

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Palm Beach, Hendry, and
3 Glades Counties; providing for codification of
4 special laws relating to the Everglades
5 Agricultural Area Environmental Protection
6 District, a special tax district in Palm Beach,
7 Hendry, and Glades Counties; providing
8 legislative intent; amending, codifying,
9 reenacting, and repealing chapters 89-423 and
10 90-423, Laws of Florida, relating to the
11 Everglades Agricultural Area Environmental
12 District; re-creating and reenacting the
13 district's charter; providing district status
14 and boundaries; providing for applicability of
15 chapters 373 and 403, Florida Statutes, and
16 other general laws; providing for ratification
17 of prior acts; providing for liberal
18 construction; providing a saving clause in the
19 event any provision of the act is deemed
20 invalid; providing an effective date.

21
22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

23
24 Section 1. Intent.--Pursuant to section 189.429,
25 Florida Statutes, this act constitutes the codification of all
26 special acts relating to the Everglades Agricultural Area
27 Environmental Protection District. It is the intent of the
28 Legislature in enacting this law to provide a single,
29 comprehensive special act charter for the district, including
30 all current legislative authority granted to the district by
31

1 its several legislative enactments and any additional
2 authority granted by this act.

3 Section 2. Chapters 89-423 and 90-423, Laws of
4 Florida, relating to the Everglades Agricultural Area
5 Environmental Protection District, are codified, reenacted,
6 amended, and repealed as provided herein.

7 Section 3. The Everglades Agricultural Area
8 Environmental Protection District is re-created and the
9 charter for the district is re-created and reenacted to read:

10 Section 1. Status and boundaries of Everglades
11 Agricultural Area Environmental Protection District.--The
12 Everglades Agricultural Area Environmental Protection District
13 is hereby declared to be an independent special district and
14 political subdivision of the State of Florida. The district is
15 created and established for purposes of ensuring environmental
16 protection by means of conducting scientific research on
17 environmental matters related to air, water, and land
18 management practices and implementing the financing,
19 construction, and operation of works and facilities designed
20 to prevent, control, abate, or correct environmental problems
21 and improve the environmental quality of air and water
22 resources. All district activities shall be conducted to
23 protect, restore, and enhance air and water quality and the
24 natural resources of the state and shall be consistent with
25 chapters 373 and 403, Florida Statutes, including rules and
26 Surface Water Improvement Management Plans adopted thereunder.
27 The lands lying within the area described as follows in Palm
28 Beach, Hendry, and Glades Counties, Florida, shall hereby
29 constitute the Everglades Agricultural Area Environmental
30 Protection District:

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1 BEGINNING at a point in Section 10, Township 41
2 South, Range 37 East, Palm Beach County,
3 Florida, where the Easterly right-of-way line
4 of the Herbert Hoover Dike Levee of Lake
5 Okeechobee intersects with the Southerly
6 right-of-way line of Levee L-8 of the formerly
7 Central and Southern Florida Flood Control
8 District, now known as the South Florida Water
9 Management District and hereinafter referred to
10 as SFWMD;
11
12 thence Easterly along said Southerly
13 right-of-way line of Levee L-8 to a point near
14 the West line of Section 12 of said Township 41
15 South, Range 37 East, where the said
16 right-of-way line turns North;
17
18 thence Northerly along the Easterly
19 right-of-way line of said Levee L-8 to a point
20 near the Northwest corner of said Section 12,
21 where said right-of-way line turns East;
22
23 thence Easterly along the Southerly
24 right-of-way line of said Levee L-8 to a point
25 near the Northeast corner of Section 7,
26 Township 41 South, Range 38 East where said
27 right-of-way line turns Southeasterly;
28
29 thence continue Southeasterly along the
30 Southwesterly right-of-way line of said Levee
31 L-8 to a point near the Southeast corner of

