

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to affordable housing; amending ss.
3 125.01055 and 166.04151, F.S.; requiring counties and
4 municipalities, respectively, to authorize multifamily
5 and mixed-use residential uses as allowable uses for
6 specified property; providing requirements for certain
7 proposed developments; specifying that certain
8 proposed developments shall not exclude an assemblage
9 of certain parcels; providing for the expiration of
10 certain provisions; prohibiting counties and
11 municipalities, respectively, from restricting the
12 height of certain proposed developments through other
13 dimensional means and from requiring certain setbacks
14 or stepbacks; revising the definitions of the terms
15 "commercial use" and "industrial use"; revising
16 applicability; providing retroactive applicability;
17 authorizing applicants for certain proposed
18 developments to notify the county or municipality, as
19 applicable, by a specified date of intent to proceed
20 under certain provisions; requiring counties and
21 municipalities to allow certain applicants to submit
22 revised applications, written requests, and notices of
23 intent to account for changes made by the act;
24 amending s. 196.1978, F.S.; creating a definition for
25 "multifamily project"; revising a specified finding

26 | that a taxing authority must make in order to elect
27 | not to exempt certain property from certain ad valorem
28 | taxation; authorizing certain property owners in a
29 | multifamily project to apply for and continue to
30 | receive an exemption; amending s. 333.03, F.S.;
31 | providing an exception to the inapplicability of
32 | certain provisions; amending s. 760.22, F.S.; revising
33 | the definition of the term "person"; amending s.
34 | 760.26, F.S.; revising a prohibition on discriminatory
35 | practices in land use decisions and in permitting of
36 | development to include housing that is affordable;
37 | amending s. 760.35, F.S.; waiving the state's
38 | sovereign immunity for certain causes of action based
39 | upon housing discrimination; providing applicability;
40 | amending s. 420.615, F.S.; authorizing a local
41 | government to provide a density bonus incentive to
42 | landowners who make certain real property donations to
43 | assist in the provision of affordable housing for
44 | military families; requiring the Office of Program
45 | Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to
46 | evaluate the efficacy of using mezzanine finance and
47 | the potential of tiny homes for specified purposes;
48 | requiring the office to consult with certain entities;
49 | requiring the office to submit a certain report to the
50 | Legislature by a specified date; providing an

51 effective date.

52

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

54

55 Section 1. Paragraphs (a), (d), (n), and (o) of subsection
56 (7) of section 125.01055, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

57 125.01055 Affordable housing.—

58 (7) (a) 1. A county must authorize multifamily and mixed-use
59 residential as allowable uses in any area zoned for commercial,
60 industrial, or mixed use; ~~and~~ in portions of any flexibly zoned
61 area such as a planned unit development permitted for
62 commercial, industrial, or mixed use; on property owned by a
63 county, municipality, or school district; and on property that
64 is more than 3 acres in size and owned by a religious
65 institution, as defined in s. 170.201(2), which has contained a
66 house of public worship for at least 10 years before the
67 proposed development, regardless of the underlying zoning, if at
68 least 40 percent of the residential units in a proposed
69 multifamily development are rental units that, for a period of
70 at least 30 years, are affordable as defined in s. 420.0004.
71 Notwithstanding any other law, local ordinance, or regulation to
72 the contrary, a county may not require a proposed multifamily
73 development to obtain a zoning or land use change, special
74 exception, conditional use approval, variance, transfer of
75 density or development units, amendment to a development of

76 regional impact, or comprehensive plan amendment for the
77 building height, zoning, and densities authorized under this
78 subsection. For mixed-use residential projects, at least 65
79 percent of the total square footage must be used for residential
80 purposes. The county may not require that more than 10 percent
81 of the total square footage of such mixed-use residential
82 projects be used for nonresidential purposes. A proposed
83 development on property owned by a county, municipality, or
84 school district must be within the geographic boundaries of the
85 respective county, municipality, or school district, and the
86 respective county, municipality, or school district must be a
87 party to the application for the proposed development. A
88 proposed development on property owned by a religious
89 institution must be applied for by both the applicant and the
90 religious institution, and the house of public worship must
91 continue to operate on the property after the proposed
92 development is constructed.

