

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Holiday Park Park and  
3           Recreation District, Sarasota County; amending,  
4           codifying, reenacting, and repealing special  
5           acts relating to the district; providing  
6           boundaries of the district; providing for a  
7           Board of Trustees; providing for election and  
8           organization of the board; providing powers and  
9           duties of the board; providing for a tax;  
10          providing powers and duties of the district;  
11          requiring a financial statement and budget;  
12          providing definitions; requiring a record of  
13          meetings of the board; providing for filling  
14          vacancies; providing for bonds; providing for  
15          severability; providing an effective date.

16  
17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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19           Section 1. Pursuant to section 189.429, Florida  
20 Statutes, this act constitutes the codification of all special  
21 acts relating to the Holiday Park Park and Recreation  
22 District. It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this  
23 law to provide a single, comprehensive special act charter for  
24 the district, including all current legislative authority  
25 granted to the district by its several legislative enactments  
26 and any additional authority granted by this act. It is  
27 further the intent of this act to preserve all district  
28 authority, including the authority to annually assess and levy  
29 against the taxable property in the district a tax not to  
30 exceed 0.2 mills on the dollar of assessed valuation.

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1           Section 2. Chapters 81-441, 82-380, and 87-445, Laws  
2 of Florida, are codified, amended, reenacted, and repealed as  
3 provided herein.

4           Section 3. The charter for the Holiday Park Park and  
5 Recreation District is re-created and reenacted to read:

6           Section 1. Pursuant to chapter 81-441, Laws of  
7 Florida, all of the residential land in Holiday Park  
8 Subdivisions, City of North Port, Sarasota County, Florida,  
9 hereinafter described, became and was incorporated into and as  
10 a park and recreation district, being an independent special  
11 taxing district, and a political subdivision of the State of  
12 Florida, having the powers and duties herein set forth, under  
13 the name of "Holiday Park Park and Recreation District." The  
14 granting of said powers and duties to the district shall not  
15 in any way diminish the powers and authority of the City of  
16 North Port.

17           Section 2. The lands so incorporated being described  
18 as follows:

19  
20           HOLIDAY PARK UNIT ONE, as per plat thereof  
21 recorded in Plat Book 19, Pages 27 through 27G,  
22 of the Public Records of Sarasota County,  
23 Florida, and HOLIDAY PARK UNIT TWO, as per plat  
24 thereof recorded in Plat Book 20, Pages 8  
25 through 8N, of the Public Records of Sarasota  
26 County, Florida.

27  
28           Section 3. The business and affairs of said district  
29 shall be conducted and administered by a board of nine  
30 trustees, hereinafter referred to as the "trustees," who shall  
31 organize by electing from their number a chair, a first vice

1 chair, a second vice chair, a secretary, and a treasurer after  
 2 each election. The meeting at which the trustees elect the  
 3 officers shall be called the "organizational meeting." Said  
 4 trustees shall not receive any compensation for their services  
 5 but shall be entitled to be reimbursed from funds of the  
 6 district for any authorized disbursements they may properly  
 7 incur on behalf of the district. Each trustee authorized to  
 8 sign checks of the district or otherwise designated to handle  
 9 its funds shall, before said trustee enters upon such duties,  
 10 execute to the Governor of the State of Florida, for the  
 11 benefit of said district, a good and sufficient bond approved  
 12 by a circuit judge of Sarasota County in the sum of \$10,000  
 13 with a qualified corporate surety conditioned to faithfully  
 14 perform the duties of such trustee and to account for all  
 15 funds which may come into his or her hands as such trustee.  
 16 All premiums for such surety on all bonds shall be paid from  
 17 the funds of said district.

18 Section 4. All district elections shall be conducted  
 19 and supervised by the Supervisor of Elections in the County of  
 20 Sarasota, under the rules governing general elections in the  
 21 County of Sarasota, except as may otherwise be provided  
 22 herein. All elections shall be held at the Holiday Park  
 23 Recreation Hall in the district.

