

Business Impact Estimate

This Business Impact Estimate is provided in accordance with Florida Statutes §125.66(3)(a).

Meeting Date: April 14, 2026 & May 5, 2026

Proposed Ordinance Title/Reference:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE V, DIVISION 8 OF THE PALM BEACH COUNTY CODE, THE PALM BEACH COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED ; AMENDING SECTION 2-260(a) (FILING OF COMPLAINTS); AMENDING SECTION 2-260(b) (LEGAL SUFFICIENCY OF COMPLAINTS); AMENDING SECTION 2-260(d) (PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND PUBLIC HEARING); AMENDING SECTION 2-260(g) (PUBLIC RECORDS EXEMPTION); AMENDING SECTION 2-260.4 (FRIVOLOUS OR GROUNDLESS COMPLAINTS); PROVIDING FOR A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

The BCC adopted the Palm Beach County COE Ordinance as a countywide Ordinance in May of 2011, in accordance with the County Charter. The Charter amendments, which were approved by the voters in November 2010, also called for the establishment of a review committee to review and recommend proposed changes to the COE Ordinance.

In order to ensure compliance with Senate Bill 7014 (2024), the COE referred this matter to the ethics review committee, which recommends amendments that would remove the Executive Director of the COE as an individual authorized to file self-initiated complaints; prohibit the commission on ethics from self-initiating a complaint; clarify that complaints must be based on the complainant's personal knowledge or on information other than hearsay in order to be found legally sufficient; and create a provision establishing a process for the recovery of costs and attorney fees for frivolous or groundless complaints.

Estimate of Direct Economic Impact on Private, For Profit Businesses:

- a. Estimate of Direct Compliance Costs: None
- b. New Charges of Fees on Businesses Impacted: None
- c. Estimate of Regulatory Costs: None

Good Faith Estimate of Number of Businesses Likely Impacted: None

Any Additional Information: None