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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to the Lakeland Downtown Development Authority; codifying, amending, repealing, and reenacting special acts relating to the Lakeland Downtown Development Authority, an independent special district; providing definitions; providing a statement of policy; providing a method of defining the downtown area; creating a board to be known as the Lakeland Downtown Development Authority; providing for composition of the board; providing for appointment, term of office, compensation, bonding, and liability of the members of the board; providing for filling vacancies in office; providing for bylaws and internal governance of the board; prescribing the functions and powers of the board; providing for Polk County to levy an ad valorem tax of not more than 2 mills; providing for records and fiscal management; providing for issuing revenue certificates; providing for succession by the city if the board ceases to exist or operate; providing for referenda; prescribing the scope of this act; providing for liberal construction; repealing chapters 77-588 and 78-549, Laws of Florida; 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 Lakeland Downtown Development Authority District, also known as the Lakeland Downtown Development

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30 Authority. It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this
 31 law to provide a single, comprehensive special act charter for
 32 the district, including all current legislative authority
 33 granted to the district by its several legislative enactments
 34 and any additional authority granted by this act.

35 Section 2. Chapters 77-588 and 78-549, Laws of Florida,
 36 are codified, reenacted, amended, and repealed as herein
 37 provided.

38 Section 3. The Lakeland Downtown Development Authority
 39 District is reenacted, and the charter for the district is re-
 40 created and reenacted to read:

41 Section 1. Short title.--This act shall be known and may
 42 be cited as the "Lakeland Downtown Development Authority Act."

43 Section 2. Definitions and rules of construction.--Unless
 44 qualified in the text, the following definitions and rules of
 45 construction shall apply:

46 (1) "Board" means the Lakeland Downtown Development
 47 Authority Board and any successor to its functions, authority,
 48 rights, and obligations.

49 (2) "City" and "Lakeland" mean the City of Lakeland.

50 (3) "City commission" means the Lakeland City Commission
 51 and any succeeding governing body of the city.

52 (4) "Downtown" and "downtown area" mean the area
 53 established by the city commission as set forth herein and to
 54 which this act primarily relates, including the central business
 55 district and its environs.

56 (5) "Herein," "hereby," "hereof," and similar compounds
 57 refer to the entire act.

58 (6) "Including" shall be construed as merely introducing

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59 illustrative examples and not as limiting in any way the
 60 generality of the inclusive term.

61 (7) "Majority" without qualification means a majority of a
 62 quorum.

63 (8) "Mayor" means the Mayor of the City of Lakeland.

64 (9) "State" means the State of Florida.

65 (10) "Freeholder" for the purposes of this act means any
 66 owner of real property in the downtown area not wholly exempt
 67 from ad valorem taxation, including those claiming homestead,
 68 whether individual, corporation, trust, estate, partnership, or
 69 other artificial legal entity.

70 (11) "Elector" shall be as defined in Section 2 of Article
 71 VI of the State Constitution, 1968.

72 Section 3. Statement of policy.--It is the policy of the
 73 state to make it possible for the City of Lakeland to revitalize
 74 and preserve property value and prevent deterioration in the
 75 central business district by a system of self help to correct
 76 the blight of such deterioration as has developed there. It is a
 77 purpose of this act to provide the means whereby property owners
 78 within said district benefiting directly from the result of such
 79 a program shall bear the substantial cost thereof, and thereby
 80 local problems may be solved on a local level.

81 Section 4. Downtown area description.--

82 (1) The boundaries of the Lakeland Downtown Development
 83 Authority District are:

84 Commencing at a point at the intersection of Iowa Av.
 85 and Magnolia St., proceed south and easterly along the
 86 western right-of-way of the proposed In-Town Bypass
 87 (SR 600), Project No. 16000-3502, to the intersection

