

HB 1561 2003 **CS**

CHAMBER ACTION

The Committee on Local Government & Veterans' Affairs recommends the following:

Committee Substitute

Remove the entire bill and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the North Lauderdale Water Control District, Broward County; codifying, amending, reenacting, and repealing the district's special acts; providing that the district may borrow money at a rate not exceeding that which is provided by law; providing for the members of the board of supervisors to be known as the city commission of the City of North Lauderdale; amending the meeting notice requirements and clarifying that meetings be held at a public place; providing that the interest rates on tax anticipation notes issued by the board shall not exceed the maximum rate allowed by law; providing for the use of non-ad valorem assessments; providing for severability; repealing chapters 63-661, 82-273, 85-385, 94-428, and 97-370, Laws of Florida providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Pursuant to section 189.429, Florida Statutes, this act constitutes a codification of all special acts relating to the dependent special district known as the North Lauderdale Water Control District. It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this law to provide a single, comprehensive special act charter for the district, including all current legislative authority granted to the district by its several legislative enactments and any additional authority granted by this act.

Section 2. Chapters 63-661, 82-273, 85-385, 94-428, and 97-370, Laws of Florida, are codified, reenacted, amended, and repealed as provided herein.

Section 3. The charter for the North Lauderdale Water Control District is re-created and reenacted to read:

Section 1. DISTRICT CREATED AND BOUNDARIES THEREOF.--That for the purpose of reclaiming, draining, and conserving the lands hereinafter described, and protecting said lands from the effects of water by means of the construction and maintenance of canals, ditches, levees, dikes, pumping plants, and other drainage works and improvements, and for the purpose of making the lands within said district available and habitable for settlement and agriculture and for the public convenience, welfare, utility, and benefit, and for the other purposes stated in the act, a Drainage District is hereby established in Broward County, to be known as North Lauderdale Water Control District, a drainage district, the territorial boundaries of which are to-wit:

Commencing at the Southeast corner of Section One (1),

Township 49 South, Range 41 East; thence Westerly along

a course S 89°57′49″W a distance of 5,281.80 feet to a



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point; thence Westerly along a course S 89°59'17"W a distance of 5,274.63 feet to a point; thence Southerly along a course S 01°02′05″E a distance of 5,282.97 feet to a point; thence Westerly along a course S 89°56′50″W a distance of 5,278.94 feet to a point; thence Westerly along a course S 89°58'54"W a distance of 5,280.40 feet to a point; thence Northly along a course N 01°02'22"W a distance of 5,278.38 feet to a concrete monument set in ground; thence Northly along a course N 1°11'21"W a distance of 7,678.68 feet to a point; thence Easterly along South Right-of-way Line of Pompano Canal a distance of 11,650 plus or minus feet to a point; thence Southerly along a course S 0°44'12"E a distance of 596.88 feet to a concrete monument set in ground; thence Easterly along a course S 89°44'25"E a distance of 1,543.24 feet to a point; thence Southerly along a course S 1°14′52″E a distance of 2,640.11 feet to a point; thence Easterly along a course S 89°45'09"E a distance of 1,319.15 feet to a point; thence Northly along a course N 1°15'11"W a distance of 2,639.83 feet to a point; thence Easterly along a course S 89°44'25"E a distance of 1,318.92 feet to a concrete monument set in ground; thence Southerly along a course S 1°15'29"E a distance of 2,275.74 feet to a point; thence Easterly along a course S 89°56'37"E a distance of 2,639 feet to a point; thence Southerly along a course S 1°16'53"E a distance of 660.12 feet to a point; thence Easterly along a course S 89°56'34"E a distance of 2,639.27 feet

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to a point; thence Southerly along a course S 1°18′17″E a distance of 1,831.83 feet to a point; thence Westerly along a course S 89°57′49″W a distance of 333.08 feet to a point; thence Northly along a course N 1°18′17″W a distance of 842.26 feet to a point; thence Westerly along a course N 89°56′31″W a distance of 1,545.98 feet to a point; thence Southerly along a course S 0°02′11″E a distance of 844.47 feet to a point; thence Easterly along a course N 89°57′49″E a distance of 1,897.70 feet to a point; thence Southerly along a course S 1°18′17″E a distance of 2,415.59 feet to a point or place of beginning.

