



### **BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATE**

Before the enactment of a proposed ordinance, the County shall prepare or cause to be prepared a business impact estimate in accordance with Section 125.66(3), Florida Statutes. This Business Impact Estimate may be revised following its initial posting.

**BOCC Meeting Dates:** permission to advertise 6/3/2025 1<sup>st</sup> hearing 7/1/2025 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing N/A

**Proposed Ordinance Title/Reference:**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE II, OF THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY CODE ENTITLED CODE ENFORCEMENT; AUTHORIZING CODE ENFORCEMENT MATTERS TO BE HEARD BY SPECIAL MAGISTRATE; DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO APPOINT A SPECIAL MAGISTRATE TO HEAR CODE ENFORCEMENT MATTERS; PROVIDING FOR THE QUALIFICATIONS AND JURISDICTION OF THE SPECIAL MAGISTRATE; PROVIDING FOR THE JURISDICTION THE CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND APPLICABILITY; PROVIDING FOR FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION.**

**The Proposed Ordinance  does  does not fall under one of the following enumerated exceptions:<sup>1</sup>**

- The proposed ordinance is required for compliance with Federal or State law or regulation;
- The proposed ordinance relates to the issuance or refinancing of debt;
- The proposed ordinance relates to the adoption of budgets or budget amendments, including revenue sources necessary to fund the budget;
- The proposed ordinance is required to implement a contract or an agreement, including, but not limited to, any Federal, State, local, or private grant or other financial assistance accepted by the county government;
- The proposed ordinance is an emergency ordinance;
- The ordinance relates to procurement; or
- The proposed ordinance is enacted to implement the following:
  - a. Development orders and development permits, as those terms are defined in s. 163.3164, and development agreements, as authorized by the Florida Local Government Development Agreement Act under ss. 163.3220-163.3243;
  - b. Comprehensive plan amendments and land development regulation amendments initiated by an application by a private party other than the county;
  - c. Sections 190.005 and 190.046, Florida Statutes, regarding community development districts;
  - d. Section 553.73, Florida Statutes, relating to the Florida Building Code; or
  - e. Section 633.202, Florida Statutes, relating to the Florida Fire Prevention Code.

A business impact estimate is not required for the above exceptions.

**Summary of Proposed Ordinance and Statement of Public Purpose to be Served:**

Chapter 162, Florida Statutes authorizes counties to establish administrative boards with authority to impose administrative fines and other noncriminal penalties to provide an equitable, expeditious, effective, and inexpensive method of enforcing any codes and ordinances in force in where pending or repeat violations continue to exist. Chapter 162, Florida Statutes provides that counties may adopt code enforcement systems which give an appointed special magistrate(s) the authority to hold hearings and assess fines against violators of county codes and ordinances.

The Draft Ordinance reflects suggested revisions to Chapter 1, Article II of the St. Lucie County Code entitled Code Enforcement which would authorize code enforcement matters to be heard by a special magistrate, delegate authority to the County Attorney to appoint a special magistrate to hear code, provide for qualifications and jurisdiction of the special magistrate and provide for the jurisdiction of the Code Enforcement Board. The proposed ordinance serves a public purpose by improving the efficiency of the County's Code Enforcement process.

<sup>1</sup> F.S. 125.66(3)(c)(2023)

**Estimate of Direct Economic Impact on Private/For Profit Businesses:**

- a. Estimate of Direct Business Compliance Costs: The amended regulations do not impose any additional direct costs on Private/For Profit Businesses. It only changes the composition of the Code Enforcement Board from a citizen appointed board to a Special Magistrate.
- b. New Charges/Fees on Businesses Impacted: The amendments do not impose new fees or charges on existing businesses. It only changes the composition of the Code Enforcement Board from a citizen appointed board to a Special Magistrate.
- c. Estimate of Regulatory Costs: The County will incur a cost to fund the Special Magistrate position as authorized by F.S. Chapter 162. The amount will depend on the volume of Code Enforcement violations heard before the Special Magistrate, with the estimate between \$50,000 - \$100,000.

**Good Faith Estimate of Number of Businesses Likely Impacted:** None.

**Any Additional Information:** None