By Senator Lee

	20-00595-18 2018432
1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to community redevelopment agencies;
3	creating s. 112.327, F.S.; defining terms; prohibiting
4	a person from lobbying a community redevelopment
5	agency until he or she has registered as a lobbyist
6	with that agency; providing registration requirements;
7	requiring an agency to make lobbyist registrations
8	available to the public; requiring a database of
9	currently registered lobbyists and principals to be
10	available on certain websites; requiring a lobbyist to
11	send a written statement to the agency canceling the
12	registration for a principal that he or she no longer
13	represents; authorizing an agency to remove the name
14	of a lobbyist from the list of registered lobbyists
15	under certain circumstances; authorizing an agency to
16	establish an annual lobbyist registration fee, not to
17	exceed a specified amount; requiring an agency to be
18	diligent in ascertaining whether persons required to
19	register have complied, subject to certain
20	requirements; requiring the Commission on Ethics to
21	investigate a lobbyist or principal under certain
22	circumstances, subject to certain requirements;
23	requiring the commission to provide the Governor with
24	a report of its findings and recommendations in such
25	investigations; authorizing the Governor to enforce
26	the commission's findings and recommendations;
27	authorizing community redevelopment agencies to adopt
28	rules to govern the registration of lobbyists;
29	amending s. 112.3142, F.S.; requiring ethics training

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30	for community redevelopment agency commissioners;
31	specifying requirements for such training; amending s.
32	163.340, F.S.; revising the definition of the term
33	"blighted area"; amending s. 163.356, F.S.; revising
34	reporting requirements; deleting provisions requiring
35	certain annual reports; amending s. 163.357, F.S.;
36	requiring, rather than authorizing, a governing body
37	that consists of five members to appoint two
38	additional persons to act as members of the community
39	redevelopment agency; providing requirements for the
40	additional members; amending s. 163.367, F.S.;
41	requiring ethics training for community redevelopment
42	agency commissioners; amending s. 163.370, F.S.;
43	revising the list of projects that are prohibited from
44	being financed by increment revenues; requiring
45	community redevelopment agencies to follow certain
46	procurement procedures; creating s. 163.371, F.S.;
47	providing annual reporting requirements; requiring a
48	community redevelopment agency to publish annual
49	reports and boundary maps on its website; creating s.
50	163.3756, F.S.; providing legislative findings;
51	requiring the Department of Economic Opportunity to
52	declare inactive community redevelopment agencies that
53	have reported no financial activity for a specified
54	number of years; providing hearing procedures;
55	authorizing certain financial activity by a community
56	redevelopment agency that is declared inactive;
57	providing for application; requiring the department to
58	maintain a website identifying all inactive community

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59	redevelopment agencies; amending s. 163.387, F.S.;
60	effective on a specified date, revising requirements
61	for the use of redevelopment trust fund proceeds;
62	limiting allowed expenditures; revising requirements
63	for the annual budget of a community redevelopment
64	agency; requiring municipal community redevelopment
65	agencies to provide an annual budget to the county
66	commission; revising requirements for use of moneys in
67	the redevelopment trust fund for specific
68	redevelopment projects; revising requirements for the
69	annual audit; requiring the audit to be included with
70	the financial report of the county or municipality
71	that created the community redevelopment agency;
72	amending s. 218.32, F.S.; revising criteria for
73	finding that a county or municipality failed to file a
74	report; requiring the Department of Financial Services
75	to provide a report to the Department of Economic
76	Opportunity concerning community redevelopment
77	agencies reporting no revenues, expenditures, or
78	debts; amending s. 163.524, F.S.; conforming a cross-
79	reference; making technical changes; providing an
80	effective date.
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82	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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84	Section 1. Section 112.327, Florida Statutes, is created to
85	read:
86	112.327 Lobbying before community redevelopment agencies;
87	registration and reporting
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88	(1) As used in this section, the term:
89	(a) "Agency" or "community redevelopment agency" means a
90	public agency created by, or designated pursuant to, s. 163.356
91	or s. 163.357 and operating under the authority of part III of
92	chapter 163.
93	(b) "Lobby" means to seek to influence an agency with
94	respect to a decision of the agency in an area of policy or
95	procurement or to attempt to obtain the goodwill of an agency
96	official or employee on behalf of another person. The term shall
97	be interpreted and applied consistently with the rules of the
98	commission implementing s. 112.3215.
99	(c) "Lobbyist" has the same meaning as provided in s.
100	<u>112.3215.</u>
101	(d) "Principal" has the same meaning as provided in s.
102	<u>112.3215.</u>
103	(2) A person may not lobby an agency until he or she has
104	registered as a lobbyist with that agency. Such registration
105	shall be due upon the person initially being retained to lobby
106	and is renewable on a calendar-year basis thereafter. Upon
107	registration, the person shall provide a statement, signed by
108	the principal or principal's representative, stating that the
109	registrant is authorized to represent the principal. The
110	principal shall also identify and designate its main business on
111	the statement authorizing that lobbyist pursuant to a
112	classification system approved by the agency. Any changes to the
113	information required by this section must be disclosed within 15
114	days by filing a new registration form. An agency may create its
115	own lobbyist registration forms or may accept a completed
116	legislative branch or executive branch lobbyist registration