1 Section 8, Township 43 South, Range 40 East
2 where said right-of-way line turns South;
3
4 thence continue Southerly along the Westerly
5 right-of-way line of said Levee L-8 to a point
6 of intersection with the Northerly right-of-way
7 line of State Road 80 in Section 32, Township
8 43 South, Range 40 East;
9
10 thence Westerly along the Northerly
11 right-of-way line of said State Road 80 to a
12 point in said Section 32 where the Northerly
13 right-of-way line of State Road 80 intersects
14 with the Northeasterly prolongation of the
15 Northwesterly right-of-way line of the SFWMD
16 Levee L-7;
17
18 thence Southwesterly along said Northwesterly
19 right-of-way line of said Levee L-7 and its
20 Northeasterly prolongation to a point near the
21 Northwest corner of Section 3, Township 45
22 South, Range 39 East, where said right-of-way
23 line turns South;
24
25 thence Southerly along the Westerly
26 right-of-way line of said Levee L-7 to a point
27 of intersection with the Northwesterly
28 right-of-way line of SFWMD Levee L-6 near the
29 East line of Section 4, Township 46 South,
30 Range 39 East;
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1 thence Southwesterly along the Northwesterly
2 right-of-way line of said Levee L-6 and its
3 Southwesterly extension to a point of
4 intersection with the Easterly termination of
5 the Northerly right-of-way line of SFWMD Levee
6 L-5 near the Southwest corner of Section 22,
7 Township 47 South, Range 38 East;

8
9 thence Westerly along the Northerly
10 right-of-way line of said Levee L-5 to a point
11 in Section 6, Township 48 South, Range 36 East
12 where the right-of-way of said Levee L-5
13 widens;

14
15 thence continue Westerly following said
16 Northerly right-of-way line of the widened
17 right-of-way of said Levee L-5 to a point of
18 intersection with the Easterly termination of
19 the Northerly right-of-way line of SFWMD Levee
20 L-4;

21
22 thence continue Westerly along the North line
23 of said Levee L-4 to the Southwest corner of
24 Section 6, Township 48 South, Range 35 East,
25 said section corner marking the Southwest
26 corner of the Palm Beach County limits; said
27 section corner also being the point of
28 intersection of the Northerly right-of-way line
29 of said Levee L-4 with the Northeasterly
30 right-of-way line of SFWMD Levee L-3;

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1 thence continue through Hendry County
2 Northwesterly along the Northeasterly
3 right-of-way line of said Levee L-3; following
4 Said right-of-way line, wherever it may change
5 to a point near the Southwest corner of Section
6 9, Township 47 South, Range 34 East where said
7 right-of-way line turns North;
8
9 thence continue Northerly along the Easterly
10 Right-of-way line of said Levee L-3, following
11 said right-of-way line wherever it may change
12 to a point of intersection with the Southern
13 terminus of the Easterly right-of-way line of
14 SFWMD Levee L-2 near the Southwest corner of
15 Section 16, Township 46 South, Range 34 East;
16
17 thence continue Northerly along the Easterly
18 right-of-way line of said Levee L-2 to a point
19 near the Northwest corner of Section 4,
20 Township 45 South, Range 34 East;
21
22 thence continue along the right-of-way line of
23 said Levee L-2 to a point of intersection with
24 the Easterly right-of-way line of SFWMD Levee
25 L-1;
26
27 thence continue Northerly along the Easterly
28 right-of-way line of said Levee L-1 to a point
29 near the Northwest corner of Section 16,
30 Township 44 South, Range 34 East; where said
31 right-of-way line turns West;

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thence continue Westerly along the Northerly right-of-way line of said Levee L-1 to a point near the Southwest corner of Section 12, Township 44 South, Range 33 East; where said right-of-way line turns North;

thence continue Northerly along the Easterly right-of-way line of said Levee L-1 to a point near the Northwest corner of Section 12, Township 44 South, Range 33 East, where said right-of-way line turns West;

thence Westerly along the Northerly right-of-way line of said Levee L-1 to a point in the West line of Section 1, Township 44 South, Range 33 East;

thence Northerly along the West line of said Section 1, and along the West line of Sections 36, 25, 24, 13 and 12 of Township 43 South, Range 33 East to a point of intersection with the Northerly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway No.27;

thence Westerly along the Northerly right-of-way line of said U.S. Highway No. 27 to a point in the West line of Section 10, Township 43 South, Range 33 East;

