1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to development permits and orders;
3	amending ss. 125.022 and 166.033, F.S.; requiring
4	counties and municipalities, respectively, to meet
5	specified requirements regarding the minimum
6	information necessary for certain zoning applications;
7	revising timeframes for processing applications for
8	approvals of development permits or development
9	orders; defining the term "substantive change";
10	providing refund parameters in situations where the
11	county or municipality, respectively, fails to meet
12	certain timeframes; providing exceptions; providing an
13	effective date.
14	
15	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
16	
17	Section 1. Section 125.022, Florida Statutes, is amended
18	to read:
19	125.022 Development permits and orders
20	(1) A county must specify in writing the minimum
21	information that must be submitted in an application for a
22	zoning approval, rezoning approval, subdivision approval,
23	certification, special exception, or variance. A county must
24	make the minimum information available for inspection and
25	copying at the location where the county receives applications
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26	for development permits and orders, provide the information to
27	the applicant at a preapplication meeting, or post the
28	information on the county's website.
29	(2) Within 5 business days after receiving an application
30	for approval of a development permit or development order, a
31	county shall confirm receipt of the application using contact
32	information provided by the applicant. Within 30 days after
33	receiving an application for approval of a development permit or
34	development order, a county must review the application for
35	completeness and issue a written notification to the applicant
36	letter indicating that all required information is submitted or
37	specify specifying with particularity any areas that are
38	deficient. If the application is deficient, the applicant has 30
39	days to address the deficiencies by submitting the required
40	additional information. For applications that do not require
41	final action through a quasi-judicial hearing or a public
42	hearing, the county must approve, approve with conditions, or
43	deny the application for a development permit or development
44	order within 120 days after the county has deemed the
45	application complete <u>.</u> , or 180 days For applications that require
46	final action through a quasi-judicial hearing or a public
47	hearing, the county must approve, approve with conditions, or
48	deny the application for a development permit or development
49	order within 180 days after the county has deemed the
50	<u>application complete</u> . Both parties may agree <u>in writing</u> to <del>a</del>
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51 reasonable request for an extension of time, particularly in the 52 event of a force majeure or other extraordinary circumstance. An 53 approval, approval with conditions, or denial of the application for a development permit or development order must include 54 55 written findings supporting the county's decision. The 56 timeframes contained in this subsection do not apply in an area 57 of critical state concern, as designated in s. 380.0552. The timeframes contained in this subsection restart if an applicant 58 59 makes a substantive change to the application. As used in this subsection, the term "substantive change" means an applicant-60 61 initiated change of 15 percent or more in the proposed density, intensity, or square footage of a parcel. 62

When reviewing an application for a development 63 (3)<del>(2)</del>(a) 64 permit or development order that is certified by a professional 65 listed in s. 403.0877, a county may not request additional 66 information from the applicant more than three times, unless the applicant waives the limitation in writing. 67

68 (b) If a county makes a request for additional information 69 and the applicant submits the required additional information 70 within 30 days after receiving the request, the county must 71 review the application for completeness and issue a letter 72 indicating that all required information has been submitted or 73 specify with particularity any areas that are deficient within 74 30 days after receiving the additional information. If a county makes a second request for additional (C)

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information and the applicant submits the required additional information within 30 days after receiving the request, the county must review the application for completeness and issue a letter indicating that all required information has been submitted or specify with particularity any areas that are deficient within 10 days after receiving the additional information.

83 Before a third request for additional information, the (d) 84 applicant must be offered a meeting to attempt to resolve 85 outstanding issues. If a county makes a third request for additional information and the applicant submits the required 86 87 additional information within 30 days after receiving the request, the county must deem the application complete within 10 88 89 days after receiving the additional information or proceed to process the application for approval or denial unless the 90 91 applicant waived the county's limitation in writing as described 92 in paragraph (a).

