

By Senator McKay

26-1263-00

See HB 969

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to Manatee County; providing  
3           for the inclusion of certain unincorporated  
4           land in Manatee County into the Braden River  
5           Fire Control and Rescue District; providing for  
6           a board of fire commissioners; providing for  
7           the general powers of the district; providing  
8           for exemption from taxation; providing for  
9           special powers to the district; providing for  
10          non-ad valorem assessments; providing for a  
11          schedule of special assessments; providing for  
12          user charges; providing for impact fees;  
13          providing for the borrowing power of the  
14          district; providing for existence; providing  
15          definitions; providing severability; providing  
16          for liberal interpretation; providing for  
17          repeal of conflicting laws; providing for  
18          codification; repealing chapters 85-454,  
19          88-488, 90-455, 91-396, 93-395, 94-417, and  
20          95-461, Laws of Florida, relating to the Braden  
21          River Fire Control and Rescue District;  
22          providing an effective date.

23

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

25

26           Section 1. Chapters 85-454, 88-488, 90-455, 91-396,  
27 93-395, 94-417, and 95-461, Laws of Florida, are codified,  
28 reenacted, amended, and repealed as herein provided.

29

30           Section 2. The charter of the Braden River Fire  
31 read:

1           Section 1. Incorporation.--Upon the effective date of  
2 this act, all of the unincorporated lands in Manatee County,  
3 Florida, as described in this act, shall become and be  
4 incorporated into and as a special fire control district.  
5 Said special fire control district shall become and be a  
6 public municipal corporation, having the powers and duties  
7 herein set forth under the name of Braden River Fire Control  
8 and Rescue District.

9           Section 2. Jurisdiction.--The lands to be incorporated  
10 within the Braden River Fire Control and Rescue District are  
11 described as follows:

12  
13           Begin at the intersection of the centerlines of  
14 the Manatee River and the Braden River; thence  
15 easterly along the centerline of the Manatee  
16 River to the intersection of the Rye Road  
17 bridge; thence northerly along the centerline  
18 of Rye Road to a point of intersection of the  
19 North section line of Section 24 Township 34  
20 South, Range 19 East; thence easterly to the  
21 Northeast corner of Section 24; thence  
22 southerly along the east line of said Section  
23 24 to the centerline of Lake Manatee; thence  
24 easterly to S.R. 64; thence westerly along the  
25 centerline of S.R. 64 to old S.R. 675; thence  
26 south along the centerline of S.R. 675 and its  
27 southerly extension to the line dividing  
28 Manatee County and Sarasota County which same  
29 point being the Southeast corner of Section 33,  
30 Township 35 South, Range 20 East; thence  
31 westerly along said dividing line to point

1           being the intersection of the line dividing  
2           Manatee and Sarasota Counties and the Southerly  
3           extension of the West right-of-way line of  
4           Interstate I-75, said point being located in  
5           Section 36 Township 35 South Range 18 East;  
6           thence northerly along said west right-of-way  
7           line to the centerline of the Braden River;  
8           thence westerly and northerly along said  
9           centerline to the centerline of the Manatee  
10          River, also being the point of beginning;  
11          specifically excluding all lands lying and  
12          situate within the corporate limits of the City  
13          of Bradenton.

14          Section 3. District board of commissioners;  
15          memberships, officers, meetings.--

16           (1) The business affairs of the district shall be  
17          conducted and administered by a board of five commissioners  
18          who shall reside within said district and who shall be elected  
19          as provided for in accordance with section 191.005, Florida  
20          Statutes.

21           (2) Each elected member of the board shall assume  
22          office 10 days following the member's election. Annually, in  
23          January, and/or within 60 days after the newly elected members  
24          have taken office, the board shall organize by electing from  
25          its members a chair, a vice chair, a secretary, and a  
26          treasurer. The positions of secretary and treasurer may be  
27          held by one member. Funds of the district may be disbursed  
28          only upon the order or pursuant to resolution of the board, by  
29          warrant or check signed by the treasurer or other person  
30          authorized by the board. However, a petty cash account may be  
31

1 authorized by the board. The board may give the treasurer  
2 additional powers and duties that it deems appropriate.

