

By Representative Gay

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Lee and Charlotte Counties;
3 amending chapter 96-507, Laws of Florida, the
4 Gasparilla Island Bridge Authority Act;
5 revising the powers and duties of the authority
6 to eliminate the requirement that electors
7 authorize the maximum toll and maximum ad
8 valorem tax in a single vote of the electors;
9 eliminating the requirement that the proceeds
10 of tolls and ad valorem taxes may only be used
11 for certain purposes; providing an effective
12 date.

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

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16 Section 1. Subsections (3), (13), and (21) of section
17 6 of chapter 96-507, Laws of Florida, are amended to read:

18 Section 6. POWERS AND DUTIES OF AUTHORITY.--The
19 authority shall have the following powers and duties, in
20 addition to and supplementing other powers granted in this act
21 and powers granted to authorities by general law:

22 (3) To fix, modify, charge and collect toll rates and
23 user fees from persons for the use of the bridge and causeway
24 system at such levels as the authority deems appropriate
25 regardless of the costs associated with the bridge and
26 causeway system; provided, however, in no event shall tolls
27 for automobiles exceed \$5.00 per roundtrip for a period of 10
28 years after the effective date of this special act. The
29 authority shall be subject to the provisions of s. 338.165,
30 Florida Statutes, authorizing the continuation of tolls except
31 that the authority may use any remaining toll revenue after

1 payments for debt service and the annual cost of operation,
2 maintenance, and improvement of the bridge and causeway only
3 for the purposes enumerated in this act. ~~The authority may~~
4 ~~only impose this toll after submitting the maximum toll~~
5 ~~authorized under this subsection and the maximum ad valorem~~
6 ~~taxes authorized under subsection (13) to a single vote of the~~
7 ~~electors.~~

8 (13) The authority may assess and impose upon lands in
9 the district ad valorem taxes of no greater than 2 mills of
10 assessed value per year, as provided by this act and chapter
11 197, Florida Statutes. The authority may only impose ad
12 valorem taxes if both of the following conditions are met:

13 (a) Following a referendum in which a majority of the
14 electors of the district voting in the election approve of the
15 levy of ~~the maximum ad valorem tax authorized under this~~
16 ~~subsection and the maximum toll authorized under subsection~~
17 ~~(3).~~

18 (b) The authority determines that the bridge tolls
19 being collected may be insufficient to repair, replace, or
20 maintain the bridge and causeway.

21
22 The authority may conduct a special election, if necessary, in
23 order to seek voter approval of the ad valorem tax levy ~~and~~
24 ~~tolls.~~

25 ~~(21) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this act,~~
26 ~~the proceeds of the tolls and ad valorem taxes may only be~~
27 ~~used for operation, maintenance, replacement, and debt service~~
28 ~~of the bridge and causeway.~~

29 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
30 law.

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