

Sec. 14-73. - Dangerous buildings.

It is found as a fact that there exist in the city buildings which are dangerous due to dilapidation; due to defects increasing the hazards of fire, accident or other calamities; due to lack of ventilation, light or sanitary facilities; and due to other conditions rendering such buildings unsafe, insanitary or detrimental to the health, safety or morals, or otherwise inimical to the welfare, of the city residents.

(Code 1986, § 31.020)

Sec. 14-75. - Existence of dwellings unfit for habitation.

It is found as a fact that there exist in the city dwellings which are unfit for human habitation due to dilapidation; due to defects increasing the hazards of fire, accident or other calamities; due to lack of ventilation, light or sanitary facilities; and due to other conditions rendering such dwellings unsafe or insanitary or dangerous or detrimental to the health, safety or morals, or otherwise inimical to the welfare, of the city residents.

(Code 1986, § 31.019)

Sec. 14-106. - Issuance of complaint; hearing.

Whenever a petition is filed with the chief building official by a public authority or whenever it appears to the chief building official, on his own motion, that any dwelling is unfit for human habitation or any building is dangerous, the chief building official shall, if his preliminary investigation discloses a basis for such charges, issue and cause to be served upon the owner-occupant of and parties in interest in such dwelling or building a complaint stating the charges in that respect and containing a notice that a hearing will be held before the chief building official at a place therein fixed within the city, not less than ten days nor more than 30 days after the serving of such complaint. The owner-occupant and parties in interest shall have the right to file an answer to the complaint and to appear in person or otherwise and give testimony at the place and time fixed in the complaint. Any person desiring to do so may attend such hearing and give evidence relevant to the matter being heard. The rules of evidence prevailing in courts of law or equity shall not be controlling in hearings before the building official.

(Code 1986, § 31.027(a); Ord. No. 15-06, § 1, 4-7-2015)

Sec. 14-107. - Order to repair, alter or improve building.

If, after such notice and hearing as provided in section 14-106, the chief building official determines that the dwelling under consideration is unfit for human habitation or the building under consideration is dangerous, he shall state in writing his findings of fact in support of such determination. The chief building official shall issue and cause to be served upon the owner-occupant thereof an order requiring the owner-occupant, within the time specified therein, to repair, alter or improve such building so as to render it fit for human habitation or to vacate and close the dwelling as a human habitation, or it shall require the owner-occupant within the specified time therein to repair, alter or improve such building so as to render it safe or to vacate and close the building for any and every use.

(Code 1986, § 31.027(b); Ord. No. 15-06, § 1, 4-7-2015)

Sec. 102-218. - Criteria for demolitions.

- (a) The historic architectural review commission shall issue a certificate of appropriateness for an application for demolition:
 - (1) If the subject of the application is a contributing or historic building or structure, then it should not be demolished unless its condition is irrevocably compromised by extreme deterioration or it does not meet any of the criteria of section 102-125(1) through (9).
 - (2) For a contributing historic or noncontributing building or structure, a complete construction plan for the site is approved by the historic architectural review commission.
- (b) The historic architectural review commission shall not issue permits that would result in:
 - (1) Removing buildings or structures that are important in defining the overall historic character of a district or neighborhood so that the character is diminished;
 - (2) Removing historic buildings or structures and thus destroying the historic relationship between buildings or structures and open space; and
 - (3) Removing an historic building or structure in a complex; or removing a building facade; or removing a significant later addition that is important in defining the historic character of a site or the surrounding district or neighborhood.
 - (4) Removing buildings or structures that would otherwise qualify as contributing, as set forth in section 102-62(3).
- (c) Nothing in this section is intended to alter the authority of the Building Official to condemn for demolition dangerous buildings, as provided in chapter 14 of the Code of Ordinances.

(Ord. No. 97-10, § 1(3-10.3(E)(2)(c)), 7-3-1997; Ord. No. 06-14, § 12, 8-1-2006)

Sec. 102-221. - Unsafe structures.