1 thence Northerly along the West line of said
2 Section 10 to the Northwest corner of said
3 Section 10;
4

5 thence Northerly along the Northerly
6 prolongation of the West line of said Section
7 10 a distance of 1100 feet more or less to a
8 point on the Northwest bank of the presently
9 existing nine mile canal in Section 31,
10 Township 42 South, Range 33 East, in Glades
11 County;
12

13 thence Westerly, following the North bank of
14 the said nine mile canal to a point of
15 intersection with the North-South one-quarter
16 Line of Section 31 of said Township 42 South,
17 Range 33 East;
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19 thence Northerly along the North-South
20 one-quarter Section Line of said Section 31 and
21 the North-South one-quarter Section Lines of
22 Sections 30, 19 and 18 of said Township 42
23 South, Range 33 East to a point of intersection
24 with the Southerly right-of-way line of
25 aforementioned Herbert Hoover Dike Levee of
26 Lake Okeechobee;
27

28 thence Southeasterly, Easterly and
29 Northeasterly along said right-of-way line of
30 the Herbert Hoover Dike Levee through Glades
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1 County, Hendry County and Palm Beach County to
2 the POINT OF BEGINNING.

3
4 LESS, the following described parcel: All that
5 portion of Sections 4 and 9 of Township 45
6 South, Range 34 East, Hendry County, Florida,
7 lying East of the Easterly Right of Way Line of
8 Levees L-1 and L-2 of the former Central and
9 Southern Florida Flood Control District.

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11 This boundary is intended to define the general
12 area of the district and does not imply any
13 legislative intent with regard to future land
14 or water management decisions affecting state
15 lands that fall within the boundaries of this
16 district.

17 Section 2. Definitions.--As used in this act, the
18 term:

19 (1) "Assessable improvements" means, without
20 limitations, any and all public improvements that the district
21 is empowered to provide in accordance with this act.

22 (2) "Board" or "board of supervisors" means the
23 governing board of the district.

24 (3) "Cost," when used with reference to any project,
25 includes, but is not limited to:

26 (a) The expenses of determining the feasibility or
27 practicability of acquisition, construction, or
28 reconstruction.

29 (b) The cost of research, surveys, estimates, plans,
30 and specifications.

31 (c) The cost of improvements.

1 (d) Scientific engineering, planning, and fiscal and
2 legal expenses and charges.

3 (e) The cost of all labor, materials, machinery, and
4 equipment.

5 (f) The cost of all lands, properties, rights,
6 easements, and franchises acquired.

7 (g) Financing charges.

8 (h) Working capital.

9 (i) Interest charges incurred or estimated to be
10 incurred on money borrowed prior to and during construction
11 and acquisition and for such reasonable period of time after
12 completion of construction or acquisition as the board may
13 determine.

14 (j) Administrative expenses.

15 (k) Such other expenses as may be necessary or
16 incidental to any project of the district.

17 (4) "Landowner" means the owner of a freehold estate
18 or lessee of land, title to which is held by the State of
19 Florida as appears by the deed record or lease instrument,
20 including a trustee or a private corporation, which freehold
21 or lease is classified by the property appraiser pursuant to
22 section 193.461, Florida Statutes, as agricultural land.

23 (5) "Project" means any research or planning project,
24 development, improvement, property, utility, facility, works,
25 enterprise, or service undertaken or established under the
26 provisions of this act.

27 Section 3. Board of supervisors; membership;
28 meetings.--

29 (1) The board of supervisors of the district shall
30 exercise the powers granted to the district pursuant to this
31 act. The board shall consist of five voting members and an ex

1 officio, nonvoting member. The ex officio, nonvoting member
2 shall be the executive director of the South Florida Water
3 Management District or his or her designee. Each board member
4 other than the executive director of the South Florida Water
5 Management District shall hold office for a term of 4 years
6 and until his or her successor is chosen and qualifies. The
7 members of the board shall be residents of the state and
8 citizens of the United States.

