



The Florida House of Representatives

Office of the Speaker

MEMORANDUM

To: Licensed Professionals
From: Jose R. Oliva, Speaker
Florida House of Representatives
Date: January 10, 2020
Re: Private Property Rights, Chapter 2019-155, Laws of Florida

As you serve your clients, you may have encountered local government standing in your way or threatening sanctions or even levying fines for simply doing what you know, in your training and experience, to be the correct thing to do.

Those days are over.

Please take note of legislation passed in the 2019 session and signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis. CS/HB 1159 prohibits a local government from requiring a notice, application, approval, permit, fee, or mitigation for the pruning, trimming, or removal of a tree on residential property when an arborist or landscape architect documents that the tree presents a danger to persons or property.

Recently, I reached out to local officials to urge them to review any local ordinances that may limit property owners' ability to remove or prune trees. I also advised them that continued enforcement of such regulations may constitute illegal restrictions.

If you are aware of specific cases of local government actions restricting the free exercise of property owners' rights as specified in CS/HB 1159, please contact our office. We will be happy to try to assist you in resolving any instance of illegal enforcement.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.