

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to Brevard County; providing  
3           for codification of existing special laws  
4           relating to the creation, powers, and duties of  
5           the Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District, a  
6           dependent special district in Brevard County,  
7           as provided in chapters 86-418, 90-401, 91-341,  
8           92-239, and 94-424, Laws of Florida, except as  
9           amended by this act; providing legislative  
10          purpose; amending definitions of "District,"  
11          "general obligation bonds," and "revenue  
12          bonds"; amending scope of revenue sources  
13          allowed to be bonded; clarifying provisions  
14          relating to liens, collection, and foreclosure  
15          to include special assessments and stormwater  
16          management user fees; amending liability of  
17          District where lands are made available to  
18          public for outdoor recreational purposes, as  
19          defined therein; providing editorial revisions;  
20          establishing obstruction or impeding of a  
21          drainage canal or watercourse as a criminal  
22          offense; providing for civil damages for  
23          obstruction and impeding drainage canal or  
24          watercourse; amending, codifying, reenacting,  
25          and repealing chapters 86-418, 90-401, 91-341,  
26          92-239, and 94-424, Laws of Florida;  
27          re-creating the District and re-creating and  
28          reenacting the charter; providing an effective  
29          date.

30  
31   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

1           Section 1. Pursuant to section 189.429, Florida  
2 Statutes, this act constitutes the codification of all special  
3 acts relating to the Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District.  
4 It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this law to  
5 provide a single, comprehensive special act charter for the  
6 district, including all current legislative authority granted  
7 to the district by its several legislative enactments and any  
8 additional authority granted by this act. It is further the  
9 intent of this act to preserve all district authority,  
10 including the authority to annually assess and levy against  
11 the taxable property in the district a tax not to exceed 0.2  
12 mills on the dollar of assessed valuation.

13           Section 2. Chapters 86-418, 90-401, 91-341, 92-239,  
14 and 94-424, Laws of Florida, are amended, codified, reenacted,  
15 and repealed as herein provided.

16           Section 3. The charter for the Melbourne-Tillman Water  
17 Control District is re-created and reenacted to read:

18           Section 1. Legislative intent.--It is hereby declared  
19 and determined by the Legislature that a special district  
20 within the definition of sections 165.031(5) and  
21 200.001(8)(d), Florida Statutes, to be known as the  
22 Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District, would be the most  
23 responsive, efficient, and effective local government entity  
24 to secure, operate, and maintain an adequate, dependable  
25 surface water management system within the boundaries set  
26 forth in Section 3 herein. It is, therefore, the intent of the  
27 Legislature that such special district shall possess the full  
28 power and authority to implement, finance, and operate all  
29 existing surface water management system facilities, and those  
30 to be constructed within the boundaries of the District,  
31 subject to being granted all permits required by the laws,

1 rules, and regulations of federal, state, and regional  
2 regulatory agencies.

3 Section 2. Definitions.--As used in this act:

4 (1) "District" means the Melbourne-Tillman Water  
5 Control District, a special district created by this act.

6 (2) "Surface water management system" means all  
7 drainage facilities whereby surface waters are collected,  
8 controlled, conveyed, channeled, diverted, impounded,  
9 obstructed, stored, detained, or retained, or other surface  
10 water management capabilities or combination of capabilities.

11 The term "facilities" includes all necessary devices,  
12 improvements, natural systems, rights-of-way, appurtenant  
13 works, and works required to accomplish the above.

14 "Facilities" also includes all dams, levees, berms, weirs,  
15 control structures, impoundments, ponds, lakes, streams,  
16 canals, ditches, swales, culverts, pipes, subsurface systems  
17 of pipes, inlets, and culverts, erosion control, floodways,  
18 greenbelts, access and maintenance ways, or similar items to  
19 accomplish the above.

20 (3) "Cost," as applied to the construction or  
21 maintenance of a surface water management system, or  
22 extensions, additions, or improvements thereto, includes the  
23 cost of construction, reconstruction, acquisition, purchase,  
24 or replacement; the cost of maintenance, operation, and  
25 repair; the cost of all labor, materials, machinery, and  
26 equipment; the cost of all lands and interest therein,  
27 property, rights, easements, and financing charges; interest  
28 prior to and during construction; the creation of initial  
29 reserve or debt service funds; bond discount; cost of plans,  
30 specifications, surveys, and estimates of costs and revenues;  
31 cost of engineering, financial, and legal services, and all

1 other expenses necessary or incidental in determining the  
2 feasibility or practicability of such construction,  
3 reconstruction, or acquisition, maintenance, operation, and  
4 repair; administrative expenses; such other expenses as may be  
5 necessary or incidental to financing authorized by this act;  
6 and reimbursement to any municipality, county, or any other  
7 person, firm, or corporation for any moneys advanced to the  
8 District for any expenses incurred by the District in  
9 connection with any of the foregoing items of cost or the  
10 creation of the District.

11 (4) "Revenue bonds" means bonds, notes, or other  
12 obligations secured by and payable from the revenue derived  
13 from a pledge of the proceeds of special assessments levied  
14 against benefited properties and/or stormwater management user  
15 fees.

16 (5) "General obligation bonds" means bonds or other  
17 obligations secured by the full faith and credit and taxing  
18 power of the District and payable from ad valorem taxes levied  
19 and collected on all taxable property within the boundaries of  
20 the District, without limitation of rate or amount, and may be  
21 additionally secured by the pledge of the proceeds of special  
22 assessments levied against benefited property and/or  
23 stormwater management user fees.

24 (6) "City" means the City of Palm Bay and/or the City  
25 of West Melbourne, as may be indicated.

26 (7) "County" means Brevard County.

27 (8) "Board of Directors" means a seven (7) member  
28 board comprising three (3) members appointed by the Brevard  
29 County Commission, three (3) members appointed by the City of  
30 Palm Bay City Council, and one (1) member appointed by the  
31 City of West Melbourne City Council.

1           (9) "Owner," as used in this act, means the owner of  
2 the fee simple estate, as appears by the deed of record, and  
3 it shall not include reversioners, remaindermen, trustees, or  
4 mortgagees, who shall not be counted and need not be notified  
5 by publication, or served by process, but shall be represented  
6 by the present owners of the freehold estate in any proceeding  
7 under this act.

