



# **Business Impact Estimate**

**Consistent with the posting requirement set forth in Section 125.66(3)(a), F.S., the County hereby publishes the following BIE information for this proposed ordinance on its website for public viewing and consideration on this   18   day of   February  , 2025\_:**

**Proposed ordinance's title/reference:**

An Ordinance By The Pasco County Board Of County Commissioners Amending The Pasco County Land Development Code; Section 802 Tree Preservation And Replacement; Appendix A Definitions; And Other Sections, As Necessary, For Internal Consistency; Providing For Applicability; Repealer; Providing For Severability; Inclusion Into The Land Development Code, And An Effective Date.

**1. Summary of the proposed ordinance (must include a statement of the public purpose, such as serving the public health, safety, morals and welfare):**

The proposed ordinance is intended to update our tree preservation and replacement portion of the Code to clarify and restructure some portions of the section as well as increase the fees for the removal of trees from a development site. Increasing the fees for tree removal is intended to provide a barrier to the clearcutting of trees for development, to encourage new development to preserve existing trees on site.

**2. An estimate of the direct economic impact of the proposed ordinance on private, for-profit businesses in Pasco County, if any:**

(a) An estimate of direct compliance costs that businesses may reasonably incur;

No additional compliance costs, but fee adjustments are highlighted below.

(b) Any new charge or fee imposed by the proposed ordinance or for which businesses will be financially responsible; and

Fee required for cutting down trees in terms of development is being increased as follows:

If the applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the County Administrator or designee that a site cannot accommodate the total number of replacement trees required by this section because of insufficient planting area, the applicant shall provide a monetary contribution to the Tree Mitigation Fund of \$75 per inch. For trees classified as a Heritage Tree, a payment of \$150 per inch is required.



In lieu of paying per inch, the applicant may make a payment per disturbed developable acre at a rate of \$2,750. This amount will increase to \$3,500 per disturbed developable acre on May 1, 2026.

(c) An estimate of Pasco County's regulatory costs, including estimated revenues from any new charges or fees to cover such costs.

N/A

**3. Good faith estimate of the number of businesses likely to be impacted by the proposed ordinance:**

For the purpose of this Business Impact Estimate, any developer, contractor, or property owner that utilizes the tree clearance or removal provisions of this ordinance is considered impacted.

Pasco County staff worked with the development community and outside stakeholders to produce fee mitigation requirements that are understood and acceptable.