



### **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.

**BOCC Meeting Dates:** Permission to Advertise: 10/7/25, P&Z hearing: 10/16/25, 1<sup>st</sup> hearing: 11/04/25, 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing: 12/2/25

#### **Proposed Ordinance Title/Reference:**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TEXT OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, 6.00.03. NOTICE OF VEGETATION REMOVAL REQUIRED; SECTION 6.00.04 EXEMPTIONS; AND 6.00.05. CRITERIA GOVERNING APPROVAL OF VEGETATION REMOVAL PERMIT; TO CLARIFY A VEGETATION REMOVAL PERMIT FROM A VEGETATION REMOVAL EXEMPTION, TO PROVIDE FOR MITIGATION EXEMPTIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN NON-SITE RELATED ROADWAYS, AN EXEMPTION FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION WITHIN EXISTING COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY, AN EXEMPTION FOR WATER CONTROL DISTRICT SYSTEM FOR DRAINAGE PURPOSES, AND AN EXEMPTION FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES THAT MEET THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 163.045, F.S., AND TO UPDATE OBSOLETE DEPARTMENT NAMES AND TITLES; PROVIDING FOR EXEMPTIONS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR APPLICABILITY; PROVIDING FOR FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION; AND PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION.**

#### **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. Part II of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, relating to growth policy, county and municipal planning, and land development regulation, including zoning, development orders, development agreements and development permits;
  - b. Sections 190.005 and 190.046, Florida Statutes, regarding community development districts;
  - c. Section 553.73, Florida Statutes, relating to the Florida Building Code; or
  - d. 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:**

The draft ordinance provides clarification on the removal of native vegetation for the construction of any non-site-related roadway extensions or expansions, identified in the County's Right-of-Way Protection Plan or the Jenkins Road Area Plan (special district) and prescribed by a site plan approval, site development permit or roadway improvement agreement, provided the roadway will be dedicated to and is agreed to be accepted by St. Lucie County for perpetual ownership and maintenance; with the roadway accepted at such time the improvement serves as a

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

thoroughfare for the County's overall roadway network. Additionally, the draft ordinance would provide clarification on the removal of native vegetation for road construction within an existing County right-of-way. The proposed changes allow this road work to be conducted and exempt from mitigation.

The ordinance will also provide an exemption for vegetation removal activities associated with the operation and maintenance of a water control district system for drainage purposes. Lastly, the ordinance incorporates an exemption established by Section 163.045, F.S., which addresses the removal of a native tree on a residential property with a single-family, detached dwelling unit, if the property owner possesses documentation from an arborist certified by the ISA or a Florida licensed landscape architect that the tree poses an unacceptable risk to persons or property. A tree poses an unacceptable risk if the removal is the only means of practically mitigating its risk below moderate, as determined by the tree risk assessment procedures outlined in Best Management Practices - Tree Risk Assessment, Second Edition (2017).

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

- a. Estimate of Direct Business Compliance Costs: None, the proposed ordinance clarifies and defines existing processes and is intended to reduce uncertainty for applicants.
- b. New Charges/Fees on Businesses Impacted: Fees were adopted by the Board of County Commissioners under Resolution 2025-95. No new fees are proposed under this Ordinance.
- c. Estimate of Regulatory Costs: No additional regulatory costs. Staffing levels remain constant for processing requests.

**Good Faith Estimate of Number of Businesses Likely Impacted:**

Unknown. Existing businesses that utilize the proposed exemptions for roadway and drainage will benefit from being exempt from the requirements to mitigate vegetation removal.

**Any Additional Information:**

N/A.