8           (10) "Primary" means all existing numbered canals  
9 within District rights-of-way, to include facilities such as  
10 dams, weirs, control structures, culverts, pipes, and any  
11 future works so designated by the Board.

12           (11) "Secondary" means all drainage facilities that  
13 convey surface water to primary system by crossing District  
14 rights-of-way lines.

15           (12) "Tertiary" means all drainage facilities  
16 associated with and located within rights-of-way of public  
17 roadways, driveways, parking lots, etc., that convey surface  
18 water to secondary systems.

19           Section 3. Special district.--There is hereby created  
20 and incorporated the Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District,  
21 a dependent special district, for the purpose of constructing,  
22 reconstructing and repairing, maintaining, and operating a  
23 surface water management system. The boundaries of the  
24 District are:

25  
26           All of Township 29 South, Range 36 East, and  
27 portions of Township 29 South, Range 37 East,  
28 Township 28 South, Range 36 East and Township  
29 28 South, Range 37 East in Brevard County,  
30 Florida being more particularly described as  
31 follows:

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Township 29 South, Range 37 East:

The West 1/2 of Sections 3, 27 and 34, and all of Sections 4 through 9, 16 through 21, and 28 through 33, and the West 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 34.

Township 28 South, Range 36 East:

The South 1/2 of Sections 1 through 5, the Southeast 1/4 of Section 6, and all of Sections 7 through 36.

Township 28 South, Range 37 East:

The Southwest 1/4 of Section 6, the West 1/2 and Southeast 1/4 of Section 7, the West 1/2 of Section 17, the South 1/2 of Section 21, a portion of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 22 described as the West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4, less Parcel 543, the South 1/2 of Section 27, less a portion of the North 1/2 of the South 1/2 described as the area bounded by the west section line, then southerly along the section line to a point 419 feet distant, then easterly to a point along the east section line 450 feet southerly of the midpoint of the east section line, then northerly along the section line to the midpoint of the section line, then westerly to

1        the midpoint of the west section line, the  
2        point of beginning, the West 1/2, Northeast 1/4  
3        and a portion of the Southeast 1/4 described as  
4        the North 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 and Lot 4  
5        and the West 1/2 of Lot 3, all within Section  
6        34, the West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 and  
7        Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section  
8        35, and all of Sections 18 through 20, and 28  
9        through 33.

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The District shall constitute a dependent special district  
under the laws of the state.

Section 4. Board of Directors; composition.--The  
District shall be governed by a seven (7) member Board  
comprising three (3) members appointed by the Brevard County  
Commission, three (3) members appointed by the City of Palm  
Bay City Council, and one (1) member appointed by the City of  
West Melbourne City Council. The initial Board of Directors  
shall be appointed in accordance with the above and shall take  
office on October 1, 1986. Initially, in appointment of  
members to the Board of Directors, in order to ultimately  
achieve staggered terms to have continuity, the County and  
City of Palm Bay shall appoint their three (3) members for  
terms of one (1) year, two (2) years, and three (3) years,  
respectively. The City of West Melbourne shall appoint its  
member for a term of three (3) years. As the initial terms  
expire, subsequent appointments shall be for full three (3)  
year terms. The members of the Board of Directors shall be  
residents of the District during their tenure as members of  
the Board.

**CODING:** Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

1           Section 5. Board of Directors' oath of office.--Each  
2 member, before entering upon his or her official duties, shall  
3 take and subscribe to an oath, before some officer authorized  
4 by law to administer oaths, that he or she will honestly,  
5 faithfully, and impartially perform the duties devolving upon  
6 him or her in office, as a member of the Board of Directors of  
7 the District to which he or she was appointed, and that he or  
8 she will not neglect any of the duties imposed upon him or her  
9 by virtue of acceptance of the office.

10           Section 6. Organization of Board; compensation of  
11 members of Board.--Immediately after their appointment, the  
12 Board members shall meet at some convenient place; elect one  
13 of their number to serve as president of the Board together  
14 with any other officers the Board may choose to elect; and  
15 elect as secretary some suitable person, who may or may not be  
16 a member of the Board, and who may be required to execute bond  
17 for the faithful performance of his or her duties, as the  
18 Board members may require. Such Board shall adopt a seal with  
19 a suitable device. The members of the Board shall be  
20 reimbursed for their traveling expenses pursuant to section  
21 112.061, Florida Statutes, but shall receive no compensation  
22 for their service.

23           Section 7. Board of Directors to keep record of  
24 proceedings, etc.--The Board of the District shall cause to be  
25 kept complete books and records together with minutes of all  
26 meetings, proceedings, bonds given by all employees, and any  
27 and all corporate acts. The record shall at all usual business  
28 times be open to the inspection of anyone interested, whether  
29 taxpayer or bondholder.

30           Section 8. Powers given the Board to effect a surface  
31 water management system within District boundaries.--In order



1 to responsibly, efficiently, and effectively secure, operate,  
2 and maintain an adequate, dependable surface water management  
3 system, the Board of Directors, consistent with and supportive  
4 of the state water policy, the state water use plan, the state  
5 land development plan, and the regional policy plan, shall:

6 (1) Establish a water management system which will  
7 accomplish objectives as follows:

8 (a) Prevent damage from flood, soil erosion, and  
9 excessive drainage.

10 (b) Promote the conservation, development, and proper  
11 utilization of surface and ground water.

12 (c) Preserve natural resources, fish, and wildlife.

13 (d) Maintain water quality in the District and the  
14 receiving waters from the District.

15 (e) Preserve and protect the natural systems in the  
16 District, Turkey Creek, the Indian River, and the St. Johns  
17 River.

18 (f) Purchase and establish conservation areas and  
19 passive recreation areas to protect the natural resources,  
20 including the sloughs, wetlands, and natural areas, which  
21 exist in the District or along the receiving waters, where the  
22 District finds it is appropriate for environmental protection  
23 or conservation of the natural resources. The District shall  
24 utilize the best management practices in implementing and  
25 operating its water management system.