9 (2) Notice of the landowners' meeting shall be
10 published once a week for 2 consecutive weeks in a newspaper
11 which is in general circulation in the area of the district,
12 the last day of such publication to be not fewer than 14 days
13 or more than 28 days before the date of the election. The
14 landowners, when assembled at such meeting, shall organize by
15 electing a chair who shall conduct the meeting. At such
16 meeting, each landowner shall be entitled to cast one vote per
17 acre of land owned by him or her and currently classified by
18 the property appraiser pursuant to section 193.461, Florida
19 Statutes, as agricultural land located within the district for
20 each supervisor to be elected. A landowner may vote in person
21 or by proxy in writing. A fraction of an acre shall be treated
22 as 1 acre, entitling the landowner to one vote.

23 (3) Notice and conduct of the meeting shall be as
24 prescribed by subsection (2). The annual landowners' meeting
25 to elect Supervisors shall be held in July.

26 (4) Members of the board shall be known as supervisors
27 and, upon entering into office, shall take and subscribe to
28 the oath of office as prescribed by law. They shall hold
29 office for the terms for which they were elected or appointed
30 and until their successors are chosen and qualified. If,
31 during the term of office of an elected board member, a

1 vacancy occurs, the remaining members of the board shall fill
2 the vacancy by an appointment for the remainder of the
3 unexpired term.

4 (5) A majority of the voting members of the board
5 constitutes a quorum for the purposes of conducting its
6 business and exercising its powers and for all other purposes.
7 Action taken by the district shall be upon a vote of a
8 majority of the members present unless general law or a rule
9 of the district requires a greater number.

10 (6) As soon as practicable after each election or
11 appointment, the board shall organize by electing one of its
12 members as chair and by electing a secretary, who need not be
13 a member of the board, and such other officers as the board
14 may deem necessary.

15 (7) The board shall keep a permanent record book
16 entitled "Record of Proceedings of the Everglades Agricultural
17 Area Environmental Protection District," in which shall be
18 recorded minutes of all meetings, resolutions, proceedings,
19 certificates, bonds given by all employees, and any and all
20 corporate acts. The record book shall at reasonable times be
21 open to inspection in the same manner as state, county, and
22 municipal records pursuant to chapter 119, Florida Statutes.
23 The record book shall be kept at the office or other regular
24 place of business maintained by the board.

25 (8) Each supervisor shall be entitled to receive for
26 his or her services an amount not to exceed \$100 per day for
27 each day spent on district duties. In addition, each
28 supervisor shall receive travel and per diem expenses as set
29 forth in section 112.061, Florida Statutes.

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1 (9) All meetings of the board shall be open to the
2 public and governed by the provisions of chapter 286, Florida
3 Statutes.

4 Section 4. Board of supervisors; general duties;
5 district manager.--

6 (1) The board may employ and fix the compensation of a
7 district manager. The district manager may have charge and
8 supervision of district programs and facilities and be
9 responsible for implementation of any district projects or
10 programs and the operation and maintenance of any improvement
11 or facility constructed or erected pursuant to the provisions
12 of this act, for maintaining and operating the equipment owned
13 by the district, and for performing such other duties as may
14 be prescribed by the board. It shall not be a conflict of
15 interest under chapter 112, Florida Statutes, for a board
16 member, the district manager, or another employee of the
17 district to be a stockholder, officer, or employee of a
18 landowner. The district manager may hire or otherwise employ
19 and terminate the employment of such other persons, including,
20 without limitation, professional, supervisory, and clerical
21 employees, as may be necessary and authorized by the board.
22 The compensation and other conditions of employment of the
23 officers and employees of the district shall be as provided by
24 the board.

25 (2) The board is authorized to select as a depository
26 for its funds any qualified public depository as defined in
27 section 280.02, Florida Statutes, which meets all the
28 requirements of chapter 280, Florida Statutes, upon such terms
29 and conditions as to the payment of interest by such
30 depository upon the funds so deposited as the board may deem
31 just and reasonable.