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117	form. In completing the form required by the agency, the
118	registrant must disclose, under oath, the following:
119	(a) His or her name and business address.
120	(b) The name and business address of each principal
121	represented.
122	(c) The existence of any direct or indirect business
123	association, partnership, or financial relationship with any
124	officer or employee of an agency with which he or she lobbies or
125	intends to lobby.
126	(3) An agency shall make lobbyist registrations available
127	to the public. If an agency maintains a website, a database of
128	currently registered lobbyists and principals must be available
129	on that website. If the agency does not maintain a website, the
130	database of currently registered lobbyists and principals must
131	be available on the website of the county or municipality that
132	created the agency.
133	(4) A lobbyist shall promptly send a written statement to
134	the agency canceling the registration for a principal upon
135	termination of the lobbyist's representation of that principal.
136	An agency may remove the name of a lobbyist from the list of
137	registered lobbyists if the principal notifies the agency that a
138	person is no longer authorized to represent that principal.
139	(5) An agency may establish an annual lobbyist registration
140	fee, not to exceed \$40, for each principal represented. The
141	agency may use registration fees only for the purpose of
142	administering this section.
143	(6) An agency shall be diligent in ascertaining whether
144	persons required to register under this section have complied.
145	An agency may not knowingly authorize an unregistered person to

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146	lobby the agency.
147	(7) Upon receipt of a sworn complaint alleging that a
148	lobbyist or principal has failed to register with an agency or
149	has knowingly submitted false information in a report or
150	registration required under this section, the commission shall
151	investigate a lobbyist or principal pursuant to the procedures
152	established under s. 112.324. The commission shall provide the
153	Governor with a report of its findings and recommendations in
154	any investigation conducted pursuant to this subsection. The
155	Governor may enforce the commission's findings and
156	recommendations.
157	(8) Community redevelopment agencies may adopt rules to
158	govern the registration of lobbyists, including the adoption of
159	forms and the establishment of the lobbyist registration fee.
160	Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 112.3142, Florida
161	Statutes, is amended to read:
162	112.3142 Ethics training for specified constitutional
163	officers and elected municipal officers
164	(2)(a) All constitutional officers must complete 4 hours of
165	ethics training each calendar year which addresses, at a
166	minimum, s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, the Code of
167	Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, and the public records
168	and public meetings laws of this state. This requirement may be
169	satisfied by completion of a continuing legal education class or
170	other continuing professional education class, seminar, or
171	presentation if the required subjects are covered.
172	(b) Beginning January 1, 2015, All elected municipal
173	officers must complete 4 hours of ethics training each calendar
174	year which addresses, at a minimum, s. 8, Art. II of the State