AND ALSO

All that part of the Northwest One-quarter (NW 1/4) of Tract Four (4) of FORT LAUDERDALE TRUCK FARMS

SUBDIVISION of Section Eleven (11), Township 49 South, Range 41 East, according to the Plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book 4, at Page 31, of the Public Records of Broward County, Florida, less Rights-of-way of record and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Section

Eleven (11), Township 49 South, Range 41 East; thence

along a course S 89°02'17" E, along the North Line of

said Section 11, a distance of 25.0 feet; thence along a

course S 0°03'16"E, parallel with and 25.0 feet East of,



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as measured at right angles, to the west Line of Section 11, a distance of 53.01 feet to the Point of Beginning of this Description; thence continuing along a course of S 0°03'16"E, a distance of 616.15 feet; thence along a course of S 89°03′25″E, a distance of 645.64 feet; thence along a course of N 0°05'16"W, a distance of 615.94 feet to an intersection with the South Right-ofway Line of McNab Road; thence along a course of N 89°02'17"W, parallel with and 53.0 feet South of, as measured at right angles, to the North Line of Section 11 a distance of 645.29 feet to the Point of Beginning. All of the above aforementioned property located in Townships 48 and 49 South, Range 41 East, Broward County, Florida. Less and except therefrom the following described property: The West 3020.54 feet of that part of Section 34, Township 48 South, Range 41 East, lying South of the Pompano Canal; all of Section 33, Township 48 South, Range 41 East lying South of the Pompano Canal; all of that Part of Section 32, Township 48 South, Range 41 East lying south of the Pompano Canal and East of the Northerly extension of the West boundary of Section 4, Township 49 South, Range 41 East; all of Section 4 and 9, Township 49 South, Range 41 East; Tracts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19 and 20 of FORT LAUDERDALE TRUCK FARMS SUBDIVISION of Section 3, Township 49 South, Range 41 East, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 4 at page 31 of the public records of Broward County, Florida;

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Tracts 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of aforesaid FORT LAUDERDALE TRUCK FARMS SUBDIVISION of Section 2, Township 49 south, range 41 East.

It is the intent of the above described legal description to include all of the above described properties located in townships 48 and 49 South, Range 41 East, Broward County, Florida, within the boundaries of the North Lauderdale Water Control District as established by the Legislature.

Section 2. PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 298, FLORIDA STATUTES, MADE APPLICABLE. -- A public corporation and a political subdivision of the state is hereby created under the name and style of "North Lauderdale Water Control District." The provisions of the General Drainage Laws of Florida applicable to Drainage Districts which are embodied in chapter 298, Florida Statutes, and all the laws amendatory thereof, now existing or hereinafter enacted so far as not inconsistent with this act, are hereby declared to be applicable to said North Lauderdale Water Control District. Said North Lauderdale Water Control District shall have all the powers and authorities mentioned in or conferred by said chapter 298, Florida Statutes, and acts amendatory thereof, except as herein otherwise provided.

Section 3. POWERS OF THE DISTRICT. -- Said District shall have the power to sue and be sued by its name in any court of law or in equity; to make contracts; to adopt and use a corporate seal and to alter the same at pleasure; to acquire by purchase, gift, or condemnation, real and personal property, either or both, within or without the District, and to convey and dispose of such real



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and personal property as may be necessary and convenient to carry out the purposes, or any of the purposes, of this act and chapter 298, Florida Statutes; to construct, operate, and maintain canals, ditches, drains, levees, dikes, and other works for drainage purposes; to acquire, purchase, operate, and maintain pumps, plants, and pumping systems for drainage purposes; to construct, operate, and maintain irrigation works, machinery, and plants; to construct, improve, pave, and maintain roadways and roads necessary and convenient for the exercise of the powers or duties or any of the powers or duties of said District or the Supervisors thereof; to pump water into and out of canals, ditches, drains, and other works of the District, or onto or from the lands in said District, and to regulate and control the flow of water into and out of said District; in maintaining and operating canals, drains, levees, dikes, dams, locks, reservoirs, pumping stations, and water control structures, the Board of Supervisors, its agents, and its employees, shall have the authority to enter at all reasonable times upon the lands adjacent to any such drainage works in order to transport and use men, equipment, machinery, and materials necessary to properly maintain, preserve, and operate such drainage works and in furtherance of the purposes and intent of this act and chapter 298, Florida Statutes, to construct, improve, and pave roadways and roads necessary and convenient to provide access to, and efficient development of, areas made suitable and available for cultivation, settlement, and other beneficial use and development as a result of the drainage and reclamation operations of the District; to borrow money and issue negotiable or other bonds of said District as hereinafter