26 (2) Clean out, straighten, open up, widen, or change  
27 the course and flow of, alter, or deepen any canal, ditch,  
28 drain, river, watercourse, or natural stream; and concentrate,  
29 divert, or divide the flow of water in or out of the District  
30 boundaries; construct and maintain main and lateral ditches,  
31 canals, levees, dikes, dams, sluices, revetments, reservoirs,

1 holding basins, floodways, pumping stations and siphons, and  
2 may connect same, or any of them, with any canals, drains,  
3 ditches, levees, or other works that may have been heretofore,  
4 or which may be hereafter, constructed.

5 (3) Build and construct any other works and  
6 improvements deemed necessary to preserve and maintain the  
7 works within said District boundaries; acquire, construct,  
8 operate, maintain, use, sell, convey, transfer, or otherwise  
9 provide for pumping stations, including pumping machinery,  
10 motive equipment, electric lines, and all appurtenant or  
11 auxiliary machines, devices, or equipment; control excessive  
12 drainage, relood lands previously reclaimed, and dechannelize  
13 and reverse previous diversions accomplished in the past; all  
14 with emphasis upon modern water management principles and  
15 standards.

16 (4) Contract for the purchase, construction,  
17 operation, maintenance, use, sale, conveyance, and transfer of  
18 the said pumping stations, machinery, motive equipment,  
19 electric lines, and appurtenant equipment, including the  
20 purchase of electric power and energy for the operation of the  
21 same.

22 (5) Construct or enlarge, or cause to be constructed  
23 or enlarged, at its expense, any and all bridges or culverts  
24 that are needed in said District, as a result of the  
25 construction or modification of the works of the District,  
26 across any drain, ditch, canal, floodway, holding basin,  
27 excavation, public highway, railroad right-of-way, track,  
28 grade, fill, or cut, in or out of said District boundaries;  
29 remove any fence, building, or other improvements.

30 (6) Hold, control, and acquire by donation or purchase  
31 and, if need be, condemn any land easement, railroad

1 right-of-way, sluice, reservoir, holding basin or franchise,  
2 right-of-way, or holding basin for any of the purposes herein  
3 provided, or material to be used in constructing and  
4 maintaining said works and improvements for implementing  
5 authorized improvements for water management.

6 (7) Implement and authorize improvements to the  
7 surface water management plan as may from time to time be  
8 recommended by the engineer and approved and permitted by the  
9 applicable rules and regulations of all state and regional  
10 regulatory agencies.

11 (8) Sue and be sued in the name of the District and  
12 restrain, enjoin, or otherwise prevent the violation of this  
13 act or of any resolution, rule, or regulation adopted pursuant  
14 to the powers granted by this act.

15 (9) Establish and define, in conjunction with other  
16 public entities, all surface water management areas within the  
17 boundaries of the District to determine which facilities  
18 within surface water management areas of the District shall be  
19 maintained by the District. In such establishing and/or  
20 defining, the definitions of "primary," "secondary," and  
21 "tertiary" in subsections (10), (11), and (12) of Section 3  
22 herein shall serve as guidelines in making such determination.

23 (10) Enter into agreements with other units of  
24 government for such units of government to perform any  
25 function on behalf of the District which is authorized by this  
26 act.

27 (11) Exercise all of the powers necessary, convenient,  
28 incidental, or proper in connection with any of the powers,  
29 duties, or purposes authorized by this act.

30 (12)(a) Levy, assess, and collect an annual stormwater  
31 management user fee to carry out the purposes of the District,

1 beginning with the 1990-1991 budget year. Such fee must be  
2 just and equitable and shall be based upon the impact that a  
3 given parcel of land imposes on the stormwater management  
4 system.

5 (b) A fee may not be finally set by the Board of  
6 Directors or approved by the Board of County Commissioners of  
7 Brevard County during its annual budget review until after a  
8 public hearing is held by the Board of County Commissioners.  
9 The Board of County Commissioners must hold a special public  
10 hearing within the boundaries of the District. At the public  
11 hearing, all owners of property in the District shall have an  
12 opportunity to be heard concerning the proposed fee.

13 (c) Notice of such public hearing for the 1990-1991  
14 budget year must be given in the manner prescribed in  
15 subsection (2) of Section 16. Thereafter, notice must be given  
16 by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in  
17 Brevard County at least 7 days before the date of the hearing.  
18 The stormwater management user fee, when established, shall be  
19 deemed to be reasonable and necessary to carry out the  
20 obligations, responsibilities, and duties of the District. All  
21 of the proceeds of the fee are in payment for the use of the  
22 District stormwater management system. The fee must be  
23 established by resolution of the Board of Directors and  
24 approved by a majority vote of the Board of County  
25 Commissioners of Brevard County, with each County Commissioner  
26 whose county commission residency area lies wholly or  
27 partially within the District voting in the affirmative.

28 (d) The stormwater management user fee structure shall  
29 have three land classifications: Residential, Agricultural,  
30 and Commercial. The Board of Directors, in establishing the  
31 annual fee, must use the Brevard County Land Use Code Index as

1 the basis for land classification. The annual stormwater  
2 management user fee shall be levied on the parcels, as the  
3 Brevard County Land Use Code Index has them designated, for  
4 that respective budget year.

5 For the 1990-1991 budget year, the residential fee may  
6 not exceed \$10 per acre or portion thereof, the agricultural  
7 fee may not exceed \$3.50 per acre or portion thereof, and the  
8 commercial fee may not exceed \$21 per acre or portion thereof.

9 Thereafter, the stormwater management fee for  
10 residential parcels, agricultural parcels, or commercial  
11 parcels may not be more than 10 percent above the fee for the  
12 preceding year. However, the maximum fee per acre or portion  
13 thereof for residential parcels may not exceed \$25, the  
14 maximum fee per acre or portion thereof for agricultural  
15 parcels may not exceed \$8.50, and the maximum fee per acre or  
16 portion thereof for commercial parcels may exceed \$52.50.