88 with the CSX railroad tracks; thence proceed
 89 northeasterly along the CSX railroad tracks to the
 90 intersection with the proposed In-Town Bypass; thence
 91 southeasterly along the proposed In-Town Bypass to
 92 Lake Av.; thence southerly along Lake Av. to E. Orange
 93 St.; thence westerly along E. Orange St. to S. Iowa
 94 Ave.; thence southerly along S. Iowa Ave. to Lake
 95 Morton Dr.; thence westerly along Lake Morton Dr. to
 96 Louise Place; thence westerly along Louise Place to S.
 97 Florida Ave.; thence northerly along S. Florida Ave.
 98 to W. Walnut St.; thence westerly along W. Walnut St.
 99 to S. Missouri Ave.; thence southerly along the
 100 western right-of-way line of S. Missouri Ave. to the
 101 centerline of W. Hickory St.; thence westerly along
 102 the centerline of W. Hickory St. approximately 135'
 103 from the western right-of-way line of S. Missouri Ave.
 104 to the centerline of the closed north-south alley way;
 105 thence southerly along the centerline of said closed
 106 alley way to the north right-of-way line of W.
 107 Palmetto St.; thence westerly approximately 830.68'
 108 along W. Palmetto St. to the northwestern corner of
 109 the intersection of W. Palmetto St. and Lakeside Ave.;
 110 thence northerly approximately 199.98'; thence
 111 westerly approximately 219.26' to the southeasterly
 112 right-of-way line of Sikes Blvd.; thence southeasterly
 113 along Sikes Blvd. to the extended north-south
 114 alignment of the western boundary of The Lakeland
 115 Center south parking lot; thence northerly along said
 116 alignment to W. Lime St.; thence westerly along W.

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117 Lime St. to Lake Beulah Dr.; thence northerly along
 118 Lake Beulah Dr. to W. Lemon St.; thence easterly along
 119 W. Lemon St. to Dakota Ave.; thence northerly along
 120 Dakota Ave. and Dakota Ave. extended to Lake Wire Dr.;
 121 thence easterly along the south and east side of Lake
 122 Wire to New York Av.; thence northerly along New York
 123 Av. to Magnolia St.; thence easterly along Magnolia
 124 St. to the point of beginning.

125 (a) The city commission shall set a date for a public
 126 hearing for the adoption of an ordinance describing the downtown
 127 area. Upon the adoption of a resolution, the city commission
 128 shall cause a notice of the public hearing to be published in a
 129 newspaper of general circulation published in the city, which
 130 notice shall be published two times, not less than 30 nor more
 131 than 60 days from the date of the hearing. The notice shall set
 132 forth the date, time, and place of the hearing and shall
 133 describe the proposed boundaries of the downtown area.

134 Additionally, the board shall cause to be mailed to each owner
 135 of real property within the proposed area not wholly exempt from
 136 taxes, according to the tax collector's records existing in Polk
 137 County, a copy of the notice as published in the paper, not less
 138 than 15 days prior to the hearing. Any citizen, taxpayer, or
 139 property owner shall have the right to be heard in favor of, or
 140 in opposition to, the proposed boundaries of the downtown
 141 district.

142 (b) After the public hearing, the city commission shall,
 143 in the manner authorized by law, adopt an ordinance defining the
 144 downtown area. The city commission shall not incorporate land
 145 into the district not included in the description contained in

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146 the notice of the public hearing, but it may eliminate any lands
 147 from the area, as published, in the final determination of the
 148 boundaries. Such eliminated lands shall be free from any
 149 additional tax imposed herein. From and after the effective date
 150 of the ordinance, it shall have existence as herein provided.

151 (2) The city commission may from time to time, by the
 152 procedure herein provided, alter or amend the boundaries of the
 153 downtown area by the inclusion of additional territory or the
 154 exclusion of lands from the limits of the district.

155 Section 5. Creation of the board; composition and
 156 provisions relating to members.--There is hereby created a board
 157 composed of seven members to be known officially as the
 158 "Lakeland Downtown Development Authority." The board is hereby
 159 constituted a body corporate and an agency of the city.
 160 Performance by the board of its duties and exercise of its
 161 powers are hereby designated municipal functions and shall be so
 162 construed.

163 (1) Six noncommissioner members of the board shall be
 164 elected for 3-year terms, with two members being elected in an
 165 authority election each year, at a date specified in the bylaws,
 166 by:

167 (a) The electors residing within the downtown area and
 168 registered within a precinct which lies within the downtown
 169 area.

170 (b) The designated voting representatives of any
 171 corporation or other artificial legal entity owning property
 172 within the taxing district.

173 (c) Any freeholder owning property within the district.
 174 Corporations or other artificial legal entities desiring to

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175 designate a voting representative with the board shall do so in
 176 the form and manner specified in the bylaws.

177
 178 In any election, each qualified voter shall have the right to
 179 write in any additional person on the ballot for each office.
 180 Any ballot received more than 2 weeks later than the date mailed
 181 by the authority shall be null and void. Similarly, any ballot
 182 containing fewer than 2 votes shall be null and void.