93 2. A multifamily or mixed-use residential development
94 proposed under this section shall not exclude an assemblage of
95 parcels under common ownership or control separated by no more
96 than 15 feet of land and limited to public pedestrian access.
97 This subparagraph expires July 1, 2030.

98 (d)1. A county may not restrict the height of a proposed
99 development authorized under this subsection below the highest
100 currently allowed, or allowed on July 1, 2023, height for a

101 commercial or residential building located in its jurisdiction
102 within 1 mile of the proposed development or three stories,
103 whichever is higher. A county may not restrict height below the
104 height authorized under this paragraph through other dimensional
105 means, such as establishing setbacks or setbacks by height, or
106 require setbacks or setbacks that are more restrictive than the
107 minimum permitted in the proposed development. For purposes of
108 this paragraph, the term "highest currently allowed height" does
109 not include the height of any building that met the requirements
110 of this subsection or the height of any building that has
111 received any bonus, variance, or other special exception for
112 height provided in the county's land development regulations as
113 an incentive for development.

114 2. If the proposed development is adjacent to, on two or
115 more sides, a parcel zoned for single-family residential use
116 which is within a single-family residential development with at
117 least 25 contiguous single-family homes, the county may restrict
118 the height of the proposed development to 150 percent of the
119 tallest building on any property adjacent to the proposed
120 development, the highest currently allowed, or allowed on July
121 1, 2023, height for the property provided in the county's land
122 development regulations, or three stories, whichever is higher,
123 not to exceed 10 stories. For the purposes of this paragraph,
124 the term "adjacent to" means those properties sharing more than
125 one point of a property line, but does not include properties

126 separated by a public road.

127 3. If the proposed development is on a parcel with a
128 contributing structure or building within a historic district
129 which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places
130 before January 1, 2000, or is on a parcel with a structure or
131 building individually listed in the National Register of
132 Historic Places, the county may restrict the height of the
133 proposed development to the highest currently allowed, or
134 allowed on July 1, 2023, height for a commercial or residential
135 building located in its jurisdiction within three-fourths of a
136 mile of the proposed development or three stories, whichever is
137 higher. The term "highest currently allowed" in this paragraph
138 includes the maximum height allowed for any building in a zoning
139 district irrespective of any conditions.

140 (n) As used in this subsection, the term:

141 1. "Commercial use" means activities associated with the
142 sale, rental, or distribution of products or the performance of
143 services related thereto. The term includes, but is not limited
144 to, such uses or activities as retail sales; wholesale sales;
145 rentals of equipment, goods, or products; offices; restaurants;
146 public lodging establishments as described in s. 509.242(1)(a);
147 food service vendors; sports arenas; theaters; tourist
148 attractions; and other for-profit business activities. A parcel
149 zoned to permit such uses by right without the requirement to
150 obtain a variance or waiver is considered commercial use for the

151 purposes of this section, irrespective of the local land
152 development regulation's listed category or title. The term does
153 not include home-based businesses or cottage food operations
154 undertaken on residential property, public lodging
155 establishments as described in s. 509.242(1)(c), or uses that
156 are accessory, ancillary, incidental to the allowable uses, or
157 allowed only on a temporary basis. Recreational uses, such as
158 golf courses, tennis courts, swimming pools, and clubhouses,
159 within an area designated for residential use are not commercial
160 use, irrespective of how they are operated. Farms and farm
161 operations as those terms are defined in s. 823.14(3) and uses
162 associated therewith, including the packaging and sale of
163 products raised on the premises, are not commercial use.

