

STORAGE NAME: h1481a.ca

DATE: March 22, 1999

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
ANALYSIS - LOCAL LEGISLATION**

BILL #: HB 1481

RELATING TO: Palm Beach County/Port of Palm Beach District

SPONSOR(S): Representative Merchant

COMPANION BILL(S): SB 2586(i)

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:

(1) COMMUNITY AFFAIRS YEAS 6 NAYS 0

(2)

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I. SUMMARY:

This bill increases the annual salary of the Port of Palm Beach District's board commissioners (board) from \$4,800 to \$9,500. It has been 18 years since the board's last raise. The bill also provides commissioners with an automatic annual 3 percent salary increase.

There is a fiscal impact to the district.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

Chapter 74-570, Laws of Florida, as amended by chapter 81-459, Laws of Florida, provides for the operation and maintenance of the Port of Palm Beach District in Palm Beach County. According to the 1991-1999 Official List of Special Districts, the Port of Palm Beach District is an independent special district created in 1989.

The chapter, as amended, also establishes the organization and compensation of its board of commissioners. The district's commissioners received its last pay raise in 1981 when the commissioners' salary increased from \$2,400 to their present salary of \$4,800.

The district is authorized to fund the needs of the district through its ad valorem taxes and assessment powers. However, the district does not levy any ad valorem taxation, rather, revenues for the district are derived primarily from port assessments.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The bill provides for a \$4,700 salary increase for the Port of Palm Beach District commissioners, raising their salaries to \$9,500 from \$4,800. In addition, the commissioners will receive an automatic annual 3 percent salary increase. According to the 1999 Economic Impact Statement, proceeds for the salary increase will come solely from port revenue.

The bill also corrects gender bias language.

C. LAWS OF FLORIDA/FLORIDA STATUTES AFFECTED:

This bill amends section 3 of article VI of chapter 74-570, Laws of Florida, as amended by chapter 81-459, Laws of Florida.

D. APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES:

1. Less Government:

a. Does the bill create, increase or reduce, either directly or indirectly:

(1) any authority to make rules or adjudicate disputes?

N/A

(2) any new responsibilities, obligations or work for other governmental or private organizations or individuals?

N/A

(3) any entitlement to a government service or benefit?

N/A

b. If an agency or program is eliminated or reduced:

(1) what responsibilities, costs and powers are passed on to another program, agency, level of government, or private entity?

N/A

(2) what is the cost of such responsibility at the new level/agency?

N/A

(3) how is the new agency accountable to the people governed?

N/A

2. Lower Taxes:

a. Does the bill increase anyone's taxes?

No.

b. Does the bill require or authorize an increase in any fees?

No.

c. Does the bill reduce total taxes, both rates and revenues?

No.

d. Does the bill reduce total fees, both rates and revenues?

No.

e. Does the bill authorize any fee or tax increase by any local government?

No.

3. Personal Responsibility:

a. Does the bill reduce or eliminate an entitlement to government services or subsidy?

N/A

b. Do the beneficiaries of the legislation directly pay any portion of the cost of implementation and operation?

N/A

4. Individual Freedom:

a. Does the bill increase the allowable options of individuals or private organizations/associations to conduct their own affairs?

N/A

b. Does the bill prohibit, or create new government interference with, any presently lawful activity?

N/A

5. Family Empowerment:

a. If the bill purports to provide services to families or children:

(1) Who evaluates the family's needs?

N/A

(2) Who makes the decisions?

N/A

(3) Are private alternatives permitted?

N/A

(4) Are families required to participate in a program?

N/A

(5) Are families penalized for not participating in a program?

N/A

b. Does the bill directly affect the legal rights and obligations between family members?

N/A

c. If the bill creates or changes a program providing services to families or children, in which of the following does the bill vest control of the program, either through direct participation or appointment authority:

(1) parents and guardians?

N/A

(2) service providers?

N/A

(3) government employees/agencies?

N/A

E. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

Section 1. Amends section 3 of article VI of chapter 74-570, Laws of Florida, as amended by chapter 81-459, Laws of Florida; increases the salary of the Port of Palm Beach District commissioners; authorizes an annual 3 percent salary increase; and makes gender bias changes.

Section 2. Provides that the bill is effective upon becoming a law.

III. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes [x] No []

IF YES, WHEN? January 31, 1999

WHERE? The Palm Beach Post

STORAGE NAME: h1481a.ca

DATE: March 22, 1999

PAGE 5

B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED? Yes [] No [x]

IF YES, WHEN?

C. LOCAL BILL CERTIFICATION FILED? Yes, attached [x] No []

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FILED? Yes, attached [x] No []

IV. COMMENTS:

None.

V. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

On March 22, 1999, the House Committee on Community Affairs adopted one amendment to HB 1481. The amendment eliminates the automatic annual 3 percent salary increase for the Port of Palm Beach District's board of commissioners. The amendment is traveling with the bill.

VI. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

Prepared by:

Staff Director:

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