24 Section 5. Any registered voter residing in the  
 25 district may vote in a district election. Application for  
 26 absentee ballots may be requested from the Supervisor of  
 27 Elections of Sarasota County within 1 year prior to each  
 28 election, and shall be counted if received by the Supervisor  
 29 of Elections' office by 7:00 P.M. on the day of each such  
 30 election pursuant to the Florida Election Code. All election  
 31 ballots shall be prepared by the Supervisor of Elections of

1 the County of Sarasota. A person desiring to have the person's  
2 name placed on the ballot for election as a trustee of the  
3 district shall be a registered voter residing in the district  
4 and a freeholder within the district and shall pay a filing  
5 fee of \$25, or in the alternative, the person may qualify by  
6 fulfilling the requirements of section 99.095, Florida  
7 Statutes. Notice of said election setting forth the names of  
8 the persons proposed as trustees of the district shall be  
9 given by the district in writing addressed to each resident  
10 within the district not less than 15 days before the date of  
11 each election, and shall also be published one time at least  
12 10 days prior to such election, in a newspaper of general  
13 circulation published in the county, and if no newspaper be  
14 published in said county, then they shall cause written or  
15 printed notices of said election to be posted in five public  
16 places within said district. Notwithstanding the provisions of  
17 section 101.20, Florida Statutes, the publication of a sample  
18 ballot is not required. The Supervisor of Elections of  
19 Sarasota County shall appoint inspectors and clerks for the  
20 election whose duties shall be the same as similar officers in  
21 general elections, except as herein stated. Said election may  
22 be by ballot or by other electronic or electromechanical  
23 voting system, and if by ballot the same shall be written or  
24 printed in black ink on plain paper and shall be substantially  
25 in the following form:

26  
27 Board of Trustees of the Holiday Park Park and  
28 Recreation District (stating their names)  
29

30 and, if by other electronic or electromechanical voting  
31 system, the requirements for the ballot herein described shall

1 be adapted to the use of such voting system. Election of  
 2 trustees shall be held annually on the second Tuesday of March  
 3 or, in the alternative, on another Tuesday in March in  
 4 conjunction with any other special, primary, or general  
 5 election to be conducted by the Supervisor of Elections, by  
 6 electing five trustees in even-numbered years and four  
 7 trustees in odd-numbered years for 2-year terms. In the March  
 8 2002 election, Seats #1, #3, #5, #7, and #9 shall be filled.  
 9 In the March 2003 election, Seats #2, #4, #6, and #8 shall be  
 10 filled. Trustees may succeed themselves in office. The term of  
 11 the newly elected trustees shall commence at the Board of  
 12 Trustees' organizational meeting which shall be held within 7  
 13 days following the election. Trustees shall serve until their  
 14 successors take office, except as otherwise provided herein.  
 15 The trustees whose seats are filled pursuant to the trustees'  
 16 election in December 1999 (Seats #1, #3, #5, #7, and #9) shall  
 17 serve until their successors take office following the March  
 18 2002 trustees' election. The trustees whose seats are filled  
 19 pursuant to the trustees' election in December 2000 (Seats #2,  
 20 #4, #6, and #8) shall serve until their successors take office  
 21 following the March 2003 trustees' election.

22 Section 6. The Supervisor of Elections of Sarasota  
 23 County shall canvass the returns of the election and shall  
 24 announce the result thereof no later than the day following  
 25 the election. The expenses of the Supervisor of Elections for  
 26 conducting each election shall be paid out of general funds of  
 27 the district.

28 Section 7. The Board of Trustees shall have the right,  
 29 power, and authority to levy a special assessment known as a  
 30 "recreation district tax" against all taxable real estate  
 31 situated within said district for the purpose of providing

1 funds for the operation of the district. The trustees shall,  
 2 on or before August 1 of each year, by resolution fix the  
 3 amount of the assessment for the next ensuing fiscal year and  
 4 shall direct the Property Appraiser of Sarasota County to  
 5 assess and the Tax Collector of Sarasota County to collect  
 6 such tax as assessed upon each improved residential parcel of  
 7 property within the district. Prior to the adoption of the  
 8 resolution fixing the amount of the assessment, the trustees  
 9 shall hold a public hearing at which time property owners  
 10 within the district may appear and be heard. Notice of the  
 11 time and place of the public hearing shall be published once  
 12 in a newspaper of general circulation within the County of  
 13 Sarasota at least 21 days prior to the said public hearing.  
 14 The county Property Appraiser shall include on the Sarasota  
 15 County tax roll the special assessment for park and recreation  
 16 district benefits thus made by the Board of Trustees of the  
 17 district, and the same shall be collected in the manner and  
 18 form as provided for collection of county taxes. The offices  
 19 of the county Tax Collector and the county Property Appraiser  
 20 shall each receive compensation for their services regarding  
 21 such special assessments of 1 1/2 percent of the gross tax  
 22 receipts instead of the commissions and fees usually earned  
 23 for the assessment and collection of county taxes. Further,  
 24 the services of the Property Appraiser and the Tax Collector  
 25 under this act are hereby declared to be special services  
 26 performed directly for the district, and any payment therefor  
 27 shall not be personal income of such official but shall be  
 28 income to said official's office. After deducting therefrom  
 29 the said fees, the Tax Collector shall deposit the funds into  
 30 a depository designated by the Board of Trustees of the  
 31 district for the account of the district. For the purpose of