If the chief building official determines that any structure within a designated historic site or designated historic district is unsafe pursuant to the applicable sections of the Code of Ordinances, the chief building official will immediately notify the historic architectural review commission of the findings. The unsafe condition shall include structures deemed by the chief building official to be undergoing demolition by the property owner's neglect of maintenance responsibilities. Where appropriate and in accordance with applicable ordinances, the chief building official will attempt to have the owner or other appropriate party repair the structure rather than order it to be demolished and will take into consideration any comments and recommendations by the historic architectural review commission. However, the provisions contained within sections 102-187 through 102-190 and this division 3 shall not apply to the chief building official's declaration that a building is unsafe, nor will the chief building official be precluded from taking such steps as may be required by applicable ordinances to protect the public health and safety of the community. The historic architectural review commission may also endeavor to negotiate with the owner and interested parties, provided such actions do not interfere with procedures in the applicable ordinances.

(Ord. No. 97-10, § 1(3-10.3(E)(2)(g)), 7-3-1997)

Select Year: 2017 ▼

The 2017 Florida Statutes

Title XXXIII
REGULATION OF TRADE, COMMERCE, INVESTMENTS,
AND SOLICITATIONS

Chapter 553
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION
STANDARDS

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Chapter](#)

553.80 Enforcement.—

(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (a)-(g), each local government and each legally constituted enforcement district with statutory authority shall regulate building construction and, where authorized in the state agency's enabling legislation, each state agency shall enforce the Florida Building Code required by this part on all public or private buildings, structures, and facilities, unless such responsibility has been delegated to another unit of government pursuant to s. 553.79(9).

(a) Construction regulations relating to correctional facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections and the Department of Juvenile Justice are to be enforced exclusively by those departments.

(b) Construction regulations relating to elevator equipment under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Elevators of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation shall be enforced exclusively by that department.

(c) In addition to the requirements of s. 553.79 and this section, facilities subject to the provisions of chapter 395 and parts II and VIII of chapter 400 shall have facility plans reviewed and construction surveyed by the state agency authorized to do so under the requirements of chapter 395 and parts II and VIII of chapter 400 and the certification requirements of the Federal Government. Facilities subject to the provisions of part IV of chapter 400 may have facility plans reviewed and shall have construction surveyed by the state agency authorized to do so under the requirements of part IV of chapter 400 and the certification requirements of the Federal Government.

(d) Building plans approved under s. 553.77(3) and state-approved manufactured buildings, including buildings manufactured and assembled offsite and not intended for habitation, such as lawn storage buildings and storage sheds, are exempt from local code enforcing agency plan reviews except for provisions of the code relating to erection, assembly, or construction at the site. Erection, assembly, and construction at the site are subject to local permitting and inspections. Lawn storage buildings and storage sheds bearing the insignia of approval of the department are not subject to s. 553.842. Such buildings that do not exceed 400 square feet may be delivered and installed without need of a contractor's or specialty license.

(e) Construction regulations governing public schools, state universities, and Florida College System institutions shall be enforced as provided in subsection (6).

(f) The Florida Building Code as it pertains to toll collection facilities under the jurisdiction of the turnpike enterprise of the Department of Transportation shall be enforced exclusively by the turnpike enterprise.

(g) Construction regulations relating to secure mental health treatment facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Children and Families shall be enforced exclusively by the department in conjunction with the Agency for Health Care Administration's review authority under paragraph (c).

The governing bodies of local governments may provide a schedule of fees, as authorized by s. 125.56(2) or s. 166.222 and this section, for the enforcement of the provisions of this part. Such fees shall be used solely for carrying out the local government's responsibilities in enforcing the Florida Building Code. The authority of state enforcing agencies to set fees for enforcement shall be derived from authority existing on July 1, 1998. However, nothing contained in this subsection shall operate to limit such agencies from adjusting their fee schedule in conformance with existing authority.

(2)(a) Any two or more counties or municipalities, or any combination thereof, may, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 163, governing interlocal agreements, form an enforcement district for the purpose of enforcing and administering the provisions of the Florida Building Code. Each district so formed shall be registered with the department on forms to be provided for that purpose. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to supersede provisions of county charters which preempt municipal authorities respective to building codes.

(b) With respect to evaluation of design professionals' documents, if a local government finds it necessary, in order to enforce compliance with the Florida Building Code and issue a permit, to reject design documents required by the code three or more times for failure to correct a code violation specifically and continuously noted in each rejection, including, but not limited to, egress, fire protection, structural stability, energy, accessibility, lighting, ventilation, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and gas systems, or other requirements identified by rule of the Florida Building Commission adopted pursuant to chapter 120, the local government shall impose, each time after the third such review the plans are rejected for that code violation, a fee of four times the amount of the proportion of the permit fee attributed to plans review.