183 Nominations for board members shall be made by filing with the
 184 city clerk a petition on a form to be prescribed by the clerk,
 185 bearing the signatures of at least 10 electors or freeholders
 186 entitled to vote in the election.

187 (2) Two noncommissioner board members shall be elected at
 188 each annual election. Each qualified voter shall vote for two of
 189 those nominated for office. The two nominees receiving the
 190 greatest number of votes shall be elected as noncommissioner
 191 board members and shall serve for 3-year terms. In addition, the
 192 mayor, or a commissioner serving on the City Commission of
 193 Lakeland and designated by the mayor, shall serve in the
 194 position of commissioner board member on the Lakeland Downtown
 195 Development Authority.

196 (3) The City Manager of the City of Lakeland shall serve
 197 as an ex officio member of the board.

198 (4) To qualify for service on this board and to remain
 199 qualified for service on it, all board members, except for
 200 commissioner members, shall have their principal places of
 201 business or employment in the downtown area or shall hold
 202 property in the downtown area.

203 (5) In the event of any vacancies in office, the board

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204 shall appoint someone to serve temporarily until the next
 205 scheduled election, at which time there shall be nominations, as
 206 provided herein, for the remainder of the unexpired term.

207 (6) Each member of the board shall serve without
 208 compensation for services rendered as a member but may be
 209 reimbursed by the board for necessary and reasonable expenses
 210 actually incurred in the performance of duty. The board may
 211 require that all its members or any or all of its officers or
 212 employees be required to post bond for faithful performance of
 213 duty. The board shall require such bond of all persons
 214 authorized to sign on accounts of the board, and the board shall
 215 pay bonding costs. No member of the board shall be personally
 216 liable for any action taken in attempting in good faith to
 217 perform his or her duty, or for a decision not to act, except in
 218 instances of fraud or willful neglect of duty.

219 Section 6. Board bylaws and internal governance.--

220 (1) The board shall formulate and may amend its own rules
 221 of procedure and written bylaws, not inconsistent herewith, but
 222 such rules of procedure and written bylaws and amendments
 223 thereto shall become effective only after the approval of a
 224 majority of the voting members of the board.

225 (2) Four voting members of the board shall constitute a
 226 quorum for the transaction of business, but fewer than a quorum
 227 may adjourn from time to time. All action shall be taken by vote
 228 of at least a majority present and voting. Each year the board
 229 shall select one of its members as chair and another as vice
 230 chair. It shall hold regular meetings at least once a month at a
 231 regular meeting place to facilitate the attendance of interested
 232 parties and shall provide in its bylaws for holding special

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233 meetings. All owners of property in the downtown area not wholly
 234 exempt from taxes shall be notified by mail of the time and
 235 place of all special meetings, and any person shall have the
 236 right to attend and voice opinions at such meetings.

237 Section 7. Functions of the board.--The board shall
 238 perform the following functions:

239 (1) The board shall not provide city governmental
 240 services, but shall act as a catalyst to see that such services
 241 are properly planned for within the downtown area and are
 242 provided in a proper and full manner within that area.

243 (2) Assist the city in preparing and maintaining on a
 244 current basis an analysis of the economic conditions and changes
 245 occurring in the downtown area, including the effect thereon of
 246 such factors as metropolitan growth, traffic congestion, parking
 247 and other access facilities, and structural obsolescence and
 248 deterioration.

249 (3) Assist the city in formulating and maintaining on a
 250 current basis both short-range and long-range plans for
 251 improving the attractiveness and accessibility to the public of
 252 downtown facilities, promoting efficient use thereof, remedying
 253 the deterioration of downtown property values, and developing
 254 the downtown area in general.

255 (4) Recommend to the city, for its consideration and
 256 approval, the actions deemed most suitable for implementing any
 257 downtown development plans, including removal, razing, repair,
 258 renovation, reconstruction, remodeling, and improvement of
 259 existing structures, addition of new structures and facilities,
 260 relocation of those existing, and changes in facilities for
 261 getting thereto and therefrom.

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262 (5) Participate actively in the implementation and
 263 execution of downtown development plans, including
 264 establishment, acquisition, construction, ownership, financing,
 265 leasing, licensing, operation, and management of publicly owned
 266 or leased facilities deemed feasible and beneficial in effecting
 267 implementation for public purposes; however, this subsection
 268 shall not give the board any power or control over any city
 269 property unless and until assigned to it by the city commission
 270 under the provision of subsection (6).

