



FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

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Florida League of Cities Expresses Concern, Offers Solutions For Short-Term Rental Bill

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 13, 2020

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TALLAHASSEE, Fla. –The **Florida League of Cities**, the united voice for Florida’s municipal governments, issued a statement of concern in response to the passage of SB 1128 earlier today:

“The Florida League of Cities is disappointed the short-term rental bill, SB 1128, passed through its first stop today in the Senate Innovation, Industry and Technology Committee. City officials will continue to be heard on this issue and provide local examples of how this sweeping preemption would deeply threaten the safety and quality of our neighborhoods.

During committee testimony, the League offered multiple solutions on how to amend this bill to create a safe, workable environment for short-term rentals in Florida.

The majority of public safety issues arise when out-of-town investors create “mini hotels” in residential neighborhoods. Imagine the single family home next door being advertised to “comfortably sleep 16.” The drain on local law enforcement to stop loud parties, fights and parking violations distracts from serving taxpaying residents’ needs. To address this problem, we suggest exempting homestead and owner-occupied properties from local regulations specifically directed toward corporate short-term rentals.

Another recommendation deals with creating a transparent structure for fines, which is an important tool local communities use to deter bad actors and repeat offenders. We propose standardizing fines based on a percentage of the nightly room rate for each rental.

We also promote a partnership between cities and the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to ensure that short-term rentals are being inspected with regularity and efficiency.

We hope our partners at the state level will consider our full list of recommendations moving forward. With 74% of voters in favor of local city/county commissioners setting regulations for short-term rentals, it’s clear that this is an issue that should be handled locally.

We will stay engaged on this issue as it is a priority of cities across Florida.”

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Founded in 1922, the Florida League of Cities is the united voice for Florida's municipal governments. Its goals are to promote local self-government and serve the needs of Florida's cities, which are formed and governed by their citizens. The League believes in "Local Voices Making Local Choices," which focuses on the impact citizens and city leaders have in improving Florida's communities. For more information, visit flcities.com.