

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

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

26  
27           Section 1. Intent.  
28           Pursuant to Section 191.015, Florida Statutes, this Act  
29           constitutes the codification of all special acts relating to  
30           Braden River Fire Control and Rescue District. It is the  
31           intent of the legislature in enacting this law to provide a

1 single, comprehensive special act charter for the District  
2 including all current legislative authority granted to the  
3 District by its several legislative enactments and any  
4 additional authority granted by this Act. It is further the  
5 intent of this Act to preserve all District authority,  
6 including the authority to annually assess and levy against  
7 the taxable property in the District except as provided in  
8 Chapter 191, Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time.

9       Section 2. Chapters 85-454, 88-488, 90-455, 91-396,  
10 93-395, 94-417, and 95-461, Laws of Florida, are codified,  
11 reenacted, amended, and repealed as herein provided.

12       Section 3. The Braden River Fire Control and Rescue  
13 District is re-created and reenacted to read:

14       Section 1. Incorporation.--Upon the effective date of  
15 this act, all of the unincorporated lands in Manatee County,  
16 Florida, as described in this act, shall become and be  
17 incorporated into and as an independent special fire control  
18 district. Said special fire control district shall become and  
19 be a public municipal corporation, having the powers and  
20 duties herein set forth under the name of Braden River Fire  
21 Control and Rescue District.

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

25  
26       Begin at the intersection of the centerlines of  
27 the Manatee River and the Braden River; thence  
28 easterly along the centerline of the Manatee  
29 River to the intersection of the Rye Road  
30 bridge; thence northerly along the centerline  
31 of Rye Road to a point of intersection of the

1 North section line of Section 24 Township 34  
2 South, Range 19 East; thence easterly to the  
3 Northeast corner of Section 24; thence  
4 southerly along the east line of said Section  
5 24 to the centerline of Lake Manatee; thence  
6 easterly to S.R. 64; thence westerly along the  
7 centerline of S.R. 64 to old S.R. 675; thence  
8 south along the centerline of S.R. 675 and its  
9 southerly extension to the line dividing  
10 Manatee County and Sarasota County which same  
11 point being the Southeast corner of Section 33,  
12 Township 35 South, Range 20 East; thence  
13 westerly along said dividing line to point  
14 being the intersection of the line dividing  
15 Manatee and Sarasota Counties and the Southerly  
16 extension of the West right-of-way line of  
17 Interstate I-75, said point being located in  
18 Section 36 Township 35 South Range 18 East;  
19 thence northerly along said west right-of-way  
20 line to the centerline of the Braden River;  
21 thence westerly and northerly along said  
22 centerline to the centerline of the Manatee  
23 River, also being the point of beginning;  
24 specifically excluding all lands lying and  
25 situate within the corporate limits of the City  
26 of Bradenton.

27 Section 3. District board of commissioners;  
28 memberships, officers, meetings.--

29 (1) The business affairs of the district shall be  
30 conducted and administered by a board of five commissioners  
31 who shall reside within said district and who shall be elected

1 as provided for in accordance with section 191.005, Florida  
2 Statutes.

3 (2) Each elected member of the board shall assume  
4 office 10 days following the member's election. Annually, in  
5 January, and/or within 60 days after the newly elected members  
6 have taken office, the board shall organize by electing from  
7 its members a chair, a vice chair, a secretary, and a  
8 treasurer. The positions of secretary and treasurer may be  
9 held by one member. Funds of the district may be disbursed  
10 only upon the order or pursuant to resolution of the board, by  
11 warrant or check signed by the treasurer or other person  
12 authorized by the board. However, a petty cash account may be  
13 authorized by the board. The board may give the treasurer  
14 additional powers and duties that it deems appropriate.

15 (3) Members of the board may each be paid a salary or  
16 honorarium to be determined by at least a majority plus one  
17 vote of the board, which salary or honorarium may not exceed  
18 \$500 per month for each member. Special notice of any meeting  
19 at which the board will consider a salary change for board  
20 members shall be published at least once, at least 14 days  
21 prior to the meeting, in a newspaper of general circulation in  
22 the county in which the district is located. Separate  
23 compensation for the board member serving as treasurer may be  
24 authorized by like vote so long as total compensation for the  
25 board member does not exceed \$500 per month. Members may be  
26 reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses as provided for in  
27 section 112.061, Florida Statutes.

28 (4) If a vacancy occurs on the board due to the  
29 resignation, death, or removal of a board member or the  
30 failure of anyone to qualify for a board seat, the remaining  
31 members may appoint a qualified person to fill the seat until

1 the next general election, at which time an election shall be  
2 held to fill the vacancy for the remaining term, if any. The  
3 board shall remove any member who has three consecutive,  
4 unexcused absences from regularly scheduled meetings. The  
5 board shall adopt policies by resolution defining excused and  
6 unexcused absences.