1 determining property subject to the district tax, an "improved  
2 residential parcel" shall be construed to mean a platted lot  
3 or lots on which a mobile home may be erected. The district  
4 tax shall be levied against each lot or proportionally against  
5 any fraction thereof which is part of an improved residential  
6 parcel. The district tax shall not be an ad valorem tax but  
7 rather shall be a unit tax assessed equally against all  
8 improved residential parcels.

9 Section 8. The district may acquire and hold property,  
10 sue and be sued, enter into contracts, and perform other  
11 functions necessary or desirable to the carrying out of the  
12 provisions and intent of this act. No debt shall be created  
13 without the approval of the Board of Trustees.

14 Section 9. The district tax shall be a lien upon each  
15 improved residential parcel of land so assessed until said tax  
16 has been paid, and shall be considered a part of the Sarasota  
17 County tax, subject to the same penalties, charges, fees, and  
18 remedies for enforcement and collection as provided by the  
19 laws of the State of Florida for the collection of such taxes.

20 Section 10. The proceeds of said tax and the funds of  
21 the district shall be deposited in the name of the district in  
22 a bank or savings and loan association or building and loan  
23 association authorized to receive deposits of county funds,  
24 which depository shall be designated by resolution of the  
25 Board of Trustees. No funds of the district shall be disbursed  
26 save and except by check or draft signed by the chair and  
27 treasurer of the board or, in the absence of either, by  
28 another trustee designated for that purpose by the board.

29 Section 11. All vacancies occurring in the Board of  
30 Trustees from any cause shall be filled for the unexpired term  
31 by the remaining trustees by the appointment of a successor

1 trustee or trustees from among the registered voters residing  
2 in the district who are freeholders within said district. Any  
3 trustee failing to discharge the duties of the trustee's  
4 position may be removed for cause by the Board of Trustees,  
5 after due notice and an opportunity to be heard upon charges  
6 of malfeasance or misfeasance.

7 Section 12. The fiscal year of the district shall  
8 commence October 1 of each year and end on September 30 of the  
9 following year. The trustees shall, on or before April 1 of  
10 each year, prepare an annual financial statement of income and  
11 disbursements during the prior fiscal year. On or before July  
12 1 of each year, the trustees shall prepare and adopt an  
13 itemized budget showing the amount of money necessary for the  
14 operation of the district for the next fiscal year and the  
15 district tax to be assessed and collected upon the taxable  
16 property of the district for the next ensuing year. Such  
17 financial statement shall be published once during the month  
18 of April each year in a newspaper of general circulation  
19 within the County of Sarasota. A copy of said statement and a  
20 copy of said budget shall also be furnished by mail to each  
21 taxpayer within said district within 30 days of its  
22 preparation and a copy made available for public inspection at  
23 the principal office of the district at reasonable hours.

24 Section 13. The "property" of the district shall  
25 consist of property and improvements now or hereafter erected  
26 or purchased by the trustees for the district as well as any  
27 other real or personal property which the trustees of the  
28 district may, in their discretion, determine to be necessary  
29 or convenient for the purposes of the district; in addition  
30 thereto, for the comfort and convenience of taxpayers within  
31 the district, the trustees may in their discretion assume the



1 cost of installing and maintaining entrance parkways and  
2 street lighting within the district and may acquire and  
3 dispose of any other facilities for the general purposes of  
4 the district.

5 Section 14. Persons entitled to use the facilities and  
6 property of the district shall be limited to property owners  
7 within the district, their family members and guests, and to  
8 such other persons and groups as the trustees may authorize  
9 from time to time.

10 Section 15. The trustees shall supervise all real and  
11 personal property owned by the district, and shall have the  
12 following powers in addition to those already herein  
13 enumerated:

14 (a) To negotiate purchases and to purchase real and  
15 personal property on behalf of the district and to pay for  
16 such purchases either with cash or by the issuance of bonds or  
17 revenue certificates.

18 (b) To determine and fix the tax to be assessed  
19 annually within the district.

20 (c) To enter into contracts on behalf of the district.