164 2. "Industrial use" means activities associated with the
165 manufacture, assembly, processing, or storage of products or the
166 performance of services related thereto. The term includes, but
167 is not limited to, such uses or activities as automobile
168 manufacturing or repair, boat manufacturing or repair, junk
169 yards, ~~meat packing facilities, citrus processing and packing~~
170 ~~facilities, produce processing and packing facilities,~~
171 electrical generating plants, water treatment plants, sewage
172 treatment plants, and solid waste disposal sites. A parcel zoned
173 to permit such uses by right without the requirement to obtain a
174 variance or waiver is considered industrial use for the purposes
175 of this section, irrespective of the local land development

176 regulation's listed category or title. The term does not include
177 uses that are accessory, ancillary, incidental to the allowable
178 uses, or allowed only on a temporary basis. Recreational uses,
179 such as golf courses, tennis courts, swimming pools, and
180 clubhouses, within an area designated for residential use are
181 not industrial use, irrespective of how they are operated. Farms
182 and farm operations as those terms are defined in s. 823.14(3)
183 and uses associated therewith, including the packaging and sale
184 of products raised on the premises, are not industrial use.

185 3. "Mixed use" means any use that combines multiple types
186 of approved land uses from at least two of the residential use,
187 commercial use, and industrial use categories. The term does not
188 include uses that are accessory, ancillary, incidental to the
189 allowable uses, or allowed only on a temporary basis.
190 Recreational uses, such as golf courses, tennis courts, swimming
191 pools, and clubhouses, within an area designated for residential
192 use are not mixed use, irrespective of how they are operated.

193 4. "Planned unit development" has the same meaning as
194 provided in s. 163.3202(5)(b).

195 (o) This subsection does not apply to:

- 196 1. Airport-impacted areas as provided in s. 333.03.
- 197 2. Property defined as recreational and commercial working
198 waterfront in s. 342.201(2)(b) in any area zoned as industrial.
- 199 3. The Wekiva Study Area, as described in s. 369.316.
- 200 4. The Everglades Protection Area, as defined in s.

201 373.4592(2).

202 5. Areas subject to land development regulations, as
 203 defined in s. 163.3164, which are in existence before July 1,
 204 2026, and are intended to retain the open character of land,
 205 including, but not limited to, open space districts, open space
 206 recreation districts, open use estate districts, open use rural
 207 districts, and park and open space districts.

208 6. Any area of critical state concern, as designated in
 209 ss. 380.055, 380.0551, 380.0552, 380.0553, and 380.0555.

210 7. Any portion of a property encumbered by a recorded
 211 conservation easement, as defined in s. 704.06(1).

212 Section 2. Paragraphs (a), (d), (n), and (o) of subsection
 213 (7) of section 166.04151, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

214 166.04151 Affordable housing.—

215 (7)(a)1. A municipality must authorize multifamily and
 216 mixed-use residential as allowable uses in any area zoned for
 217 commercial, industrial, or mixed use;~~;~~ and in portions of any
 218 flexibly zoned area such as a planned unit development permitted
 219 for commercial, industrial, or mixed use; on property owned by a
 220 county, municipality, or school district; and on property that
 221 is more than 3 acres in size and owned by a religious
 222 institution, as defined in s. 170.201(2), which has contained a
 223 house of public worship for at least 10 years before the
 224 proposed development, regardless of the underlying zoning, if at
 225 least 40 percent of the residential units in a proposed

226 multifamily development are rental units that, for a period of
227 at least 30 years, are affordable as defined in s. 420.0004.
228 Notwithstanding any other law, local ordinance, or regulation to
229 the contrary, a municipality may not require a proposed
230 multifamily development to obtain a zoning or land use change,
231 special exception, conditional use approval, variance, transfer
232 of density or development units, amendment to a development of
233 regional impact, amendment to a municipal charter, or
234 comprehensive plan amendment for the building height, zoning,
235 and densities authorized under this subsection. For mixed-use
236 residential projects, at least 65 percent of the total square
237 footage must be used for residential purposes. The municipality
238 may not require that more than 10 percent of the total square
239 footage of such mixed-use residential projects be used for
240 nonresidential purposes. A proposed development on property
241 owned by a county, municipality, or school district must be
242 within the geographic boundaries of the respective county,
243 municipality, or school district, and the respective county,
244 municipality, or school district must be a party to the
245 application for the proposed development. A proposed development
246 on property owned by a religious institution must be applied for
247 by both the applicant and the religious institution, and the
248 house of public worship must continue to operate on the property
249 after the proposed development is constructed.