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201 31 must complete the annual training on or before December 31 of 202 the year in which the term of office began. A constitutional 203 officer or elected municipal officer assuming a new office or

assuming a new office or new term of office on or before March

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204	new term of office after March 31 is not required to complete
205	ethics training for the calendar year in which the term of
206	office began.
207	Section 3. Subsection (8) of section 163.340, Florida
208	Statutes, is amended to read:
209	163.340 DefinitionsThe following terms, wherever used or
210	referred to in this part, have the following meanings:
211	(8) "Blighted area" means an area in which there are a
212	substantial number of deteriorated or deteriorating structures;
213	in which conditions, as indicated by government-maintained
214	statistics or other studies, endanger life or property or are
215	leading to economic distress; and in which two or more of the
216	following factors are present:
217	(a) Predominance of defective or inadequate street layout,
218	parking facilities, roadways, bridges, or public transportation
219	facilities.
220	(b) Aggregate assessed values of real property in the area
221	for ad valorem tax purposes have failed to show any appreciable
222	increase over the 5 years <u>before</u> prior to the finding of such
223	conditions.
224	(c) Faulty lot layout in relation to size, adequacy,
225	accessibility, or usefulness.
226	(d) Unsanitary or unsafe conditions.
227	(e) Deterioration of site or other improvements.
228	(f) Inadequate and outdated building density patterns.
229	(g) Falling lease rates per square foot of office,
230	commercial, or industrial space compared to the remainder of the
231	county or municipality.
232	(h) Tax or special assessment delinquency exceeding the

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233	fair value of the land.
234	(i) Residential and commercial vacancy rates higher in the
235	area than in the remainder of the county or municipality.
236	(j) Incidence of crime in the area higher than in the
237	remainder of the county or municipality.
238	(k) Fire and emergency medical service calls to the area
239	proportionately higher than in the remainder of the county or
240	municipality.
241	(l) A greater number of violations of the Florida Building
242	Code in the area than the number of violations recorded in the
243	remainder of the county or municipality.
244	(m) Diversity of ownership or defective or unusual
245	conditions of title which prevent the free alienability of land
246	within the deteriorated or hazardous area.
247	(n) Governmentally owned property with adverse
248	environmental conditions caused by a public or private entity.
249	(o) A substantial number or percentage of properties
250	damaged by sinkhole activity which have not been adequately
251	repaired or stabilized.
252	(p) Rates of unemployment higher in the area than in the
253	remainder of the county or municipality.
254	(q) Rates of poverty higher in the area than in the
255	remainder of the county or municipality.
256	(r) Rates of foreclosure higher in the area than in the
257	remainder of the county or municipality.
258	(s) Rates of infant mortality higher in the area than in
259	the remainder of the county or municipality.
260	
261	However, the term "blighted area" also means any area in which
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262 at least one of the factors identified in paragraphs (a) through 263 (o) is present and all taxing authorities subject to s. 163.387(2)(a) agree, either by interlocal agreement with the 264 agency or by resolution, that the area is blighted. Such 265 266 agreement or resolution must be limited to a determination that 267 the area is blighted. For purposes of qualifying for the tax 268 credits authorized in chapter 220, the term "blighted area" 269 means an area as defined in this subsection. 270 Section 4. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (3) of 271 section 163.356, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 272 163.356 Creation of community redevelopment agency.-273 (3)(c) The governing body of the county or municipality 274 shall designate a chair and vice chair from among the 275 commissioners. An agency may employ an executive director, 276 technical experts, and such other agents and employees, 277 permanent and temporary, as it requires, and determine their 278 qualifications, duties, and compensation. For such legal service 279 as it requires, an agency may employ or retain its own counsel 280 and legal staff. 281 (d) An agency authorized to transact business and exercise 282 powers under this part shall file with the governing body the 283 report required pursuant to s. 163.371(1), on or before March 31 284 of each year, a report of its activities for the preceding 285 fiscal year, which report shall include a complete financial 286 statement setting forth its assets, liabilities, income, and 287 operating expenses as of the end of such fiscal year. At the 288 time of filing the report, the agency shall publish in a 289 newspaper of general circulation in the community a notice to 290 the effect that such report has been filed with the county or