21 (d) To incur obligations on behalf of the district,  
22 including the power to issue bonds, notes, and other evidence  
23 of indebtedness of the district for the purpose of obtaining  
24 funds for the operation of the district including the purchase  
25 of lands, buildings, and other improvements, provided,  
26 however, that the aggregate amount of all obligations of the  
27 district payable in any calendar year shall not exceed the  
28 aggregate amount of all revenue received by the district from  
29 all sources during such calendar year; bonds, notes, or other  
30 certificates of indebtedness issued by the district may be

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1 secured by the pledge of tax revenues obtained by the district  
2 as well as by mortgage of property owned by the district.

3 (e) To issue its bonds to finance, in whole or in  
4 part, the cost of construction, acquisition, or improvement of  
5 real and personal property of the district. The trustees, in  
6 determining such costs, may include all costs and estimated  
7 costs of the issuance of said bonds, all engineering,  
8 inspection, fiscal, and legal expenses, all costs of  
9 preliminary surveys, plans, maps, and specifications, initial  
10 reserve funds for debt service, the costs of the services of  
11 persons, firms, corporations, partnerships, or associations  
12 employed, or consultants, advisors, engineers, or fiscal,  
13 financial, or other experts hired in the planning,  
14 preparation, and financing of the district. The trustees are  
15 hereby authorized to employ and to enter into agreements or  
16 contracts with consultants, engineers, attorneys, and fiscal,  
17 financial, or other experts for the planning, preparation, and  
18 financing of the district, or any asset thereof, upon such  
19 terms and conditions as the trustees shall deem desirable and  
20 proper. The district may pledge to the punctual payment of  
21 bonds or revenue certificates issued pursuant to this act, and  
22 interest thereon, an amount of the revenue derived from the  
23 facilities and services of the district, including  
24 acquisitions, extensions, and improvements thereof sufficient  
25 to pay said bonds and the interest thereon as the same shall  
26 become due and to create and maintain reasonable reserves  
27 therefor.

28 (f) To buy, sell, rent, or lease real and personal  
29 property in the name of the district; to deliver purchase  
30 money notes and mortgages or to assume the obligation of  
31 existing mortgages in connection with the acquisition of

1 property of the district; and to receive gifts of real or  
2 personal property.

3 (g) To promulgate reasonable rules and regulations  
4 governing the use of the facilities of the district.

5 (h) To use district funds in the administration and  
6 enforcement of the deed restrictions as filed in the Sarasota  
7 County public records for properties within the district.

8 (i) To regulate the use of roads within Holiday Park  
9 Park and Recreation District by adoption of the provisions of  
10 chapter 316, Florida Statutes, as currently enacted and  
11 subsequently amended.

12 (j) To contract with the City of North Port, Florida,  
13 for the enforcement of the provisions for the regulation of  
14 the use of roads within Holiday Park Park and Recreation  
15 District, as set forth in paragraph (i).

16 (k) To provide trash and garbage collection and cable  
17 television or other centralized television antenna signals and  
18 services for the benefit of all persons residing within the  
19 district; to own, operate, and maintain the necessary  
20 equipment and apparatus or to contract with others to provide  
21 such services; and to hold such franchises as may be necessary  
22 or desirable to provide such services.

23 Section 16. The construction, acquisition, or  
24 improvement of real or personal property of the district, or  
25 the refunding of any bonds or other obligations issued for  
26 such purposes, may be authorized under this act. Bonds may be  
27 authorized to be issued under this act to provide funds for  
28 such purposes by resolution or resolutions of the Board of  
29 Trustees, which may be adopted at the same meeting at which  
30 they were introduced and may be adopted by a majority of the  
31 members thereof, and shall take effect immediately upon

1 adoption and need not be published or posted. Said bonds shall  
 2 bear interest at a rate pursuant to section 215.84, Florida  
 3 Statutes, payable semiannually, may be in one or more series,  
 4 may bear such date or dates, may mature at such time or times  
 5 not exceeding 40 years from their respective dates, may be  
 6 made payable in such medium of payment, at such place, within  
 7 or without the state, may carry such registration privileges,  
 8 may be subject to such terms of redemption, with or without  
 9 premium, may be executed in such manner, may contain such  
 10 terms, covenants, and conditions, and may be in such form,  
 11 either coupon or registered, as such resolution or subsequent  
 12 resolution may provide. Said bonds may be sold all at one time  
 13 or in blocks from time to time, at public or private sale, or  
 14 if refunding bonds, may also be delivered and exchanged for  
 15 the outstanding obligations to be refunded thereby, in such  
 16 manner as the Board of Trustees shall determine by resolution,  
 17 and at such price or prices computed according to standard  
 18 tables of bond value as will yield to the purchasers or the  
 19 holders of the obligations surrendered in exchange in the case  
 20 of refunding bonds, income at a rate pursuant to section  
 21 215.84, Florida Statutes, to the maturity dates of the several  
 22 bonds so sold or exchanged on the money paid or the principal  
 23 amount of obligations surrendered therefor to the district.  
 24 Pending the preparation of the definitive bonds, interim  
 25 certificates or receipts or temporary bonds in such form and  
 26 with such provisions as the Board of Trustees may determine  
 27 may be issued to the purchaser or purchasers of the bonds sold  
 28 pursuant to this act. Said bonds, and such interim  
 29 certificates or receipts or temporary bonds, shall be fully  
 30 negotiable.

