



HB 0273

2003

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30

A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to the Southeast Volusia Hospital District, Volusia County; providing for codification of the district's charter; codifying, amending, and reenacting chapters 24961 (1947), 29586 (1953), 57-1931, 65-2362, 67-2148, 81-499, and 89-552, Laws of Florida; providing a declaration of legislative intent; repealing special acts relating to the district; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Pursuant to section 189.429, Florida Statutes, this act constitutes the codification of all special acts relating to the Southeast Volusia Hospital District. It is the intent of the Legislature 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 and chapter 189, Florida Statutes, as they may be amended from time to time. It is further the intent of this act to preserve all district authority.

Section 2. Chapters 24961 (1947), 29586 (1953), 57-1931, 65-2362, 67-2148, 81-499, and 89-552, Laws of Florida, relating to the Southeast Volusia Hospital District, are codified, reenacted, amended, and repealed as herein provided.

Section 3. The charter for the Southeast Volusia Hospital District is re-created and reenacted to read:

Section 1. A special tax district is hereby created and incorporated, to be known as "Southeast Volusia Hospital



HB 0273

2003

31 District" in Volusia County, which district shall embrace and
 32 include the following described property in Volusia County:

33 Beginning at the point of intersection of the main
 34 channel of Mosquito Inlet and the Atlantic Ocean,
 35 thence run Southeasterly with the shore of the
 36 Atlantic Ocean to the point of intersection with the
 37 South line of Township 19S, Thence West with said
 38 Township line to the Southwest corner of Section 34,
 39 Township 19S, Range 33E, Thence North to the Northwest
 40 corner of Section 3, Township 19S, Range 33E, Thence
 41 West along the South line of Township 18S, Range 33E,
 42 to the Southwest corner of said Township 18S, Range
 43 33E, thence North with West line of Township 18S,
 44 Range 33E, to the Northwest corner of said Township
 45 18S, Range 33E, thence West along line between
 46 Townships 17S and 18S to the Southwest corner of
 47 Township 17S, Range 32E, Thence along the Range line
 48 between Ranges 31E and 32E North to the Northwest
 49 corner of Township 17S, Range 32E, thence East along
 50 the North line of Township 17S, Range 32E to point of
 51 intersection with the South fork of Spruce Creek,
 52 thence Northerly and Easterly along Spruce Creek to
 53 the point of intersection with the main channel of the
 54 Halifax River, thence Southerly and Easterly along the
 55 main channel of the Halifax River and the main channel
 56 of Mosquito Inlet to the point of beginning. All the
 57 above described property lying and being in County of
 58 Volusia, State of Florida.

59 Section 2. (1) The governing body of the Southeast
 60 Volusia Hospital District shall consist of five commissioners,



HB 0273

2003

61 all of whom shall be qualified electors and freeholders residing
 62 in the district. The first commission shall be appointed by the
 63 Governor between the first Monday in February, 1949, and the
 64 second Tuesday in March, 1949. Two commissioners shall be
 65 appointed for 4 years, two shall be appointed for 2 years, and
 66 one shall be appointed for 1 year. When the term of office of
 67 any member of the commission expires, the Governor shall appoint
 68 a member or members for a period of 4 years. Commissioners
 69 shall serve without compensation. Within 10 days after the
 70 first commissioners have been duly appointed and qualified, they
 71 shall hold an organizational meeting at which time a chair, vice
 72 chair, and treasurer shall be elected from their number. Such
 73 officers so elected shall hold office for a period of 1 year or
 74 until the next ensuing annual organizational meeting.

75 (2) Effective January 1, 1990, the governing body of the
 76 Southeast Volusia Hospital District shall consist of seven
 77 commissioners. Two commissioners shall be residents of New
 78 Smyrna Beach, two commissioners shall be residents of the City
 79 of Edgewater, one commissioner shall be a resident of Oak Hill,
 80 and two commissioners shall be residents of the unincorporated
 81 area of the hospital district. Commissioners shall have
 82 business, professional, or personal experience useful for
 83 service as a commissioner. Commission members appointed
 84 pursuant to subsection (1) shall continue serving on the
 85 commission as long as they remain on the commission or are
 86 reappointed to the commission without regard to the requirements
 87 of this subsection. The first additional appointment made to
 88 the commission which shall be made by January 1, 1990, shall be
 89 a resident of the City of Edgewater; the second additional
 90 appointment to the commission which shall be made by January 1,



HB 0273

2003

91 1990, shall be a resident of the unincorporated area of the
 92 hospital district; the first appointment replacing a
 93 commissioner appointed pursuant to subsection (1) shall be a
 94 resident of Oak Hill; and the second appointment replacing a
 95 commissioner appointed pursuant to subsection (1) shall be a
 96 resident of the City of Edgewater.

97 (3) Of the appointments to the commission to be made by
 98 the Governor by January 1, 2007, one appointment from the
 99 unincorporated area of the hospital district and one appointment
 100 from the City of Edgewater shall be for terms of fifteen (15)
 101 months expiring March 31, 2008, and one appointment from the
 102 unincorporated area of the hospital district and one appointment
 103 from the City of Edgewater shall be for terms of fifty-one (51)
 104 months expiring March 31, 2011. Thereafter, the terms for all
 105 commissioners shall be for four (4) years each, expiring March
 106 31.

107 (4) The commissioners shall hold an annual organizational
 108 meeting between the first and fifteenth day of March each year.

109 The Governor shall have the power to remove any member of the
 110 board of commissioners for cause and shall fill any vacancies
 111 that may at any time occur therein. Each member shall give bond
 112 to the Governor for the faithful performance of his or her
 113 duties in the sum of \$5,000, with a surety company qualified to
 114 do business in the state as surety; however, the bonds of the
 115 chair and of the treasurer of the board shall be \$10,000 for
 116 each such officer, which bonds shall be approved and kept by the
 117 Clerk of the Circuit Court of Volusia County. The premiums on
 118 the bonds shall be paid as part of the expense of the district.

119 Section 3. The board of commissioners of the Southeast
 120 Volusia Hospital District, hereinafter called the board, shall



HB 0273

2003

121 have all the powers of a body corporate, including the power to
 122 sue and be sued under the name of the Southeast Volusia Hospital
 123 District; to contract and be contracted with; to adopt and use a
 124 common seal and to alter the same at pleasure; to acquire,
 125 purchase, hold, lease, and convey such real and personal
 126 property as the board may deem proper or expedient to carry out
 127 the purposes of the act; to appoint and employ a superintendent
 128 and chief surgeon and such other agents and employees as the
 129 board may deem advisable; to borrow money; and to issue the
 130 notes, bonds, and other evidences of debt of the district
 131 thereof to carry out the provisions of this act in the manner
 132 hereinafter provided.

133 Section 4. Four (4) of the commissioners shall constitute
 134 a quorum, and a vote of at least a majority of the commissioners
 135 at any regular or special meeting shall be necessary to the
 136 transaction of any business of the district. The commissioners
 137 shall cause true and accurate minutes and records to be kept of
 138 all business transacted by them and shall keep full, true, and
 139 complete books of account and minutes, which minutes, records,
 140 and books of account shall at all reasonable times be open and
 141 subject to the inspection of inhabitants of the district. Any
 142 person desiring to do so may make or procure copy of the
 143 minutes, records, or books of account, or such portions thereof
 144 as he or she may desire.

145 Section 5. (1) The board is authorized to purchase or
 146 otherwise acquire such real and personal property as may be
 147 required to establish, construct, operate, and maintain such
 148 hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, or related facilities as in
 149 its opinion shall be necessary for the health and welfare of the
 150 people of the district. The hospitals, clinics, nursing homes,



HB 0273

2003

151 or related facilities shall be established, constructed,
 152 operated, and maintained by the board for the preservation of
 153 the public health, for the public good, and for the use of the
 154 public of the district; and the acquisition of real and personal
 155 property for the establishment, construction, operation, and
 156 maintenance of such hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, or
 157 related facilities within the district are hereby found and
 158 declared to be a public purpose and are necessary for the
 159 preservation of the public health, for the public use, and for
 160 the welfare of the district and inhabitants thereof. The
 161 location of such hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, or related
 162 facilities shall be determined by the board.

163 (2) The board of commissioners of the Southeast Volusia
 164 Hospital District is authorized to provide necessary hospitals,
 165 clinics, nursing homes, and related services or facilities for
 166 poor and indigent persons or, in lieu thereof, the board is
 167 authorized to enter into a contract or contracts for a period
 168 not exceeding twenty-five (25) years with any hospital, clinic,
 169 or nursing home, public or private, now or hereafter existing
 170 within the district for the purpose of providing such facilities
 171 or services to the poor and indigent and to pay for the same out
 172 of the funds of the district and from the proceeds of any tax
 173 which is levied under the provisions of this act or amendments
 174 thereto.

175 Section 6. The board shall have the power of eminent
 176 domain and may thereby condemn and acquire any real or personal
 177 property which the board may deem necessary for the use of the
 178 district, whether within or without the district. Such power of
 179 condemnation shall be exercised in the same manner as is now
 180 provided by the general law for the exercise of the power of



HB 0273

2003

181 eminent domain by cities and towns of the state.

182 Section 7. The board is authorized, in order to provide
183 for and carry out the provisions of this act, to purchase or
184 otherwise acquire real and personal property; to establish,
185 construct, repair, alter, and maintain hospital, clinic, and
186 nursing home buildings and facilities; and to purchase, lease,
187 repair, and maintain hospital, clinic, and nursing home
188 equipment, furniture, and fixtures on lands in the district
189 owned by or leased to the district. The board is further
190 authorized to expend district funds derived from taxes or any
191 other source whatsoever for the purchase or lease of real or
192 personal property and for building, constructing, purchasing,
193 leasing, repairing, and maintaining all hospital, clinic, and
194 nursing home lands, buildings, equipment, and facilities in the
195 district, and to borrow money from time to time for such
196 purposes, and also for operating expenses; however, a tax not to
197 exceed four (4) mills on the dollar may be assessed and levied
198 against the taxable property within the district for all
199 purposes.

200 It is hereby found and declared that all funds expended for
201 current operating expenses, the care of indigent patients, and
202 for the construction, purchase, lease, maintenance, and repair
203 of all hospital, clinic, or nursing home lands, buildings, and
204 equipment, whether on lands owned by or leased to the district,
205 shall be for public purposes.

206 Section 8. (1) ISSUANCE OF OBLIGATIONS.--

207 (a) The board is authorized to provide by resolution at
208 one time or from time to time for the issuance of bonds or
209 revenue certificates, or both, collectively referred to in this
210 section as bonds of the district for the purpose of paying all



HB 0273

2003

211 or a part of the cost of acquisition, construction, repairing,
212 extensions, additions, equipping, and reconstruction of any
213 hospital facilities of the district. The bonds of each issue
214 shall be dated, shall bear interest at such rate or rates as may
215 be determined by the board, and may be made redeemable before
216 maturity, at the option of the board, at such price or prices
217 and under such terms and conditions as may be fixed by the board
218 prior to the issuance of the bonds. The board shall determine
219 the form of the bonds, including any interest coupons to be
220 attached thereto, and the manner of execution of the bonds and
221 coupons, and shall fix the denomination or denominations of the
222 bonds and the place or places of payment of principal and
223 interest, which may be at any bank or trust company within or
224 without the state. In case any officer whose signature or a
225 facsimile of whose signature shall appear on any bonds or
226 coupons shall cease to be such officer before the delivery of
227 such bonds, such signature or such facsimile shall nevertheless
228 be valid and sufficient for all purposes the same as if he or
229 she had remained in office until such delivery. All bonds
230 issued under the provisions of this act shall have and are
231 hereby declared to have all the qualities and incidents of
232 negotiable instruments under the negotiable instruments laws of
233 the state. The bonds may be issued in coupon or in registered
234 form, or both, as the board may determine, and provisions may be
235 made for the registration of any coupon bonds as to principal
236 alone and also as to both principal and interest, and for the
237 reconversion into coupon bonds of any bonds registered as to
238 both principal and interest. The issuance of such bonds shall
239 not be subject to any limitations or conditions contained in any
240 other law. Prior to the preparation of definitive bonds, the



HB 0273

2003

241 board may, under like restrictions, issue interim receipts or
242 temporary bonds with or without coupons, exchangeable for
243 definitive bonds when such bonds have been executed and are
244 available for delivery. The board may also provide for the
245 replacement of any bonds which shall be mutilated or be
246 destroyed or lost.

247 (b) Bonds may be issued under the provisions of this act
248 without obtaining the consent of any commission, board, bureau,
249 or agency of the state or county and without any other
250 proceedings or the happening of any other condition or thing
251 than those proceedings, conditions, or things which are
252 specifically required by this act.

253 (c) The proceeds of the bonds shall be used solely for the
254 payment of the cost of the hospital facilities for which such
255 bonds shall have been authorized and shall be disbursed in the
256 manner provided in the resolution or in the trust agreement
257 authorizing the issuance of such bonds. If the proceeds of the
258 bonds of any issue shall exceed the amount required for the
259 purpose for which the same shall have been issued, the surplus
260 shall be set aside and used only for payment of the cost of
261 additional projects or for the payment of the principal of and
262 interest on such bonds. In the event that the actual cost of
263 the project exceeds the estimated cost, the board may issue
264 additional bonds to cover the deficiency, subject to the same
265 restrictions as required for the original issue.

266 (2) BONDS.--Bonds may be issued from time to time by the
267 board for the purposes herein provided, provided the issuance of
268 general obligation bonds shall have been approved by a majority
269 of the votes cast in an election held for such purposes pursuant
270 to the requirements of the Constitution of Florida.



HB 0273

2003

271 (3) REVENUE CERTIFICATES.--

272 (a) Revenue certificates issued under the provisions of
 273 this act shall be payable from the revenues derived from the
 274 operation of any hospital facility or combination of hospital
 275 facilities of the district under the supervision, operation, and
 276 control of the board and from any other funds legally available
 277 therefor. The issuance of such revenue certificates shall not
 278 directly, indirectly, or contingently obligate the state, the
 279 board, or the district to levy any ad valorem taxes or to make
 280 any appropriations for their payment or for the operation and
 281 maintenance of the hospital facilities of the district.

282 (b) The board shall not convey or mortgage any hospital
 283 facility or any part thereof as security for the payment of the
 284 revenue certificates.

285 (c) In the discretion of the board, each or any issue of
 286 such revenue certificates may be secured by a trust agreement by
 287 and between the district and a corporate trustee, which may be
 288 any trust company or bank having the powers of a trust company
 289 within or outside of the state. Such trust agreement may pledge
 290 or assign the revenues to be received by the board. The
 291 resolution providing for the issuance of revenue certificates or
 292 such trust agreement may contain such provisions for protecting
 293 and enforcing the rights and remedies of the certificate holders
 294 as may be reasonable, proper, and not in violation of law,
 295 including covenants setting forth the duties of the board in
 296 relation to the acquisition, construction, improvement,
 297 maintenance, operation, repair, equipping, and insurance of the
 298 facilities and the custody, safeguarding, and application of all
 299 moneys. It shall be lawful for any bank or trust company
 300 incorporated under the laws of this state to act as such



HB 0273

2003

301 depository and to furnish such indemnifying bonds or to pledge
 302 such securities as may be required by the board. Such
 303 resolution or such trust agreement may restrict the individual
 304 right of action by certificate holders as is customary in trust
 305 agreements securing bonds or debentures of corporations. In
 306 addition to the foregoing, such resolution or such trust
 307 agreement may contain such other provisions as the board may
 308 deem reasonable and proper for the security of the certificate
 309 holders. Except as otherwise provided in this act, the board
 310 may provide, by resolution or by trust agreement, for the
 311 payment of the proceeds of the sale of the revenue certificates
 312 and the revenues of the facilities to such officer, board, or
 313 depository as it may determine for the custody thereof, and for
 314 the method of disbursement thereof, with such safeguards and
 315 restrictions as it may determine. All expenses incurred in
 316 carrying out the trust agreement may be treated as a part of the
 317 cost of operation of the facilities affected by the trust
 318 agreement.

319 (d) The resolution or trust agreement providing for the
 320 issuance of the revenue certificates may also contain such
 321 limitations upon the issuance of additional revenue certificates
 322 as the board may deem proper, and such additional certificates
 323 shall be issued under such restrictions or limitations as may be
 324 prescribed by such resolution or trust agreement.

325 (4) REFUNDING OBLIGATIONS.-- The board is authorized to
 326 provide by resolution for the issuance of refunding bonds or
 327 refunding revenue certificates for the purpose of refunding any
 328 bonds or revenue certificates, respectively, then outstanding
 329 and issued under the provisions of this act, provided that the
 330 refunding of any bonds payable from ad valorem taxes shall be to



HB 0273

2003

331 the advantage of the district, such as providing for lower
 332 interest rates or other savings to the taxpayers. The board is
 333 further authorized to provide by resolution for the issuance of
 334 revenue certificates for the combined purpose of (1) paying the
 335 cost of any acquisition, construction, extension, addition,
 336 improving, equipping, or reconstruction of a facility or
 337 facilities of the district and (2) refunding revenue
 338 certificates of the district which shall theretofore have been
 339 issued under the provisions of the act and shall then be
 340 outstanding. The issuance of such obligations, the maturities
 341 and other details thereof, the right and remedies of the holders
 342 thereof, and the rights, powers, privileges, duties, and
 343 obligations of the district with respect to the same shall be
 344 governed by the foregoing provisions of this act insofar as the
 345 same may be applicable.

346 (5) ELECTION.--The board of county commissioners of
 347 Volusia County shall, when presented with a resolution adopted
 348 by the board requesting the holding of an election to approve
 349 the issuance of bonds under this act, call, notice, and conduct
 350 such election in the manner required by the constitution and by
 351 the general laws of the state for the issuance of bonds by the
 352 county. The cost of holding and conducting such election shall
 353 be paid by the district.

354 Section 9. Prior to the issuance of such bonds, the board
 355 shall, by resolution, determine the amount which in their
 356 opinion will be necessary to be raised annually by taxation for
 357 an interest and sinking fund with which to pay the interest and
 358 principal of the bonds, and the board is authorized and required
 359 to provide for the levy and collection annually of a sufficient
 360 tax, without limitation as to rate or amount, upon all the



HB 0273

2003

361 taxable property in the district to pay such interest and with
 362 which to provide and maintain a sinking fund for the payment of
 363 the principal of the bonds. Such sinking funds providing for
 364 the payment of principal and interest of the outstanding bonds
 365 shall not be used for any other purpose, provided, however, that
 366 such sinking funds so set aside may be invested at the
 367 discretion of the board or in the purchase or retirement of
 368 bonds previously issued by the district. The revenues or any
 369 part thereof derived from the operation of any hospital facility
 370 or any combination of the hospital facilities of the district
 371 shall, if so authorized by the board, be deposited to the credit
 372 of the sinking fund for such bonds, and in that event the amount
 373 of the annual levy herein required may be reduced in any year by
 374 the amount of such revenues actually received in the preceding
 375 year (excluding any depreciation fund) and then remaining on
 376 deposit to the credit of the sinking fund for the payment of
 377 such principal and interest.

378 Section 10. The board shall offer said bonds for sale by
 379 notice stating the amount of bonds for sale, rate of interest
 380 and when due, and payable, by advertising once a week for two
 381 (2) weeks in a newspaper published in the district. The board
 382 shall receive bids for the purchase of the bonds or any part
 383 thereof on the day fixed by the notice, being not less than
 384 twenty (20) days from the date of the first (1st) publication.
 385 It shall have the right to reject any and all bids and
 386 readvertise the bonds or any portion thereof remaining unsold.

387 Section 11. A bank or banks, or other depository or
 388 depositories to be designated by the board, may receive and be
 389 custodian of the bonds and all moneys arising from the sale of
 390 the bonds.



HB 0273

2003

391 Section 12. The funds of the district shall be paid out
 392 upon warrant signed by the chair of the board and countersigned
 393 by the treasurer thereof or bearing the facsimile signature of
 394 the chair and treasurer when authorized by the board by
 395 appropriate resolution. No warrant shall be drawn or issued
 396 against funds of the district except for the purpose authorized
 397 by this act or amendments thereto.

398 Section 13. It shall be the duty of the board, whenever
 399 the bonds or any portion thereof are from time to time issued by
 400 it, or whenever contracts entered into by the board require, to
 401 annually assess and levy against the taxable property within the
 402 district a tax to be collected and paid into the district fund
 403 and used by the board for the operation, maintenance, and repair
 404 of a hospital or hospitals established or authorized by this
 405 act, or for the payment of any outstanding indebtedness
 406 authorized by section 8, or for providing hospitalization under
 407 a contract for the poor and indigent as contemplated under this
 408 act, or amendments thereto, or for the payment of other
 409 necessary expenses in carrying on and transacting the business
 410 of the district, provided, nevertheless, that the millage for
 411 the operating, maintenance, and repair of the hospital or
 412 hospitals established as authorized by this act, or for the
 413 payment of other necessary expenses in carrying on and
 414 transacting the business of the district, shall not exceed four
 415 (4) mills on all of the taxable property within the district.

416 Section 14. The board of commissioners of the Southeast
 417 Volusia Hospital District is authorized and directed annually to
 418 levy upon all the real and personal taxable property in the
 419 district a sufficient tax to pay the interest and to provide and
 420 maintain a sinking fund for the payment of the interest and



HB 0273

2003

421 principal of the bonds provided for and authorized by this act.
 422 Section 15. The levy by the board of the taxes authorized
 423 by any provision of this act shall be by resolution of the board
 424 duly entered upon the minutes of the board. Certified copies of
 425 such resolution executed in the name of the board by its chair,
 426 under its corporate seal, shall be made and delivered to the
 427 board of the county commissioners of Volusia County and to the
 428 comptroller of the state, not later than the first (1st) day of
 429 July of every year. The county commissioners of Volusia County
 430 shall order and require the tax assessor of the county to
 431 assess, and the county tax collector of the county to collect,
 432 the amount of taxes so assessed or levied by the board of
 433 commissioners of the Southeast Volusia Hospital District upon
 434 the taxable property in the district, at the rate of taxation
 435 adopted by the board of commissioners of the district for the
 436 year and included in the warrant of the tax assessor and
 437 attached to the assessment roll of taxes for the county each
 438 year. The tax collector shall collect such tax so levied by the
 439 board in the same manner as other taxes are collected and shall
 440 pay the same over to the board of commissioners of the Southeast
 441 Volusia Hospital District within the time and in the manner
 442 prescribed by law for the payment by the tax collector of county
 443 taxes to the county depository. It shall be the duty of the
 444 comptroller of the state to assess and levy on all the railroad
 445 lines and railroad property and telegraph lines and telegraph
 446 property situated or located in the district, including as well
 447 all telephone lines. The amount of each levy of each county or
 448 state taxes and the said taxes shall be assessed by the same
 449 officer respectively as are county taxes upon such property, and
 450 such taxes shall be remitted by the collecting officer to the



HB 0273

2003

451 board of commissioners of the Southeast Volusia Hospital
452 District. All such taxes shall be held by the board and paid
453 out by them as provided in this act.

454 Section 16. The board is authorized to pay from the funds
455 of the district all expenses of the organization of the board
456 and all expenses necessarily incurred with the formation of the
457 district and all other reasonable and necessary expenses,
458 including the fees and expenses of an attorney in the
459 transaction of the business of the district, and including the
460 compensation of a secretary to the board whose duties shall be
461 to keep and be responsible for all books of account, minutes,
462 and other records of the board, and in carrying out and
463 accomplishing the purposes of this act. This section, however,
464 shall not be construed to remit or instruct any of the powers
465 vested in the board by any other section or provision of this
466 act.

467 Section 17. At least once a year, the board shall publish
468 once in some newspaper in the district a complete detailed
469 statement of all moneys received and disbursed by them since the
470 creation of the district as to the first (1st) published
471 statement and since the last published statement as to any other
472 year. Such statement shall also show the several sources from
473 which said funds were received and shall show the balance on
474 hand at the time of the published statement. It shall show a
475 complete statement of the condition of the district.

476 Section 18. Each hospital and clinic established under
477 this act shall be for the use and benefit of the indigent sick.

478 Such residents shall be admitted to such hospital and clinic
479 and be entitled to medical care without charge, subject to the
480 rules and regulations prescribed by the board. Such hospitals



HB 0273

2003

481 and clinics shall care for and treat without charge patients who
 482 are found by the board to be indigent, but the board may collect
 483 from patients financially able such charges as the board may
 484 from time to time establish. The board shall have the power to
 485 extend the benefits and privileges of such hospitals and clinics
 486 and treatment and outpatient department to the home of the
 487 indigent residents of the county. The board may extend the
 488 privileges and use of such hospitals and clinics to nonresidents
 489 of the district upon such terms and conditions as the board may
 490 from time to time by its rules and regulations provide.

491 Section 19. It is intended that the provisions of this act
 492 shall be liberally construed for accomplishing the work
 493 authorized and provided for or intended to be and provided for
 494 this act, and where strict construction would result in defeat
 495 of the accomplishment of any part of the work authorized by this
 496 act and liberal construction would permit or assist in the
 497 accomplishment thereof, the liberal construction shall be
 498 chosen.

499 Section 20. All bonds issued under the provisions of this
 500 act may be validated by the board under and in accordance with
 501 the provisions of the general laws of Florida, in the same
 502 manner as is therein provided for validation of bonds, etc., by
 503 any county, municipality, taxing district, etc. of the state.

504 Section 21. If any section, paragraph, phrase, or sentence
 505 contained in this act, or amendments thereto, shall be held
 506 inoperative, unconstitutional, or invalid by a court of
 507 competent jurisdiction, it shall in no way affect the remaining
 508 portions of this act.

509 Section 4. Chapters 24961 (1947), 29586 (1953), 57-1931,
 510 65-2362, 67-2148, 81-499, and 89-552, Laws of Florida, are



HB 0273

2003

511 repealed.

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