7 (5) Each member shall, upon assuming office, take and  
8 subscribe to the oath of office prescribed by s. 5(b), Art. II  
9 of the State Constitution and section 876.05, Florida  
10 Statutes. Each member, within 30 days after assuming office,  
11 must give the Governor a good and sufficient surety bond in  
12 the sum of \$5,000, the cost thereof being borne by the  
13 district, conditioned on the member's faithful performance of  
14 his or her duties of office.

15 (6) The board shall keep a permanent record book  
16 entitled "Record of Proceedings of (name of district)," in  
17 which the minutes of all meetings, resolutions, proceedings,  
18 certificates, bonds given by commissioners, and corporate acts  
19 shall be recorded. The record book shall be open to  
20 inspection in the same manner as state, county, and municipal  
21 records are open under chapter 119, Florida Statutes, and s.  
22 24, Art. I of the State Constitution. The record book shall  
23 be kept at the office or other regular place of business  
24 maintained by the board in the county or municipality in which  
25 the district is located.

26 (7) All meetings of the board shall be open to the  
27 public consistent with chapter 286, Florida Statutes, section  
28 189.417, Florida Statutes, and other applicable general laws.

29 Section 4. General powers.--The district shall have,  
30 and the board may exercise by majority vote, the following  
31 powers:

1       (1) To sue and be sued in the name of the district, to  
2 adopt and use a seal and authorize the use of a facsimile  
3 thereof, and to make and execute contracts and other  
4 instruments necessary or convenient to the exercise of its  
5 powers.

6       (2) To provide for a pension or retirement plan for  
7 its employees. Notwithstanding the prohibition against extra  
8 compensation as provided in section 215.425, Florida Statutes,  
9 the board may provide for an extra compensation program,  
10 including a lump-sum bonus payment program, to reward  
11 outstanding employees whose performances exceed standard, if  
12 the program provides that a bonus payment may not be included  
13 in an employee's regular base rate of pay and may not be  
14 carried forward in subsequent years.

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

18       (4) To borrow money and accept gifts, to apply for and  
19 use grants or loans of money or other property from the United  
20 States, the state, a unit of local government, or any person  
21 for any district purposes, and enter into agreements required  
22 in connection therewith, and to hold, use, sell, and dispose  
23 of such moneys or property for any district purpose in  
24 accordance with the terms of the gift, grant, loan, or  
25 agreement relating thereto.

26       (5) To adopt resolutions and procedures prescribing  
27 the powers, duties, and functions of the officers of the  
28 district, the conduct of the business of the district, the  
29 maintenance of records, and the form of other documents and  
30 records of the district. The board may also adopt ordinances  
31 and resolutions that are necessary to conduct district

1 business, if such ordinances do not conflict with any  
2 ordinances of a local general purpose government within whose  
3 jurisdiction the district is located. Any resolution or  
4 ordinance adopted by the board and approved by referendum vote  
5 of district electors may only be repealed by referendum vote  
6 of district electors.

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

10 (7) To acquire, by purchase, lease, gift, dedication,  
11 devise, or otherwise, real and personal property or any estate  
12 therein for any purpose authorized by this act and to trade,  
13 sell, or otherwise dispose of surplus real or personal  
14 property. The board may purchase equipment by an installation  
15 sales contract if funds are available to pay the current  
16 year's installments on the equipment and to pay the amounts  
17 due that year on all other installments and indebtedness.

18 (8) To hold, control, and acquire by donation or  
19 purchase any public easement, dedication to public use,  
20 platted reservation for public purposes, or reservation for  
21 those purposes authorized by this act consistent with  
22 applicable adopted local government comprehensive plans and  
23 land development regulations.

24 (9) To lease to or from any person, firm, corporation,  
25 association, or body, public or private, any facility or  
26 property of any nature for the use of the district when  
27 necessary to carry out the district duties and authority under  
28 this act.

29 (10) To borrow money and issue bonds, revenue  
30 anticipation notes, or certificates payable from and secured  
31 by a pledge of funds, revenues, taxes and assessments,

1 warrants, notes, or other evidence of indebtedness, and  
2 mortgage real and personal property when necessary to carry  
3 out the district's duties and authority under this act.

4 (11) To charge user and impact fees authorized by  
5 resolution of the board, in amounts necessary to conduct  
6 district activities and services, and to enforce their receipt  
7 and collection in the manner prescribed by resolution and  
8 authorized by law. However, the imposition of impact fees may  
9 only be authorized as provided by section 191.009(4), Florida  
10 Statutes.