250 2. A multifamily or mixed-use residential development

251 proposed under this section shall not exclude an assemblage of
252 parcels under common ownership or control separated by no more
253 than 15 feet of land and limited to public pedestrian access.
254 This subparagraph expires July 1, 2030.

255 (d)1. A municipality may not restrict the height of a
256 proposed development authorized under this subsection below the
257 highest currently allowed, or allowed on July 1, 2023, height
258 for a commercial or residential building located in its
259 jurisdiction within 1 mile of the proposed development or three
260 stories, whichever is higher. A municipality may not restrict
261 height below the height authorized under this paragraph through
262 other dimensional means, such as establishing setbacks or
263 stepbacks by height, or require setbacks or stepbacks that are
264 more restrictive than the minimum permitted in the proposed
265 development. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "highest
266 currently allowed height" does not include the height of any
267 building that met the requirements of this subsection or the
268 height of any building that has received any bonus, variance, or
269 other special exception for height provided in the
270 municipality's land development regulations as an incentive for
271 development.

272 2. If the proposed development is adjacent to, on two or
273 more sides, a parcel zoned for single-family residential use
274 that is within a single-family residential development with at
275 least 25 contiguous single-family homes, the municipality may

276 restrict the height of the proposed development to 150 percent
277 of the tallest building on any property adjacent to the proposed
278 development, the highest currently allowed, or allowed on July
279 1, 2023, height for the property provided in the municipality's
280 land development regulations, or three stories, whichever is
281 higher, not to exceed 10 stories. For the purposes of this
282 paragraph, the term "adjacent to" means those properties sharing
283 more than one point of a property line, but does not include
284 properties separated by a public road or body of water,
285 including manmade lakes or ponds. For a proposed development
286 located within a municipality within an area of critical state
287 concern as designated by s. 380.0552 or chapter 28-36, Florida
288 Administrative Code, the term "story" includes only the
289 habitable space above the base flood elevation as designated by
290 the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the most current
291 Flood Insurance Rate Map. A story may not exceed 10 feet in
292 height measured from finished floor to finished floor, including
293 space for mechanical equipment. The highest story may not exceed
294 10 feet from finished floor to the top plate.

295 3. If the proposed development is on a parcel with a
296 contributing structure or building within a historic district
297 which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places
298 before January 1, 2000, or is on a parcel with a structure or
299 building individually listed in the National Register of
300 Historic Places, the municipality may restrict the height of the

301 proposed development to the highest currently allowed, or
302 allowed on July 1, 2023, height for a commercial or residential
303 building located in its jurisdiction within three-fourths of a
304 mile of the proposed development or three stories, whichever is
305 higher. The term "highest currently allowed" in this paragraph
306 includes the maximum height allowed for any building in a zoning
307 district irrespective of any conditions.

308 (n) As used in this subsection, the term:

309 1. "Commercial use" means activities associated with the
310 sale, rental, or distribution of products or the performance of
311 services related thereto. The term includes, but is not limited
312 to, such uses or activities as retail sales; wholesale sales;
313 rentals of equipment, goods, or products; offices; restaurants;
314 public lodging establishments as described in s. 509.242(1)(a);
315 food service vendors; sports arenas; theaters; tourist
316 attractions; and other for-profit business activities. A parcel
317 zoned to permit such uses by right without the requirement to
318 obtain a variance or waiver is considered commercial use for the
319 purposes of this section, irrespective of the local land
320 development regulation's listed category or title. The term does
321 not include home-based businesses or cottage food operations
322 undertaken on residential property, public lodging
323 establishments as described in s. 509.242(1)(c), or uses that
324 are accessory, ancillary, incidental to the allowable uses, or
325 allowed only on a temporary basis. Recreational uses, such as

326 | golf courses, tennis courts, swimming pools, and clubhouses,
327 | within an area designated for residential use are not commercial
328 | use, irrespective of how they are operated. Farms and farm
329 | operations as those terms are defined in s. 823.14(3) and uses
330 | associated therewith, including the packaging and sale of
331 | products raised on the premises, are not commercial use.

