

Changes Made to Annexation and Contraction Procedures of Municipal Boundaries

[Senate Bill 718](#) amends section 163.3167(8), Florida Statutes, to prohibit land development regulation initiatives and referendums. The bill also amends section 171.031, Florida Statutes, to require the municipality to conduct a feasibility study, instead of a report, prior to starting annexation procedures under section 171.0413, Florida Statutes. “Feasibility study” is defined as “an analysis conducted by qualified staff or consultants of the economic, market, technical, financial, and management feasibility of the proposed annexation or contraction, as applicable.”

The bill also amends section 171.051, Florida Statutes, to require municipalities to perform a feasibility study and undertake review of such study after a petition for contraction is received. The bill also clarified that consideration of the petition is a legislative decision. Also, the bill prohibits contraction if the area proposed to be contracted has 70 percent of the acres owned by individuals, corporations, or legal entities that are not registered electors of that area unless the owners of more than 50 percent of the area to be contracted consent. The amendments to section 171.051 only apply to petitions filed on or after July 1, 2023.

SB 718 was signed into law on June 28, 2023 and took effect July 1, 2023.