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292	during business hours in the office of the clerk of the city or
293	county commission and in the office of the agency.
294	<u>(e)</u> At any time after the creation of a community
295	redevelopment agency, the governing body of the county or
296	municipality may appropriate to the agency such amounts as the
297	governing body deems necessary for the administrative expenses
298	and overhead of the agency, including the development and
299	implementation of community policing innovations.
300	Section 5. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
301	163.357, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
302	163.357 Governing body as the community redevelopment
303	agency
304	(1)
305	(c) A governing body <u>that</u> which consists of five members
306	shall may appoint two additional persons to act as members of
307	the community redevelopment agency. These members may not be
308	elected officials. The two additional members must have
309	expertise in at least one of the following areas: architecture,
310	finance, construction, land use, affordable housing,
311	sustainability, or other educational or professional experience
312	in the area of community redevelopment. The terms of office of
313	the additional members shall be for 4 years, except that the
314	first person appointed shall initially serve a term of 2 years.
315	Persons appointed under this section are subject to all
316	provisions of this part relating to appointed members of a
317	community redevelopment agency.
318	Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 163.367, Florida
319	Statutes, is amended to read:

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320	163.367 Public officials, commissioners, and employees
321	subject to code of ethics
322	(1) (a) The officers, commissioners, and employees of a
323	community redevelopment agency created by, or designated
324	pursuant to, s. 163.356 or s. 163.357 <u>are</u> shall be subject to
325	the provisions and requirements of part III of chapter 112.
326	(b) Commissioners of a community redevelopment agency must
327	comply with the ethics training requirements in s. 112.3142.
328	Section 7. Paragraphs (d), (e), and (f) are added to
329	subsection (3) of section 163.370, Florida Statutes, and
330	subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:
331	163.370 Powers; counties and municipalities; community
332	redevelopment agencies
333	(3) The following projects may not be paid for or financed
334	by increment revenues:
335	(d) Community redevelopment agency activities related to
336	festivals or street parties designed to promote tourism.
337	(e) Grants to entities that promote tourism.
338	(f) Grants to nonprofit entities providing socially
339	beneficial programs.
340	(5) A community redevelopment agency shall procure all
341	commodities and services under the same purchasing processes and
342	requirements that apply to the county or municipality that
343	created the agency.
344	Section 8. Section 163.371, Florida Statutes, is created to
345	read:
346	163.371 Reporting requirements
347	(1) Beginning March 31, 2019, and no later than March 31 of
348	each year thereafter, a community redevelopment agency shall

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349	file an annual report with the county or municipality that
350	created the agency and publish the information on the agency's
351	website. The report must include the following information:
352	(a) A complete audit report of the redevelopment trust fund
353	pursuant to s. 163.387(8).
354	(b) The performance data for each plan authorized,
355	administered, or overseen by the community redevelopment agency
356	as of December 31 of the year being reported, including the:
357	1. Total number of projects started and completed and the
358	estimated cost for each project.
359	2. Total expenditures from the redevelopment trust fund.
360	3. Original assessed real property values within the
361	community redevelopment agency's area of authority as of the day
362	the agency was created.
363	4. Total assessed real property values of property within
364	the boundaries of the community redevelopment agency as of
365	January 1 of the year being reported.
366	5. Total amount expended for affordable housing for low-
367	income and middle-income residents.
368	(c) A summary indicating if and to what extent the
369	community redevelopment agency has achieved the goals set out in
370	its community redevelopment plan.
371	(2) By January 1, 2019, each community redevelopment agency
372	shall publish on its website digital maps that depict the
373	geographic boundaries and total acreage of the community
374	redevelopment agency. If any change is made to the boundaries or
375	total acreage, the agency shall post updated map files on its
376	website within 60 days after the date such change takes effect.
377	Section 9. Section 163.3756, Florida Statutes, is created

