

**STORAGE NAME:** h1547a.tr

**DATE:** April 3, 2000

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION  
ANALYSIS - LOCAL LEGISLATION**

**BILL #:** House Bill 1547

**RELATING TO:** Gasparilla Island Bridge Authority/Lee and Charlotte Counties

**SPONSOR(S):** Rep. Harrington

**TIED BILL(S):** N/A

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

- (1) TRANSPORTATION YEAS 11 NAYS 0
  - (2) COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
  - (3) FINANCE & TAXATION
  - (4)
  - (5)
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**I. SUMMARY:**

The bill codifies all prior special acts relating to the Gasparilla Island Bridge Authority (Authority) in Lee and Charlotte Counties into a single act.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- |                                   |                              |                             |   |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>Less Government</u>         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. <u>Lower Taxes</u>             | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. <u>Individual Freedom</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. <u>Personal Responsibility</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. <u>Family Empowerment</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

The 1996 Legislature passed chapter 96-507, Laws of Florida, creating the Gasparilla Island Bridge Authority (Authority). The Authority is an independent special taxing district in Lee and Charlotte Counties. The Authority owns and operates a toll bridge, called the Boca Grande Bridge and Causeway, which crosses Gasparilla Pass in Charlotte County. However, the southern two-thirds of Gasparilla Island is in Lee County. The Authority is managed by a nine-member board of supervisors. The Authority is authorized to fix and collect tolls from persons using the bridge and causeway system.

C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The bill codifies all prior special acts (Chapters 96-507 and 97-319, Laws of Florida) relating to the Gasparilla Island Bridge Authority (Authority) in Lee and Charlotte Counties into a single act. The bill does not make substantive modifications to the Authority.

D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

**Section 1:** Codifies, reenacts, amends, and repeals special acts relating to the Gasparilla Island Bridge Authority.

**Section 2:** Recreates and reenacts the Gasparilla Island Bridge Authority:

Section 1: Legislative Findings

Section 2: Creates Authority and provides boundaries.

Section 3: Provides purposes of the Authority.

Section 4: Provides definitions.

Section 5: Provides for governing body of the Authority.

Section 6: Grants powers and duties to the Authority; including ad valorem taxing powers.

Section 7: Provides for Authority bonds.

Section 8: Authorizes the pledging of revenues.

Section 9: Provides for covenants of the Authority with bondholders.

Section 10: Requires public notice prior to bond issuance.

Section 11: Provides that Authority bonds are negotiable instruments; provides for the rights of bondholders.

Section 12: Provides budget procedure; requires financial and operation reports.

Section 13: Declares that any bonds or other obligations are legal investments for public funds.

Section 14: Authorizes payment for services with bonds.

Section 15: Provides for construction contracts; requires sealed bids.

Section 16: Authorizes conveyance of property to the Authority by governmental entities without consideration.

Section 17. Grants the Authority the same privileges, immunities and exemptions given to the state's political subdivisions; limits the personal liability of Authority members.

Section 18: Exempts property and revenues of the Authority from taxation.

Section 19: Provides penalties for tax delinquency; allows enforcement of taxes through liens and the sale of tax certificates.

Section 20: Provides for the effect of tax liens.

Section 21: Provides special vote requirements for toll structure changes, financing arrangements involving a pledge of assets or other revenues, exercising eminent domain, ad valorem tax referendums. and legislative changes to the Authority's charter.

Section 22. Authorizes interlocal agreements.

Section 23: Provides for payment of administrative costs of property appraisers and tax collectors associated with collecting ad valorem taxes.

**Section 3:** Repeals all prior special acts relating to the Authority's charter.

**Section 4:** Provides for construction of the act's provisions.

**Section 5:** Provides severability clause.

**Section 6:** Provides effective date of upon becoming law.

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III. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes  No

IF YES, WHEN? January 27, 2000 and February 3, 2000

WHERE? News Press, Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida  
Sarasota Herald-Tribune, Sarasota, Sarasota County, Florida

B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED? Yes  No

IF YES, WHEN?

C. LOCAL BILL CERTIFICATION FILED? Yes, attached  No

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FILED? Yes, attached  No

IV. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

N/A

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

N/A

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

N/A

V. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

N/A

VI. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION:

Prepared by:

Staff Director:

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Phillip B. Miller

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John R. Johnston