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provided; to borrow money from time to time, and issue negotiable or other notes of said District therefor, bearing interest not exceeding the rate prescribed by general or special law, in anticipation of the collection of taxes, levies, and assessments or revenues of said District and to pledge or hypothecate such taxes, levies, assessments, and revenues to secure such bonds, notes, or obligations, and to sell, discount, negotiate, and dispose of the same; and to exercise all other powers necessary, convenient, or proper in connection with any of the powers or duties of said District stated in this act, or chapter 298, Florida Statutes. The powers and duties of said District shall be exercised by and through the Board of Supervisors thereof, which Board shall have the authority to employ engineers, attorneys, agents, employees, and representatives as the Board of Supervisors may from time to time determine, and to fix their compensation and duties.

Section 4. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; ORGANIZATION; POWERS,

DUTIES, AND TERMS OF OFFICE.--There is hereby created a Board of
Supervisors of the North Lauderdale Water Control District which
shall be the governing body of said District. The members of the
Board of Supervisors of said District shall be composed of five
members, who shall be the five sitting members of the City
Commission of the City of North Lauderdale. The City Commission
shall continue all of the duties, functions, and responsibilities
under this act of the supervisors of the district after this act
becomes law.

The term of office of each member of the board of supervisors shall be coincidental with that member's term of office as a

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member of the City Commission. The members shall assume full duties as a member of the board of supervisors once he or she takes the oath of office as a member of the City Commission.

- (1) Terms of office for the board of supervisors shall be concurrent with the length of time the Commission member is in office.
- (2) An annual meeting of the board of supervisors shall be held during the first week of June and otherwise in accordance with this act. At the annual meeting of the board of supervisors, the board shall elect, from its members, a Chair, and a Vice Chair, who shall serve in said positions until the next annual meeting or expiration of his or her term.

Section 5. MEETINGS OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. -- The Board of Supervisors shall have the power to call special meetings at any time to receive reports or consider and act upon any matter. Notice of all meetings shall be given by the Board of Supervisors by causing publication thereof to be made once at least 5 days prior to such meeting in some newspaper published in Broward County, or by sending sufficient notice through the mail to each landowner. In cases of emergency as determined by a majority of the Board, this notice requirement may be waived. The meetings shall be held in some public place, and the place, day, and hour of holding such meeting shall be stated in the notice. The Chair of the Board of Supervisors shall preside at such meeting. The City Clerk of the City of North Lauderdale shall serve as Secretary of the Board of Supervisors and shall be the Secretary at the meeting. The Board of Supervisors of the North Lauderdale Water Control District shall meet not less than 4 times per year

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to conduct the business of the District as provided for in this act.

Section 6. COMPENSATION OF THE BOARD.--Each Supervisor shall serve without compensation, except that they shall be reimbursed for their travel expenses pursuant to section 112.061, Florida Statutes, as may be amended from time to time, for each mile actually traveled in going to and from their place of residence to the place of meeting.

Section 7. TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS; LEVIED AND APPORTIONED;

AND THE COLLECTION THEREOF. -- Taxes and non-ad valorem assessments

shall be levied and apportioned as provided for by the General

Drainage Laws of Florida (chapter 298, Florida Statutes, and

amendments thereto) and the general or special laws of the state;

except that the following provisions shall apply to said District:

- (1) The Board of Supervisors shall determine, order, and levy the amount of the annual taxes or non-ad valorem assessments levied under chapter 298, Florida Statutes, which shall become due and be collected during each year at the same time that county taxes are due and collected, which said annual tax, assessment, and levy shall be evidenced to and certified by the said Board, not later than July 1 of each year, to the Tax Assessor of Broward County. Said tax or assessment shall be extended by the County Tax Assessor on the county tax roll and shall be collected by the Tax Collector in the same manner and time as county taxes, and the proceeds thereof paid to said District.
- (2) The Board of Supervisors may in its discretion determine it is in the best interest of the District that the annual tax or assessment levies be collected by the Treasurer of the District



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and in such event he or she shall collect the tax or assessment in the same manner as the Tax Collector, and said Treasurer of the District shall be substituted for and perform all the duties and actions of the Tax Collector and have all the powers that are by this act vested in the Tax Collector. Said tax or assessment shall be a lien until paid on the property on which assessed, and enforceable in like manner as county taxes.