3 (3) Members of the board may each be paid a salary or  
4 honorarium to be determined by at least a majority plus one  
5 vote of the board, which salary or honorarium may not exceed  
6 \$500 per month for each member. Special notice of any meeting  
7 at which the board will consider a salary change for board  
8 members shall be published at least once, at least 14 days  
9 prior to the meeting, in a newspaper of general circulation in  
10 the county in which the district is located. Separate  
11 compensation for the board member serving as treasurer may be  
12 authorized by like vote so long as total compensation for the  
13 board member does not exceed \$500 per month. Members may be  
14 reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses as provided for in  
15 section 112.061, Florida Statutes.

16 (4) If a vacancy occurs on the board due to the  
17 resignation, death, or removal of a board member or the  
18 failure of anyone to qualify for a board seat, the remaining  
19 members may appoint a qualified person to fill the seat until  
20 the next general election, at which time an election shall be  
21 held to fill the vacancy for the remaining term, if any. The  
22 board shall remove any member who has three consecutive,  
23 unexcused absences from regularly scheduled meetings. The  
24 board shall adopt policies by resolution defining excused and  
25 unexcused absences.

26 (5) Each member shall, upon assuming office, take and  
27 subscribe to the oath of office prescribed by Section 5(b),  
28 Article II of the State Constitution and section 876.05,  
29 Florida Statutes. Each member, within 30 days after assuming  
30 office, must give the Governor a good and sufficient surety  
31 bond in the sum of \$5,000, the cost thereof being borne by the

1 district, conditioned on the member's faithful performance of  
2 his or her duties of office.

3 (6) The board shall keep a permanent record book  
4 entitled "Record of Proceedings of (name of district)," in  
5 which the minutes of all meetings, resolutions, proceedings,  
6 certificates, bonds given by commissioners, and corporate acts  
7 shall be recorded. The record book shall be open to  
8 inspection in the same manner as state, county, and municipal  
9 records are open under chapter 119, Florida Statutes, and  
10 Section 24, Article I of the State Constitution. The record  
11 book shall be kept at the office or other regular place of  
12 business maintained by the board in the county or municipality  
13 in which the district is located.

14 (7) All meetings of the board shall be open to the  
15 public consistent with chapter 286, Florida Statutes, section  
16 189.417, Florida Statutes, and other applicable general laws.

17 Section 4. General powers.--The district shall have,  
18 and the board may exercise by majority vote, the following  
19 powers:

20 (1) To sue and be sued in the name of the district, to  
21 adopt and use a seal and authorize the use of a facsimile  
22 thereof, and to make and execute contracts and other  
23 instruments necessary or convenient to the exercise of its  
24 powers.

25 (2) To provide for a pension or retirement plan for  
26 its employees. Notwithstanding the prohibition against extra  
27 compensation as provided in section 215.425, Florida Statutes,  
28 the board may provide for an extra compensation program,  
29 including a lump-sum bonus payment program, to reward  
30 outstanding employees whose performances exceed standard, if  
31 the program provides that a bonus payment may not be included

1 in an employee's regular base rate of pay and may not be  
2 carried forward in subsequent years.

3 (3) To contract for the services of consultants to  
4 perform planning, engineering, legal, or other professional  
5 services.

6 (4) To borrow money and accept gifts, to apply for and  
7 use grants or loans of money or other property from the United  
8 States, the state, a unit of local government, or any person  
9 for any district purposes, and enter into agreements required  
10 in connection therewith, and to hold, use, sell, and dispose  
11 of such moneys or property for any district purpose in  
12 accordance with the terms of the gift, grant, loan, or  
13 agreement relating thereto.

14 (5) To adopt resolutions and procedures prescribing  
15 the powers, duties, and functions of the officers of the  
16 district, the conduct of the business of the district, the  
17 maintenance of records, and the form of other documents and  
18 records of the district. The board may also adopt ordinances  
19 and resolutions that are necessary to conduct district  
20 business, if such ordinances do not conflict with any  
21 ordinances of a local general purpose government within whose  
22 jurisdiction the district is located. Any resolution or  
23 ordinance adopted by the board and approved by referendum vote  
24 of district electors may only be repealed by referendum vote  
25 of district electors.

26 (6) To maintain an office at places it designates  
27 within a county or municipality in which the district is  
28 located and appoint an agent of record.

29 (7) To acquire, by purchase, lease, gift, dedication,  
30 devise, or otherwise, real and personal property or any estate  
31 therein for any purpose authorized by this act and to trade,

1 sell, or otherwise dispose of surplus real or personal  
2 property. The board may purchase equipment by an installation  
3 sales contract if funds are available to pay the current  
4 year's installments on the equipment and to pay the amounts  
5 due that year on all other installments and indebtedness.