271 (6) Carry on such additional lawful projects and
 272 undertakings related to the downtown area as the city commission
 273 may assign to the board with its consent.

274 Section 8. Powers of the board.--In the performance of the
 275 functions vested in or assigned to the board under section 7,
 276 the board is granted the following powers:

277 (1) To enter into contracts and agreements to accomplish
 278 the functions set forth in section 7 and to sue and be sued as a
 279 body corporate.

280 (2) To have and use a corporate seal.

281 (3) To accept grants and donations of any type of
 282 property, labor, or other thing of value from any public or
 283 private source.

284 (4) To receive the proceeds of the tax hereby imposed.

285 (5) To receive the revenues from any property or facility
 286 owned, leased, licensed, or operated by it or under its control,
 287 subject to the limitations imposed upon it by trusts or other
 288 agreements validly entered into by it.

289 (6) To have exclusive control of funds legally available
 290 to it, subject to limitations imposed upon it by law or by any

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291 agreement validly entered into by it.

292 (7) To cooperate and enter into agreements with other
 293 governmental agencies or other public bodies, except that
 294 nothing in this act shall be construed as authorization to
 295 initiate a federally subsidized urban renewal program and any
 296 such urban renewal program is hereby specifically prohibited.

297 (8) To borrow money and to issue and sell revenue
 298 certificates as hereinafter provided, or in any other manner
 299 permitted by law and not inconsistent with the provisions
 300 hereof, and to take all steps necessary for efficient
 301 preparation and marketing of the certificates at public or
 302 private sale at the best price obtainable, including the entry
 303 into agreements with corporate trustees, underwriters, and the
 304 holders of the certificates, and the employment and payment as a
 305 necessary expense of issuance, for the service of consultants on
 306 valuations, costs, and feasibility of undertaking, revenues to
 307 be anticipated and other financial matters, architecture,
 308 engineering, legal matters, accounting matters, and any other
 309 fields in which expert advice may be needed to effectuate
 310 advantageous issuance and marketing.

311 (9) To request by resolution that the city exercise its
 312 powers of eminent domain to acquire any real property for public
 313 purposes. If the property involved is acquired, the board shall
 314 take over and assume control of such property on terms mutually
 315 agreed upon between the city and the board, but the board shall
 316 not hereafter be authorized to sell, lease, or otherwise dispose
 317 of such property so acquired without the formal consent of the
 318 city commission.

319 (10) To acquire, own, convey, or otherwise dispose of,

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320 lease as lessor or lessee, construct, maintain, improve,
 321 enlarge, raze, relocate, operate, and manage property and
 322 facilities of whatever type to which it holds title and to grant
 323 or acquire licenses, easements, and options with respect
 324 thereto.

325 Section 9. Levy of ad valorem tax.--Polk County, upon
 326 request of the board for the purpose of implementing its
 327 authority under this act, shall levy an ad valorem tax in
 328 addition to all other ad valorem taxes that may be levied
 329 annually by the county on all real property within the area
 330 described in section 4, except that no such tax shall be levied
 331 on property qualifying for homestead exemption, and Polk County
 332 shall administer such levy as a special taxing district levy
 333 authorized under Section 9 of Article VII of the State
 334 Constitution. The rate shall not exceed 2 mills on each dollar
 335 of tax base, and the board shall establish its budget for the
 336 coming fiscal year and for each fiscal year thereafter prior to
 337 the time the Tax Collector of Polk County shall prepare his or
 338 her tax bills. After making public the proposed budget, the
 339 board shall communicate by written notice to the Tax Assessor of
 340 Polk County what millage rate, within the 2-mill limit, shall be
 341 in effect for the next year's billing.

342 Section 10. Board records and fiscal management.--

343 (1) The funds of the board shall be maintained under a
 344 separate account, shall be used for the purposes herein
 345 authorized, and shall be distributed only by direction of or
 346 with the approval of the board pursuant to requisitions signed
 347 by the director or other designated chief fiscal officer of the
 348 board and countersigned by at least one other person who shall

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349 be a member of the board.

350 (2) The board bylaws shall provide for maintenance of
 351 minutes and other official records of its proceedings and
 352 actions, for preparation and adoption of an annual budget for
 353 each ensuing fiscal year, for internal supervision and control
 354 of its accounts, which function the appropriate city fiscal
 355 officers may perform at its request, and for an external audit
 356 at least annually by an independent certified public accountant
 357 who has no personal interest, direct or indirect, in its fiscal
 358 affairs. A copy of the external audit shall be filed with the
 359 city clerk within 90 days after the end of each fiscal year.