Section 8. MAINTENANCE TAX. -- The provisions of section 298.54, Florida Statutes, and amendments thereto shall not be applicable to said District. In lieu thereof, the following provisions shall apply to said District. To maintain and preserve the improvements made pursuant to this act and to repair and restore the same, when needed, and for the purpose of defraying the current expenses of the District, the Board of Supervisors, may, upon completion of said improvements in whole or in part as may be certified to the said Board by the Chief Engineer, levy annually a tax upon each tract or parcel of land within the District, to be known as a maintenance tax. Said maintenance tax shall be apportioned upon the basis of the net non-ad valorem assessments of benefits assessed as accruing for original construction, and shall be evidenced to and certified by said Board not later than July 1 of each year to the Tax Assessor of Broward County, and shall be extended by the County Tax Assessor on the County Tax Roll and shall be collected by the County Tax Collector in the same manner and time as county taxes and the proceeds therefrom paid to the said District. Said tax shall be a lien until paid on the property upon which assessed, and enforceable in like manner as County Taxes.



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Section 9. LEVY OF TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS ON FRACTIONAL

ACRES.--In levying and assessing all taxes and assessments, each tract or parcel of land more than one acre in area which contains a fraction of an acre shall be assessed at the nearest whole number of acres. However, each tract or parcel of land less than one acre in area shall be assessed as a full acre.

Section 10. ENFORCEMENT OF TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS.--The collection and enforcement of all taxes and assessments levied by said District shall be at the same time and in like manner as the County. The provisions of the Florida Statutes relating to the sale of lands for unpaid and delinquent county taxes and assessments, the issuance, sale, and delivery of Tax Certificates for such unpaid and delinquent County Taxes, the redemption thereof, the issuance to individuals of tax deeds based thereon, and all other procedures in connection therewith, shall be applicable to said District and the delinquent and unpaid taxes and assessments of said District to the same extent as if said statutory provisions were expressly set forth in this act. All taxes and assessments shall be subject to the same discounts as County Taxes.

Section 11. WHEN UNPAID TAX OR ASSESSMENT IS DELINQUENT;
PENALTY. --All taxes provided for in this act shall be and become
delinquent and bear penalties in the amount of said taxes in the
same manner as county taxes. Assessments provided for in this act
and authorized in chapter 298, Florida Statutes, shall be and
become delinquent and bear penalties and interest at the highest
rate authorized by Florida general or special law, or as otherwise
provided in District legislation imposing the assessment.



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Section 12. BONDS MAY BE ISSUED; SALE AND DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS; INTEREST; LEVY TO PAY BONDS; BONDS AND DUTIES OF TREASURER; ETC.--

(1) The Board of Supervisors may, if in their judgment it seems best, issue bonds not to exceed 90 percent of the total amount of the taxes levied under the provisions of section 298.305, Florida Statutes, in denominations of not less than \$100, bearing interest from date at a rate as provided by general law, payable annually or semiannually, to mature at annual intervals within 40 years commencing after a period of not later than 10 years, to be determined by the Board of Supervisors; both principal and interest payable at some convenient place designated by the Board of Supervisors to be named in said bonds, which said bonds shall be signed by the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, attested with the seal of said District and by the signature of the Secretary of said Board. All of said bonds shall be executed and delivered to the Treasurer of said District, who shall sell the same in such quantities and at such dates as the Board of Supervisors may deem necessary to meet the payments for the works and improvements in the District. Said bonds shall not be sold for less than 90 cents on the dollar, with accrued interest, shall show on their face the purpose for which they are issued, and shall be payable out of money derived from the aforesaid taxes. A sufficient amount of the drainage tax shall be appropriated by the Board of Supervisors for the purpose of paying the principal and interest of said bonds, and the same shall, when collected, be preserved in a separate fund for that purpose and no other. All bonds and coupons not paid at maturity shall bear interest at the



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rate of 6 percent per annum from maturity until paid, or until sufficient funds have been deposited at the place of payment, and said interest shall be appropriated by the Board of Supervisors out of the penalties and interest collected on delinquent taxes or other available funds of the District. Provided, however, that it may, in the discretion of said Board, be provided that at any time, after such date as shall be fixed by the said Board, said bonds may be redeemed before maturity at the option of said Board, or their successors in office, by being made callable prior to maturity at such times and upon such prices and terms and other conditions as said Board shall determine. If any bond so issued subject to redemption before maturity shall not be presented when called for redemption, it shall cease to bear interest from and after the date so fixed for redemption.