1 Section 5. Budget; reports and reviews.--

2 (1) The district shall provide financial reports in
3 such form and manner as prescribed pursuant to this act and
4 chapter 218, Florida Statutes.

5 (2) On or before each June 1, the district manager
6 shall prepare a proposed budget for the ensuing fiscal year to
7 be submitted to the board for board approval. The proposed
8 budget shall include at the direction of the board an estimate
9 of all necessary expenditures of the district for the ensuing
10 fiscal year and an estimate of income to the district from
11 assessments provided in this act. The board shall consider the
12 proposed budget item by item and may either approve the budget
13 as proposed by the district manager or modify the same in part
14 or in whole. The board shall indicate its approval of the
15 budget by resolution, which resolution shall provide for a
16 hearing on the budget as approved. Notice of the hearing on
17 the budget shall be published in a newspaper of general
18 circulation in the area of the district once a week for 2
19 consecutive weeks, except that the first publication shall be
20 not fewer than 15 days prior to the date of the hearing. The
21 notice shall further contain a designation of the day, time,
22 and place of the public hearing. At the time and place
23 designated in the notice, the board shall hear all objections
24 to the budget as proposed and may make such changes as the
25 board deems necessary. At the conclusion of the budget
26 hearing, the board shall, by resolution, adopt the budget as
27 finally approved by the board. The budget shall be adopted
28 prior to August 1 of each year.

29 Section 6. General powers.--The district shall have,
30 and the board may exercise, the following powers, provided
31 such powers are exercised for the purpose specified herein:

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; to acquire, by purchase, gift, devise, or otherwise,
4 real and personal property, or any estate therein; and to make
5 and execute contracts and other instruments necessary or
6 convenient to the exercise of its powers.

7 (2) To apply for coverage of its employees under the
8 state retirement system in the same manner as if such
9 employees were state employees, subject to necessary action by
10 the district to pay employer contributions into the state
11 retirement fund.

12 (3) To contract for the services of consultants to
13 perform scientific, planning, engineering, legal, or other
14 appropriate services of a professional nature. Such contracts
15 shall be subject to the requirements of state law relating to
16 public bidding.

17 (4) To borrow money for periods of up to 1 year and
18 accept gifts; to apply for and use grants or loans of money or
19 other property from the United States, the state, a unit of
20 local government, or any person for any district purposes and
21 enter into agreements required in connection therewith; and to
22 hold, use, and dispose of such moneys or property for any
23 district purposes in accordance with the terms of the gift,
24 grant, loan, or agreement relating thereto.

25 (5) To adopt bylaws, rules, resolutions, and orders
26 pursuant to the provisions of chapter 120, Florida Statutes,
27 prescribing the powers, duties, and functions of the officers
28 of the district; the conduct of the business of the district;
29 the maintenance of records; and the form of certificates
30 evidencing tax liens and all other documents and records of
31 the district. The board may adopt administrative rules and

1 regulations with respect to any of the projects of the
2 district and may define the area to be included therein on
3 such notice as is required for elections and public hearings.

4 (6) To maintain an office at such place or places as
5 it may designate within a county in which the district is
6 located, which office must be reasonably accessible to the
7 landowners.

8 (7) To hold, control, and acquire by donation or
9 purchase any public easements, dedications to public use,
10 platted reservations for public purposes, or any reservations
11 for those purposes authorized by this act and to make use of
12 such easements, dedications, or reservations for any of the
13 purposes authorized by this act.

14 (8) To lease as lessor or lessee to or from any
15 person, firm, corporation, association, or body, public or
16 private, any projects of the type that the district is
17 authorized to undertake and facilities or property of any
18 nature for the use of the district to carry out any of the
19 purposes authorized by this act.

20 (9) To borrow money and issue certificates, warrants,
21 notices, or other evidence of indebtedness as hereinafter
22 provided, and to levy such special assessments as may be
23 authorized.

24 (10) To cooperate or contract with other governmental
25 agencies within or outside the boundaries of the district, as
26 may be necessary, convenient, incidental, or proper in
27 connection with any of the powers, duties, or purposes
28 authorized by this act.