17 (13) Levy and assess ad valorem taxes without  
18 limitation of rate or amount on all taxable property within  
19 the boundaries of the District for the purpose of paying  
20 principal of and interest on any general obligation bonds by  
21 the Board of County Commissioners and which may be issued for  
22 the purposes of this act after approval of the issuance of  
23 such bonds by referendum of the electors.

24 (14) Levy and impose special assessments against the  
25 real property within the boundaries of the District upon a  
26 determination that the construction, reconstruction, repair,  
27 maintenance, and operation of the surface water management  
28 system provides a benefit to such real property. The benefits  
29 shall be assessed upon the property specially benefited by the  
30 construction of improvements or provision of operation and  
31 maintenance services in proportion to the benefits to be

1 derived therefrom, and the special benefits shall be  
2 determined and prorated by a method prescribed by the Board of  
3 Directors.

4 (a) The Board of Directors, if it elects to assess a  
5 special assessment, shall declare by a resolution the nature  
6 of the proposed improvement or the services provided to  
7 existing improvements, designate the location of the  
8 improvement or the service provided to existing improvements,  
9 and state the part or portion of the expense thereof to be  
10 paid by special assessments, the manner in which said  
11 assessments shall be made, when said assessments are to be  
12 paid, and what part, if any, shall be apportioned to be paid  
13 from the funds of the District. The resolution shall also  
14 designate the lands upon which the special assessment shall be  
15 levied, and, in describing said lands, it shall be sufficient  
16 to describe them as "all lands and lots abutting and  
17 contiguous to or bounding and abutting upon such improvements,  
18 or where services are to be provided to existing improvements  
19 specifically benefited thereby and further designated by the  
20 assessment plat herein provided for." The resolution shall  
21 state the total estimated cost of the improvement or service  
22 to be provided to existing improvements. Such estimated cost  
23 may include the cost of construction or reconstruction; the  
24 cost of all labor and materials; the cost of equipment and  
25 maintenance and operation thereof; the cost of all lands,  
26 property, rights, and easements acquired; financing charges;  
27 interest; cost of all engineering, legal, financial, and other  
28 services; all other expenses necessary or incidental to  
29 determine the feasibility or practicability of such  
30 construction or reconstruction or provision of service;  
31 administrative expenses; operating expenses; and such other

1 expenses as may be necessary or incidental to the financing  
2 herein authorized.

3 (b) Upon the adoption of the resolution, the Board of  
4 Directors shall cause said resolution to be published one time  
5 in a newspaper of general circulation published in Brevard  
6 County.

7 (c) Upon the adoption of the resolution, the Board of  
8 Directors shall cause to be made an assessment roll in  
9 accordance with the method of assessment provided for in said  
10 resolution, which assessment roll shall be completed and filed  
11 with the records of the Board of Directors as promptly as  
12 possible. The lots and lands assessed, the amount for the  
13 benefit to and the assessment against each lot or parcel, and,  
14 if said assessment is to be paid in installments, the number  
15 of annual installments in which the assessment is divided  
16 shall be entered and shown on said assessment roll.

17 (d) On the completion of said assessment roll, the  
18 Board of Directors shall by resolution fix a time and place at  
19 which the owners of the property to be assessed, or any other  
20 persons interested therein, may appear before said Board of  
21 Directors and be heard as to the propriety and advisability of  
22 making such improvements or providing said services, as to the  
23 cost thereof, as to the amount of payment therefor, and as to  
24 the amount thereof to be assessed against each property so  
25 improved. Notice in writing of such time and place shall be  
26 given to such property owners.

27 (e) At a time and place named in the notice provided  
28 for in paragraph (d), the Board of Directors of the District  
29 shall meet as an equalization board to hear and consider any  
30 and all complaints as to the special assessments and shall  
31 adjust and equalize the assessments on the basis of justice

1 and right. After the special assessments are so equalized and  
 2 approved by resolution, such assessments shall stand confirmed  
 3 and, until paid, shall remain legal, valid, and binding first  
 4 liens upon the property against which such assessments are  
 5 made; however, upon completion of the improvement, acquisition  
 6 of equipment, or provision of service, the Board of Directors  
 7 shall credit to each of the assessments the difference in the  
 8 assessment as originally made, approved, and confirmed and the  
 9 proportionate part of the actual cost of the improvement,  
 10 equipment, or service to be paid by special assessments as  
 11 finally determined on the completion of the improvement or  
 12 service, but in no event shall the final assessments exceed  
 13 the amount of benefits originally assessed. Promptly after  
 14 confirmation, the assessments shall be recorded in the public  
 15 records of Brevard County and the record of the lien shall  
 16 constitute prima facie evidence of its validity.

17 (f) The special assessments shall be payable at the  
 18 time and in the manner stipulated in the resolution  
 19 authorizing the improvement, equipment, or service. Such  
 20 assessments shall remain liens, coequal with the lien of all  
 21 state, county, or other district taxes, and municipal taxes,  
 22 and superior in dignity to all other liens, titles, and  
 23 claims, until paid. Such assessments shall bear interest at a  
 24 rate prescribed by the Board of Directors in the resolution  
 25 which it adopts.

26 (g) Each annual installment provided for shall be paid  
 27 upon the date specified in said resolution, with interest upon  
 28 all deferred payments, until the entire amount of said  
 29 assessment has been paid, and, on the failure of any property  
 30 owner to pay any annual installment due or any part thereof,  
 31 or any annual interest on deferred payments, the Board of



1 Directors shall cause to be brought the necessary legal  
 2 proceedings to enforce payment thereof with all accrued  
 3 interest and penalties, together with all legal costs  
 4 incurred, including a reasonable attorney's fee, to be  
 5 assessed as part of the costs, and, in the event of default in  
 6 the payment of any installments of any assessment or any  
 7 accrued interest on said installment, the whole assessment,  
 8 with the interest and penalties thereon, shall immediately  
 9 become due and payable and subject to foreclosure. In the  
 10 foreclosure of any special assessment, service of process  
 11 against unknown or nonresident defendants may be had by  
 12 publication as now provided by law. The foreclosure  
 13 proceedings shall be prosecuted to a sale and conveyance of  
 14 the property involved in said proceedings as now provided by  
 15 law in suits to foreclose mortgages.