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1           Section 17. A record shall be kept of all meetings of  
2 the Board of Trustees and in such meetings a concurrence of a  
3 majority of said trustees shall be necessary to any  
4 affirmative action taken by the board. Said Board of Trustees  
5 may adopt such rules and regulations, not inconsistent with  
6 any portion of this act, as it may deem necessary or  
7 convenient in and about the transaction of its business and in  
8 carrying out the provisions of this act.

9           Section 18. For the general purposes of this act, each  
10 parcel of property in said district is hereby declared to be  
11 uniformly and generally benefitted by the provisions hereof.

12           Section 19. The district hereby created may be  
13 abolished by a majority vote of the registered voters residing  
14 in the district at an election called by the Board of Trustees  
15 of the district for such purpose, which election shall be held  
16 and notice thereof given under the same requirements as are  
17 set forth hereunder for the election of trustees and the  
18 levying and collecting of the district tax, provided that the  
19 district shall not be abolished while it has outstanding  
20 indebtedness without first making adequate provision for the  
21 liquidation of such outstanding indebtedness.

22           Section 20. Trustees not guilty of malfeasance in  
23 office shall be relieved of any personal liability for any  
24 acts done by them while holding office in the district. Any  
25 trustee who is made a party to any action, suit, or proceeding  
26 solely by reason of holding office in the district shall be  
27 indemnified by the district against reasonable expenses,  
28 including attorneys' fees incurred by said trustee in  
29 defending such suit, action, or proceeding, except with  
30 respect to matters wherein it shall be adjudged in such

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1 proceeding that such trustee is liable for negligence or  
2 misconduct in the performance of the trustee's duties.

3 Section 21. The word "district" shall mean the  
4 political subdivision of the State of Florida and special park  
5 and recreation district hereby organized. The words "board,"  
6 "trustees," and "Board of Trustees" shall mean the Board of  
7 Trustees of and for the special park and recreation district  
8 hereby created when used in this act, unless otherwise  
9 specified.

10 Section 22. Notwithstanding any provisions to the  
11 contrary, as may now appear in sections 8, 13, or 15, the  
12 trustees of Holiday Park Park and Recreation District shall  
13 not enter into any future contracts involving the purchase,  
14 lease, conveyance, or other manner of acquisition of real or  
15 tangible personal property in any instance when the cost,  
16 price, or consideration therefor exceeds \$40,000, including  
17 all obligations, proposed to be assumed in connection with  
18 such acquisition, unless:

19 (a) Such acquisition relates to the repair or  
20 replacement of assets previously owned by the district; or

21 (b)(1) The trustees by two-thirds vote have approved  
22 the terms and conditions of such acquisition by written  
23 resolution;

24 (2) Within not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days  
25 of the date of the resolution, the trustees certify the  
26 resolution to the Supervisor of Elections of Sarasota County  
27 for a referendum election; and

28 (3) The registered voters residing in the district  
29 approve the resolution by a majority vote of said voters in a  
30 referendum election in which the qualifications of voters,  
31 notice, and procedure shall be the same as set forth herein

1 for the election of trustees and for special referendum  
2 elections.

3 Section 23. If any clause, section, or provision of  
4 this act shall be declared to be unconstitutional or invalid  
5 for any cause or reason, the same shall be eliminated from  
6 this act, and the remaining portion of said act shall be in  
7 force and effect and be as valid as if such invalid portion  
8 thereof had not been incorporated therein.

9 Section 24. All laws or parts of laws in conflict  
10 herewith are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.

11 Section 25. The provisions of this act shall be  
12 liberally construed in order to effectively carry out the  
13 purposes of this act in the interest of the public.

14 Section 4. Chapters 81-441, 82-380, and 87-445, Laws  
15 of Florida, are repealed.

16 Section 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
17 law.