

By the Committees on Community Affairs; and Ethics and Elections; and Senators Steube and Brandes

578-03463-18

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to county and municipal public
3 officers; amending s. 112.061, F.S.; requiring that
4 certain requests for travel authorization by county or
5 municipal public officers be approved by the governing
6 body of the county or municipality at a regularly
7 scheduled meeting; specifying requirements for such
8 requests; requiring that approved travel be posted on
9 the county's or municipality's website for a specified
10 timeframe; providing an exception for county
11 constitutional officers; providing an effective date.

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13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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15 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
16 112.061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

17 112.061 Per diem and travel expenses of public officers,
18 employees, and authorized persons.—

19 (3) AUTHORITY TO INCUR TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

20 (a) All travel must be authorized and approved by the head
21 of the agency, or his or her designated representative, from
22 whose funds the traveler is paid. The head of the agency shall
23 not authorize or approve such a request unless:

24 1. It is accompanied by a signed statement by the
25 traveler's supervisor stating that such travel is on the
26 official business of the state and also stating the purpose of
27 such travel.

28 2. For county or municipal public officers requesting
29 authorization to travel outside of the state or internationally,

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30 such travel must be on the official business of the county or
31 municipality and must be approved by the county's or
32 municipality's governing body at a regularly scheduled meeting
33 before the officer's travel, unless ratified for good cause at
34 the next regularly scheduled meeting. Good cause requires a
35 written explanation for why the travel request could not be
36 approved in advance. A request for travel authorization must
37 include an itemized list detailing all anticipated travel
38 expenses, including, but not limited to, the anticipated costs
39 of all means of travel, lodging, and subsistence. All travel
40 approved in accordance with this subparagraph must be posted on
41 the county's or municipality's website. If a municipality does
42 not maintain a website, it must request that the applicable
43 county post the approved travel on the county's website. The
44 applicable county must comply with such request. All such
45 approved travel must be posted on the applicable website as soon
46 as practicable, but no later than 10 days after approval, and
47 must remain on the website until the end of the next calendar
48 quarter. This subparagraph does not apply to a county
49 constitutional officer, as defined in s. 1(d), Art. VIII of the
50 State Constitution, who is elected by the electors of the
51 county.

52 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.