360 (3) No member or employee of the board shall participate
 361 by vote or otherwise on behalf of the board in any matter in
 362 which he or she has a direct financial interest or an indirect
 363 financial interest other than of the benefits to be derived
 364 generally from the development of the downtown area.
 365 Participation with knowledge of such interest shall constitute
 366 malfeasance and shall result, as regards a member, in automatic
 367 forfeiture of office or, as regards an employee, in prompt
 368 dismissal.

369 Section 11. Issuance of revenue certificates.--Issuance of
 370 revenue certificates by the board shall be governed by the
 371 following general provisions:

372 (1) Revenue certificates for purposes hereof are limited
 373 to obligations that are secured solely by pledge of revenues
 374 produced by the facility or facilities for the benefit of which
 375 the certificates are issued and the sale proceeds used and that
 376 do not constitute a lien or encumbrance, legal or equitable, on
 377 any real property of the board or on any of its personal

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378 property other than the revenues pledged to secure payment of
 379 the certificates.

380 (2) The faith and credit of the city shall not be pledged
 381 and the city shall not be obligated directly or indirectly to
 382 make any payments on or appropriate any funds for certificates
 383 issued by the board.

384 (3) Before issuing any revenue certificate, the board
 385 shall, with respect to each issue:

386 (a) Prepare or procure from a reliable source detailed
 387 estimates of the total cost of the undertaking for which the
 388 certificates are contemplated and of the annual revenues to be
 389 obtained therefrom and pledged as security for payment of the
 390 certificates.

391 (b) Determine that the anticipated net proceeds from the
 392 sale, together with any other funds available and intended for
 393 the purposes of the issue, will be sufficient to cover all costs
 394 of the undertaking and of preparing and marketing the issues
 395 connected therewith.

396 (c) Determine that the annual revenues anticipated from
 397 the undertaking will be sufficient to pay not only the estimated
 398 annual cost of maintaining, repairing, operating, and replacing,
 399 to any necessary extent, the undertaking, but also the punctual
 400 payment of the principal of, and interest on, the contemplated
 401 certificates.

402 (d) Specify its determinations in, and include the
 403 supporting estimates as part of, the resolution providing for
 404 the issue.

405 (4) The board may, with respect to any issue of revenue
 406 certificates, engage the services of a corporate trustee for the

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407 issue and may treat any or all costs of carrying out the trust
 408 agreement as part of the operating costs of the undertaking for
 409 which the certificates are issued.

410 (5) The board shall from time to time establish such
 411 rentals, rates, and charges, or shall by agreement maintain such
 412 control thereof, as to meet punctually all payments on the
 413 undertaking and its maintenance and repair, including reserves
 414 therefor and for depreciation and replacement.

415 (6) Revenue certificates may be issued for the purpose of
 416 funding, refunding, or both.

417 (7) All revenue certificates issued pursuant hereto shall
 418 be negotiable instruments for all purposes.

419 (8) Validation bonds shall be in accordance with chapter
 420 75, Florida Statutes.

421 Section 12. Transfer upon cessation of the board.--Should
 422 the board cease to exist or to operate for whatever reason, all
 423 property of whatever kind shall forthwith become the property of
 424 the city, subject to the outstanding obligations of the board
 425 incurred in conformity with all of the foregoing provisions, and
 426 the city shall use this property to the maximum extent then
 427 practicable for effectuating the purposes hereof and shall
 428 succeed to and exercise only such powers of the board as shall
 429 be necessary to meet outstanding obligations of the board and
 430 effect an orderly cessation of its powers and functions.
 431 However, under no circumstances shall the city directly or
 432 indirectly be obligated to pledge or use any of its tax moneys
 433 to accomplish these functions.

434 Section 13. Referendum.--No ad valorem tax shall be levied
 435 hereunder unless the question of the right of the board to levy

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436 an annual tax pursuant to section 9 has been submitted to the
 437 electors who reside within the downtown area and are registered
 438 within a precinct which lies within the downtown area and to the
 439 freeholders owning property in the downtown area.