29 (11) To assess and impose upon lands in the district,
30 not otherwise exempt as defined herein, special assessments as
31 provided by this act.

1 (12) To exercise all of the powers necessary,
2 convenient, incidental, or proper in connection with any of
3 the powers, duties, or purposes authorized by this act.

4 (13) To develop and implement environmental protection
5 programs or plans, including cooperative scientific research
6 with public and private bodies, the construction or operation
7 of facilities and works, and the award of grants-in-aid to
8 other public or private bodies for the purpose of maintaining
9 and improving air and water resource quality.

10 (14) To appoint, in its discretion, an advisory
11 council to assist the board in the development of
12 environmental protection programs consistent with the
13 requirements of chapters 373 and 403, Florida Statutes. The
14 advisory council shall consist of a scientific or technical
15 representative from the South Florida Water Management
16 District, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Fish
17 and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Institute for Food
18 and Agricultural Sciences, the Department of Agriculture and
19 Consumer Services, and the agricultural industry, and such
20 other members as the board may determine.

21 (15) At any time, and from time to time after the
22 issuance of any bonds of the district have been authorized, to
23 borrow money for the purposes for which such bonds are to be
24 issued in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of the
25 sale of such bonds and to issue bond anticipation notes in a
26 principal sum not in excess of the authorized maximum amount
27 of such bond issue.

28 (16) To issue revenue bonds from time to time without
29 limitation as to amount for the purpose of financing those
30 systems and facilities provided for herein. Such revenue bonds
31 may be secured by, or payable from, the gross or net pledge of

1 the revenues to be derived from any project or combination of
 2 projects; from the rates, fees, or other charges to be
 3 collected from the users of any project or projects; from any
 4 revenue-producing undertaking or activity of the district;
 5 from special assessments; or from any other source or pledged
 6 security. Such bonds shall not constitute an indebtedness of
 7 the district. The district shall be authorized to issue bonds
 8 only upon approval by landowners' referendum. A meeting of the
 9 landowners shall be held for the purpose of conducting a
 10 landowners' referendum on the question of whether the district
 11 should be authorized to issue bonds. Notice, voting, and
 12 conduct of the meeting shall be as prescribed by of section
 13 3(2).

14 (a) Any issue of bonds may be secured by a trust
 15 agreement by and between the district and a corporate trustee
 16 or trustees, which may be any trust company or bank having the
 17 powers of a trust company within or without the state. The
 18 resolution authorizing the issuance of the bonds or such trust
 19 agreement may pledge the revenues to be received from any
 20 projects of the district and may contain such provisions for
 21 protecting and enforcing the rights and remedies of the
 22 bondholders as the board may approve, including, without
 23 limitation, covenants setting forth the duties of the district
 24 in relation to: the acquisition, construction, reconstruction,
 25 improvement, maintenance, repair, operation, and insurance of
 26 any projects; the fixing and revising of the rates, fees, and
 27 charges; and the custody, safeguarding, and application of all
 28 moneys and for the employment of consulting engineers in
 29 connection with such acquisition, construction,
 30 reconstruction, improvement, maintenance, repair, or
 31 operation.

1 (b) Bonds of each issue shall be dated; shall bear
2 interest at such rate or rates, not to exceed the maximum rate
3 allowed by law, including variable rates, which interest may
4 be tax exempt or taxable for federal income tax purposes;
5 shall mature at such time or times from their date or dates;
6 and may be made redeemable before maturity at such price or
7 prices and under such terms and conditions as may be
8 determined by the board.

9 (17) To issue bonds for the purpose of refunding any
10 outstanding bonds of the district.

11 Section 7. Special assessments; exemptions.--

12 (1) The district board shall have the power to levy
13 and assess a special assessment upon each and every assessable
14 acre or fraction thereof, up to \$10 per acre, for the purposes
15 of management and administration of the district, development,
16 and implementation of the environmental protection plan, and
17 to fund the construction, operation, and maintenance of
18 assessable improvements. The benefit of implementation of said
19 plan and other costs cited herein shall be deemed to exceed
20 the damages of the special assessment authorized against all
21 assessable land within the district.

