



LEON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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Business Impact Estimate

In accordance with Section 125.66(3)(a), Florida Statutes (F.S.), a Business Impact Estimate (BIE) is required to be: 1) prepared before enacting certain ordinances and 2) posted on Leon County's website no later than the date the notice of intent to consider the proposed ordinance is advertised (which, per Section 125.66(2)(a), F.S., is at least ten (10) days before the Public Hearing).

Proposed Ordinance's title in full:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 4 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, REGARDING ANIMAL CONTROL; AMENDING SECTION 4-26 "DEFINITIONS"; AMENDING SECTION 4-47 "DOGS AND CATS OFFERED FOR SALE, HEALTH REQUIREMENTS"; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR APPLICABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Pursuant to Section 125.66(3)(c), F.S., the following types of ordinances are exempt from the BIE requirement. As such, if one or more boxes are checked below, Leon County, Florida, believes that a BIE is not required by state law for the proposed ordinance referenced above. Leon County, Florida, reserves the right to revise this BIE following an initial posting.

- 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 a county government;
- The proposed ordinance is an emergency ordinance;
- The proposed 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 Section 163.3164, F.S., and development agreements, as authorized by the Florida Local Government Development Agreement Act under Sections 163.3220 – 163.3243, F.S.;
- 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, F.S., regarding community development districts;
- d. Section 553.73, F.S., relating to the Florida Building Code; or
- e. Section 633.202, F.S., relating to the *Florida Fire Prevention Code*.

In accordance with Florida law Leon County, Florida, hereby posts the following BIE information for this proposed Ordinance on its website for public viewing and consideration on this 23rd day of December 2024:

1. Summary of the proposed ordinance (must include statement of the public purpose, such as serving the public health, safety, morals, and welfare):

The proposed ordinance will be enacted to protect, preserve, and promote the health, safety, welfare of both animals and pet owners of Leon County by prohibiting the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits.

The proposed Ordinance is to prohibit retailers from selling or offering for sale, dogs, cats, and rabbits. The proposed Ordinance will continue to allow retailers to hold pet adoption events in coordination with animal shelters and animal rescue organizations provided that the host retail pet store does not have an ownership interest in any animal offered for adoption, or receive a fee for providing space for such events. Additionally, the proposed Ordinance will allow breeders to sell animals directly to the public at non-retail locations and allow for the private sale of animals between individuals.

The proposed ordinance defines retail pet stores as commercial establishments that sell, or offer for sale, animals on its premises at retail

An Animal Control Officer or law enforcement officer may enforce the ordinance by issuing a \$500 civil citation for each prohibited animal being offered for sale at a retail location.

2. Estimate of direct economic impact of the proposed ordinance on private, for-profit businesses in the county, including the following (if any):

a.) Estimate of direct compliance costs that businesses may reasonably incur if the ordinance is enacted: The Ordinance does not impose any direct compliance costs. However, the single retail pet store currently selling rabbits has reported that it sells approximately 400 rabbits annually, with each rabbit priced at \$45. Additionally, customers typically spend an additional \$100-\$200 per rabbit sold on essential care supplies resulting in an estimated loss of revenue between \$58,000 and \$98,000. While the Ordinance prevents the retail pet store from selling rabbits, the store will continue to be able to sell supplies for rabbit care.

b.) Any new charge or fee imposed by the proposed ordinance for which businesses will be financially responsible: N/A

c.) Estimate of Leon County's regulatory costs, including estimated revenues from any new charges or fees to cover such costs: The estimated cost of Leon County's enforcement of the proposed ordinance is zero at this time as existing staff will enforce the ordinance.

3. Good faith estimate of the number of businesses likely to be impacted by the proposed Ordinance: In unincorporated Leon County, there is one pet store that is currently selling rabbits and there are no retail stores that currently sell dogs and/or cats.

4. Additional information Leon County deems necessary (if any): If adopted, the proposed ordinance only applies in unincorporated Leon County as the City of Tallahassee has a separate animal control ordinance.