(c) With respect to inspections, if a local government finds it necessary, in order to enforce compliance with the Florida Building Code, to conduct any inspection after an initial inspection and one subsequent reinspection of any project or activity for the same code violation specifically and continuously noted in each rejection, including, but not limited to, egress, fire protection, structural stability, energy, accessibility, lighting, ventilation, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and gas systems, or other requirements identified by rule of the Florida Building Commission adopted pursuant to chapter 120, the local government shall impose a fee of four times the amount of the fee imposed for the initial inspection or first reinspection, whichever is greater, for each such subsequent reinspection.

(3)(a) Each enforcement district shall be governed by a board, the composition of which shall be determined by the affected localities.

(b)1. At its own option, each enforcement district or local enforcement agency may adopt rules granting to the owner of a single-family residence one or more exemptions from the Florida Building Code relating to:

a. Addition, alteration, or repairs performed by the property owner upon his or her own property, provided any addition or alteration shall not exceed 1,000 square feet or the square footage of the primary structure, whichever is less.

b. Addition, alteration, or repairs by a nonowner within a specific cost limitation set by rule, provided the total cost shall not exceed \$5,000 within any 12-month period.

c. Building and inspection fees.

2. However, the exemptions under subparagraph 1. do not apply to single-family residences that are located in mapped flood hazard areas, as defined in the code, unless the enforcement district or local enforcement agency has determined that the work, which is otherwise exempt, does not constitute a substantial improvement, including the repair of substantial damage, of such single-family residences.

3. Each code exemption, as defined in sub-subparagraphs 1.a., b., and c., shall be certified to the local board 10 days prior to implementation and shall only be effective in the territorial jurisdiction of the enforcement district or local enforcement agency implementing it.

(4) When an enforcement district has been formed as provided herein, upon its registration with the department, it shall have the same authority and responsibility with respect to building codes as provided by this part for local governing bodies.

(5) State and regional agencies with special expertise in building code standards and licensing of contractors and design professionals shall provide support to local governments upon request.

(6) Notwithstanding any other law, state universities, Florida College System institutions, and public school districts shall be subject to enforcement of the Florida Building Code under this part.

(a)1. State universities, Florida College System institutions, or public school districts shall conduct plan review and construction inspections to enforce building code compliance for their building projects that are subject to the Florida Building Code. These entities must use personnel or contract providers appropriately certified under part XII of chapter 468 to perform the plan reviews and inspections required by the code. Under these arrangements,

the entities are not subject to local government permitting requirements, plans review, and inspection fees. State universities, Florida College System institutions, and public school districts are liable and responsible for all of their buildings, structures, and facilities. This paragraph does not limit the authority of the county, municipality, or code enforcement district to ensure that buildings, structures, and facilities owned by these entities comply with the Florida Building Code or to limit the authority and responsibility of the fire official to conduct firesafety inspections under chapter 633.

2. In order to enforce building code compliance independent of a county or municipality, a state university, Florida College System institution, or public school district may create a board of adjustment and appeal to which a substantially affected party may appeal an interpretation of the Florida Building Code which relates to a specific project. The decisions of this board, or, in its absence, the decision of the building code administrator, may be reviewed under s. 553.775.

(b) If a state university, Florida College System institution, or public school district elects to use a local government's code enforcement offices:

1. Fees charged by counties and municipalities for enforcement of the Florida Building Code on buildings, structures, and facilities of state universities, state colleges, and public school districts may not be more than the actual labor and administrative costs incurred for plans review and inspections to ensure compliance with the code.

2. Counties and municipalities shall expedite building construction permitting, building plans review, and inspections of projects of state universities, Florida College System institutions, and public schools that are subject to the Florida Building Code according to guidelines established by the Florida Building Commission.

3. A party substantially affected by an interpretation of the Florida Building Code by the local government's code enforcement offices may appeal the interpretation to the local government's board of adjustment and appeal or to the commission under s. 553.775 if no local board exists. The decision of a local board is reviewable in accordance with s. 553.775.

(c) The Florida Building Commission and code enforcement jurisdictions shall consider balancing code criteria and enforcement to unique functions, where they occur, of research institutions by application of performance criteria in lieu of prescriptive criteria.