authority to issue Refunding Bonds to take up any outstanding bonds and any interest accrued thereon, when in the judgment of said Board, it shall be for the best interest of said District to do so. The said Board is hereby authorized and empowered to issue Refunding Bonds to take up and refund all bonds of said District outstanding that are subject to call and prior redemption, and all interest accrued to the date of such call or prior redemption, and all bonds of said District that are not subject to call or redemption, together with all accrued interest thereon, where the surrender of said bonds can be procured from the holders thereof at prices satisfactory to the Board or can be exchanged for such outstanding bonds with the consent of the holder thereof. Such Refunding Bonds may be issued at any time when in the judgment of



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said Board it will be to the interest of the District financially or economically to secure a lower rate of interest on said bonds or by extending the time of maturity of said bonds, or for any other reason in the judgment of said Board advantageous to said District. Such Refunding Bonds may mature at any time or times in the discretion of said Board, not later, however, than forty years from the date of issuance of said Refunding Bonds. Said Refunding Bonds shall bear such dates of issue, and such other details as said Board shall determine and may in the discretion of said Board be made callable prior to maturity at such times and upon such prices and terms and other conditions as said Board shall determine. All the other applicable provisions of this act not inconsistent therewith shall apply fully to said Refunding Bonds and the holders thereof shall have all the rights, remedies, and security of the outstanding bonds refunded, except as may be provided otherwise in the resolution of the Board authorizing the issuance of such Refunding Bonds. Any funds available in the Sinking Fund for the payment of the principal and interest of outstanding bonds may be retained in the fund to be used for the payment of principal and interest of the refunding bonds, in the discretion of the Board of Supervisors. Any expenses incurred in buying any or all bonds authorized under the provisions of this section and the interest thereon and a reasonable compensation for paying same shall be paid out of the funds in the hands of the Treasurer and collected for the purpose of meeting the expenses of administration. It shall be the duty of the said Board of Supervisors in making the annual tax levy as heretofore provided to take into account the maturing bonds and interest on all bonds



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and expenses, and to make provision in advance for the payment of same.

In case the proceeds of the original tax levy made under the provisions of section 298.36, Florida Statutes, are not sufficient to pay the principal and interest of all bonds issued, then the Board of Supervisors shall make such additional levy or levies upon the benefits assessed as are necessary for this purpose, and under no circumstances shall any tax levies be made that will in any manner or to any extent impair the security of said bonds or the fund available for the payment of the principal and interest of same. Said Treasurer shall at the time of the receipt by him or her of said bonds, execute and deliver to the Chair of the Board of said District a bond with good and sufficient surety to be approved by said Board, conditioned that he or she shall account for and pay over as required by law and as ordered by said Board of Supervisors, any and all moneys received by him or her on the sale of such bonds, or any of them, and that he or she will only sell and deliver such bonds to the purchaser or purchasers thereof under and according to the terms herein prescribed, and that he or she will return to the Board of Supervisors and duly cancel any and all bonds not sold when ordered by said Board to do so. Said bonds when so returned shall remain in the custody of the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, who shall produce the same for inspection or for use as evidence whenever and wherever legally requested so to do. The said Treasurer shall promptly report all sales of bonds to the Board of Supervisors. The Board shall at reasonable time thereafter prepare and issue warrants in substantially the form provided in

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section 298.17, Florida Statutes, for the payment of maturing bonds so sold and the interest payments coming due on all bonds sold. Each of said warrants shall specify what bonds and accruing interest it is to pay, and the Treasurer shall place sufficient funds at the place of payment to pay the maturing bonds and coupons when due, together with necessary compensation for paying The successor in office of any such Treasurer shall not be entitled to said bonds or the proceeds thereof until he or she shall have complied with all of the foregoing provisions applicable to his or her predecessor in office. The aforesaid bond of said Treasurer, if said Board shall so direct, may be furnished by a surety or bonding company, which may be approved by said Board of Supervisors; provided, if it should be deemed more expedient to said Board of Supervisors as to money derived from the sale of bonds issued, said Board may, by resolution, select some suitable bank or banks or other depository as temporary Treasurer or Treasurers to hold and disburse said moneys upon the order of said Board as the work progresses, until such fund is exhausted or transferred to the Treasurer by order of said Board of Supervisors. The funds derived from the sale of said bonds or any of them shall be used for the purpose of paying the cost of the drainage works and improvements, and such costs, fees, expenses, and salaries as may be authorized by law, and used for no other purpose. Section 13. FULL AUTHORITY FOR ISSUE AND SALE OF BONDS