11 (12) To exercise the right and power of eminent  
12 domain, pursuant to chapter 73, Florida Statutes, or chapter  
13 74, Florida Statutes, over any property within the district,  
14 except municipal, county, state, special district, or federal  
15 property used for a public purpose, for the uses and purposes  
16 of the district relating solely to the establishment and  
17 maintenance of fire stations and fire substations,  
18 specifically including the power to take easements that serve  
19 such facilities consistent with applicable adopted local  
20 government comprehensive plans and land development  
21 regulations.

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

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

29 (15) To impose and foreclose non-ad valorem assessment  
30 liens as provided by this act or to impose, collect, and  
31



1 enforce non-ad valorem assessments pursuant to chapter 197,  
2 Florida Statutes.

3 (16) To select as a depository for its funds any  
4 qualified public depository as defined in section 280.02,  
5 Florida Statutes, which meets all the requirements of chapter  
6 280, Florida Statutes, and has been designated by the State  
7 Treasurer as a qualified public depository, upon such terms  
8 and conditions as to the payment of the interest upon the  
9 funds deposited as the board deems just and reasonable.

10 (17) To provide adequate insurance on all real and  
11 personal property, equipment, employees, volunteer  
12 firefighters, and other personnel.

13 (18) To organize, participate in, and contribute  
14 monetarily to organizations or associations relating to the  
15 delivery of or improvement of fire control, prevention,  
16 emergency rescue services, or district administration.

17 Section 5. Exemption from taxation.--Since the  
18 exercise of the powers conferred by this act constitutes  
19 action by a political subdivision performing essential public  
20 functions and since the property of each district constitutes  
21 public property used for public purposes, all assets and  
22 properties of the district, including property acquired  
23 through the foreclosure of any tax or assessment lien, are  
24 exempt from all taxes imposed by the state or any political  
25 subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of the state.

26 Section 6. Special powers.--The district shall provide  
27 for fire suppression and prevention by establishing and  
28 maintaining fire stations and fire substations and acquiring  
29 and maintaining such firefighting and fire protection  
30 equipment deemed necessary to prevent or fight fires. All  
31 construction shall be in compliance with applicable state,

1 regional, and local regulations, including adopted  
2 comprehensive plans and land development regulations. The  
3 board shall have and may exercise any or all of the following  
4 special powers relating to facilities and duties authorized by  
5 this act:

6 (1) Establish and maintain emergency medical and  
7 rescue response services and acquire and maintain rescue,  
8 medical, and other emergency equipment, pursuant to the  
9 provisions of chapter 401, Florida Statutes, and any  
10 certificate of public convenience and necessity or its  
11 equivalent issued thereunder.

12 (2) Employ, train, and equip such personnel, and  
13 train, coordinate, and equip such firefighters and volunteer  
14 firefighters as are necessary to accomplish the duties of the  
15 district. The board may employ and fix the compensation of a  
16 fire chief or chief administrator, who shall reside within the  
17 district. The board shall prescribe the duties of such  
18 person, which shall include supervision and management of the  
19 operations of the district and its employees and maintenance  
20 and operation of its facilities and equipment. The fire chief  
21 or chief administrator may employ or terminate the employment  
22 of such other persons including, without limitation,  
23 professional, supervisory, administrative, maintenance, and  
24 clerical employees, as are necessary and authorized by the  
25 board. The compensation and other conditions of employment of  
26 the officers and employees of the district shall be provided  
27 by the board.

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

31

1           (4) Adopt and enforce fire safety standards and codes  
2 and enforce the rules of the State Fire Marshal consistent  
3 with the exercise of the duties authorized by chapter 553,  
4 Florida Statutes, or chapter 633, Florida Statutes, with  
5 respect to fire suppression, prevention, and firesafety code  
6 enforcement.

7           (5) Conduct arson investigations and cause-and-origin  
8 investigations.

9           (6) Adopt hazardous material safety plans and  
10 emergency response plans in coordination with the county  
11 emergency management agency as provided for in chapter 252,  
12 Florida Statutes.