93 (e) Except as provided in subsection (7) (5), if the 94 applicant believes the request for additional information is not 95 authorized by ordinance, rule, statute, or other legal 96 authority, the county, at the applicant's request, shall proceed 97 to process the application for approval or denial.

to issue written notification of completeness or written

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(4) A county must issue a refund to an applicant equal to:

(a) Ten percent of the application fee if the county fails

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101	specification of areas of deficiency within 30 days after
102	receiving the application.
103	(b) Ten percent of the application fee if the county fails
104	to issue a written notification of completeness or written
105	specification of areas of deficiency within 30 days after
106	receiving the additional information pursuant to paragraph
107	<u>(3)(b).</u>
108	(c) Twenty percent of the application fee if the county
109	fails to issue a written notification of completeness or written
110	specification of areas of deficiency within 10 days after
111	receiving the additional information pursuant to paragraph
112	<u>(3)(c).</u>
113	(d) Fifty percent of the application fee if the county
114	fails to approve, approves with conditions, or denies the
115	application within 30 days after conclusion of the 120-day or
116	180-day timeframe specified in subsection (2).
117	(e) One hundred percent of the application fee if the
118	county fails to approve, approves with conditions, or denies an
119	application 31 days or more after conclusion of the 120-day or
120	180-day timeframe specified in subsection (2).
121	
122	A county is not required to issue a refund if the applicant and
123	the county agree to an extension of time, the delay is caused by
124	the applicant, or the delay is attributable to a force majeure
125	or other extraordinary circumstance.

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126 <u>(5)(3)</u> When a county denies an application for a 127 development permit or development order, the county shall give 128 written notice to the applicant. The notice must include a 129 citation to the applicable portions of an ordinance, rule, 130 statute, or other legal authority for the denial of the permit 131 or order.

132 <u>(6)-(4)</u> As used in this section, the terms "development 133 permit" and "development order" have the same meaning as in s. 134 163.3164, but do not include building permits.

135 <u>(7)(5)</u> For any development permit application filed with 136 the county after July 1, 2012, a county may not require as a 137 condition of processing or issuing a development permit or 138 development order that an applicant obtain a permit or approval 139 from any state or federal agency unless the agency has issued a 140 final agency action that denies the federal or state permit 141 before the county action on the local development permit.

(8) (6) Issuance of a development permit or development 142 143 order by a county does not in any way create any rights on the part of the applicant to obtain a permit from a state or federal 144 145 agency and does not create any liability on the part of the 146 county for issuance of the permit if the applicant fails to 147 obtain requisite approvals or fulfill the obligations imposed by 148 a state or federal agency or undertakes actions that result in a 149 violation of state or federal law. A county shall attach such a disclaimer to the issuance of a development permit and shall 150

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151 include a permit condition that all other applicable state or 152 federal permits be obtained before commencement of the 153 development.

154 <u>(9)</u> (7) This section does not prohibit a county from 155 providing information to an applicant regarding what other state 156 or federal permits may apply.

157 Section 2. Section 166.033, Florida Statutes, is amended 158 to read:

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166.033 Development permits and orders.-

160 A municipality must specify in writing the minimum (1)information that must be submitted for an application for a 161 162 zoning approval, rezoning approval, subdivision approval, certification, special exception, or variance. A municipality 163 164 must make the minimum information available for inspection and 165 copying at the location where the municipality receives 166 applications for development permits and orders, provide the 167 information to the applicant at a preapplication meeting, or 168 post the information on the municipality's website. 169 (2) Within 5 business days after receiving an application for approval of a development permit or development order, a 170 municipality shall confirm receipt of the application using 171

172 <u>contact information provided by the applicant.</u> Within 30 days 173 after receiving an application for approval of a development 174 permit or development order, a municipality must review the 175 application for completeness and issue a written notification to

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176 the applicant letter indicating that all required information is 177 submitted or specify specifying with particularity any areas 178 that are deficient. If the application is deficient, the 179 applicant has 30 days to address the deficiencies by submitting 180 the required additional information. For applications that do 181 not require final action through a quasi-judicial hearing or a 182 public hearing, the municipality must approve, approve with 183 conditions, or deny the application for a development permit or 184 development order within 120 days after the municipality has 185 deemed the application complete., or 180 days For applications 186 that require final action through a quasi-judicial hearing or a public hearing, the municipality must approve, approve with 187 conditions, or deny the application for a development permit or 188 189 development order within 180 days after the municipality has 190 deemed the application complete. Both parties may agree in 191 writing to a reasonable request for an extension of time, 192 particularly in the event of a force majeure or other 193 extraordinary circumstance. An approval, approval with 194 conditions, or denial of the application for a development 195 permit or development order must include written findings 196 supporting the municipality's decision. The timeframes contained 197 in this subsection do not apply in an area of critical state 198 concern, as designated in s. 380.0552 or chapter 28-36, Florida 199 Administrative Code. The timeframes contained in this subsection restart if an applicant makes a substantive change to the 200

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201 <u>application. As used in this subsection, the term "substantive</u> 202 <u>change" means an applicant-initiated change of 15 percent or</u> 203 <u>more in the proposed density, intensity, or square footage of a</u> 204 parcel.