Section 13. FULL AUTHORITY FOR ISSUE AND SALE OF BONDS
AUTHORIZED.--

(1) This act shall, without reference to any other act of the Legislature, be full authority for the issuance and sale of



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bonds in this act authorized, which bonds shall have all the qualities of negotiable paper under the law merchant and shall not be invalid for any irregularity or defect in the proceedings for the issuance and sale thereof; and shall be incontestable in the hands of bona fide purchasers or holders thereof. No proceedings in respect to the issuance of any such bonds shall be necessary, except such as are required by this act. The provisions of this act shall constitute an irrepealable contract between the said Board of Supervisors and the said North Lauderdale Water Control District and the holders of any bonds and the coupons thereof issued pursuant to the provisions hereof. Any holder of any of said bonds or coupons may either in law or by equity, by suit, action, or mandamus, enforce and compel the performance of the duties required by this act of any of the officers or persons mentioned in this act in relation to the said bonds, or to the correct enforcement and application of the taxes for the payment thereof.

(2) After the several bonds and coupons are paid and retired as herein provided, they shall be returned to the Treasurer, and they shall be canceled and an appropriate record thereof made in a book to be kept for that purpose, which record of paid and canceled bonds shall be kept at the office of the Treasurer and shall be opened for inspection of any bond holder at any time.

Section 14. FLOATING INDEBTEDNESS. --

(1) After the levy of taxes in any years, and before the collection thereof, the Board of Supervisors shall have the power to issue Tax Anticipation Notes. Said notes shall bear interest at a rate not exceeding the maximum rate allowed by general or

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special law, and shall be payable at such times, and may be sold or discounted at such price or on such terms, as the said Board may deem advisable, and the Board may pledge the whole or any part of the tax levy for the payment thereof.

- (2) The Board shall also have the right to issue Temporary Obligations or Interim Certificates after the issuance of any Bonds authorized under this act, but prior to the sale thereof, said Temporary Obligations and Interim Certificates shall be paid within 2 years from the proceeds of the sale of said bonds.
- (3) Said Temporary Obligations and Interim Certificates shall have all the rights and privileges of the permanent bond holders.
- (4) The Tax Anticipation Notes, Temporary Obligations, and Interim Certificates shall be termed "Floating Indebtedness" in order to distinguish the same from the bonded debt as provided for herein.

Section 15. EMINENT DOMAIN. -- The said Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized and empowered to exercise the right of eminent domain and may condemn for the use of said District any and all lands, easements, rights of way, riparian rights, and property rights of every description, in or out of said District, required for the public purposes and powers of said Board as herein granted, and may enter upon, take, and use such lands as it may deem necessary for such purposes.

Section 16. WATER A COMMON ENEMY.--It is hereby declared that in said District, surface waters, which shall include rainfall and the overflow of rivers and streams, are a common enemy, and the said District and any individual or agency holding



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a permit to do so from said District, shall have the right to dike, dam, and construct levees to protect the said District or any part thereof, or the property of said individual or agency against the same, and thereby divert the course and flow of such surface waters and/or pump the water from within such dikes and levees.

Section 17. UNIT DEVELOPMENT; POWERS OF SUPERVISORS TO
DESIGNATE UNITS OF DISTRICT AND ADOPT SYSTEM OF PROGRESSIVE
DRAINAGE BY UNITS; PLANS OF RECLAMATION AND FINANCING
ASSESSEMENTS, ETC., FOR EACH UNIT.--

(1) The Board of Supervisors of North Lauderdale Water Control District shall have the power and is hereby authorized in its discretion to drain and reclaim or more completely and intensively to drain and reclaim the lands in said District by designated areas or parts of said District to be called Units. The units into which said District may be so divided shall be given appropriate numbers or names by said Board of Supervisors, so that said units may be readily identified and distinguished. The Board of Supervisors shall have the power to fix and determine the location, area, and boundaries of and lands to be included in each and all such units, the order of development thereof, and the method of carrying on the work in each unit. The unit system of drainage provided by this section may be conducted and all of the proceedings by this section and this act authorized in respect to such unit or units may be carried on and conducted at the same time as or after the work of draining and reclaiming of the entire District has been or is being or shall be instituted or carried on under the provisions of this act. If the Board of Supervisors