6 (8) To hold, control, and acquire by donation or  
7 purchase any public easement, dedication to public use,  
8 platted reservation for public purposes, or reservation for  
9 those purposes authorized by this act consistent with  
10 applicable adopted local government comprehensive plans and  
11 land development regulations.

12 (9) To lease to or from any person, firm, corporation,  
13 association, or body, public or private, any facility or  
14 property of any nature for the use of the district when  
15 necessary to carry out the district duties and authority under  
16 this act.

17 (10) To borrow money and issue bonds, revenue  
18 anticipation notes, or certificates payable from and secured  
19 by a pledge of funds, revenues, taxes and assessments,  
20 warrants, notes, or other evidence of indebtedness, and  
21 mortgage real and personal property when necessary to carry  
22 out the district's duties and authority under this act.

23 (11) To charge user and impact fees authorized by  
24 resolution of the board, in amounts necessary to conduct  
25 district activities and services, and to enforce their receipt  
26 and collection in the manner prescribed by resolution and  
27 authorized by law. However, the imposition of impact fees may  
28 only be authorized as provided by section 191.009(4), Florida  
29 Statutes.

30 (12) To exercise the right and power of eminent  
31 domain, pursuant to chapter 73, Florida Statutes, or chapter

1 74, Florida Statutes, over any property within the district,  
2 except municipal, county, state, special district, or federal  
3 property used for a public purpose, for the uses and purposes  
4 of the district relating solely to the establishment and  
5 maintenance of fire stations and fire substations,  
6 specifically including the power to take easements that serve  
7 such facilities consistent with applicable adopted local  
8 government comprehensive plans and land development  
9 regulations.

10 (13) To cooperate or contract with other persons or  
11 entities, including other governmental agencies, as necessary,  
12 convenient, incidental, or proper in connection with providing  
13 effective mutual aid and furthering any power, duty, or  
14 purpose authorized by this act.

15 (14) To assess and impose upon real property in the  
16 district non-ad valorem assessments as authorized by this act.

17 (15) To impose and foreclose non-ad valorem assessment  
18 liens as provided by this act or to impose, collect, and  
19 enforce non-ad valorem assessments pursuant to chapter 197,  
20 Florida Statutes.

21 (16) To select as a depository for its funds any  
22 qualified public depository as defined in section 280.02,  
23 Florida Statutes, which meets all the requirements of chapter  
24 280, Florida Statutes, and has been designated by the State  
25 Treasurer as a qualified public depository, upon such terms  
26 and conditions as to the payment of the interest upon the  
27 funds deposited as the board deems just and reasonable.

28 (17) To provide adequate insurance on all real and  
29 personal property, equipment, employees, volunteer  
30 firefighters, and other personnel.

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1           (18) To organize, participate in, and contribute  
2 monetarily to organizations or associations relating to the  
3 delivery of or improvement of fire control, prevention,  
4 emergency rescue services, or district administration.

5           Section 5. Exemption from taxation.--Since the  
6 exercise of the powers conferred by this act constitutes  
7 action by a political subdivision performing essential public  
8 functions and since the property of each district constitutes  
9 public property used for public purposes, all assets and  
10 properties of the district, including property acquired  
11 through the foreclosure of any tax or assessment lien, are  
12 exempt from all taxes imposed by the state or any political  
13 subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of the state to the  
14 extent allowed by general law.

15           Section 6. Special powers.--The district shall provide  
16 for fire suppression and prevention by establishing and  
17 maintaining fire stations and fire substations and acquiring  
18 and maintaining such firefighting and fire protection  
19 equipment deemed necessary to prevent or fight fires. All  
20 construction shall be in compliance with applicable state,  
21 regional, and local regulations, including adopted  
22 comprehensive plans and land development regulations. The  
23 board shall have and may exercise any or all of the following  
24 special powers relating to facilities and duties authorized by  
25 this act:

26           (1) Establish and maintain emergency medical and  
27 rescue response services and acquire and maintain rescue,  
28 medical, and other emergency equipment, pursuant to the  
29 provisions of chapter 401, Florida Statutes, and any  
30 certificate of public convenience and necessity or its  
31 equivalent issued thereunder.