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1	20-00595-18 2018432
378	to read:
379	163.3756 Inactive community redevelopment agencies
380	(1) The Legislature finds that a number of community
381	redevelopment agencies continue to exist but report no revenues,
382	no expenditures, and no outstanding debt in their annual report
383	to the Department of Financial Services pursuant to s. 218.32.
384	(2)(a) A community redevelopment agency that has reported
385	no revenues, expenditures, or debt under s. 218.32 or s.
386	189.016(9) for 3 consecutive fiscal years calculated from no
387	earlier than October 1, 2015, shall be declared inactive by the
388	Department of Economic Opportunity, which shall notify the
389	agency of the declaration of inactive status under this
390	subsection. If the agency has no board members and no agent, the
391	notice of inactive status must be delivered to the governing
392	board or commission of the county or municipality which created
393	the agency.
394	(b) The governing board of a community redevelopment agency
395	declared inactive under this subsection may seek to invalidate
396	the declaration by initiating proceedings under s. 189.062(5)
397	within 30 days after the date of the receipt of the notice from
398	the Department of Economic Opportunity.
399	(3) A community redevelopment agency declared inactive
400	under this section is authorized to expend funds only from the
401	redevelopment trust fund as necessary to service outstanding
402	bond debt. The agency may not expend other funds without an
403	ordinance of the governing body of the local government which
404	created the agency consenting to the expenditure of funds.
405	(4) The provisions of s. 189.062(2) and (4) do not apply to
406	a community redevelopment agency that has been declared inactive

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407	under this section.
408	(5) The provisions of this section are cumulative to the
409	provisions of s. 189.062. To the extent the provisions of this
410	section conflict with the provisions of s. 189.062, this section
411	prevails.
412	(6) The Department of Economic Opportunity shall maintain
413	on its website a separate list of community redevelopment
414	agencies declared inactive under this section.
415	Section 10. Subsections (6) and (8) of section 163.387,
416	Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
417	163.387 Redevelopment trust fund
418	(6) Effective October 1, 2018, moneys in the redevelopment
419	trust fund may be expended from time to time for undertakings of
420	a community redevelopment agency as described in the community
421	redevelopment plan <u>only pursuant to an annual budget adopted by</u>
422	the board of commissioners of the community redevelopment agency
423	and only for the following purposes <code>stated</code> in this <code>subsection.$_{ au}$</code>
424	including, but not limited to:
425	(a) Except as provided in this subsection, a community
426	redevelopment agency shall comply with the requirements of s.
427	<u>189.016.</u>
428	(b) A community redevelopment agency created by a
429	municipality shall submit its annual budget to the board of
430	county commissioners for the county in which the agency is
431	located within 10 days after the adoption of such budget and
432	submit amendments of its annual budget to the board of county
433	commissioners within 10 days after the date the amended budget
434	is adopted Administrative and overhead expenses necessary or
435	incidental to the implementation of a community redevelopment
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2018432 20-00595-18 436 plan adopted by the agency. 437 (c) The annual budget of a community redevelopment agency 438 may provide for payment of the following expenses: 439 1. Administrative and overhead expenses directly or 440 indirectly necessary to implement a community redevelopment plan 441 adopted by the agency. However, administrative and overhead 442 expenses may not exceed 18 percent of the total annual budget of 443 the community redevelopment agency. 2.(b) Expenses of redevelopment planning, surveys, and 444 445 financial analysis, including the reimbursement of the governing 446 body or the community redevelopment agency for such expenses 447 incurred before the redevelopment plan was approved and adopted. 448 3.(c) The acquisition of real property in the redevelopment 449 area. 450 4.(d) The clearance and preparation of any redevelopment 451 area for redevelopment and relocation of site occupants within 452 or outside the community redevelopment area as provided in s. 453 163.370. 454 5.(c) The repayment of principal and interest or any 455 redemption premium for loans, advances, bonds, bond anticipation 456 notes, and any other form of indebtedness. 457 6.(f) All expenses incidental to or connected with the 458 issuance, sale, redemption, retirement, or purchase of bonds, 459 bond anticipation notes, or other form of indebtedness, including funding of any reserve, redemption, or other fund or 460 461 account provided for in the ordinance or resolution authorizing 462 such bonds, notes, or other form of indebtedness. 463 7.(g) The development of affordable housing within the 464 community redevelopment area.

