



BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATE

Date: January 2nd, 2026

I. Proposed Ordinance Title/Reference:

AN ORDINANCE OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING ARTICLE VII OF CHAPTER 28 OF THE HERNANDO CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO GROUNDWATER PROTECTION AND SITING; AMENDING SECTION 28-263 PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; AMENDING SECTION 28-265 PROVIDING FOR GROUNDWATER RESOURCE, WELLHEAD AND SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS; AMENDING SECTION 28-266 PROVIDING PROHIBITIONS WITHIN WELLHEAD AND SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS; AMENDING SECTION 28-267 PROVIDING GENERAL EXEMPTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 28-268 PROVIDING FOR REGISTRATION OF POTENTIAL POLLUTION SOURCES; AMENDING SECTION 28-2699 PROVIDING FOR SINKHOLES; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

II. The Proposed Ordinance ☐ does ☒ does not fall under one of the following enumerated exceptions:²

- ☐ The proposed ordinance relates to the issuance or refinancing of debt;
- ☐ The proposed ordinance is required for compliance with Federal or State law or regulation;
- ☐ 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.

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

In 2021 Hernando County Utilities Department (HCUD) hired a hydrogeological firm to upgrade its WHPAs in conjunction with the 2021 Potable Water Master Plan. The updated model resulted changes to the sizes and shapes of the WHPAs, as well as possible new restrictions on the types of activity allowed on properties within the new WHPAs.

The ordinance has been amended to address these changes and update the groundwater protection criteria for the existing and future potable water resources to ensure the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Hernando County.

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

a. Estimate of Direct Business Compliance Costs:

No direct economic impact on private, or for-profit businesses is anticipated.

b. New Charges/Fees on Businesses Impacted: No charges will be imposed as a result of this amendment.

c. Estimate of Regulatory Costs: There are no anticipated regulatory costs or revenues from new charges or fees for Hernando County.

V. Good Faith Estimate of Number of Businesses Likely Impacted: Existing businesses within the County will not be impacted. Only new or proposed businesses that fall under the Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) prohibitive use restrictions would be affected. At this time, a good faith estimate of the number of potentially affected businesses is not available due to the unpredictable nature of future development proposals and the absence of detailed data on proposed land uses within WHPA zones. It is the responsibility of each applicant to verify whether their proposed use meets the WHPA criteria and complies with applicable prohibitions.

VI. Any Additional Information: None.

VII. No Admission or Waiver: Please be advised that by promulgating this Business Impact Estimate, Hernando County admits neither that Fla. Stat. § 125.66(3) requires the preparation of a business impact estimate for the proposed ordinance, nor that the proposed ordinance, if enacted, can be challenged pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 125.675.

¹ Business impact statement must be posted on the county's website no later than the date that the legal advertisement of the hearing to consider the proposed ordinance is published.

² Fla. Stat. § 125.66(3)(c) (2023).