1           (2) Employ, train, and equip such personnel, and  
2 train, coordinate, and equip such firefighters and volunteer  
3 firefighters as are necessary to accomplish the duties of the  
4 district. The board may employ and fix the compensation of a  
5 fire chief or chief administrator, who shall reside within the  
6 district. The board shall prescribe the duties of such  
7 person, which shall include supervision and management of the  
8 operations of the district and its employees and maintenance  
9 and operation of its facilities and equipment. The fire chief  
10 or chief administrator may employ or terminate the employment  
11 of such other persons including, without limitation,  
12 professional, supervisory, administrative, maintenance, and  
13 clerical employees, as are necessary and authorized by the  
14 board. The compensation and other conditions of employment of  
15 the officers and employees of the district shall be provided  
16 by the board.

17           (3) Conduct public education to promote awareness of  
18 methods to prevent fires and reduce the loss of life and  
19 property from fires or other public safety concerns.

20           (4) Adopt and enforce firesafety standards and codes  
21 and enforce the rules of the State Fire Marshal consistent  
22 with the exercise of the duties authorized by chapter 553,  
23 Florida Statutes, or chapter 633, Florida Statutes, with  
24 respect to fire suppression, prevention, and firesafety code  
25 enforcement.

26           (5) Conduct arson investigations and cause-and-origin  
27 investigations.

28           (6) Adopt hazardous material safety plans and  
29 emergency response plans in coordination with the county  
30 emergency management agency as provided for in chapter 252,  
31 Florida Statutes.

1           (7) Contract with general purpose local government for  
2 emergency management planning and services.

3           Section 7. Taxes, non-ad valorem assessments; impact  
4 fees; and user charges.--

5           (1) The district shall have the right, power, and  
6 authority to levy non-ad valorem assessments as defined in  
7 section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, to construct, operate, and  
8 maintain district facilities and services. The rate of such  
9 assessments must be fixed by resolution of the board pursuant  
10 to the procedures contained in section 191.011, Florida  
11 Statutes. Non-ad valorem assessment rates set by the board  
12 may exceed the maximum rates established by special act, the  
13 previous year's resolution, or referendum in an amount not to  
14 exceed the average annual growth rate in Florida personal  
15 income over the previous 5 years. Non-ad valorem assessment  
16 rate increases within the personal income threshold are deemed  
17 to be within the maximum rate authorized by law at the time of  
18 initial imposition. Proposed non-ad valorem assessment  
19 increases which exceed the rate set the previous fiscal year  
20 or the rate previously set by special act by more than the  
21 average annual growth rate in Florida personal income over the  
22 last 5 years must be approved by referendum of the electors of  
23 the district. Non-ad valorem assessments shall be imposed,  
24 collected, and enforced pursuant to section 191.011, Florida  
25 Statutes.

26           (2) The district shall provide to the county property  
27 appraiser a notice of fire tax rates as adopted by resolution  
28 not later than June 1 of each year. The county property  
29 appraiser shall then furnish to the commissioners of the  
30 district a tax roll covering all taxable properties with the  
31 tax rate levy placed on each parcel of property by July 1,

1 which tax roll is consistent with and as set forth by section  
2 193.1142, Florida Statutes. Not later than 21 days after  
3 receipt of the tax roll from the county property appraiser,  
4 the district shall return the tax roll, having first checked  
5 and noted any corrections or adjustments to the fire tax levy  
6 against each parcel of property.

7 (3) Prior to adopting a rate of assessment, the board  
8 of commissioners of the district shall properly advertise and  
9 hold a public hearing with respect to the proposed rate of  
10 assessment. At such hearing, any property owner in the  
11 district shall have the right to file written protest and/or  
12 testify at such hearing regarding the proposed rate of  
13 assessment. After due consideration of all comments or  
14 protests, the board of commissioners shall adopt a resolution  
15 specifying the rate of assessment on all taxable property.

16 (4) The board of commissioners of the district shall,  
17 not earlier than 30 days or later than 45 days after the  
18 mailing of the notice of proposed property taxes as required  
19 by section 194.011(1), Florida Statutes, hold a properly  
20 advertised public hearing to hear appeals from any property  
21 owner in the district with respect to the method of  
22 calculation and/or the amount of fire tax levied against a  
23 parcel of land. Within 20 calendar days after the conclusion  
24 of the public hearing to hear appeals, the board of  
25 commissioners of the district shall notify all concerned  
26 parties and the county property appraiser in writing of its  
27 decision. The decision shall include reasons for granting or  
28 denying the appeal.

29 (5) The county property appraiser shall then include  
30 the assessments thus made by the board of commissioners of the  
31 district in the Manatee County tax roll and the same shall be

1 collected in the manner and form as is provided for the  
2 collection of county taxes and paid over by the county tax  
3 collector to the board of commissioners.

