

CHAPTER 2026-7

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 399

An act relating to land use and development regulations; amending ss. 125.022 and 166.033, F.S.; requiring the amount of application fees associated with development permits or orders to reasonably relate to certain costs; requiring such fees to be published on the county's or municipality's fee schedule, respectively; prohibiting such fees from being based on certain costs or valuations; amending s. 163.31777, F.S.; requiring public schools interlocal agreements to address reasonable access to certain public easements and public rights-of-way; creating s. 163.31803, F.S.; providing legislative intent; defining the term "large destination resort"; requiring local governments to administratively approve applications for minor special exceptions or variances submitted by large destination resorts that meet certain requirements; defining the term "minor special exception or variance"; providing for the expiration of specified provisions; creating s. 163.31804, F.S.; prohibiting the conditioning of a local government permit or other approval for a facility that processes compost on a specified requirement; authorizing a local government to require certain landowners to supply certain turnouts; prohibiting a local government from requiring the purchase of additional property for a specified purpose; prohibiting local governments from revoking existing permits for such facilities under certain circumstances; amending s. 163.3194, F.S.; requiring local government comprehensive plans and land development regulations to include factors for assessing the compatibility of certain residential uses; requiring land development regulations to incorporate measures for mitigating or minimizing potential incompatibility; requiring local government staff to meet certain requirements before recommending denial of certain applications on compatibility grounds; prohibiting a local government from denying certain applications on compatibility grounds if the applicant has proposed certain measures; providing an exception; requiring the denial of an application to specify with particularity certain information; authorizing a local government's approval of an application to include certain requirements or conditions; providing applicability; providing construction; amending s. 553.382, F.S.; prohibiting residential manufactured buildings from being denied a building permit for placement on certain lots; requiring that certain housing units continue to meet certain requirements; requiring housing units located on a mobile home lot to be taxed in a specified manner and be subject to payments to a specified fund; creating s. 553.385, F.S.; defining the terms "local government" and "off-site constructed residential dwelling"; requiring off-site constructed residential dwellings to be permitted as of right in certain zoning districts; prohibiting local governments from adopting or enforcing regulations that treat off-site constructed residential dwellings in a specified manner; providing construction; providing requirements for compatibility and

design standards; prohibiting a local government from regulating or restricting off-site constructed residential dwellings based on certain information; prohibiting a local government from adopting or enforcing certain ordinances, regulations, and policies; requiring local government regulations to be reasonable and uniformly enforced; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. Effective January 1, 2027, subsection (9) of section 125.022, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (10), and a new subsection (9) is added to that section to read:

125.022 Development permits and orders.—

(9) The amount of any application fee associated with a development permit or development order must reasonably relate to the direct and reasonable indirect costs associated with the review, processing, and final disposition of the application and must be published on the county's fee schedule. The fee may not be based on a percentage of construction costs, site costs, or project valuation.

Section 2. Effective January 1, 2027, subsection (9) of section 166.033, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (10), and a new subsection (9) is added to that section to read:

166.033 Development permits and orders.—

(9) The amount of any application fee associated with a development permit or development order must reasonably relate to the direct and reasonable indirect costs associated with the review, processing, and final disposition of the application and must be published on the municipality's fee schedule. The fee may not be based on a percentage of construction costs, site costs, or project valuation.

Section 3. Effective January 1, 2027, paragraph (j) is added to subsection (2) of section 163.31777, Florida Statutes, to read:

163.31777 Public schools interlocal agreement.—

(2) At a minimum, the interlocal agreement must address the following issues:

(j) Reasonable access, where available, to public easements and public rights-of-way which may be necessary for the siting, construction, expansion, or improvement of public school facilities, including charter schools, consistent with adopted level-of-service standards, school concurrency requirements, and applicable public facilities planning requirements.

Section 4. Section 163.31803, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

163.31803 Large destination resorts.—

(1) It is the intent of the Legislature to promote and sustain national and international tourism to this state by encouraging the ongoing maintenance, renewal, renovation, and improvement of large destination resorts. The Legislature finds that a uniform, statewide approach is necessary to avoid inconsistent local regulation that impedes improvements and to ensure predictability and timeliness in the development and improvement of qualifying large destination resorts.

(2) As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Large destination resort” means a public lodging establishment as defined in s. 509.013 that is comprised of at least 5 contiguous acres owned and controlled by the same business entity, containing at least 500 guest rooms, and that has had an average occupancy rate of at least 70 percent in the past 3 years.

(b) “Minor” means a special exception or variance that applies to no more than 20 percent of the total area of the parcel.

(3) A local government must administratively approve, without further action by the local government or any quasi-judicial or administrative reviewing body, any application for a minor special exception or variance submitted by a large destination resort for the maintenance, modification, or refurbishment of an existing structure or site that is not a contributing structure which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, provided such changes are consistent with the existing permitted or accessory uses in the land use category of the local government comprehensive plan or zoning district in which the structure or site is located at the time the large destination resort applies for a building permit or any other permit with respect to the changes.

(4) This section expires July 1, 2031.