16 (h) If any special assessment made under the  
 17 provisions of this section to defray the whole or any part of  
 18 the expense of any improvement or provision of any service is  
 19 either in whole or in part annulled, vacated, or set aside by  
 20 the judgment of any court, or if the Board of Directors of the  
 21 District is satisfied that any such assessment is so irregular  
 22 or defective that the same cannot be enforced or collected, or  
 23 if the Board of Directors omitted to make such assessment when  
 24 it might have done so, the Board shall take all necessary  
 25 steps to cause a new assessment to be made for the whole or  
 26 any part of any improvement or service provided or against any  
 27 property benefited by any improvement or service provided,  
 28 following as nearly as possible the provisions of this act,  
 29 and, in case such second assessment shall be annulled, said  
 30 Board of Directors may obtain and make other assessments until  
 31 a valid assessment is made.

1           (i) An informality or any irregularity in the  
 2 proceedings in connection with the levy of any special  
 3 assessment under this act shall not affect the validity of the  
 4 same where the assessment roll has been confirmed by the Board  
 5 of Directors, and the assessment roll as finally approved and  
 6 confirmed shall be competent and sufficient evidence that the  
 7 assessment was duly levied, that the assessment was duly made  
 8 and adopted, and that all other proceedings adequate to the  
 9 adoption of said assessment roll were duly had, taken, and  
 10 performed as required by this act; no variance from the  
 11 directions hereunder shall be held material unless it is  
 12 clearly shown that the party objecting was materially injured  
 13 thereby.

14           Section 9. The Board of Directors to establish  
 15 budget.--The present Board of Directors of the  
 16 Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District shall establish a  
 17 proposed budget to be submitted to the Brevard County  
 18 Commission by July 1, 1986, to provide the initial operating  
 19 expenses until such time as the District receives revenue from  
 20 user fees, taxes, and/or special assessments as provided  
 21 herein. The term "operating expenses" means all contemplated  
 22 capital and operating costs and expenses of the District  
 23 necessary to carry out any of the purposes of the District  
 24 provided under this act. The initial proposed budget shall be  
 25 modified or approved by the Brevard County Commission at the  
 26 times and in the manner in which the annual County budget is  
 27 approved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard  
 28 County. Thereafter, the Board of Directors of the new District  
 29 shall establish an annual operating expense budget for each  
 30 fiscal year, which shall commence on the first day of October  
 31 and terminate on the last day of September of the next year.

1 The Board of Directors shall adopt a tentative annual  
2 operating expense budget prior to July 1 of each year, to be  
3 approved by the Board of County Commissioners in the manner  
4 contemplated under section 200.001(8)(d), Florida Statutes,  
5 and deliver a copy of such tentative annual operating expense  
6 budget to the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County,  
7 to the City Council of the City of Palm Bay, and to the City  
8 Council of the City of West Melbourne. Such budget shall be  
9 modified or approved by the Brevard County Commission at the  
10 times and in the manner in which the annual County budget is  
11 approved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard  
12 County.

13 Section 10. Appointment of engineers, attorneys,  
14 accountants, surveyors, financial or other experts, District  
15 manager, and other agents and employees.--The Board of  
16 Directors shall appoint such engineers, attorneys,  
17 accountants, treasurer, surveyors, financial or other experts,  
18 and other agents and employees as the District may require or  
19 the Board of Directors deems necessary to effectuate the  
20 purpose of this act as set forth herein. The persons,  
21 partnerships, or corporations so appointed or agents and  
22 employees so employed shall perform such duties and have such  
23 responsibilities as they may from time to time be given or  
24 assigned by the Board of Directors. The terms and conditions,  
25 including compensation, under which such appointment or  
26 employment is undertaken shall be, except for employees of the  
27 District, evidenced by an agreement in writing.

28 Section 11. Appointment and duties of treasurer of  
29 District.--The Board of Directors shall select and appoint  
30 some competent person, or bank or trust company organized  
31 under the laws of the state, as treasurer of the District, who

1 shall receive and receipt for the taxes collected by the  
2 county collector or collectors. Said treasurer shall give bond  
3 in such amount as shall be fixed by the Board of Directors,  
4 conditioned that he or she will well and truly account for and  
5 pay out, as provided by law, all moneys received by him or her  
6 as taxes from the county collector, and the proceeds from tax  
7 sales for delinquent taxes, and from any other source whatever  
8 on account or claim of said District, which bond shall be  
9 signed by at least two sureties, or by some surety or bonding  
10 company, approved and accepted by said Board of Directors.  
11 Said treasurer shall keep all funds received by him or her  
12 from any source whatever deposited at all times in some bank,  
13 banks, or trust company to be designated by the Board of  
14 Directors. All interest accruing on such funds shall, when  
15 paid, be credited to the District. The Board shall provide for  
16 an annual financial audit of the accounts and records of the  
17 District and make a report thereof at a regularly scheduled  
18 meeting in November of each year.

19 Section 12. Board may remove officers and  
20 employees.--The Board of Directors may at any time remove any  
21 officer, attorney, engineer, employee, or agent appointed or  
22 employed by said Board within the bounds of any agreement with  
23 such person, firm, partnership, or corporation.

24 Section 13. When existing system inadequate, Board has  
25 power to make new plans.--In the event that the Board of  
26 Directors determines that the existing water management system  
27 of the District is inadequate to accomplish the purposes set  
28 forth in this act, the Board shall proceed to develop and  
29 adopt new plans for modifying its surface water management  
30 system, assess for benefits, and apportion and levy taxes as  
31 follows:

1           (1) The Board shall cause to be made by the District  
2 engineer, or such other engineers as the Board may employ for  
3 that purpose, complete and comprehensive water management and  
4 control plans for all or a portion of the lands located within  
5 the District that will be improved in any part or in whole by  
6 any system of facilities that may be outlined and adopted, and  
7 the engineer shall make a report in writing to the Board with  
8 maps and profiles of said surveys and an estimate of the cost  
9 of carrying out and completing the plans.