(d) School boards, Florida College System institution boards, and state universities may use annual facility maintenance permits to facilitate routine maintenance, emergency repairs, building refurbishment, and minor renovations of systems or equipment. The amount expended for maintenance projects may not exceed \$200,000 per project. A facility maintenance permit is valid for 1 year. A detailed log of alterations and inspections must be maintained and annually submitted to the building official. The building official retains the right to make inspections at the facility site as he or she considers necessary. Code compliance must be provided upon notification by the building official. If a pattern of code violations is found, the building official may withhold the issuance of future annual facility maintenance permits.

This part may not be construed to authorize counties, municipalities, or code enforcement districts to conduct any permitting, plans review, or inspections not covered by the Florida Building Code. Any actions by counties or municipalities not in compliance with this part may be appealed to the Florida Building Commission. The commission, upon a determination that actions not in compliance with this part have delayed permitting or construction, may suspend the authority of a county, municipality, or code enforcement district to enforce the Florida Building Code on the buildings, structures, or facilities of a state university, Florida College System institution, or public school district and provide for code enforcement at the expense of the state university, Florida College System institution, or public school district.

(7) The governing bodies of local governments may provide a schedule of reasonable fees, as authorized by s. 125.56(2) or s. 166.222 and this section, for enforcing this part. These fees, and any fines or investment earnings related to the fees, shall be used solely for carrying out the local government's responsibilities in enforcing the Florida Building Code. When providing a schedule of reasonable fees, the total estimated annual revenue derived from fees, and the fines and investment earnings related to the fees, may not exceed the total estimated annual

costs of allowable activities. Any unexpended balances shall be carried forward to future years for allowable activities or shall be refunded at the discretion of the local government. The basis for a fee structure for allowable activities shall relate to the level of service provided by the local government and shall include consideration for refunding fees due to reduced services based on services provided as prescribed by s. 553.791, but not provided by the local government. Fees charged shall be consistently applied.

(a) As used in this subsection, the phrase "enforcing the Florida Building Code" includes the direct costs and reasonable indirect costs associated with review of building plans, building inspections, reinspections, and building permit processing; building code enforcement; and fire inspections associated with new construction. The phrase may also include training costs associated with the enforcement of the Florida Building Code and enforcement action pertaining to unlicensed contractor activity to the extent not funded by other user fees.

(b) The following activities may not be funded with fees adopted for enforcing the Florida Building Code:

1. Planning and zoning or other general government activities.
2. Inspections of public buildings for a reduced fee or no fee.
3. Public information requests, community functions, boards, and any program not directly related to enforcement of the Florida Building Code.
4. Enforcement and implementation of any other local ordinance, excluding validly adopted local amendments to the Florida Building Code and excluding any local ordinance directly related to enforcing the Florida Building Code as defined in paragraph (a).

(c) A local government shall use recognized management, accounting, and oversight practices to ensure that fees, fines, and investment earnings generated under this subsection are maintained and allocated or used solely for the purposes described in paragraph (a).

(d) The local enforcement agency, independent district, or special district may not require at any time, including at the time of application for a permit, the payment of any additional fees, charges, or expenses associated with:

1. Providing proof of licensure pursuant to chapter 489;
2. Recording or filing a license issued pursuant to this chapter; or
3. Providing, recording, or filing evidence of workers' compensation insurance coverage as required by chapter 440.

(8) The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is not subject to local government permitting requirements, plan review, or inspection fees for agricultural structures, such as equipment storage sheds and pole barns that are not used by the public.

History.—s. 11, ch. 74-167; s. 3, ch. 75-111; s. 5, ch. 77-365; s. 3, ch. 85-97; s. 805, ch. 97-103; ss. 50, 51, ch. 98-287; ss. 85, 86, ch. 2000-141; ss. 34, 35, ch. 2001-186; ss. 3, 4, ch. 2001-372; s. 87, ch. 2002-1; s. 27, ch. 2002-20; s. 12, ch. 2005-147; s. 64, ch. 2006-1; s. 15, ch. 2008-191; s. 37, ch. 2010-176; s. 127, ch. 2014-17; s. 276, ch. 2014-19; s. 23, ch. 2014-154; s. 21, ch. 2016-129; s. 10, ch. 2017-149.