22 (2) Annual special assessments levied pursuant to this
23 act shall become due and be collected each year at the same
24 time that county taxes are due and collected, and said annual
25 assessment and levy shall be evidenced and certified by the
26 board of supervisors not later than September 15 of each year
27 to the tax collectors of counties in which lands of the
28 district are situated. The district shall be exempt from all
29 provisions of section 197.3632(3)(a), Florida Statutes, and
30 the first-class United States mail provisions of section
31 197.3632(4)(b), Florida Statutes, and shall levy, assess,

1 certify, and collect special assessments with the assistance
2 of the county tax collectors as provided pursuant to all other
3 applicable provisions of section 197.3632, Florida Statutes.

4 (3) All assessments provided for in this act, together
5 with all penalties for default and payment of the same and all
6 costs in collecting the same, shall, from the date of
7 assessment thereof until paid, constitute a lien of equal
8 dignity with the liens for county taxes, and other taxes of
9 equal dignity with the county taxes, upon all the lands
10 against which such assessments shall be levied as is provided
11 in this act.

12 (4) All lands within the district classified by the
13 property appraisers of Palm Beach, Hendry, or Glades Counties
14 as agricultural pursuant to section 193.461, Florida Statutes,
15 shall be liable for the assessments levied by the district for
16 so long as said lands remain classified as agricultural. All
17 lands within the district classified by the property
18 appraisers for uses other than agricultural shall be exempt
19 from district assessments so long as said lands are not
20 classified as agricultural pursuant to section 193.461,
21 Florida Statutes.

22 Section 8. Short-term borrowing.--The district at any
23 time may obtain loans, in such amount and on such terms and
24 conditions as the district board may approve, for the purpose
25 of paying any of the expenses of the district or any costs
26 incurred or that may be incurred in connection with any of the
27 projects of the district, which loans shall bear such interest
28 as the district board may determine in compliance with general
29 law, and may be payable from and secured by a pledge of such
30 funds, revenues, and assessments as the district board may
31 determine. The district shall not obtain loans for periods in

1 excess of 1 year. The district may issue negotiable notes,
 2 warrants, or other evidence of debt to be payable at such
 3 times, to bear such interest as the district board may
 4 determine in compliance with general law, and to be sold or
 5 discounted at such price or prices not less than 95 percent of
 6 par value and on such terms as the district board may deem
 7 advisable. The district board shall have the right to provide
 8 for the payment thereof by pledging the whole or any part of
 9 the funds, revenues, and assessments of the district. The
 10 approval of the electors residing in the district shall not be
 11 necessary except when required by the State Constitution.

12 Section 9. Ratification of prior acts.--All acts and
 13 proceedings of the circuit court taken by, for, and on behalf
 14 of the district since the creation thereof, and all of the
 15 acts and proceedings of the board of supervisors, the
 16 commissioners, and all other officers and agents of the
 17 district, and of the county, acting for and on behalf of the
 18 district, and any and all tax levies and assessments which
 19 have been made by the board of supervisors for and on behalf
 20 of the district, are each and every one of them, and each and
 21 every part thereof, hereby ratified, validated, and confirmed.

22 Section 10. Liberal construction.--It is intended that
 23 the provisions of this act shall be liberally construed for
 24 accomplishing the work authorized and provided for or intended
 25 to be provided for by this act, and where strict construction
 26 would permit or assist in the accomplishment of any part of
 27 the work authorized by this act, the liberal construction
 28 shall be chosen.

29 Section 4. In the event any section or provision of
 30 this act is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, such
 31 determination shall not affect the validity of or

1 enforceability of each other section and provision of this
2 act.

3 Section 5. In the event of a conflict of the
4 provisions of this act with the provisions of any other act
5 the provisions of this act shall control to the extent of such
6 conflict.

7 Section 6. Chapters 89-423 and 90-423, Laws of
8 Florida, are repealed.

9 Section 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
10 law.

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