10           (2) Upon the completion of such plans, the Board shall  
11 hold a hearing thereon to hear objections thereto, shall give  
12 notice of the time and place fixed for such hearing by  
13 publication once each week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a  
14 newspaper of general circulation published in the general area  
15 of the District, and shall permit the inspection of the plan  
16 at the office of the District by all persons interested. All  
17 objections to the plan shall be filed at or before the time  
18 fixed in the Notice of Hearing and shall be in writing.

19           (3) After the hearing, the Board shall consider the  
20 proposed plan and any objections thereto and may modify,  
21 reject, or adopt the plan or continue the hearings to a day  
22 certain for further consideration of the proposed plan or  
23 modifications thereof.

24           (4) When the Board approves a plan, a resolution shall  
25 be adopted and a certified copy thereof shall be filed in the  
26 office of the secretary and incorporated by him or her into  
27 the records of the District.

28           Section 14. Board may issue bonds; procedures.--The  
29 District is authorized to provide from time to time for the  
30 issuance of revenue bonds and general obligation bonds of the  
31 District to pay all or any part of the cost of a surface water

1 management system, improvements thereto, and any structures  
2 necessary to support said system. The principal of and  
3 interest on any such bonds shall be payable from revenue  
4 sufficient to pay the bond in the manner provided in the bond  
5 by the District, and may be secured by the full faith and  
6 credit and taxing power of the District and payable from ad  
7 valorem taxes levied and collected on all taxable property  
8 within the boundaries of the District in the manner provided  
9 in this act and the resolution authorizing such revenue bonds  
10 and all general obligation bonds. Revenue bonds may also be  
11 issued and secured by the pledge of special assessments and/or  
12 stormwater management user fees levied pursuant to this act.  
13 Any bonds which pledge the full faith and credit and ad  
14 valorem taxing power of the District shall be submitted to the  
15 qualified voters within the boundaries of the District as  
16 required by the State Constitution. Said bonds may be  
17 authorized by resolution or resolutions of the District, which  
18 may be adopted at the same meeting at which they are  
19 introduced by a majority of all the members thereof then in  
20 office and need not be published or posted. Said bonds shall  
21 bear interest at a rate or rates without limitation, except as  
22 provided by law, as determined by resolution of the Board, may  
23 be in one or more series, may bear such date or dates and may  
24 mature at any time or times not exceeding forty (40) years  
25 from their respective dates, may be payable in such medium of  
26 payment, at such place or places within or without the state,  
27 may carry such registration privileges, may be subject to such  
28 terms of prior redemption, with or without premium, may be  
29 executed in such manner, may contain such terms, covenants,  
30 and conditions, and may be in such form otherwise as such  
31 resolution or subsequent resolutions shall provide. Said bonds

1 may be sold or exchanged for refunding bonds, or delivered to  
 2 contractors in payment for any part of the work or  
 3 improvements financed by such bonds, or delivered in exchange  
 4 for any properties, either real, personal, or mixed, to be  
 5 acquired for such works or improvements, all at a time or in  
 6 blocks from time to time, in such manner as the District in  
 7 its discretion shall determine. Pending the preparation of the  
 8 definitive bonds, interim certificates or receipts or  
 9 temporary bonds in such form and with such provisions as the  
 10 District may determine may be issued to the purchaser or  
 11 purchasers of the bonds issued hereunder. Said bonds and such  
 12 interim certificates or receipts or temporary bonds shall be  
 13 fully negotiable and shall be and constitute negotiable  
 14 instruments within the meaning of and for all purposes of the  
 15 law merchant and the uniform commercial code of the state or  
 16 transferability may be subject to registration. The proceeds  
 17 of the sale of any such bonds shall be used solely for the  
 18 payment of the costs of the construction of a surface water  
 19 management system, any structures necessary to support said  
 20 system, or the reconstruction or construction or acquisition  
 21 of extensions, improvements, and additions thereto, and shall  
 22 be disbursed in such manner and under such restrictions as the  
 23 District may provide in the authorizing resolution. The  
 24 District may also provide for the replacement of any bonds  
 25 which become mutilated or are destroyed or lost, upon proper  
 26 indemnification. A resolution providing for the issuance of  
 27 revenue bonds or general obligation bonds may also contain  
 28 such limitations upon the issuance of additional bonds secured  
 29 on a parity with the bonds theretofore issued, as the District  
 30 may deem proper, and such additional bonds shall be issued  
 31 under such authorizing resolution.

1           Section 15. Bonds issued secured by liens on lands  
2 benefited; assessment and collection of taxes may be  
3 enforced.--All bonds issued by the Board under the provisions  
4 of this act shall be secured by a lien on all lands and other  
5 property benefited, and the Board shall see to it that a tax  
6 and/or assessment is levied annually and collected under the  
7 provisions of this act, so long as it may be necessary to pay  
8 any bond issued or obligation contracted under its authority;  
9 and the making of said assessment and collection may be  
10 enforced by mandamus.

11           Section 16. Collection of stormwater management user  
12 fees, assessments, or taxes.--

13           (1) Annual stormwater management user fees,  
14 assessments, or taxes levied under this act shall become due  
15 and be collected during each year at the same time that county  
16 taxes are due and collected, and said annual levy shall be  
17 evidenced to and certified by the Board not later than August  
18 31 of each year to the property appraiser of Brevard County.  
19 Said fee, assessment, or tax shall be extended by the county  
20 property appraisers on the county tax rolls and shall be  
21 collected by the tax collectors in the same manner and time as  
22 county taxes and the proceeds thereof paid to said District.  
23 Said fee, assessment, or tax shall be a lien until paid on the  
24 property against which assessed and enforceable in like manner  
25 as county taxes.

