

**RESOLUTION NO. 25R-12-243**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAUDERHILL, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO REJECT HOUSE BILL 145, RELATING TO INCREASING LIABILITY AGAINST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS IT WOULD ENCOURAGE INCREASED LAWSUIT PAYOUTS, WHICH WOULD MEAN TAXPAYERS WILL ULTIMATELY FOOT THE BILL; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO SEND A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE PARTIES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (REQUESTED BY CITY MANAGER KENNIE HOBBS, JR.).**

WHEREAS, State Representative McFarland introduced House Bill 145, relating to suits against local governments; and

WHEREAS, HB 145 would increase statutory limits on liability for tort claims against state & its agencies & subdivisions from \$200,000.00, per person and \$300,000.00 per incident to \$500,000 per person and \$1 million per incident, and for claims accruing on or after October 1, 2031, the limits would further rise to \$600,000.00 per person and \$1.2 million per incident; and

WHEREAS, HB 145 authorizes subdivision to settle claim in excess of statutory limit without legislative action regardless of insurance coverage limits; and

WHEREAS, HB 145 prohibits insurance policy from conditioning benefits on enactment of claim bill; specifies that limitations in effect on date claim accrues apply to that claim; revises period within which certain claims must be presented; revises exceptions relating to instituting tort claims against state or agencies or subdivisions; revises period after which failure of certain entities to make final disposition of claim shall be deemed final denial of claim for certain purposes; revises statute of limitations for tort claims against state or one of its agencies or subdivisions & exceptions; and

WHEREAS, the Florida League of Cities strongly opposes HB 145 as raising the caps on government liability in negligence lawsuits would impose a massive financial burden on local taxpayers by quadrupling the current limits and by 2031 increasing the cap by five times the current rate; and

WHEREAS, rejecting HB 145 would protect taxpayers and city services, as cities are not profit-driven entities; they exist to serve communities; and

WHEREAS, HB 145 would encourage increased lawsuit payouts which would mean taxpayers will ultimately foot the bill; and

WHEREAS, higher caps would equal skyrocketing insurance costs, and as we are aware the insurance market in Florida is already volatile, and this bill would make securing adequate coverage even more difficult and expensive for cities; and

WHEREAS, unlike private businesses, cities cannot just raise prices to cover additional liability costs, but they are forced to cut vital services, raise taxes, or both; and

WHEREAS, HB 145's limits are extreme compared to other states, as thirty-three (33) states have sovereign immunity caps. For example, Texas caps liability at \$250,000.00 per person and \$500,000.00 per occurrence. Florida should not be setting liability limits drastically higher than peer states; and

WHEREAS, New York and California have no caps, but they also have some of the highest tax burdens in the country. Florida's low-tax, business-friendly environment would be undermined by extreme liability costs; and

WHEREAS, HB 145 would encourage frivolous lawsuits and target taxpayers; raising the lawsuit limit would open the floodgates to excessive and frivolous litigation that only benefits trial attorneys, not communities; and

WHEREAS, more lawsuits would require more taxpayer dollars spent on legal defense instead of public services. Cities would be forced to divert funds from police, fire, and infrastructure to defend against lawsuits, hurting public safety and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the Florida League of Cities STRONGLY OPPOSES increasing sovereign immunity limits; and

WHEREAS, HB 145 was heard in the House Civil Justice and Claims Subcommittee on Wednesday, November 5; and

WHEREAS, if enacted it would become effective October 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lauderhill ("City") does not support House Bill 145.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAUDERHILL, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That the above "Whereas" clauses are ratified and confirmed, and they are made a part of and incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

SECTION 2. That the City of Lauderhill urges the Florida Legislature to reject (VOTE NO) on House Bill 145.

SECTION 3. That the City Clerk is requested to send a copy of this Resolution to the Florida Legislature, the Office of Governor Ron DeSantis, the Broward League of Cities, the Florida League of Cities, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, and the Broward Legislative Delegation.

SECTION 4. That this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
DENISE D. GRANT, MAYOR  
PRESIDING OFFICER

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
ANDREA M. ANDERSON, MMC  
CITY CLERK

MOTION \_\_\_\_\_  
SECOND \_\_\_\_\_

Approved as to Form

R. CAMPBELL \_\_\_\_\_  
M. DUNN \_\_\_\_\_  
D. GRANT \_\_\_\_\_  
J. HODGSON \_\_\_\_\_  
S. MARTIN \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hans Ottinot  
City Attorney