332 | 2. "Industrial use" means activities associated with the
333 | manufacture, assembly, processing, or storage of products or the
334 | performance of services related thereto. The term includes, but
335 | is not limited to, such uses or activities as automobile
336 | manufacturing or repair, boat manufacturing or repair, junk
337 | yards, ~~meat packing facilities, citrus processing and packing~~
338 | ~~facilities, produce processing and packing facilities,~~
339 | electrical generating plants, water treatment plants, sewage
340 | treatment plants, and solid waste disposal sites. A parcel zoned
341 | to permit such uses by right without the requirement to obtain a
342 | variance or waiver is considered industrial use for the purposes
343 | of this section, irrespective of the local land development
344 | regulation's listed category or title. The term does not include
345 | uses that are accessory, ancillary, incidental to the allowable
346 | uses, or allowed only on a temporary basis. Recreational uses,
347 | such as golf courses, tennis courts, swimming pools, and
348 | clubhouses, within an area designated for residential use are
349 | not industrial use, irrespective of how they are operated. Farms
350 | and farm operations as those terms are defined in s. 823.14(3)

351 and uses associated therewith, including the packaging and sale
 352 of products raised on the premises, are not industrial use.

353 3. "Mixed use" means any use that combines multiple types
 354 of approved land uses from at least two of the residential use,
 355 commercial use, and industrial use categories. The term does not
 356 include uses that are accessory, ancillary, incidental to the
 357 allowable uses, or allowed only on a temporary basis.
 358 Recreational uses, such as golf courses, tennis courts, swimming
 359 pools, and clubhouses, within an area designated for residential
 360 use are not mixed use, irrespective of how they are operated.

361 4. "Planned unit development" has the same meaning as
 362 provided in s. 163.3202(5)(b).

363 (o) This subsection does not apply to:

- 364 1. Airport-impacted areas as provided in s. 333.03.
- 365 2. Property defined as recreational and commercial working
 366 waterfront in s. 342.201(2)(b) in any area zoned as industrial.
- 367 3. The Wekiva Study Area, as described in s. 369.316.
- 368 4. The Everglades Protection Area, as defined in s.
 369 373.4592(2).

370 5. Areas subject to land development regulations, as
 371 defined in s. 163.3164, which are in existence before July 1,
 372 2026, and are intended to retain the open character of land,
 373 including, but not limited to, open space districts, open space
 374 recreation districts, open use estate districts, open use rural
 375 districts, and park and open space districts.

376 6. Any area of critical state concern, as designated in
377 ss. 380.055, 380.0551, 380.0552, 380.0553, and 380.0555.

378 7. Any portion of a property encumbered by a recorded
379 conservation easement, as defined in s. 704.06(1).

380 Section 3. The amendments made by this act to ss.
381 125.01055(7) (n) and 166.04151(7) (n), Florida Statutes, are
382 intended to be remedial and clarifying in nature and apply
383 retroactively to January 1, 2024.

384 Section 4. An applicant for a proposed development
385 authorized under s. 125.01055(7), Florida Statutes, or s.
386 166.04151(7), Florida Statutes, who submitted an application, a
387 written request, or a notice of intent to use such provisions to
388 the county or municipality and which application, written
389 request, or notice of intent has been received by the county or
390 municipality, as applicable, before July 1, 2026, may notify the
391 county or municipality by July 1, 2026, of its intent to proceed
392 under the provisions of s. 125.01055(7), Florida Statutes, or s.
393 166.04151(7), Florida Statutes, as they existed at the time of
394 submittal. A county or municipality, as applicable, shall allow
395 an applicant who submitted such an application, written request,
396 or notice of intent before July 1, 2026, the opportunity to
397 submit a revised application, written request, or notice of
398 intent to account for the changes made by this act.