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

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

17           (1) The district shall have the right, power, and  
18 authority to levy non-ad valorem assessments as defined in  
19 section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, to construct, operate, and  
20 maintain district facilities and services. The rate of such  
21 assessments must be fixed by resolution of the board pursuant  
22 to the procedures contained in section 191.011, Florida  
23 Statutes. Non-ad valorem assessment rates set by the board  
24 may exceed the maximum rates established by special act, the  
25 previous year's resolution, or referendum in an amount not to  
26 exceed the average annual growth rate in Florida personal  
27 income over the previous 5 years. Non-ad valorem assessment  
28 rate increases within the personal income threshold are deemed  
29 to be within the maximum rate authorized by law at the time of  
30 initial imposition. Proposed non-ad valorem assessment  
31 increases which exceed the rate set the previous fiscal year

1 or the rate previously set by special act by more than the  
2 average annual growth rate in Florida personal income over the  
3 last 5 years must be approved by referendum of the electors of  
4 the district. Non-ad valorem assessments shall be imposed,  
5 collected, and enforced pursuant to section 191.011, Florida  
6 Statutes.

7 (2) The district shall provide to the county property  
8 appraiser a notice of fire tax rates as adopted by resolution  
9 not later than June 1 of each year. The county property  
10 appraiser shall then furnish to the commissioners of the  
11 district a tax roll covering all taxable properties with the  
12 tax rate levy placed on each parcel of property by July 1,  
13 which tax roll is consistent with and as set forth by section  
14 193.1142, Florida Statutes. Not later than 21 days after  
15 receipt of the tax roll from the county property appraiser,  
16 the district shall return the tax roll, having first checked  
17 and noted any corrections or adjustments to the fire tax levy  
18 against each parcel of property.

19 (3) Prior to adopting a rate of assessment, the board  
20 of commissioners of the district shall properly advertise and  
21 hold a public hearing with respect to the proposed rate of  
22 assessment. At such hearing, any property owner in the  
23 district shall have the right to file written protest and/or  
24 testify at such hearing regarding the proposed rate of  
25 assessment. After due consideration of all comments or  
26 protests, the board of commissioners shall adopt a resolution  
27 specifying the rate of assessment on all taxable property.

28 (4) The board of commissioners of the district shall,  
29 not earlier than 30 days or later than 45 days after the  
30 mailing of the notice of proposed property taxes as required  
31 by section 194.011(1), Florida Statutes, hold a properly

1 advertised public hearing to hear appeals from any property  
 2 owner in the district with respect to the method of  
 3 calculation and/or the amount of fire tax levied against a  
 4 parcel of land. Within 20 calendar days after the conclusion  
 5 of the public hearing to hear appeals, the board of  
 6 commissioners of the district shall notify all concerned  
 7 parties and the county property appraiser in writing of its  
 8 decision. The decision shall include reasons for granting or  
 9 denying the appeal.

10 (5) The county property appraiser shall then include  
 11 the assessments thus made by the board of commissioners of the  
 12 district in the Manatee County tax roll and the same shall be  
 13 collected in the manner and form as is provided for the  
 14 collection of county taxes and paid over by the county tax  
 15 collector to the board of commissioners.

16 (6) Such special assessments shall be a lien upon the  
 17 land so assessed along with the county taxes assessed against  
 18 the same until said assessments have been paid, and, if the  
 19 same become delinquent, shall be considered a part of the  
 20 county tax subject to the same penalties, fees, and remedies  
 21 for enforcement and collection, and shall be enforced and  
 22 collected as provided by the laws of the state for the  
 23 collection of such taxes.

24 Section 8. Schedule of special assessments.--The  
 25 assessment procedures and amounts, as set forth herein,  
 26 represent the manner to be followed and the maximum allowable  
 27 rates the district may charge but shall not exceed, except as  
 28 provided in section 191.009(2), Florida Statutes. For  
 29 assessment purposes, all property within the district shall be  
 30 divided into three general classifications: vacant parcels,  
 31 residential parcels, and commercial/industrial parcels.

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

6  
7           Vacant Platted Lot           \$6.50 per Lot

8           Unsubdivided Acreage   \$ .80 per Acre

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

11  
12 Whenever a residential unit is located on a parcel defined  
13 herein as vacant, the residential plot shall be considered as  
14 one lot or 1 acre, with the balance of the parcel being  
15 assessed as vacant land in accordance with the schedule  
16 herein. Whenever an agricultural or commercial building or  
17 structure is located on a parcel defined herein as vacant, the  
18 building or structure shall be assessed in accordance with the  
19 schedule of commercial/industrial assessments.

20           (2) Residential parcels shall include all parcels  
21 which are developed for residential purposes and are usually  
22 classified by the property appraiser as use code types 01  
23 through 08 and 28. All residential parcels shall be assessed  
24 by the number of square feet of structures located on the  
25 parcel. Mobile homes shall be assessed by the number of units  
26 located on the parcel. Surcharges may be assigned by the  
27 district for dwellings located on the third or higher floors.  
28 The maximum annual assessment for these parcels shall be:

29           (a) Single Family Residential: The base assessment  
30 for all buildings and structures shall be \$69 for the first  
31

1 1,000 square feet on a parcel. The schedule for all square  
 2 footage above 1,000 square feet is \$.05 per square foot.