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shall determine that it is advisable to conduct the work of draining and reclaiming the lands in said District by units, as authorized by this section of this act, said Board shall, by resolution duly adopted and entered upon its minutes, declare its purpose to conduct such work accordingly, and shall at the same time and manner fix the number, location, and boundaries of and description of lands within such unit or units and give them appropriate numbers or names. As soon as practicable after the adoption and recording of such resolution said Board of Supervisors shall publish notice once a week for 2 consecutive weeks in a newspaper published in Broward County, Florida, or duly notify the landowners by registered letter, briefly describing the units into which said District has been divided and the lands embraced in each unit, giving the name, number, or other designation of such units, requiring all owners of lands in said District to show cause in writing before said Board of Supervisors at a time and place to be stated in such notice why such division of said District into such units should not be approved, and said system of development by units should not be adopted and given effect by said Board, and why the proceedings and powers authorized by this section of this act should not be had, taken, and exercised. At the time and place stated in said notice, said Board of Supervisors shall hear all objections or causes of objection (all of which shall be in writing) of any landowner in said District to the matters mentioned and referred to in such notice, and if no objections are made, or if said objections, if made, shall be overruled by said Board, then said Board shall enter in its minutes its findings and order confirming said



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resolution and may thereafter proceed with the development, drainage, and reclamation of said District by units pursuant to such resolution and to the provisions of this act. If, however, said Board of Supervisors shall find as a result of such objections, or any of them or the hearing thereon, that the division of said District into such units as aforesaid should not be approved, or that said system of development by units should not be adopted and given effect, or that the proceedings and powers authorized by this section of this act should not be had, taken, or exercised, or that any other matter or thing embraced in said resolution would not be in the best interest of the landowners of said District or would be unjust or unfair to any landowner therein or otherwise inconsistent with fair and equal protection and enforcement of the rights of every landowner in said District, then said Board of Supervisors shall not proceed further under such resolution, but said Board of Supervisors may, as a result of such hearing, modify or amend said resolution so as to meet such objections so made, and thereupon said Board may confirm said resolution as so modified or amended and may thereafter proceed accordingly. The sustaining of such objections and the rescinding of such resolutions shall not exhaust the power of said Board under this section; but, at any time not less than 1 year after the date of the hearing upon any such resolution, the Board of Supervisors may adopt other resolutions under this section and thereupon proceed on due notice in like manner as above. If said Board of Supervisors shall overrule or refuse to sustain any such objections in whole or in part made by a landowner in the District, or if any such landowner shall deem



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himself aggrieved by any action of the Board of Supervisors in respect to any objections so filed, such landowner may, within 10 days after the ruling of said Board, file his or her bill of complaint in the Circuit Court in and for Broward County, against said District, praying an injunction or other appropriate relief against the action or any part of such action proposed by such resolution or resolutions, of said Board, and, such suits shall be conducted like other suits, except that said suits shall have preference over all other pending actions except criminal actions and writs of habeas corpus. Upon the hearing of said cause said Circuit Court shall have the power to hear the objections and receive the evidence thereon of all parties to such cause and approve or disapprove said resolutions and action of said Board in whole or in part, and to render such decree in such cause as right and justice require. When said resolutions creating said unit system shall be confirmed by the Board of Supervisors (or by the Circuit Court in and for Broward County, if such proposed action shall be challenged by a landowner by the judicial proceedings hereinabove authorized), said Board of Supervisors may adopt a plan or plans of reclamation for and in respect to any or all such units, and to have the benefits and the damages resulting therefrom assessed and apportioned by Commissioners appointed by the Circuit Court, and the report of the said Commissioners considered and confirmed, all in like manner as is provided by law in regard to Plans of Reclamation for and assessments for benefits and damages of, the entire District. With respect to Plan of Reclamation, notices, appointment of Commissioners to assess benefits and damages, report of Commissioners and notice and



