



Business Impact Estimate

This form should be included in the "set for public hearing" agenda item for ordinances, and must be posted on the County's website by the time notice of the proposed ordinance is published.

Ordinance title/reference:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, PERTAINING TO LICENSES, BUSINESS REGULATIONS, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, INCLUDING TOWING AND IMMOBILIZATION SERVICES, AUTO TAG COURIER SERVICES, MOVERS, APPLIANCE REPAIR, AND MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR SHOPS; AMENDING CHAPTERS 8½ AND 20 OF THE BROWARD COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES ("CODE"); AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

If any of the following exceptions to the Business Impact Estimate requirement apply, check the applicable box and leave the remainder of the form blank.

- ☐ The ordinance is required for compliance with federal or state law or regulation;
- ☐ The ordinance relates to the issuance or refinancing of debt;
- ☐ The ordinance relates to the adoption of budgets or budget amendments, including revenue sources necessary to fund the budget;
- ☐ The ordinance is required to implement a contract or an agreement, including, but not limited to, any federal, state, local, or private grant, or other financial assistance accepted by the County;
- ☐ The ordinance is an emergency ordinance;
- ☐ The ordinance relates to procurement; or
- ☐ The ordinance is enacted to implement the following:
 - a. Development orders and development permits, as defined in Section 163.3164, and development agreements authorized under the Florida Local Government Development Agreement Act;
 - b. Comprehensive plan amendments and land development regulation amendments initiated by application by a non-municipal private party;
 - c. Sections 190.005 and 190.046, regarding community development districts;
 - d. Section 553.73, relating to the Florida Building Code; or
 - e. Section 633.202, relating to the Florida Fire Prevention Code.

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

This ordinance would update the County's Consumer Protection Code, primarily but not exclusively pertaining to towing.

On September 4, 2025, the Commission directed the County Attorney's Office to draft an Ordinance amending various sections of Chapters 20 and 8½ of the Broward County Code of Ordinances relating to provisions regulating movers, towing and immobilization providers, motor vehicle repair shops, and motor vehicle body repair and motor vehicle painting shops.

The changes pertaining to towing will better align the County Code with recent changes in Florida law. They include new requirements that towing companies accept at least two forms of payment. Also, licensees must use tow lights and certain other safety equipment. Fines are provided for violating the new provisions. The ordinance also would clarify that a towing license does not authorize licensees to drive the car being towed unless the owner consents.

In another part of the Consumer Protection Code, the ordinance would modify language pertaining to private couriers who deliver license plates to consumers from the tax collector or private tag agencies, to reflect that license plates are now a responsibility of the tax collector and not the County. The ordinance also would add a fine for violation of an existing requirement that such couriers obtain bond in favor of the County.

The ordinance also would clarify the circumstances in which a licensee in certain fields would become ineligible for renewal due to previous violations of the same rule within a specified period.

Finally, the proposed ordinance includes numerous housekeeping changes for style and clarity, to remove superfluous language, eliminate obsolete provisions, and to correct the names of County agencies that have been changed.

2. Estimate of direct economic impact of the proposed ordinance on private, for-profit businesses in Broward County, including, if applicable:

- a. Estimate of direct compliance costs that businesses may reasonably incur;
- b. Any new charge or fee imposed by the proposed ordinance; and
- c. Estimate of the County's regulatory costs, including estimated revenues from any new charges or fees to cover such costs.

Per State law, businesses are required to use safety equipment including safety chains, straps, towing lights, and accept multiple forms of payment, therefore there should be no additional compliance costs.

There are new fines in the amount of \$250 for the first violation and \$500 for repeat occurrences for failing to use safety equipment when towing vehicles, operating vehicles without the owner's written consent, and operating private courier services without required performance bonds.

It is anticipated that there are no new regulatory costs for Broward County. It is not anticipated that Broward County would collect a significant amount of fines due to the enactment of this ordinance.

3. Estimate of the number of businesses likely to be impacted by the proposed ordinance:

According to the Public Works and Environmental Services Department, there are 210 motor vehicle body repair and paint shops, 830 motor vehicle repair shops, 70 moving companies, and 150 towing/immobilization companies currently licensed in Broward County.

4. Additional information (if any):