4 (6) Such special assessments shall be a lien upon the  
5 land so assessed along with the county taxes assessed against  
6 the same until said assessments have been paid, and, if the  
7 same become delinquent, shall be considered a part of the  
8 county tax subject to the same penalties, fees, and remedies  
9 for enforcement and collection, and shall be enforced and  
10 collected as provided by the laws of the state for the  
11 collection of such taxes.

12 Section 8. Schedule of special assessments.--The  
13 assessment procedures and amounts, as set forth herein,  
14 represent the manner to be followed and the maximum allowable  
15 rates the district may charge but shall not exceed, except as  
16 provided in section 191.009(2), Florida Statutes. For  
17 assessment purposes, all property within the district shall be  
18 divided into three general classifications: vacant parcels,  
19 residential parcels, and commercial/industrial parcels.

20 (1) Vacant parcels shall include all parcels which are  
21 essentially undeveloped and are usually classified by the  
22 property appraiser as use code types 00, 10, 40, 99, and 50  
23 through 69. The maximum annual assessment for these parcels  
24 shall be:

25  
26 Vacant Platted Lot        \$6.50 per Lot

27 Unsubdivided Acreage    \$ .80 per Acre

28 Except that not more than \$1,500 shall be assessed  
29 against any one vacant parcel.

30  
31

1 Whenever a residential unit is located on a parcel defined  
2 herein as vacant, the residential plot shall be considered as  
3 one lot or 1 acre, with the balance of the parcel being  
4 assessed as vacant land in accordance with the schedule  
5 herein. Whenever an agricultural or commercial building or  
6 structure is located on a parcel defined herein as vacant, the  
7 building or structure shall be assessed in accordance with the  
8 schedule of commercial/industrial assessments.

9 (2) Residential parcels shall include all parcels  
10 which are developed for residential purposes and are usually  
11 classified by the property appraiser as use code types 01  
12 through 08 and 28. All residential parcels shall be assessed  
13 by the number of square feet of structures located on the  
14 parcel. Mobile homes shall be assessed by the number of units  
15 located on the parcel. Surcharges may be assigned by the  
16 district for dwellings located on the third or higher floors.  
17 The maximum annual assessment for these parcels shall be:

18 (a) Single Family Residential: The base assessment  
19 for all buildings and structures shall be \$69 for the first  
20 1,000 square feet on a parcel. The schedule for all square  
21 footage above 1,000 square feet is \$.05 per square foot.

22 (b) Condominia Residential: The base assessment for  
23 all buildings and structures shall be \$69 for the first 1,000  
24 square feet on a parcel. The schedule for all square footage  
25 above 1,000 square feet is \$.05 per square foot.

26	<u>Mobile Homes (Use Code 02)</u>	<u>\$65.70 per Unit/Space</u>
27	<u>Multifamily Residential (Use Codes 03 and 08)</u>	
28	<u>Cooperatives (Use Code 05),</u>	
29	<u>Retirement Homes (Use Code 06),</u>	
30	<u>And Miscellaneous Residential Uses</u>	
31	<u>(Use Code 07)</u>	<u>\$78.90 per Unit/Space</u>

1     Any Other Residential Unit,  
2     Travel Trailer Parks                     \$52.60 per Unit/Space  
3     Mobile Home Parks (Use Code 28)         \$53.10 per Unit/Space  
4         (3) Commercial/Industrial: The base assessment for  
5     all buildings and structures shall be \$348.60 for the first  
6     1,000 square feet on a parcel. The schedule for all square  
7     footage above 1,000 square feet is as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Use Codes</u>	<u>Sq. Ft. Assessment</u>
<u>Mercantile (M)</u>	<u>11,12,13,14,15,16,29</u>	<u>\$.09</u>
<u>Business (B)</u>	<u>17,18,19,22,23,24,25,</u> <u>26,30,36</u>	<u>\$.08</u>
<u>Assembly (A)</u>	<u>21,31,32,33,34,35,37,</u> <u>38,39,76,77,79</u>	<u>\$.08</u>
<u>Factory/</u>	<u>41,44,45,46,47</u>	<u>\$.10</u>
<u>Industrial (F)</u>		
<u>Storage (S)</u>	<u>20,27,28,49</u>	<u>\$.10</u>
<u>Hazardous (H)</u>	<u>42,43,48</u>	<u>\$.13</u>
<u>Institutional (I)</u>	<u>70,73,74,75,78</u>	<u>\$.08</u>

21     Agricultural storage building located on parcels that are  
22     bonafide commercial agriculture, as determined by the property  
23     appraiser's office, shall be fire tax assessed at \$.020 per  
24     square foot.

