governments from expending public funds for  
6       specified purposes; prohibiting the acceptance of  
7       public funds from local governments for lobbying;  
8       providing applicability; authorizing the filing of  
9       complaints with the Commission on Ethics alleging  
10      violations; requiring the commission to investigate  
11      and provide a report of its findings to certain  
12      entities; requiring the commission to adopt rules;  
13      providing an effective date.

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15   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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17       **Section 1.   Section 11.063, Florida Statutes, is created to**  
18   **read:**

19       11.063 Use of public funds for lobbying and discretionary  
20   expenditure prohibited.—

21       (1) This section may be cited as the "Federalism  
22   Protection Act."

23       (2) For purposes of this section, the term:

24       (a) "Elected official" means:

25       1. A member of the governing body of a county,

26 municipality, or any other political subdivision of this state;  
27 or

28 2. An elected official chosen by the governing body of a  
29 county, municipality, or any other political subdivision of this  
30 state.

31 (b) "Local government" means:

32 1. A county, municipality, or any other political  
33 subdivision of this state.

34 2. Any department, agency, board, bureau, district,  
35 commission, authority, or similar body of a county, a  
36 municipality, or any other political subdivision of the state.

37 (c) "Public funds" has the same meaning as s. 106.113(1).

38 (3)(a) A local government may not expend public funds to  
39 retain a lobbyist for representation before the legislative or  
40 executive branch. In addition, a person may not accept public  
41 funds from a local government for lobbying.

42 (b) An elected official of a local government may not  
43 expend or enter into a contract requiring expenditure of public  
44 funds for any purpose not itemized in the budget of the local  
45 government.

46 (c) This subsection does not apply to the expenditure of  
47 public funds by a local government or an elected official for  
48 the purpose of hiring of in-house staff.

49 (4) A person may file a written complaint with the  
50 Commission on Ethics alleging a violation of this subsection.

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51   The commission shall investigate and report its finding to the  
52   President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
53   Representatives, and the Governor and Cabinet. The commission  
54   shall adopt rules necessary to conduct investigations under this  
55   paragraph.

56   **Section 2.**   This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.