An act relating to community development districts; amending s. 190.006, F.S.;

authorizing any community development district to hold elections for the members of its board of supervisors in conjunction with general elections; providing that such members shall be elected in groups by the qualified electors of the district; requiring each member elected to be a qualified elector of the district; providing for staggering of terms; providing for transition; providing an effective date.

A bill to be entitled

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

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Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) and paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 190.006, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

190.006 Board of supervisors; members and meetings.-(2)

(b) At such meeting, each landowner shall be entitled to cast one vote per acre of land owned by him or her and located within the district for each person to be elected. A landowner may vote in person or by proxy in writing. A fraction of an acre shall be treated as 1 acre, entitling the landowner to one vote with respect thereto. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected for a period of 4 years, and the three candidates receiving the next largest number of votes shall be elected for a period of 2 years. The members of the first board

2-year terms; however, the next election by landowners shall be held on the first Tuesday in November. Thereafter, except as otherwise provided in subsection (3), there shall be an election of supervisors for the district every 2 years on the first Tuesday in November at which—the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall each be elected to serve for a 4-year term period, and the remaining candidate elected shall serve for a 2-year term period.

(3)(a)1. If the board proposes to exercise the ad valorem taxing power authorized by s. 190.021, the district board shall call an election at which the members of the board of supervisors will be elected by the qualified electors of the district. Such election shall be held in conjunction with a primary or general election unless the district bears the cost of a special election. Each member shall be elected by the qualified electors of the district for a term of 4 years, except that, at the first such election, three members shall be elected for a term period of 4 years each and two members shall be elected for a term period of 2 years each. All elected board members must be qualified electors of the district.

2.a. Regardless of whether a district has proposed to levy ad valorem taxes, commencing 6 years after the initial appointment of members or, for a district exceeding 5,000 acres in area, 10 years after the initial appointment of members, the position of each member whose term has expired shall be filled by a qualified elector of the district, elected by the qualified electors of the district. However, for those districts established after June 21, 1991, and for those existing districts established after December 31, 1983,

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which have less than 50 qualified electors on June 21, 1991, sub-subparagraphs b. and c. shall apply.

- b. For those districts to which this sub-subparagraph applies if, in the 6th year after the initial appointment of members, or 10 years after such initial appointment for districts exceeding 5,000 acres in area, there are not at least 250 qualified electors in the district, or for a district exceeding 5,000 acres, there are not at least 500 qualified electors, members of the board shall continue to be elected by landowners. After the 6th or 10th year, once a district reaches 250 or 500 qualified electors, respectively, then the position of two board members whose terms are expiring shall be filled by qualified electors of the district, elected by the qualified electors of the district. One of these board members shall serve a 2-year term, and the other a 4-year term. The remaining board member whose term is expiring shall be elected for a 4-year term by the landowners and is not required to be a qualified elector. Thereafter, as terms expire, board members shall be qualified electors elected by qualified electors of the district.
- c. On or before July 15 of each year, the board shall determine the number of qualified electors in the district as of the immediately preceding June 1. The board shall use and rely upon the official records maintained by the supervisor of elections and property appraiser or tax collector in each county in making this determination. Such determination shall be made at a properly noticed meeting of the board and shall become a part of the official minutes of the district.
- d. Each community development district in existence on June 21, 1991, shall, within 60 days, determine the number of qualified electors in the district as of June 21, 1991, using

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the official records maintained by the supervisor of elections and property appraiser or tax collector in the county.

Thereafter, the district shall make such determination as described in sub-subparagraph c.

3.a. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section to the contrary, a board may elect at any point to have the elections of its members held in conjunction with general elections as provided in this subparagraph. Upon a board's so electing, the board of supervisors of that board shall be divided into five groups to be voted on districtwide, with each qualified elector of the district entitled to vote for one candidate from each group. The person receiving the highest number of votes cast in each group shall be elected as the board member for that group. In case two or more persons receive an equal and highest number of votes for the same group office, such persons shall draw lots to determine who shall be elected to office. Each member from an odd-numbered group shall be elected at the general election in each year the number of which is a multiple of 4, for a 4-year term commencing on the second Tuesday following such election, and each member from an even-numbered group shall be elected at the general election in each even-numbered year the number of which is not a multiple of 4, for a 4-year term commencing on the second Tuesday following such election, except that, at the first such election, three members shall be elected for a period of 4 years and two members shall be elected for a period of 2 years. All board members elected under this subparagraph must be qualified electors of the district, and in any such election an elector's failure to vote in any one or more groups does not invalidate the elector's ballot.

b. For purposes of effecting the transition to elections under this subparagraph, any board electing to hold its elections in conjunction with general elections may extend or reduce by up to 1 year the term of any sitting member leading up to the initial transitional election to ensure that all five positions are filled at that election for appropriately staggered terms as provided in sub-subparagraph <u>a.</u> Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law. HOUSE SUMMARY Authorizes any community development district to hold elections for the members of its board of supervisors in conjunction with general elections. Provides that such members shall be elected in groups by the qualified electors of the district. Requires each member elected to be a qualified elector of the district. Provides for stangaring of terms. Provides for transition. staggering of terms. Provides for transition. See bill for details.