25         Section 9. User charges.--

26         (1) The board may provide a reasonable schedule of  
27     charges for special emergency services, including  
28     firefighting, occurring in or to structures outside the  
29     district, motor vehicles, marine vessels, aircraft, or rail  
30     cars, or as a result of the operation of such motor vehicles  
31     or marine vessels, to which the district is called to render

1 such emergency service, and may charge a fee for the services  
2 rendered in accordance with the schedule.

3 (2) The board may provide a reasonable schedule of  
4 charges for fighting fires occurring in or at refuse dumps or  
5 as a result of an illegal burn, which fire, dump, or burn is  
6 not authorized by general or special law, rule, regulation,  
7 order, or ordinance, and which the district is called upon to  
8 fight or extinguish.

9 (3) The board may provide a reasonable schedule of  
10 charges for responding to or assisting or mitigating  
11 emergencies that either threaten or could threaten the health  
12 and safety of persons, property, or the environment, to which  
13 the district has been called, including a charge for  
14 responding to false alarms.

15 (4) The board may provide a reasonable schedule of  
16 charges for inspecting structures, plans, and equipment to  
17 determine compliance with firesafety codes and standards.

18 (5) The district shall have a lien upon any real  
19 property, motor vehicle, marine vessel, aircraft, or rail car  
20 for any charge assessed under this section.

21 Section 10. Impact fees.--The board shall establish a  
22 schedule of impact fees in compliance with any standards set  
23 by general law for new construction to pay for the cost of new  
24 facilities and equipment, the need for which is in whole or in  
25 part the result of new construction. The impact fees  
26 collected by the district under this section shall be kept  
27 separate from other revenues of the district and must be used  
28 exclusively to acquire, purchase, or construct new facilities  
29 or portions thereof needed to provide fire protection and  
30 emergency services to new construction. As used in this  
31 section, "new facilities" means land, buildings, and capital



1 equipment, including, but not limited to, fire and emergency  
2 vehicles, radiotelemetry equipment, and other firefighting or  
3 rescue equipment. The board shall maintain adequate records  
4 to ensure that impact fees are expended only for permissible  
5 new facilities or equipment. The board may enter into  
6 agreements with general purpose local governments to share in  
7 the revenues from fire protection impact fees imposed by such  
8 governments.

9 Section 11. Borrowing power of the district.--The  
10 district may issue general obligation bonds, assessment bonds,  
11 revenue bonds, notes, bond anticipation notes, or other  
12 evidences of indebtedness to finance all or a part of any  
13 proposed improvements authorized to be undertaken under this  
14 act or under general or special law, provided the total annual  
15 payments for the principal and interest on such indebtedness  
16 do not exceed 50 percent of the total annual budgeted revenues  
17 of the district as provided in section 191.012, Florida  
18 Statutes.

19 Section 12. Existence.--The district shall exist until  
20 dissolved by law. Should any part of the territory covered in  
21 the act be held not to be included herein, then this act shall  
22 continue in effect as to the balance of said territory.

23 Section 13. Definitions.--

24 (1) "District" means the special fire control  
25 district.

26 (2) "Board" and "board of commissioners" mean the  
27 board of commissioners of the special fire control district,  
28 unless otherwise specified.

29 Section 3. Severability.--If any clause, section, or  
30 provision of this act is declared to be unconstitutional or  
31 invalid for any cause or reason, the same shall be eliminated

1 from this act, and the remaining portion of said act shall be  
2 in force and effect and be as valid as if such invalid portion  
3 thereof had not been incorporated therein.

4 Section 4. Liberal interpretation.--The provisions of  
5 this act shall be liberally construed in order to effectively  
6 carry out the purposes of this act in the interest of the  
7 public and safety.

8 Section 5. Chapters 85-454, 88-488, 90-455, 91-396,  
9 93-395, 94-417, and 95-461, Laws of Florida, are repealed.

10 Section 6. Repeal of conflicting laws.--All laws or  
11 parts of laws in conflict herewith are, to the extent of such  
12 conflict, hereby repealed.

13 Section 7. Codification.--This act shall satisfy the  
14 requirements of section 191.015, Florida Statutes.

15 Section 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
16 law.

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