205 <u>(3)(2)(a)</u> When reviewing an application for a development 206 permit or development order that is certified by a professional 207 listed in s. 403.0877, a municipality may not request additional 208 information from the applicant more than three times, unless the 209 applicant waives the limitation in writing.

210 If a municipality makes a request for additional (b) 211 information and the applicant submits the required additional 212 information within 30 days after receiving the request, the 213 municipality must review the application for completeness and 214 issue a letter indicating that all required information has been 215 submitted or specify with particularity any areas that are 216 deficient within 30 days after receiving the additional 217 information.

218 (C) If a municipality makes a second request for 219 additional information and the applicant submits the required 220 additional information within 30 days after receiving the 221 request, the municipality must review the application for completeness and issue a letter indicating that all required 222 223 information has been submitted or specify with particularity any areas that are deficient within 10 days after receiving the 224 225 additional information.

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226 Before a third request for additional information, the (d) 227 applicant must be offered a meeting to attempt to resolve 228 outstanding issues. If a municipality makes a third request for 229 additional information and the applicant submits the required 230 additional information within 30 days after receiving the 231 request, the municipality must deem the application complete 232 within 10 days after receiving the additional information or 233 proceed to process the application for approval or denial unless 234 the applicant waived the municipality's limitation in writing as 235 described in paragraph (a).

(e) Except as provided in subsection (7) (5), if the
applicant believes the request for additional information is not
authorized by ordinance, rule, statute, or other legal
authority, the municipality, at the applicant's request, shall
proceed to process the application for approval or denial.

241 (4) A municipality must issue a refund to an applicant 242 equal to:

(a) Ten percent of the application fee if the municipality
 fails to issue written notification of completeness or written
 specification of areas of deficiency within 30 days after
 receiving the application.
 (b) Ten percent of the application fee if the municipality

248 <u>fails to issue written notification of completeness or written</u>

249 specification of areas of deficiency within 30 days after

250 receiving the additional information pursuant to paragraph

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251	<u>(3)(b).</u>
252	(c) Twenty percent of the application fee if the
253	municipality fails to issue written notification of completeness
254	or written specification of areas of deficiency within 10 days
255	after receiving the additional information pursuant to paragraph
256	<u>(3)(c).</u>
257	(d) Fifty percent of the application fee if the
258	municipality fails to approve, approves with conditions, or
259	denies the application within 30 days after conclusion of the
260	120-day or 180-day timeframe specified in subsection (2).
261	(e) One hundred percent of the application fee if the
262	municipality fails to approve, approves with conditions, or
263	denies an application 31 days or more after conclusion of the
264	120-day or 180-day timeframe specified in subsection (2).
265	
266	A municipality is not required to issue a refund if the
267	applicant and the municipality agree to an extension of time,
268	the delay is caused by the applicant, or the delay is
269	attributable to a force majeure or other extraordinary
270	circumstance.
271	<u>(5)</u> When a municipality denies an application for a
272	development permit or development order, the municipality shall
273	give written notice to the applicant. The notice must include a
274	citation to the applicable portions of an ordinance, rule,
275	statute, or other legal authority for the denial of the permit

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276 or order.

277 <u>(6) (4)</u> As used in this section, the terms "development 278 permit" and "development order" have the same meaning as in s. 279 163.3164, but do not include building permits.

280 (7) (5) For any development permit application filed with 281 the municipality after July 1, 2012, a municipality may not 282 require as a condition of processing or issuing a development 283 permit or development order that an applicant obtain a permit or 284 approval from any state or federal agency unless the agency has 285 issued a final agency action that denies the federal or state 286 permit before the municipal action on the local development 287 permit.

(8) (6) Issuance of a development permit or development 288 289 order by a municipality does not create any right on the part of 290 an applicant to obtain a permit from a state or federal agency 291 and does not create any liability on the part of the 292 municipality for issuance of the permit if the applicant fails 293 to obtain requisite approvals or fulfill the obligations imposed 294 by a state or federal agency or undertakes actions that result 295 in a violation of state or federal law. A municipality shall 296 attach such a disclaimer to the issuance of development permits 297 and shall include a permit condition that all other applicable 298 state or federal permits be obtained before commencement of the 299 development.

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(9) (7) This section does not prohibit a municipality from

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301 providing information to an applicant regarding what other state

- 302 or federal permits may apply.
- 303 Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

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