

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LOCAL BILL STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 0401 Escambia County Utilities/Name Change
SPONSOR(S): Benson
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) <u>Local Government & Veterans' Affairs</u>	<u>18 Y, 0 N</u>	<u>Morris</u>	<u>Cutchins</u>
2) _____	_____	_____	_____
3) _____	_____	_____	_____
4) _____	_____	_____	_____
5) _____	_____	_____	_____

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

This bill changes the name of the Escambia County Utilities Authority to "Emerald Coast Utilities Authority."

According to the economic impact statement, this bill does not have a fiscal impact.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. DOES THE BILL:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Reduce government? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Lower taxes? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Expand individual freedom? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Increase personal responsibility? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Empower families? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Currently, the Escambia County Utilities Authority (ECUA) is an independent special district originally established in 1981 by an Act of the Florida Legislature. The ECUA is a local governmental entity consisting of a five-member Board elected from one of the five County electoral districts. The ECUA has the authority to own, manage, finance, promote, improve, and expand the water systems of the City of Pensacola and Escambia County, FL.

This bill changes the name of the ECUA to, "Emerald Coast Utilities Authority." The new title may help the general public decipher the ECUA's independence from official Escambia County services and operations.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1 amends chapter 2001-324, Laws of Florida, by changing the title of the Escambia County Utilities Authority to "Emerald Coast Utilities Authority."

Section 2 provides the effective date upon becoming a law.

II. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes No

IF YES, WHEN? October 18, 2003

WHERE? Notice was published in *The Pensacola News Journal*, in Escambia County, Florida, beginning on October 18, 2003 and has been continuously published in this newspaper. Also, this publication was submitted to residents by second class mail.

B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED? Yes No

IF YES, WHEN?

C. LOCAL BILL CERTIFICATION FILED? Yes, attached No

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FILED? Yes, attached No

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES: Not Applicable.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY: Not Applicable.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS: None.

IV. AMENDMENT/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

Not Applicable.