399 Section 5. Paragraphs (a) and (o) of subsection (3) of
400 section 196.1978, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

401 196.1978 Affordable housing property exemption.—

402 (3) (a) As used in this subsection, the term:

403 1. "Corporation" means the Florida Housing Finance
404 Corporation.

405 2. "Multifamily project" shall include a development
406 authorized under this subsection that is held under common
407 ownership or control, approved and developed in compliance with
408 the same site plan approval or development agreement or order,
409 but shall exclude individual detached single-family residences,
410 as well as parcels separated by more than 200 feet of land.

411 ~~3.2.~~ "Newly constructed" means an improvement to real
412 property which was substantially completed within 5 years before
413 the date of an applicant's first submission of a request for a
414 certification notice pursuant to this subsection.

415 ~~4.3.~~ "Substantially completed" has the same meaning as in
416 s. 192.042(1).

417 (o)1. Beginning with the 2025 tax roll, a taxing authority
418 may elect, upon adoption of an ordinance or resolution approved
419 by a two-thirds vote of the governing body, not to exempt
420 property under sub-subparagraph (d)1.a. located in a county
421 specified pursuant to subparagraph 2., subject to the conditions
422 of this paragraph.

423 2. A taxing authority must make a finding in the ordinance
424 or resolution that annual housing reports ~~the most recently~~
425 ~~published by the~~ Shimberg Center for Housing Studies ~~Annual~~

426 ~~Report, prepared~~ pursuant to s. 420.6075, identify ~~identifies~~
427 that a county that is part of the jurisdiction of the taxing
428 authority is within a metropolitan statistical area or region
429 where, for each of the previous 3 years, the number of
430 affordable and available units in the metropolitan statistical
431 area or region is greater than the number of renter households
432 in the metropolitan statistical area or region for the category
433 entitled "0-120 percent AMI."

434 3. An election made pursuant to this paragraph may apply
435 only to the ad valorem property tax levies imposed within a
436 county specified pursuant to subparagraph 2. by the taxing
437 authority making the election.

438 4. The ordinance or resolution must take effect on the
439 January 1 immediately succeeding adoption and shall expire on
440 the second January 1 after the January 1 in which the ordinance
441 or resolution takes effect. The ordinance or resolution may be
442 renewed prior to its expiration pursuant to this paragraph.

443 5. The taxing authority proposing to make an election
444 under this paragraph must advertise the ordinance or resolution
445 or renewal thereof pursuant to the requirements of s. 50.011(1)
446 prior to adoption.

447 6. The taxing authority must provide to the property
448 appraiser the adopted ordinance or resolution or renewal thereof
449 by the effective date of the ordinance or resolution or renewal
450 thereof.

451 7. Notwithstanding an ordinance or resolution or renewal
452 thereof adopted pursuant to this paragraph, property in a
453 multifamily project that received an exemption pursuant to sub-
454 subparagraph (d)1.a. before the adoption or renewal of such
455 ordinance or resolution may continue to receive such exemption
456 for each subsequent consecutive year that the same owner or each
457 successive owner applies for and is granted the exemption.

458 8. Notwithstanding an ordinance or a resolution or a
459 renewal thereof adopted pursuant to this paragraph, the owner of
460 a property in a multifamily project that was issued a building
461 permit on or after July 1, 2026, for the development of the
462 multifamily project within 4 years before the effective date of
463 such ordinance or resolution may apply for and be granted the
464 exemption under sub-subparagraph (d)1.a. after meeting the
465 requirements of this subsection and may continue to receive such
466 exemption for each subsequent consecutive year that the same
467 owner or each successive owner applies for and is granted the
468 exemption.

469 Section 6. The amendments made by this act to s. 196.1978,
470 Florida Statutes, first apply to the 2027 property tax roll.

