

Business Impact Estimate Form (see F.S. § 125.66(3)(a))

For:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF PINELLAS,
PROVIDING THAT THE PINELLAS COUNTY CODE BE
AMENDED BY REVISING SECTION 126-302 OF SAID CODE;
PROVIDING FOR ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PROCEDURE FOR
CONVERTING SEPTIC SYSTEMS TO SANITARY SEWER
CONNECTIONS; PROVIDING AUTHORITY FOR THE
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO GRANT EXCEPTIONS;
PROVIDING FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE ORDINANCE;
PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AREAS EMBRACED;
PROVIDING FOR FILING, CODIFICATION, AND PROVIDING
FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance is scheduled to be considered for adoption by the Pinellas County Commission on Tuesday October 15, 2024, at 9:30 A.M. in the Palm Room of the County Communications Department Building, located at 333 Chestnut Street, Clearwater, FL 33756

** Unless an attachment is expressly referenced, the content in this Form encompasses the entire Business Impact Estimate for the Ordinance.*

1. Summary of the Ordinance, including a statement of the public purpose to be served by the Ordinance, such as serving the public health, safety, morals, and welfare of the County: This Ordinance will increase the availability of sanitary sewer connections for parcels wishing to abandon onsite septic systems and connect to the County sanitary sewer system thereby improving the health of residents and visitors and valuable waterways. The Ordinance authorizes the County Administrator to grant exceptions from the requirement to connect to County sewer provided the property meets applicable federal, state and local regulations for the alternate wastewater disposal method to be used.

2. An estimate of the direct economic impact of the Ordinance on private, for-profit businesses in the County, including the following, if any:

(a) An estimate of direct compliance costs that businesses may reasonably incur if the Ordinance is enacted; The proposed Ordinance does not incur any new costs directly to properties. The proposed Ordinance allows for the County to construct at its own costs sanitary sewer service connections to the boundary of the property line and the right-of-way or utility easement provided: 1.) the property has a County sanitary sewer connection within 100-ft of the boundary of the property line and the right-of-way or utility easement; and 2.) the property has applied for a septic system abandonment.

(b) Identification of any new charge or fee on businesses subject to the Ordinance for which businesses will be financially responsible; The proposed Ordinance does not impose any new charge or fee onto the property. When a property connects to the public County sanitary sewer system, there are existing connection charges that will be incurred – current \$2,060.00. Also, the property will be subject to sanitary sewer usage rates adopted by the Board – currently about \$60.00 per month average per property.

(c) An estimate of the County's regulatory costs, including estimated revenues from any new charges or fees that will be imposed on businesses to cover such costs. The proposed Ordinance allows for the County to construct at its own costs sewer service connections to the boundary of the property line and the right-of-way or utility easement provided: 1.) the property has a County sanitary sewer connection within 100-ft of the boundary of the property line and the right-of-way or utility easement; and 2.) the property has applied for a septic system abandonment. The County cost of construction for this type of work averages \$6,800.00 currently. The property owner will be responsible for all costs to abandon the existing septic system and the construction of the service connection from the buildings to the service connection lines constructed by the County from the main sewer line to the boundary of the property line and the right-of-way or utility easement.

3. A good faith estimate of the number of businesses likely to be impacted by the Proposed Ordinance:

Overall, there are an estimated 9,000 (according to FDEP permit records) septic customers in Pinellas County, however, not all will be eligible for connection due to various circumstances. Of the 9,000, approximately 6,000 are estimated to require sanitary sewer connection in the future and should expect to incur the associated costs discussed above. Not all the 9,000 existing septic system customers are within the Pinellas County Utilities Dept. service areas. Any of existing septic customers who are not within the Pinellas County Utilities service areas, would be required to coordinate with the local utility provider to future connection to public sanitary sewer system.

4. Any additional information the BCC deems useful: *[This Section is not legally required.]*