440 (1) For the purposes of any required referendum, the city
 441 clerk shall act as election supervisor and do all things
 442 necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

443 (2) The Clerk of the City of Lakeland shall compile a list
 444 of the names and the last known addresses of the property owners
 445 of real property not wholly exempt from taxes as determined from
 446 the tax assessment rolls of Polk County, and the list so
 447 prepared shall constitute the registration list for the purposes
 448 of the referendum herein, except as hereinafter provided.

449 (3) The clerk shall notify each person qualified to vote
 450 herein of the general provisions of this act and shall send him
 451 or her a certified copy of same, the dates of the upcoming
 452 referendum, and the method provided for additional registration
 453 should the status of any property owner have changed from that
 454 obtained from the county property appraiser. Notification
 455 hereunder shall be by United States mail and in addition thereto
 456 by publication one time in a newspaper of general circulation.

457 (4) Any person entitled to vote herein whose name does not
 458 appear on such registration list may register with the city
 459 clerk at City Hall of the City of Lakeland or by mail in
 460 accordance with regulations promulgated by the clerk. The
 461 registration lists shall remain open until 30 days after the
 462 notification provided in subsection (3).

463 (5) Within 30 days after the closing of the registration
 464 list, the clerk shall have a secret and direct ballot of the

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465 persons entitled to vote in such a referendum by providing a
 466 certified voting machine or paper ballot at City Hall of the
 467 City of Lakeland, between the legal hours of voting in normal
 468 elections. The clerk shall place the date of this election in
 469 the original notification and, additionally, the day after the
 470 registration list is closed, shall mail to all eligible voters
 471 additional notification of the time and place of said election.
 472 Within 1 day after holding said election, the clerk shall
 473 certify the results thereof to the City Commission of Lakeland
 474 and to the board. Any person voting who has knowledge that he or
 475 she is not a freeholder or elector residing within the district
 476 as defined by this act shall be guilty of perjury and shall be
 477 prosecuted and, upon conviction, punished in accordance with the
 478 provisions of the laws of this state.

479 (6) For the purposes of this act, one vote shall be
 480 allowed for each individual who is a freeholder or elector as
 481 defined in section 5(1)(a) and by the State Constitution. Joint
 482 and several owners of property shall be allowed to cast one
 483 ballot per parcel. Corporations or other artificial legal
 484 entities that own property within the district shall designate a
 485 voting representative no less than 1 week prior to any
 486 referendum in the manner to be prescribed by the city clerk.
 487 Such corporations or artificial legal entities shall vote only
 488 through their designated representatives.

489 (7) Additional referenda called for levying special taxing
 490 district taxes after changing the boundaries of the downtown
 491 area originally established in accordance with section 4 shall
 492 be held in accordance with the referendum provisions of this
 493 act. However, no provision of this act shall require the

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494 approval of property owners or electors in an area which was not
 495 previously included within the boundary of the Lakeland Downtown
 496 Development Authority.

497 (8) A repeal referendum may be called by petition of the
 498 property owners and electors representing at least 30 percent of
 499 the property owners and electors in the downtown area as defined
 500 in section 5(1)(a) for the purpose of abolishing the board and
 501 repealing this act. Upon the receipt of such a petition for a
 502 repeal referendum by the city clerk, a referendum election shall
 503 be called by the city clerk and shall be held under the
 504 procedures as specified in this section. If the repeal shall
 505 fail, there shall be no additional repeal referendum made by
 506 petition at any time until 1 year after the certification of the
 507 results of the previous repeal referendum by the clerk.

508 (9) The elections to be held under this act shall be held
 509 in accordance with the election laws of the City of Lakeland
 510 insofar as possible and the laws of the state.

511 Section 14. Millage limitations.--This act provides for
 512 the establishment of a special taxing district under Section 9
 513 of Article VII of the State Constitution, and the millage
 514 limitation is specified in this act as authorized by the State
 515 Constitution. It is intended that such tax shall not be
 516 construed as a tax for county or municipal purposes as referred
 517 to in that section of the State Constitution. However, should
 518 this act be judicially construed to be within the 10-mill
 519 limitation of the city or the 10-mill limitation of the county,
 520 then all provisions of this act shall be null and void and this
 521 act shall be of no further effect.

522 Section 15. Liberal construction.--The provisions of this

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523 act, being desirable for the welfare of the city and its
524 inhabitants, shall be liberally construed to effectuate the
525 purposes herein set forth.

526 Section 4. Chapters 77-588 and 78-549, Laws of Florida,
527 are repealed.

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