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

7 Mobile Homes (Use Code 02) \$65.70 per Unit/Space

8 Multifamily Residential (Use Codes 03 and 08)

9 Cooperatives (Use Code 05),

10 Retirement Homes (Use Code 06),

11 And Miscellaneous Residential Uses

12 (Use Code 07) \$78.90 per Unit/Space

13 Any Other Residential Unit,

14 Travel Trailer Parks \$52.60 per Unit/Space

15 Mobile Home Parks (Use Code 28) \$53.10 per Unit/Space

16 (3) Commercial/Industrial: The base assessment for  
 17 all buildings and structures shall be \$348.60 for the first  
 18 1,000 square feet on a parcel. The schedule for all square  
 19 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/ Industrial (F)</u>	<u>41,44,45,46,47</u>	<u>\$.10</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>

1  
2 Agricultural storage building located on parcels that are  
3 bonafide commercial agriculture, as determined by the property  
4 appraiser's office, shall be fire tax assessed at \$.020 per  
5 square foot.

6 Section 9. User charges.--

7 (1) The board may provide a reasonable schedule of  
8 charges for special emergency services, including  
9 firefighting, occurring in or to structures outside the  
10 district, motor vehicles, marine vessels, aircraft, or rail  
11 cars, or as a result of the operation of such motor vehicles  
12 or marine vessels, to which the district is called to render  
13 such emergency service, and may charge a fee for the services  
14 rendered in accordance with the schedule.

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

21 (3) The board may provide a reasonable schedule of  
22 charges for responding to or assisting or mitigating  
23 emergencies that either threaten or could threaten the health  
24 and safety of persons, property, or the environment, to which  
25 the district has been called, including a charge for  
26 responding to false alarms.

27 (4) The board may provide a reasonable schedule of  
28 charges for inspecting structures, plans, and equipment to  
29 determine compliance with firesafety codes and standards.  
30  
31



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

4           Section 10. Impact fees.--The board shall establish a  
5 schedule of impact fees in compliance with any standards set  
6 by general law for new construction to pay for the cost of new  
7 facilities and equipment, the need for which is in whole or in  
8 part the result of new construction. The impact fees  
9 collected by the district under this section shall be kept  
10 separate from other revenues of the district and must be used  
11 exclusively to acquire, purchase, or construct new facilities  
12 or portions thereof needed to provide fire protection and  
13 emergency services to new construction. As used in this  
14 section, "new facilities" means land, buildings, and capital  
15 equipment, including, but not limited to, fire and emergency  
16 vehicles, radiotelemetry equipment, and other firefighting or  
17 rescue equipment. The board shall maintain adequate records  
18 to ensure that impact fees are expended only for permissible  
19 new facilities or equipment. The board may enter into  
20 agreements with general purpose local governments to share in  
21 the revenues from fire protection impact fees imposed by such  
22 governments.

23           Section 11. Borrowing power of the district.--The  
24 district may issue general obligation bonds, assessment bonds,  
25 revenue bonds, notes, bond anticipation notes, or other  
26 evidences of indebtedness to finance all or a part of any  
27 proposed improvements authorized to be undertaken under this  
28 act or under general or special law, provided the total annual  
29 payments for the principal and interest on such indebtedness  
30 do not exceed 50 percent of the total annual budgeted revenues  
31

1 of the district as provided in section 191.012, Florida  
2 Statutes.

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

7 Section 13. Definitions.--

8 (1) "District" means the special fire control  
9 district.

10 (2) "Board" and "board of commissioners" mean the  
11 board of commissioners of the special fire control district,  
12 unless otherwise specified.

13 Section 4. Severability.--If any clause, section, or  
14 provision of this act is declared to be unconstitutional or  
15 invalid for any cause or reason, the same shall be eliminated  
16 from this act, and the remaining portion of said act shall be  
17 in force and effect and be as valid as if such invalid portion  
18 thereof had not been incorporated therein.

19 Section 5. Liberal interpretation.--The provisions of  
20 this act shall be liberally construed in order to effectively  
21 carry out the purposes of this act in the interest of the  
22 public and safety.

23 Section 6. Chapters 85-454, 88-488, 90-455, 91-396,  
24 93-395, 94-417, and 95-461, Laws of Florida, are repealed.

25 Section 7. Repeal of conflicting laws.--All laws or  
26 parts of laws in conflict herewith are, to the extent of such  
27 conflict, hereby repealed.

28 Section 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
29 law.

30  
31