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465	8.(h) The development of community policing innovations.
466	9. Infrastructure improvement, building construction, and
467	building renovation, including improvements, construction, and
468	renovation related to parking lots, parking garages, and
469	neighborhood parks.
470	10. Grants and loans to businesses for facade improvements,
471	signage, sprinkler system upgrades, and other structural
472	improvements.
473	(8) (a) Each community redevelopment agency with revenues or
474	a total of expenditures and expenses in excess of \$100,000, as
475	reported on the trust fund financial statements, shall provide
476	for <u>a financial</u> an audit of the trust fund each fiscal year and
477	a report of such audit <u>shall</u> to be prepared by an independent
478	certified public accountant or firm. Each financial audit
479	provided pursuant to this subsection must be conducted in
480	accordance with rules for audits adopted by the Auditor General
481	which are in effect as of the last day of the community
482	redevelopment agency's fiscal year being audited.
483	(b) The audit Such report shall:
484	1. Describe the amount and source of deposits into, and the
485	amount and purpose of withdrawals from, the trust fund during
486	such fiscal year and the amount of principal and interest paid
487	during such year on any indebtedness to which increment revenues
488	are pledged and the remaining amount of such indebtedness.
489	2. Include a complete financial statement identifying the
490	assets, liabilities, income, and operating expenses of the
491	community redevelopment agency as of the end of such fiscal
492	year.
493	3. Include a finding by the auditor determining whether the
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494	community redevelopment agency complies with the requirements of
495	subsection (7).
496	(c) The audit report for the community redevelopment agency
497	shall be included with the annual financial report submitted by
498	the county or municipality that created the agency to the
499	Department of Financial Services as provided in s. 218.32,
500	regardless of whether the agency reports separately under s.
501	218.32.
502	(d) The agency shall provide by registered mail a copy of
503	the <u>audit</u> report to each taxing authority.
504	Section 11. Subsection (3) of section 218.32, Florida
505	Statutes, is amended to read:
506	218.32 Annual financial reports; local governmental
507	entities
508	(3) <u>(a)</u> The department shall notify the President of the
509	Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of any
510	municipality that has not reported any financial activity for
511	the last 4 fiscal years. Such notice must be sufficient to
512	initiate dissolution procedures as described in s.
513	165.051(1)(a). Any special law authorizing the incorporation or
514	creation of the municipality must be included within the
515	notification.
516	(b) Failure of a county or municipality to include in its
517	annual report to the department the full audit required by s.
518	163.387(8) for each community redevelopment agency created by
519	that county or municipality constitutes a failure to report
520	under this section.
521	(c) By November 1 of each year, the department must provide
522	the Special District Accountability Program of the Department of
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523	Economic Opportunity with a list of each community redevelopment
524	agency reporting no revenues, expenditures, or debt for the
525	community redevelopment agency's previous fiscal year.
526	Section 12. Subsection (3) of section 163.524, Florida
527	Statutes, is amended to read:
528	163.524 Neighborhood Preservation and Enhancement Program;
529	participation; creation of Neighborhood Preservation and
530	Enhancement Districts; creation of Neighborhood Councils and
531	Neighborhood Enhancement Plans
532	(3) After the boundaries and size of the Neighborhood
533	Preservation and Enhancement District have been defined, the
534	local government shall pass an ordinance authorizing the
535	creation of the Neighborhood Preservation and Enhancement
536	District. The ordinance shall contain a finding that the
537	boundaries of the Neighborhood Preservation and Enhancement
538	District comply with s. 163.340(7) or <u>(8)(a)-(s)</u>
539	do not contain properties that are protected by deed
540	restrictions. Such ordinance may be amended or repealed in the
541	same manner as other local ordinances.
542	Section 13. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.

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