26           (2) On the completion of said assessment roll, the  
27 Board of Directors shall by resolution fix a time and place at  
28 which the owners of the property to be assessed, or any other  
29 persons interested therein, may appear before said Board and  
30 be heard as to the propriety and advisability of making such  
31 improvements or providing said services, as to the cost



1 thereof, as to the amount of payment therefor, and as to the  
 2 amount thereof to be assessed against each property so  
 3 improved. Notice in writing of such time and place shall be  
 4 given to such property owners. Such notice may be given by  
 5 placing in the U.S. Postal Service, at least ten (10) days  
 6 prior to such hearing, a copy of such notice to each property  
 7 owner at his or her last known address, the names and  
 8 addresses of such property owners to be obtained from the  
 9 records of the county property appraiser or from such other  
 10 sources the Board deems reliable. The proof of such mailing  
 11 shall be made by an affidavit of the president of the Board of  
 12 Directors, said proof to be filed with the minutes of the  
 13 Board. Failure to mail said notice or notices shall not  
 14 invalidate any of the proceedings herein. Notice of the time  
 15 and place of such hearing shall also be given by two (2)  
 16 publications, a week apart, in a newspaper of general  
 17 circulation in Brevard County. The last publication shall be  
 18 at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the hearing. Said  
 19 notice, which shall be published, shall contain a map showing  
 20 the general area which will be specially benefited and shall  
 21 contain the name and the amount to be assessed against each  
 22 piece or parcel of property.

23 Section 17. When unpaid fees, assessments, and taxes  
 24 delinquent; penalty.--All fees, assessments, and taxes  
 25 provided for in this act shall be due and become delinquent  
 26 and bear penalties on the amount of said fees, assessments,  
 27 and taxes in the same manner as county taxes.

28 Section 18. Property appraisers and tax collectors;  
 29 compensation; characterization of services.--

30 (1) The office of the property appraiser of the county  
 31 where taxes are assessed on the county tax roll by the county

1 property appraiser shall be paid an amount equal to one (1)  
2 percent of the total of taxes of the District assessed within  
3 his or her county, except errors, and one (1) percent on  
4 delinquent taxes when redeemed. The office of the tax  
5 collector of the county shall be paid an amount equal to one  
6 (1) percent of the total of taxes of the District collected,  
7 and one (1) percent upon delinquent taxes when collected.

8 (2) The services of the offices of the property  
9 appraiser and tax collector in assessing and collecting such  
10 District taxes are hereby declared to be special services  
11 performed directly for the District, and any payment therefor  
12 shall not be considered a part of the general income of the  
13 office nor come under the provisions of section 116.03,  
14 Florida Statutes. The personnel required to do said special  
15 work shall be paid for such special services from the receipts  
16 provided in subsection (1).

17 Section 19. Fees, assessments, and taxes and costs a  
18 lien on land against which fees, assessments, and taxes  
19 levied.--All fees, assessments, and taxes provided for in this  
20 act, together with all penalties for default in payment of the  
21 same, all costs in collecting the same, including a reasonable  
22 attorney's fee fixed by the court and taxed as costs in the  
23 action brought to enforce payment, shall, from the date of  
24 assessment of same until paid, constitute a lien of equal  
25 dignity with the liens for state and county taxes, and other  
26 taxes of equal dignity with state and county taxes, upon all  
27 the lands against which such fees, assessments, and taxes  
28 shall be levied as is provided in this act.

29 Section 20. District fees, assessments, and taxes;  
30 delinquent; discounts, etc.--The collection and enforcement of  
31 all fees, assessments, and taxes levied by said District shall

1 be at the same time and in like manner as county taxes, and  
 2 the provisions of the Florida Statutes relating to the sale of  
 3 lands for unpaid and delinquent county taxes, the issuance,  
 4 sale, and delivery of tax certificates for such unpaid and  
 5 delinquent county taxes, the redemption thereof, the issuance  
 6 to individuals of tax deeds based thereon, and all other  
 7 procedures in connection therewith shall be applicable to said  
 8 District and the delinquent and unpaid taxes of said District  
 9 to the same extent as if said statutory provisions were  
 10 expressly set forth in this act. All fees, assessments, and  
 11 taxes shall be subject to the same discounts as county taxes.

12 Section 21. Lands may be acquired for rights-of-way  
 13 and other purposes.--The District may acquire by gift,  
 14 purchase, exchange, donation, or condemnation any lands within  
 15 or without the said District for canal rights-of-way or for  
 16 other general purposes of the said District, and if acquired  
 17 by condemnation, the procedure shall be as prescribed in  
 18 chapters 73 and 74 of the Florida Statutes.

19 Section 22. Obstruction of drainage canals, etc.,  
 20 prohibited; damages; civil and criminal penalties.--No person  
 21 may willfully, or otherwise, obstruct any canal, drain, ditch,  
 22 or watercourse or damage or destroy any surface water  
 23 management facility within the District boundaries.

24 (1) Any person who shall willfully obstruct any canal,  
 25 drain, ditch, or watercourse or shall damage or destroy any  
 26 water control or management facility constructed by the  
 27 District shall be liable to any person injured thereby for the  
 28 full amount of the injury occasioned to any land or other  
 29 property by reason of such misconduct, and shall be liable to  
 30 the District constructing the said work for double the cost of  
 31 removing such obstruction or repairing such damage.

1           (2) Whoever shall willfully or otherwise obstruct any  
2 canal, drain, ditch, or watercourse, or impede or obstruct the  
3 flow of water therein, or shall damage or destroy any water  
4 control facility existing within the District boundaries,  
5 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree as  
6 provided in sections 775.082 and 775.083, Florida Statutes,  
7 and punishable as provided therein.

8           Section 23. Modifications.--Any individual,  
9 corporation, or governmental entity within the boundaries of  
10 the District is prohibited from undertaking any permanent  
11 modification, alteration, or improvement to the surface water  
12 management system as they drain into the works of the District  
13 without the approval of the District. The District shall  
14 approve or disapprove any request for approval within 60 days  
15 after the receipt of such request and adequate information to  
16 evaluate the specific request.

17           Section 24. Expanded functions.--The Board of  
18 Directors may request that the function of the District be  
19 expanded. Said expanded functions shall be provided for by  
20 special act of the Legislature.

21           Section 25. District boundaries.--The Board of  
22 Directors of the District may expand or contract the  
23 boundaries of the District or merge with another District by  
24 special act of the Legislature.

