

REVENUE ESTIMATING CONFERENCE

Tax: Local Taxes and Fees
Issue: Permit Search Fees
Bill Number(s): CS/CS/HB 447

- Entire Bill**
 Partial Bill: Sections 1, 2, and 7

Sponsor(s): Commerce Committee; Business and Professions Subcommittee; Diamond

Month/Year Impact Begins: July 1, 2019

Date of Analysis: 6/18/2019

Section 1: Narrative

- a. Current Law:** Section 553.80(7), F.S., allows local governments to provide a schedule of reasonable fees to enforce the building code.
- b. Proposed Change:** Sections 1, 2, and 7 of the bill create new language, which states that a county, municipality, or governing body of a local government that issues building permits may charge a person only one search fee for identifying building permits for each unit or subunit assigned to a particular tax parcel identification number by a county, municipality, or governing body of a local government. The fee must be in an amount commensurate with the research and time costs incurred by a county, municipality, or governing body of a local government.

Section 2: Description of Data and Sources

City of Winter Park Building Dept.; Monroe County Building Dept.; Broward County Building Dept.; Duval County Building Dept.
 Florida Association of Counties
 The League of Cities
 Senate Staff and House Staff

Section 3: Methodology (Include Assumptions and Attach Details)

The City of Winter Park and Monroe, Duval, and Broward counties do not generally impose a fee to identify building permits. These jurisdictions provide an online database, accessible to the public, which can identify the permit status of a parcel.

The proposed fiscal impact is zero for two reasons. First, given discussions with Monroe, Broward, and Duval Counties, the City of Winter Park, and searches of other jurisdiction’s online databases, it is assumed that the majority of the local enforcement agencies provide access to a public database and do not impose a fee to identify permits. Second, assume that multiple fees are charged to a person who wants to identify permits at a tax parcel with more than one unit and that the fees reasonably relate to the level of service provided by the local government enforcement agency. Since the new language states that the fee must be “commensurate with the research and time costs incurred...” a local enforcement agency may amend its fee schedule to charge one fee in the same amount as the total would have been if it charged multiple fees.

Section 4: Proposed Fiscal Impact

	High		Middle		Low	
	Cash	Recurring	Cash	Recurring	Cash	Recurring
2019-20			\$0	\$0		
2020-21			\$0	\$0		
2021-22			\$0	\$0		
2022-23			\$0	\$0		
2023-24			\$0	\$0		

List of affected Trust Funds: Local Government Revenue

Section 5: Consensus Estimate (Adopted: 06/19/2019): The Conference adopted the proposed estimate.

	GR		Trust		Local/Other		Total	
	Cash	Recurring	Cash	Recurring	Cash	Recurring	Cash	Recurring
2019-20	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2020-21	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2021-22	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2022-23	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2023-24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0