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confirmation thereof, the levy of assessments and taxes, including maintenance taxes, and the issuance of bonds and all other proceedings as to each and all of such units, said Board shall follow and comply with the same procedure as is provided by law with respect to the entire District; and said Board of Supervisors shall have the same powers in respect to each and all of such units as is vested in them with respect to the entire District. All the provisions of this act shall apply to the drainage, reclamation, and improvement of each, any, and all of such units, and the enumeration of or reference to specific powers or duties of the Supervisors of any other officers or other matters in this act as hereinabove set forth, shall not limit or restrict the application of any and all of the proceedings and powers herein to the drainage and reclamation of such units as fully and completely as if such unit or units were specifically and expressly named in every section and clause of this act where the entire District is mentioned or referred to. All assessments, levies, taxes, bonds, and other obligations made, levied, assessed, or issued for or in respect to any such unit or units shall be a lien and charge solely and only upon the lands in such units, respectively, for the benefit of which the same shall be levied, made, or issued, and not upon the remaining units or lands in said District. The Board of Supervisors may at any time amend its said resolutions by changing the location and description of lands in any such unit or units; and provided, further, that if the location of or description of lands located in any such unit or units is so changed, notice of such change shall be published as hereinabove required in this section for notice of the formation or



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organization of such unit or units, and all proceedings shall be had and done in that regard as are provided in this section for the original creation of such unit or units, provided, however, that no lands against which benefits shall have been assessed may be detached from any such unit after the confirmation of the Commissioners' report of benefits in such unit or units or the issuance of bonds or other obligations which are payable from taxes or assessments for benefits levied upon the lands within such unit or units.

(2) Provided, however, that if, after the confirmation of the Commissioners' report of benefits in such unit or units, or the issuance of bonds or other obligations which are payable from taxes or assessments for benefits levied upon lands within such unit or units, the Board of Supervisors finds the Plan of Reclamation for any such unit or units insufficient or inadequate for efficient development, the Plan of Reclamation may be amended or changed as provided in chapter 298, Florida Statutes, and the unit or units may be amended or changed as provided in this section, by changing the location and description of lands in any such unit or units, by detaching lands therefrom, or by adding land thereto, upon the approval of at least 51 percent of the landowners according to acreage, in any such unit and 75 percent of the holders of bonds issued in respect to any such unit, and provided that in such event all assessments, levies, taxes, bonds, and other obligations made, levied, assessed, incurred, or issued for or in respect to any such unit or units may be allocated and apportioned to the amended unit or units in proportion to the benefits assessed by the Commissioners' report for the amended



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Plan of Reclamation and said report shall specifically provide for such allocation and apportionment. The landowners and all of the bond holders shall file their approval of or objections to such amended Plan of Reclamation within the time provided in section 298.27, Florida Statutes, and shall file their approval of or objections to the amendment of such unit as provided in this section.

(3) No lands shall be detached from any unit after the issuance of bonds or other obligations for such unit except upon the consent of 75 percent of all the holders of such bonds or other obligations. In the event of the change of the boundaries of any unit as provided herein and the allocation and apportionment to the amended unit or units of assessments, levies, taxes, bonds, and other obligations in proportion to the benefits assessed by the Commissioners' report for the amended Plan of Reclamation, the holder of bonds or other obligations heretofore issued for the original unit who consent to such allocations and apportionment shall be entitled to all rights and remedies against any lands added to the amended unit or units as fully and to the same extent as if such added lands had formed and constituted a part of the original unit or units at the time of the original issuance of such bonds or other obligations, regardless of whether the holders of such bonds or other obligations are the original holders thereof or the holders from time to time hereafter, and the rights and remedies of such holders against the lands in the amended unit or units, including any lands added thereto, under such allocation and apportionment, shall constitute vested and irrevocable rights and remedies to the holders from



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time to time of such bonds or other obligations as fully and to
the same extent as if such bonds or other obligations had been
originally issued to finance the improvements in such amended unit
or units under such amended Plan of Reclamation.

Section 18. SEVERABILITY.--In case any one or more of the sections or provisions of this act or the application of such sections or provisions to any situation, circumstance, or person shall for any reason be held to be unconstitutional, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any other sections or provisions of this act or the application of such sections or provisions to any other situation, circumstance, or person, and it is intended that this law shall be construed and applied as if such section or provision had not been included herein for any unconstitutional application.

Section 19. NOTICE OF INTENTION. -- It is found and determined that notice of intention to apply for this legislation was given in the time, form, and manner required by the Constitution and by law. Said notice is found to be sufficient and is hereby validated and approved.

Section 4. <u>Chapters 63-661, 82-273, 85-385, 94-428, and 97-</u> 370, Laws of Florida, are repealed.

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