25           Section 26. Legislative intent.--It is the intent of  
26 the Legislature that the authority created by this act is a  
27 dependent special district within the definition of section  
28 200.001(8)(d), Florida Statutes, and not an independent  
29 special district within the provisions of section 190.049,  
30 Florida Statutes, and sections 165.031(5) and 200.001(8)(e),  
31 Florida Statutes, or any other applicable provision of general

1 law. In recognition of such legislative intent, it is hereby  
 2 declared that the provisions of section 190.049, Florida  
 3 Statutes, and sections 165.022 and 165.041, Florida Statutes,  
 4 or any other applicable provision of general law shall not be  
 5 construed or interpreted to prohibit or restrict the creation  
 6 of the District by special law. Pursuant to the language of  
 7 section 200.001(8)(d), Florida Statutes, it is the intent of  
 8 the Legislature that the millage of the District shall be  
 9 included in the millage computation of Brevard County as  
 10 provided by law.

11 Section 27. Suits against the District.--Any suit or  
 12 action brought or maintained against the District for damages  
 13 arising out of tort, including, without limitation, any claim  
 14 arising upon account of an act causing an injury or loss of  
 15 property, personal injury, or death, shall be subject to the  
 16 limitations provided in section 768.26, Florida Statutes, and  
 17 this act.

18 Section 28. Exemption of District property from  
 19 execution.--All District property shall be exempt from levy  
 20 and sale by virtue of an execution, and no execution or other  
 21 judicial process shall issue against such property except as  
 22 may be provided for in other sections of the Florida Statutes,  
 23 nor shall any judgment against the District be a charge or  
 24 lien on its property or revenues; however, nothing contained  
 25 herein shall apply to or limit the rights of bondholders to  
 26 pursue any remedy for the enforcement of any lien or pledge  
 27 given by the District in connection with any of the bonds or  
 28 obligations of the District.

29 Section 29. Reservation of rights and obligations.--It  
 30 is the express intent of this act to preserve and transfer  
 31 over to the District created by this act simultaneously with

1 the effective date any and all causes of action, suits,  
 2 claims, counter-claims, demands, contracts, moneys due or  
 3 owed, liens, agreements, rights, judgments, and settlements  
 4 which the prior district had or has against all persons,  
 5 firms, or corporations or which any and all persons, firms, or  
 6 corporations may have against the prior district operating  
 7 under chapter 298, Florida Statutes. The District shall  
 8 recognize permits previously approved by the Melbourne-Tillman  
 9 Water Control District, as well as those which have been or  
 10 will be approved by the District prior to October 1, 1986,  
 11 provided construction has commenced on the permitted facility  
 12 in accordance with those plans and specifications and further  
 13 that construction has begun prior to October 1, 1991.

14 Section 30. When any reference herein is made to any  
 15 gender, such reference shall be deemed to include either  
 16 masculine, feminine, or neuter, as appropriate, and any  
 17 reference herein to any number shall be deemed to include both  
 18 singular and plural where the context of this act shall permit  
 19 or require.

20 Section 31. (1) The purpose of this section is to  
 21 encourage Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District to make  
 22 available land to the public for outdoor recreational purposes  
 23 by limiting its liability to persons going thereon and to  
 24 third persons who may be damaged by the acts or omissions of  
 25 persons going thereon.

26 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4), if the  
 27 District provides the public with land for outdoor  
 28 recreational purposes, or allows access to District lands for  
 29 outdoor recreational purposes, it owes no duty of care to keep  
 30 the land safe for entry or use by others or to give warnings  
 31 to persons entering or going on such land of any hazardous

1 conditions, structures, or activities thereon. The District,  
 2 when providing land for outdoor recreational purposes, does  
 3 not, by providing that land, extend any assurance that such  
 4 land is safe for any purpose, does not incur any duty of care  
 5 toward a person who goes on the land, and is not responsible  
 6 for any injury to persons or property caused by an act or  
 7 omission of a person who goes on that land. This subsection  
 8 does not apply if there is any charge made or usually made for  
 9 entering or using the land, or if any commercial or other  
 10 activity from which profit is derived from the patronage of  
 11 the public is conducted on any such land or any part thereof.

12 (3)(a) Except as provided in subsection (4), if the  
 13 District leases any land to any other governmental entity for  
 14 outdoor recreational purposes, or enters into a joint use  
 15 agreement of any kind, or provides access for outdoor  
 16 recreational purposes, the District owes no duty of care to  
 17 keep that land safe for entry or use by others or to give  
 18 warning to persons entering or going on that land of any  
 19 hazardous conditions, structures, or activities thereon. If  
 20 the District leases or enters into a joint use or similar  
 21 agreement regarding any of its land with any other  
 22 governmental entity for outdoor recreational purposes, the  
 23 District does not, by giving such lease or agreement, extend  
 24 any assurance that such land is safe for any purpose, incur  
 25 any duty of care toward a person who goes on the leased land  
 26 or land subject to the joint use or similar agreement, and is  
 27 not responsible for any injury to persons or property caused  
 28 by any act or omission of a person who goes on the land  
 29 subject to any lease or joint use or similar agreement.

30 (b) This subsection applies to any person going on the  
 31 leased land or land subject to a joint use or similar

1 agreement, irrespective of whether the person goes as an  
2 invitee, licensee, or trespasser or in any other capacity.

3 (4) This section does not relieve the District of any  
4 liability that would otherwise exist for gross negligence or a  
5 deliberate, willful, or malicious injury to a person or  
6 property. This section does not create or increase the  
7 liability of the District or person beyond that which is  
8 authorized by section 768.28, Florida Statutes.

9 (5) The term "outdoor recreational purposes," as used  
10 herein, includes bicycling, hiking, and canoeing or activities  
11 similar thereto.

12 Section 4. In the event any section or provision of  
13 this act is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, such  
14 determination shall not affect the validity of or  
15 enforceability of each other section and provision of this  
16 act.

17 Section 5. In the event of a conflict of the  
18 provisions of this act with the provisions of any other act  
19 the provisions of this act shall control to the extent of such  
20 conflict.

21 Section 6. Chapters 86-418, 90-401, 91-341, 92-239,  
22 and 94-424, Laws of Florida, are repealed.

23 Section 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
24 law.

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