



February 3, 2026

Via Email Delivery

The Honorable Yvette Benarroch
Florida House of Representatives
1401 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: PCS for HB 1329 – Local Government Spending
2/5/2026 agenda, Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee

Dear Representative Benarroch:

On behalf of the Florida League of Cities members, I respectfully express our opposition to PCS for HB 1329. While cities support transparency and accountability in the use of public funds, this bill imposes prescriptive and resource-intensive requirements that duplicate existing practices, reduce local flexibility, and divert limited staff time away from core services.

Expanded Reporting and Posting Requirements

PCS for HB 1329 significantly expands the amount of budget-related information cities must compile, post, and maintain online. Local governments currently provide extensive budget documentation, including proposed budgets, adopted budgets, and detailed financial information, all of which are subject to public notice and multiple public hearings. Requiring additional postings without demonstrating a deficiency in current law adds administrative burden without a clear corresponding public benefit.

Mandated Searchable Format Requirements

PCS for HB 1329 requires local governments to publish budget information in a “searchable” format without defining the technical standards necessary for compliance or accounting for differences in local government size, staffing, and technological capacity. For many small and mid-sized cities, meeting this requirement would necessitate new software, website redevelopment, or the use of outside consultants, creating **unfunded costs** not addressed in the bill. Without financial support, cities are exposed to compliance risks with little certainty as to what constitutes adequate implementation. Moreover, if the state deems this level of accessibility essential, it is unclear why the same standards are not required of state agencies.

Required Budget Reduction Exercise

PCS for HB 1329 mandates that local governments conduct and publicly present a formal budget reduction exercise as part of the budget adoption process. This requirement is unnecessary, as cities currently engage in a comprehensive and deliberate budget development process that often begins as early as February for an October 1 adoption deadline. Over this eight-month period, cities evaluate their strategic plans, develop departmental budget requests, conduct administrative and managerial reviews, hold multiple budget workshops, and ultimately conduct two required public hearings in September to adopt final millage rates and budgets.



Requiring cities to complete an additional budget reduction exercise assumes—without evidence—that replacing locally developed budget practices with a state-directed process would create greater efficiency.

Conclusion

While transparency is a shared goal, these provisions demonstrate that PCS for HB 1329 relies on prescriptive mandates rather than demonstrated need, layering additional reporting, technical requirements, and procedural exercises onto local governments that are already operating transparent, accountable, and deliberative budget processes. The bill increases administrative burden and compliance risk, imposes unfunded costs, and limits local flexibility without clear evidence that these changes would improve fiscal accountability or public access. For these reasons, PCS for HB 1329 represents an unnecessary state intrusion into local budgeting practices and should not be advanced.

Sincerely,



Samuel A. Wagoner
Legislative Advocate
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

cc: Chair Jacques and members of the House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee