

HB 0381

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to Trailer Estates Fire Control District, Manatee County; amending, codifying, reenacting, and repealing special acts relating to the district; providing boundaries of the district; providing for a board of commissioners; providing for election and organization of the board; providing powers and duties of the board; providing for a special assessment; providing powers and duties of the district; requiring a financial statement and budget; providing definitions; requiring a record of meetings of the board; providing for filling vacancies; providing for bonds; providing for severability; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Pursuant to section 191.015, Florida Statutes, this act constitutes the codification of all special acts relating to the Trailer Estates Fire 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. It is further the intent of this act to preserve all district authority, including the authority to annually assess and levy against each taxable property in the district a special assessment not to exceed \$75.

Section 2. Chapters 63-1587, 65-1894, 65-1895, 72-613, 80-534, 82-323, 84-473, 94-373, and 95-503, Laws of Florida, are

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30 codified, amended, reenacted, and repealed as provided herein.

31 Section 3. The charter for the Trailer Estates Fire  
 32 Control District is re-created and reenacted to read:

33 Section 1. Pursuant to chapter 63-1587, Laws of Florida,  
 34 all of the lands in Manatee County, hereinafter described,  
 35 became and were incorporated into and as a special fire control  
 36 district, being an independent special taxing district, a  
 37 political subdivision of the state, and having the powers and  
 38 duties herein set forth, under the name "Trailer Estates Fire  
 39 Control District."

40 Section 2. The lands so incorporated being described as  
 41 follows:

42 (a) Trailer Estates Subdivision as recorded in  
 43 Plat Book 8, Page 138, of the Public Records of  
 44 Manatee County, Florida.

45 (b) First Addition to Trailer Estates  
 46 Subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 9, Page 71, of  
 47 the Public Records of Manatee County, Florida.

48 (c) Second Addition to Trailer Estates  
 49 Subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 9, Page 61, of  
 50 the Public Records of Manatee County, Florida.

51 (d) Third Addition to Trailer Estates  
 52 Subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 10, Page 69, of  
 53 the Public Records of Manatee County, Florida.

54 (e) Fourth Addition to Trailer Estates  
 55 Subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 11, Page 66, of  
 56 the Public Records of Manatee County, Florida.

57 (f) Fifth Addition to Trailer Estates  
 58 Subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 12, Page 55, of

59 the Public Records of Manatee County, Florida.

60 (g) The SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of  
 61 Section 22, Twp. 35 S., Rge. 17 E.; LESS: Land  
 62 Described in Deed Book 380, Page 451, Official Records  
 63 Book 208, Page 156 & 157, Official Records Book 240,  
 64 Pages 167 & 168, all of the Public Records of Manatee  
 65 County, Florida; ALSO LESS: The South 133 feet and  
 66 the East 290 feet of said SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the  
 67 SE 1/4.

68 (h) A tract of land in the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4  
 69 of the SE 1/4 of Section 22, Twp. 35 S., Rge. 17 E.,  
 70 of Manatee County, Florida, more particularly  
 71 described as follows: From the NW corner of said SW  
 72 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 22, run S.  
 73 88 degrees 30' East along the North line of said SW  
 74 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4, 14.74 feet; thence  
 75 run S. 1 degree 48' West, 100 feet for a Point of  
 76 Beginning; thence run S. 88 degrees 30' East, 130 feet  
 77 to a point; thence run S. 1 degree 48' West, 50 feet  
 78 to a point; thence run N. 88 degrees 30' West, 130  
 79 feet to a point; thence run N. 1 degree 48' East, 50  
 80 feet to the Point of Beginning.

81 (i) A tract of land in the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4  
 82 of the SE 1/4 of Section 22, Twp. 35 S., Rge. 17 E.,  
 83 of Manatee County, Florida, more particularly  
 84 described as follows: From the NW corner of said SW  
 85 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 22, run S.  
 86 88 degrees 30' East along the North line of said SW  
 87 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4, 14.74 feet; thence

88 run S. 1 degree 48' West, 150 feet for a Point of  
 89 Beginning; thence run S. 88 degrees 30' East, 130 feet  
 90 to a point; thence run S. 1 degree 48' West, 50 feet  
 91 to a point; thence run N. 88 degrees 30' West, 130  
 92 feet to a point; thence run N. 1 degree 48' East, 50  
 93 feet to the Point of Beginning.

94 (j) A tract of land in the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4  
 95 of the SE 1/4 of Section 22, Twp. 35 S., Rge. 17 E.,  
 96 of Manatee County, Florida, more particularly  
 97 described as follows: From the NW corner of said SW  
 98 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 22, run S.  
 99 88 degrees 30' East along the North line of said SW  
 100 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4, 14.74 feet; thence  
 101 run S. 1 degree 48' West, 200 feet for a Point of  
 102 Beginning; thence run S. 88 degrees 30' East, 130 feet  
 103 to a point; thence run S. 1 degree 48' West, 50 feet  
 104 to a point; thence run N. 88 degrees 30' West, 130  
 105 feet to a point; thence run N. 1 degree 48' East, 50  
 106 feet to the Point of Beginning.

107 (k) A tract of land in the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4  
 108 of the SE 1/4 of Section 22, Twp. 35 S., Rge. 17 E.,  
 109 of Manatee County, Florida, more particularly  
 110 described as follows: From the NW corner of said SW  
 111 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 22, run S.  
 112 88 degrees 30' East along the North line of said SW  
 113 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4, 14.74 feet to the  
 114 East Right-of-Way of American Way (as per plat of  
 115 Trailer Estates, Third Addition, as recorded in Plat  
 116 Book 10, Page 69, of the Public Records of Manatee

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117 County, Florida); thence run S. 1 degree 48' West, 270  
 118 feet for a Point of Beginning; thence run S. 88  
 119 degrees 30' East, 130 feet to a point; thence run S. 1  
 120 degree 48' West, 100 feet to a point; thence run N. 88  
 121 degrees 30' West, 130 feet to a point on the East  
 122 Right-of-Way of said American Way; thence run N. 1  
 123 degree 48' East along the East Right-of-Way of said  
 124 American Way, 100 feet to the Point of Beginning.

125 (1) A tract of land in the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4  
 126 of the SE 1/4 of Section 22, Twp. 35 S., Rge. 17 E.,  
 127 of Manatee County, Florida, more particularly  
 128 described as follows: From the NW corner of said SW  
 129 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 22, run S.  
 130 88 degrees 30' East along the North line of said SW  
 131 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4, 14.74 feet; thence  
 132 run S. 1 degree 48' West, 250 feet for a Point of  
 133 Beginning; thence run S. 88 degrees 30' East, 130 feet  
 134 to a point; thence run S. 1 degree 48' West, 20 feet  
 135 to a point; thence run N. 88 degrees 30' West, 130  
 136 feet to a point; thence run N. 1 degree 48' East, 20  
 137 feet to the Point of Beginning.

138  
 139 Section 3. The business and affairs of said district shall  
 140 be conducted and administered by a board of five commissioners,  
 141 hereinafter referred to as the "commissioners," who shall  
 142 organize in January of each year by electing from their number a  
 143 chair, a vice chair, a secretary, and a treasurer. The positions  
 144 of secretary and treasurer may be held by one commissioner. The  
 145 meeting at which the commissioners elect the officers shall be

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146 called the "organizational meeting." Said commissioners shall  
 147 not receive any compensation for their services, but the  
 148 secretary and treasurer may receive a salary not to exceed \$300  
 149 per annum from the funds of said district for said officers'  
 150 services as secretary and/or treasurer. Each commissioner shall,  
 151 before said commissioner enters upon such duties, execute to the  
 152 Governor, for the benefit of said district, a good and  
 153 sufficient surety bond in the sum of \$5,000 with a qualified  
 154 corporate surety conditioned to faithfully perform the duties of  
 155 commissioner and to account for all funds which may come into  
 156 his or her hands as a commissioner. All premiums for such surety  
 157 on all bonds shall be paid from the funds of said district. Each  
 158 member shall, upon assuming office, take and subscribe to the  
 159 oath of office prescribed by s. 5(b), Art. II of the State  
 160 Constitution and section 876.05, Florida Statutes.

161 Section 4. All district elections shall be conducted and  
 162 supervised by the Supervisor of Elections of Manatee County,  
 163 under the rules governing general elections in the County of  
 164 Manatee, except as may otherwise be provided herein. All  
 165 elections shall be held at the Trailer Estates Recreation Hall  
 166 in the district. Any registered voter residing in the district  
 167 may vote in a district election. Application for absentee  
 168 ballots may be requested from the Supervisor of Elections of  
 169 Manatee County within 1 year prior to each election, and shall  
 170 be counted once returned to the Supervisor of Elections' office  
 171 by 7:00 p.m. on the day of each election pursuant to the Florida  
 172 Election Code. All election ballots shall be prepared by the  
 173 Supervisor of Elections of Manatee County. The commissioners  
 174 shall be elected in nonpartisan elections. A person desiring to

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175 have his or her name placed on the ballot for election as a  
 176 commissioner of the district shall be a freeholder and qualified  
 177 elector residing within the district, as certified by the county  
 178 property appraiser and the supervisor of elections of said  
 179 county to be a freeholder and qualified elector according to the  
 180 respective official records of such officers, and shall pay a  
 181 filing fee of \$25 or, in the alternative, the person may qualify  
 182 by obtaining the signatures of at least 25 registered electors  
 183 of the district on petition forms provided by the supervisor of  
 184 elections, which petitions shall be submitted and checked in the  
 185 same manner as petitions filed by nonpartisan judicial  
 186 candidates pursuant to section 105.035, Florida Statutes. Notice  
 187 of said election setting forth the names of the persons proposed  
 188 as commissioners of the district shall be in writing and posted  
 189 at the principal office of the district not less than 15 days  
 190 before the date of each election. Notwithstanding the provisions  
 191 of section 101.20, Florida Statutes, the publication of a sample  
 192 ballot is not required. The Supervisor of Elections of Manatee  
 193 County shall appoint inspectors and clerks for the election  
 194 whose duties shall be the same as similar officers in general  
 195 elections, except as herein stated. Said election may be by  
 196 ballot or by other electronic or electromechanical voting  
 197 system, and if by ballot the same shall be written or printed in  
 198 black ink on plain paper and shall be substantially in the  
 199 following form:

200 Board of Commissioners of the Trailer Estates Fire Control  
 201 District  
 202 (stating their names)  
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204 ,and if by other electronic or electromechanical voting system  
 205 the requirements for the ballot herein described shall be  
 206 adapted to the use of such voting system. Election of  
 207 commissioners shall be held bi-annually on the second Tuesday of  
 208 November or, in the alternative, on another Tuesday in November,  
 209 in even years, in conjunction with any other special, primary,  
 210 or general election to be conducted by the supervisor of  
 211 elections, by electing two commissioners in 2004 and three  
 212 commissioners in 2006 for 4-year terms. In the November 2004  
 213 election, Seats #2 and #4 shall be filled. In the November 2006  
 214 election, Seats #1, #3, and #5 shall be filled. Commissioners  
 215 may succeed themselves in office. The term of newly elected  
 216 commissioners shall commence on the first Tuesday of January  
 217 following the election. Commissioners shall serve until their  
 218 successors assume office, except as otherwise provided herein.  
 219 The commissioners whose seats are filled pursuant to the  
 220 commissioners' election in November 2000 (Seats #2 and #4) shall  
 221 serve until their successors assume office following the  
 222 November 2004 commissioners' election. The commissioners whose  
 223 seats are filled pursuant to the commissioners' election in  
 224 November 2002 (Seats #1, #3, and #5) shall serve until their  
 225 successors assume office following the November 2006  
 226 commissioners' election. Each commissioner must be a qualified  
 227 elector at the time he or she qualifies and continually  
 228 throughout his or her term.

229 Section 5. The Supervisor of Elections of Manatee County  
 230 shall canvass the returns of elections and shall announce the  
 231 result thereof no later than the day following the election. The  
 232 expenses of the supervisor of elections for conducting each



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233 election shall be paid out of general funds of the district.

234 Section 6. All vacancies occurring in the board of  
 235 commissioners from any cause shall be filled by the remaining  
 236 commissioners by the appointment of a successor commissioner or  
 237 commissioners from among the registered voters residing in the  
 238 district who are freeholders within said district. An appointed  
 239 commissioner shall serve until the next commissioners' election,  
 240 at which time an election shall be held to fill the vacancy for  
 241 the remaining term, if any. Any commissioner failing to  
 242 discharge the duties of his or her position may be removed for  
 243 cause by the board of commissioners, after due notice and an  
 244 opportunity to be heard upon charges of malfeasance or  
 245 misfeasance.

246 Section 7.

247 (1) The district shall have the right, power, and  
 248 authority to levy special assessments against taxable real  
 249 estate lying within its territorial bounds in order to provide  
 250 funds for the purposes of the district. The rate of such  
 251 assessments shall be fixed by a resolution of the board of  
 252 commissioners, as hereinafter provided, but shall in no event  
 253 exceed the sum of \$50 per annum on business firms and buildings,  
 254 \$75 per annum on homes, \$0.50 per lot on vacant lots, and \$0.50  
 255 per acre or fraction thereof on unsubdivided acreage. Apartment  
 256 buildings and tourist courts are to be construed as business  
 257 buildings; provided, however, there shall be an additional  
 258 assessment of \$0.50 for each rental unit. Trailers and mobile  
 259 homes with or without cabanas, carports, or utility rooms shall  
 260 be construed as homes.

261 (2) The county property appraiser shall furnish the

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262 commissioners with a tax roll covering all taxable properties  
 263 within the territorial limits of said district upon which roll  
 264 said commissioners will place the levy for each parcel of  
 265 property shown thereon on or before the first day of June of  
 266 each year and any property owner in said district shall have the  
 267 right during the period between the tenth day of June and the  
 268 twentieth day of June of each year to file written protest of  
 269 the proposed assessments and the amount or rate thereof, and to  
 270 appear before the board in support of such protest; and the  
 271 board shall hold a meeting or meetings during said period to  
 272 consider and act upon any such protests.

273 (3) Immediately after the expiration of the period last  
 274 mentioned, the board of commissioners shall adopt a resolution  
 275 fixing the rates of assessment and shall return the said tax  
 276 roll to the county property appraiser, having first noted  
 277 thereon the levy against each parcel of property described  
 278 thereon, on or before the first day of July of each year. The  
 279 county property appraiser shall then include in the Manatee  
 280 County tax roll the assessments thus made by the Board of  
 281 Commissioners of the Trailer Estates Fire Control District and  
 282 the same shall be collected in the manner and form as is  
 283 provided for the collection of county taxes and paid over by the  
 284 county tax collector to the board of commissioners in the manner  
 285 and form as is provided for the disbursement of county taxes.  
 286 The county tax collector and the county property appraiser shall  
 287 receive commissions and fees for assessing and collecting such  
 288 assessments, of one and one-half percent to the tax collector  
 289 and one and one-half percent to the property appraiser, instead  
 290 of the same commissions and fees usually earned for the

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291 assessment and collection of county taxes. Further, the services  
 292 of the property appraiser and the tax collector under this act  
 293 are hereby declared to be special services performed directly  
 294 for the district, and any payment therefor shall not be personal  
 295 income of such official but shall be income to said official's  
 296 office.

297 Section 8. Such special assessments shall be a lien upon  
 298 the land so assessed along with the county taxes assessed  
 299 against the same until said assessments and taxes have been  
 300 paid, and if the same become delinquent, shall be considered a  
 301 part of the county tax, subject to the same penalties, charges,  
 302 fees, and remedies for enforcement and collection as provided by  
 303 the laws of the state for the collection of such taxes.

304 Section 9. The proceeds of said assessments and the funds  
 305 of the district shall be deposited in the name of the district  
 306 in a qualified public depository as defined by Florida law,  
 307 which depository shall be designated by resolution of the Board  
 308 of Commissioners. No funds of the district shall be disbursed  
 309 save and except by check or draft signed by any two  
 310 commissioners.

311 Section 10. The fiscal year of the district shall commence  
 312 October 1 of each year and end on September 30 of the following  
 313 year. The commissioners shall, on or before April 1 of each  
 314 year, prepare an annual financial statement of income and  
 315 disbursements during the prior fiscal year. On or before  
 316 September 1 of each year, the commissioners shall prepare and  
 317 adopt an itemized budget showing the amount of money necessary  
 318 for the operation of the district for the next fiscal year, and  
 319 the district assessment to be assessed and collected upon the

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320 taxable property of the district for the next ensuing year. A  
 321 copy of the annual financial statement and a copy of the budget  
 322 shall be made available for public inspection at the principal  
 323 office of the district at reasonable hours.

324 Section 11. The district may acquire and hold real and  
 325 personal property, sue and be sued, enter into contracts, and  
 326 perform other functions necessary or desirable to the carrying  
 327 out of the provisions and intent of this act. No debt shall be  
 328 created without the approval of the board of commissioners.

329 Section 12. The board of commissioners shall have the  
 330 power and authority to borrow money for the purposes of the  
 331 district in an amount not to exceed 50 percent of the total tax  
 332 assessment of the year when such borrowing is done, provided,  
 333 however, that the total accumulative debt of the district shall  
 334 never exceed 50 percent of the total special assessment in any 1  
 335 year. Neither the district commissioners as a body nor any one  
 336 of them as an individual shall be personally or individually  
 337 liable for the repayment of such loan, such repayment shall be  
 338 made out of tax receipts of the district. Except as provided in  
 339 this paragraph, the district commissioners shall not create any  
 340 indebtedness or incur obligations for any sum or amount which  
 341 the commissioners are unable to repay out of district funds then  
 342 in their hands, provided, that the district commissioners may  
 343 make purchases of equipment together with funds for the erection  
 344 or improvement of a fire station and/or ancillary structures of  
 345 the district on an installment basis as necessary if funds are  
 346 available for the payment of the current year's installment on  
 347 such equipment or building loan plus the amount due in that year  
 348 on any other installments and/or the repayment of any bank loan

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349 or other existing indebtedness which may be due that year.

350 Section 13. No funds of said district shall be used for  
 351 any purposes other than the administration of the affairs and  
 352 business of the district; the protection and preservation of  
 353 life and property; the prevention and elimination of fires; the  
 354 construction, care, maintenance, upkeep, operation, and purchase  
 355 of fire fighting and rescue equipment or a fire station and any  
 356 ancillary structures; installation of fire hydrants; payments of  
 357 public utilities such as electric lights and water; and payments  
 358 of salaries of a fire marshal and one or more firefighters as  
 359 the board of commissioners may from time to time determine to be  
 360 for the best interests of the district.

361 Section 14. The board of commissioners shall have the  
 362 power and the authority to buy, sell, trade, rent, or lease real  
 363 and personal property or otherwise dispose of surplus real or  
 364 personal property in the name of the district; to deliver  
 365 purchase money notes and mortgages or to assume the obligation  
 366 of existing mortgages in connection with the acquisition of  
 367 property of the district; to mortgage real and personal property  
 368 when necessary to carry out the district's duties and authority  
 369 under this act; to receive gifts of real or personal property;  
 370 and to acquire by gift or purchase a fire station and station  
 371 site and such fire fighting and rescue equipment as is deemed  
 372 necessary for the protection of said district. The board of  
 373 commissioners shall have the power to cooperate or contract with  
 374 other persons or entities, including other governmental  
 375 agencies, as necessary, convenient, incidental, or proper in  
 376 connection with providing effective mutual aid and furthering  
 377 any power, duty, or purpose authorized hereunder.

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378 Section 15.

379 (1) The members of the board of commissioners shall have  
380 the duties usually pertaining to, vested in, and incumbent upon  
381 like officers. A record shall be kept of all meetings of the  
382 board of commissioners, and in such meetings concurrence of a  
383 majority of said commissioners shall be necessary to any  
384 affirmative action taken by the board. The board of  
385 commissioners shall keep a permanent record book in which the  
386 minutes of all meetings, resolutions, proceedings, certificates,  
387 bonds given by commissioners, and corporate acts shall be  
388 recorded. The record book shall be open to inspection in the  
389 same manner as state, county, and municipal records are open  
390 under Florida law. The record book shall be kept at the  
391 principal office of the district.

392 (2) The board of commissioners may adopt such bylaws and  
393 rules and regulations not inconsistent with any portion of this  
394 act, as it may deem necessary in and about the transaction of  
395 its business and in carrying out the provisions of this act.

396 (3) The board of commissioners shall have the right,  
397 power, and authority to employ by written contract the services  
398 of a technical advisor who is thoroughly familiar with the  
399 details and operations of a fire control district for any and  
400 all such technical advice as may be necessary to make the fire  
401 control district operative in accordance with this act, and fees  
402 for such services shall be payable from the funds of the said  
403 fire control district. The board of commissioners is hereby  
404 authorized to employ and to enter into agreements or contracts  
405 with consultants, engineers, attorneys, and fiscal, financial,  
406 or other experts to perform planning, engineering, legal,

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407 financial, or other professional services for the district, or  
 408 any asset thereof, upon such terms and conditions as the  
 409 commissioners shall deem desirable and proper.

410 Section 16.

411 (1) The board of commissioners of said district may  
 412 appoint a fire marshal, who shall be a person experienced in all  
 413 types of fire fighting and fire prevention and who shall work  
 414 with and cooperate with the Florida State Forestry Service in  
 415 which the district is situated, in the prevention of fires of  
 416 all types.

417 (2) Said fire marshal shall be required to inspect all  
 418 places of business, apartment houses, hotels, motels, and other  
 419 buildings within the territorial limits of the district wherein  
 420 large groups of people might congregate to determine that such  
 421 places have proper fire extinguishers and fire escapes, at least  
 422 two times each year, and shall submit a report on same to the  
 423 board of commissioners.

424 Section 17. The special fire control district shall exist  
 425 until dissolved by law. Should any part of the territory covered  
 426 in this act be held not to be included herein, then this act  
 427 shall continue in effect as to the balance of the said  
 428 territory. The district may be abolished by a majority vote of  
 429 the registered voters residing in the district at an election  
 430 called by the board of commissioners for such purpose, which  
 431 election shall be held and notice thereof given under the same  
 432 requirements as are set forth hereunder for the election of  
 433 commissioners and the levying and collecting of the district  
 434 assessments. Provided that the district shall not be abolished  
 435 while it has outstanding indebtedness without first making

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436 adequate provision for the liquidation of such outstanding  
 437 indebtedness and provided, further, that the real and personal  
 438 property of the district shall be conveyed or otherwise  
 439 transferred by gift by the board of commissioners to the Trailer  
 440 Estates Park and Recreation District, being a political  
 441 subdivision of the state.

442 Section 18. Commissioners not guilty of malfeasance in  
 443 office shall be relieved of any personal liability for any acts  
 444 done by them while holding office in the district; and any  
 445 commissioner who is made a party to any action, suit, or  
 446 proceeding solely by reason of holding office in the district  
 447 shall be indemnified by the district against reasonable  
 448 expenses, including attorneys' fees, incurred by said  
 449 commissioner in defending such suit, action, or proceeding,  
 450 except with respect to matters wherein it shall be adjudged in  
 451 such proceeding that such commissioner is liable for negligence  
 452 or misconduct in the performance of the commissioner's duties.

453 Section 19. No suit, action, or proceeding shall be  
 454 instituted or maintained in any court against said district or  
 455 the commissioners, or any commissioner thereof, for or upon any  
 456 claim, right, or demand of any kind or nature, unless the person  
 457 or persons making such claim or demand or claiming such right  
 458 shall have within 30 days after the alleged accrual of such  
 459 claim, right, or demand, given to the commissioners, or one of  
 460 them, a notice in writing setting forth the nature of the right,  
 461 claim, or demand, the amount thereof, the place and manner in  
 462 which such claim or right accrued, together with the names and  
 463 addresses of all witnesses by whom such claims, rights, or  
 464 demands are to be proved or established, all with sufficient



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465 detail to enable the district and the commissioners to fully  
 466 investigate such claim, right, or demand; and no suit, action,  
 467 or proceeding or any such demand shall be instituted within 3  
 468 months after such notice shall be given.

469 Section 20. The word "district" shall mean the special  
 470 fire control district hereby organized; the words "board" and  
 471 "board of commissioners" shall mean the board of commissioners  
 472 of and for the special fire control district hereby created when  
 473 used in this act, unless otherwise specified.

474 Section 21. If any clause, section, or provision of this  
 475 act shall be declared to be unconstitutional or invalid for any  
 476 cause or reason, the same shall be eliminated from this act, and  
 477 the remaining portion of said act shall be in force and effect  
 478 and be as valid as if such invalid portion thereof had not been  
 479 incorporated therein.

480 Section 22. That all laws or parts of laws in conflict  
 481 herewith are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.

482 Section 23. This provisions of this act shall be liberally  
 483 construed in order to effectively carry out the purposes of this  
 484 act in the interest of the public.

485 Section 4. Chapters 63-1587, 65-1894, 65-1895, 72-613, 80-  
 486 534, 82-323, 84-473, 94-373, and 95-503, Laws of Florida, are  
 487 repealed.

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