Section 5. Section 163.31804, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

163.31804 Permits or other approval for facilities that process compost.

(1) A local government permit or other approval for a facility that processes compost as defined in s. 576.011 may not be conditioned on a requirement to purchase additional property to expand the footprint of an existing privately owned road, but, where possible, the landowner may be required to supply turnouts for emergency vehicles. The local government may not require that additional property be purchased in order to provide such turnouts.

(2) An existing permit for a facility that processes compost as defined in s. 576.011 may not be revoked by the local government if such activity is regulated through and in compliance with applicable implemented best management practices, interim measures, or regulations adopted as rules

under chapter 120 by the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, or a water management district as part of a statewide or regional program.

Section 6. Effective January 1, 2027, subsection (7) is added to section 163.3194, Florida Statutes, to read:

163.3194 Legal status of comprehensive plan.—

(7)(a) Local government comprehensive plans and land development regulations must include factors for assessing the compatibility of allowable residential uses within a residential zoning district and future land use category.

(b) Land development regulations must incorporate measures for mitigating or minimizing potential incompatibility.

(c)1. Before recommending denial of an application for rezoning, subdivision, or site plan approval on compatibility grounds, local government staff must identify with specificity each area of incompatibility and may recommend mitigation measures to the applicant.

2. If the applicant has proposed mitigation measures, the local government may not deny an application on compatibility grounds unless the denial includes written findings stating that the proposed mitigation measures are inadequate and that feasible mitigation measures do not exist.

3. A denial of an application on compatibility grounds must specify with particularity the area or areas of incompatibility, including applicable standards and an explanation of any mitigation measures considered and declined by the applicant, or the basis for determining that feasible mitigation measures do not exist. References to “community character” or “neighborhood feel” are not sufficient, in and of themselves, to support a denial of an application on compatibility grounds.

4. A local government’s approval of an application may include requirements or conditions to mitigate or minimize compatibility concerns.

(d) This subsection does not apply to any of the following:

1. Compatibility between uses in different future land use categories, including rural, agricultural, conservation, open space, mixed-use, industrial, or commercial use.

2. Applications for development within planned unit developments or master planned communities.

3. Applications for development within historic districts designated before January 1, 2026.

(e) This subsection does not require approval of an application that is otherwise inconsistent with the applicable local government comprehensive plan or land development regulations.

Section 7. Effective January 1, 2027, section 553.382, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

553.382 Placement of certain housing.—Notwithstanding any other law or ordinance to the contrary, in order to expand the availability of affordable housing in this state, any residential manufactured building that is certified under this chapter by the department may not be denied a building permit for placement ~~be placed~~ on a mobile home lot in a mobile home park, on any lot in a recreational vehicle park, or in a mobile home condominium, cooperative, or subdivision. Any such housing unit placed on a mobile home lot is a mobile home for purposes of chapter 723 and, therefore, all rights, obligations, and duties under chapter 723 apply, including the specifics of the prospectus. However, a housing unit subject to this section may not be placed on a mobile home lot without the prior written approval of the park owner. Any such housing unit must continue to meet all requirements associated with the permit allocation system of the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern designated pursuant to s. 380.0552. Each housing unit located on a mobile home lot and subject to this section shall be taxed as a mobile home under s. 320.08(11) and is subject to payments to the Florida Mobile Home Relocation Fund under s. 723.06116.

Section 8. Effective January 1, 2027, section 553.385, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

553.385 Zoning of off-site constructed residential dwellings; parity.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Local government” means a county or municipality.

(b) “Off-site constructed residential dwelling” means:

1. A manufactured building, as defined in s. 553.36, intended for single-family residential use; or

2. A manufactured home, as defined in s. 320.01(2)(b),

which is constructed, in whole or in part, off site and is treated as real property.

(2)(a) An off-site constructed residential dwelling must be permitted as of right in any zoning district where single-family detached dwellings are allowed.

(b) A local government may not adopt or enforce any zoning, land use, or development regulation that treats an off-site constructed residential

dwelling differently or more restrictively than a single-family, site-built dwelling allowed in the same zoning district.

(c) This section does not prohibit a local government from applying generally applicable architectural, aesthetic, design, setback, height, or bulk standards, provided such standards are applied uniformly to all single-family dwellings in the same zoning district.

(d) Compatibility or design standards must be reasonable, may not have the effect of excluding off-site constructed residential dwellings, and, if adopted, must apply equally to single-family, site-built dwellings. Such standards are limited to:

1. Roof pitch.
2. Minimum square footage of livable space.
3. Type and quality of exterior finishing materials.
4. Foundation enclosure.
5. Existence and type of attached structures.
6. Building setbacks, lot dimensions, and orientation.

(e) A local government may not regulate or restrict an off-site constructed residential dwelling based solely on:

1. The method of construction;
2. The location of construction; or
3. The presence of components constructed off site.

(3) A local government may not adopt or enforce any ordinance, regulation, or policy that conflicts with this section or s. 553.38, or that has the effect of excluding off-site constructed residential dwellings. Any such ordinance, regulation, or policy is void and unenforceable as applied to off-site constructed residential dwellings.

(4) Local government regulations must be reasonable and uniformly enforced without distinction as to housing type.

Section 9. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor March 27, 2026.

Filed in Office Secretary of State March 27, 2026.