471 Section 7. Subsection (5) of section 333.03, Florida
472 Statutes, is amended to read:

473 333.03 Requirement to adopt airport zoning regulations.—

474 (5) Sections 125.01055(7) and 166.04151(7) do not apply to
475 any of the following, unless the respective application is

476 approved by the governing body of the airport:

477 (a) A proposed development near a runway within one-
478 quarter of a mile laterally from the runway edge and within an
479 area that is the width of one-quarter of a mile extending at
480 right angles from the end of the runway for a distance of 10,000
481 feet of any existing airport runway or planned airport runway
482 identified in the local government's airport master plan.

483 (b) A proposed development within any airport noise zone
484 identified in the federal land use compatibility table or in a
485 land-use zoning or airport noise regulation adopted by the local
486 government.

487 (c) A proposed development that exceeds maximum height
488 restrictions identified in the political subdivision's airport
489 zoning regulation adopted pursuant to this section.

490 Section 8. Subsection (8) of section 760.22, Florida
491 Statutes, is amended to read:

492 760.22 Definitions.—As used in ss. 760.20–760.37, the
493 term:

494 (8) "Person" includes one or more individuals,
495 corporations, partnerships, associations, labor organizations,
496 legal representatives, mutual companies, joint-stock companies,
497 trusts, unincorporated organizations, trustees, trustees in
498 bankruptcy, receivers, ~~and~~ fiduciaries, agencies, governmental
499 entities, and other legal or commercial entities.

500 Section 9. Section 760.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to

501 read:

502 760.26 Prohibited discrimination in land use decisions and
503 in permitting of development.—It is unlawful to discriminate in
504 land use decisions or in the permitting of development based on
505 race, color, national origin, sex, disability, familial status,
506 or religion, or, except as otherwise provided by law, based on
507 the source of financing of a development or proposed
508 development, including, but not limited to, financing of a
509 development or on a proposed development for housing that is
510 affordable as defined in s. 420.0004.

511 Section 10. Subsection (4) of section 760.35, Florida
512 Statutes, is amended to read:

513 760.35 Civil actions and relief; administrative
514 procedures.—

515 (4) If the court finds that a person has engaged in a
516 discriminatory housing practice ~~has occurred~~, it must ~~shall~~
517 issue an order prohibiting the practice and providing
518 affirmative relief from the effects of the practice, including
519 injunctive and other equitable relief, actual and punitive
520 damages, and reasonable attorney fees and costs. In accordance
521 with s. 13, Art. X of the State Constitution, the state, for
522 itself and its agencies or political subdivisions, waives
523 sovereign immunity for a cause of action based upon the
524 application of this section. Such waiver is limited only to
525 actions brought under this section.

526 Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 420.615, Florida
527 Statutes, is amended to read:

528 420.615 Affordable housing land donation density bonus
529 incentives.—

530 (1) A local government may provide density bonus
531 incentives pursuant to ~~the provisions of~~ this section to any
532 landowner who voluntarily donates fee simple interest in real
533 property to the local government for the purpose of assisting
534 the local government in providing affordable housing, including
535 housing that is affordable for military families receiving the
536 basic allowance for housing. Donated real property must be
537 determined by the local government to be appropriate for use as
538 affordable housing and must be subject to deed restrictions to
539 ensure that the property will be used for affordable housing.

540 Section 12. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and
541 Government Accountability (OPPAGA) shall evaluate the efficacy
542 of using mezzanine finance, or second-position short-term debt,
543 to stimulate the construction of owner-occupied housing that is
544 affordable as defined in s. 420.0004(3), Florida Statutes, in
545 this state. OPPAGA shall also evaluate the potential of tiny
546 homes in meeting the need for affordable housing in this state.
547 OPPAGA shall consult with the Florida Housing Finance
548 Corporation and the Shimberg Center for Housing Studies at the
549 University of Florida in conducting its evaluation. By December
550 31, 2027, OPPAGA shall submit a report of its findings to the

551 | President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
552 | Representatives. Such report must include recommendations for
553 | the structuring of a model mezzanine finance program.

554 | Section 13. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.