A bill to be entitled
An act relating to permit fees; amending s. 125.56, F.S.; requiring the governing body of a local government to post its permit and inspection fee schedules and a link to an annual building permit and inspection report on its website; amending s. 553.80, F.S.; requiring the governing body of a local government to publish such report and post it on the local government's website; providing reporting requirements; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (4) of section 125.56, Florida Statutes, to read:

125.56 Enforcement and amendment of the Florida Building Code and the Florida Fire Prevention Code; inspection fees; inspectors; etc.—

(4)  
(c) The governing body of a local government authorized under this section, s. 166.222, or s. 553.80 to issue fees shall post its permit and inspection fee schedules on its website with a link to the building permit and inspection utilization report required under s. 553.80(7).

Section 2. Subsection (7) of section 553.80, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

553.80  Enforcement.—

(7)(a) 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.

1.(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.

2. (b) The following activities may not be funded with fees adopted for enforcing the Florida Building Code:
   a. Planning and zoning or other general government activities.
   b. Inspections of public buildings for a reduced fee or no fee.
   c. Public information requests, community functions, boards, and any program not directly related to enforcement of the Florida Building Code.
   d. 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 subparagraph 1. paragraph (a).

3. (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 subparagraph 1. paragraph (a).

4. (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:

a. Providing proof of licensure pursuant to chapter 489;

b. Recording or filing a license issued pursuant to this chapter; or

c. Providing, recording, or filing evidence of workers' compensation insurance coverage as required by chapter 440.

(b) Before making any adjustment to a fee schedule, the governing body of a local government shall publish a building permit and inspection utilization report and post it on the local government's website. The report shall be updated annually on such website and be easily accessible to the public. The report shall include:

1. Direct and indirect costs incurred by the local government to implement the Florida Building Code, including costs related to the review of:

a. Building plans.

b. Building inspections.

c. Building reinspections.

d. Building permit processing.

e. Building code enforcement.

f. Building fire inspections.

2. Number of building permits requested.

3. Number of building permits issued.

4. Number of building inspections and reinspections
conducted.

5. Number of personnel employed by the local government to implement the Florida Building Code, issue building permits, and conduct inspections.

6. Salary and related employee benefit costs incurred by the local government to implement the Florida Building Code, issue building permits, and conduct inspections.

7. Revenue derived from fees pursuant to s. 553.80(7).

8. Revenue derived from fines pursuant to s. 553.80(7).

9. Investment earnings derived from the local government's investment of revenue derived from fees and fines pursuant to s. 553.80(7).

10. Balances carried forward by the local government pursuant to s. 553.80(7).

11. Balances refunded by the local government pursuant to s. 553.80(7).

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.