

## CHAMBER ACTION

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

3  
4 **Committee Substitute**

5 Remove the entire bill and insert:

6 A bill to be entitled

7 An act relating to the Lakeland Downtown Development  
8 Authority; codifying, amending, repealing, and reenacting  
9 special acts relating to the Lakeland Downtown Development  
10 Authority, an independent special district; providing  
11 definitions; providing a statement of policy; providing a  
12 method of defining the downtown area; creating a board to  
13 be known as the Lakeland Downtown Development Authority;  
14 providing for composition of the board; providing for  
15 appointment, term of office, compensation, bonding, and  
16 liability of the members of the board; providing for  
17 filling vacancies in office; providing for bylaws and  
18 internal governance of the board; prescribing the  
19 functions and powers of the board; providing for Polk  
20 County to levy an ad valorem tax of not more than 2 mills;  
21 providing for records and fiscal management; providing for  
22 issuing revenue certificates; providing for succession by  
23 the city if the board ceases to exist or operate;

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24 providing for referenda; prescribing the scope of this  
 25 act; providing for liberal construction; repealing  
 26 chapters 77-588 and 78-549, Laws of Florida; providing an  
 27 effective date.

28

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

30

31 Section 1. Pursuant to section 189.429, Florida Statutes,  
 32 this act constitutes the codification of all special acts  
 33 relating to the Lakeland Downtown Development Authority  
 34 District, also known as the Lakeland Downtown Development  
 35 Authority. It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this  
 36 law to provide a single, comprehensive special act charter for  
 37 the district, including all current legislative authority  
 38 granted to the district by its several legislative enactments  
 39 and any additional authority granted by this act.

40 Section 2. Chapters 77-588 and 78-549, Laws of Florida,  
 41 are codified, reenacted, amended, and repealed as herein  
 42 provided.

43 Section 3. The Lakeland Downtown Development Authority  
 44 District is reenacted, and the charter for the district is re-  
 45 created and reenacted to read:

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

48 Section 2. Definitions and rules of construction.--Unless  
 49 qualified in the text, the following definitions and rules of  
 50 construction shall apply:

51           (1) "Board" means the Lakeland Downtown Development  
 52 Authority Board and any successor to its functions, authority,  
 53 rights, and obligations.

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

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

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

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

63           (6) "Including" shall be construed as merely introducing  
 64 illustrative examples and not as limiting in any way the  
 65 generality of the inclusive term.

66           (7) "Majority" without qualification means a majority of a  
 67 quorum.

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

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

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

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

77           Section 3. Statement of policy.--It is the policy of the  
 78 state to make it possible for the City of Lakeland to revitalize

79 and preserve property value and prevent deterioration in the  
 80 central business district by a system of self help to correct  
 81 the blight of such deterioration as has developed there. It is a  
 82 purpose of this act to provide the means whereby property owners  
 83 within said district benefiting directly from the result of such  
 84 a program shall bear the substantial cost thereof, and thereby  
 85 local problems may be solved on a local level.

86 Section 4. Downtown area description.--

87 (1) The boundaries of the Lakeland Downtown Development  
 88 Authority District are:

89  
 90 Commencing at a point at the intersection of Iowa Av.  
 91 and Magnolia St., proceed south and easterly along the  
 92 western right-of-way of the proposed In-Town Bypass  
 93 (SR 600), Project No. 16000-3502, to the intersection  
 94 with the CSX railroad tracks; thence proceed  
 95 northeasterly along the CSX railroad tracks to the  
 96 intersection with the proposed In-Town Bypass; thence  
 97 southeasterly along the proposed In-Town Bypass to  
 98 Lake Av.; thence southerly along Lake Av. to E. Orange  
 99 St.; thence westerly along E. Orange St. to S. Iowa  
 100 Ave.; thence southerly along S. Iowa Ave. to Lake  
 101 Morton Dr.; thence westerly along Lake Morton Dr. to  
 102 Louise Place; thence westerly along Louise Place to S.  
 103 Florida Ave.; thence northerly along S. Florida Ave.  
 104 to W. Walnut St.; thence westerly along W. Walnut St.  
 105 to S. Missouri Ave.; thence southerly along the  
 106 western right-of-way line of S. Missouri Ave. to the

107 | centerline of W. Hickory St.; thence westerly along  
 108 | the centerline of W. Hickory St. approximately 135'  
 109 | from the western right-of-way line of S. Missouri Ave.  
 110 | to the centerline of the closed north-south alley way;  
 111 | thence southerly along the centerline of said closed  
 112 | alley way to the north right-of-way line of W.  
 113 | Palmetto St.; thence westerly approximately 830.68'  
 114 | along W. Palmetto St. to the northwestern corner of  
 115 | the intersection of W. Palmetto St. and Lakeside Ave.;  
 116 | thence northerly approximately 199.98'; thence  
 117 | westerly approximately 219.26' to the southeasterly  
 118 | right-of-way line of Sikes Blvd.; thence southeasterly  
 119 | along Sikes Blvd. to the extended north-south  
 120 | alignment of the western boundary of The Lakeland  
 121 | Center south parking lot; thence northerly along said  
 122 | alignment to W. Lime St.; thence westerly along W.  
 123 | Lime St. to Lake Beulah Dr.; thence northerly along  
 124 | Lake Beulah Dr. to W. Lemon St.; thence easterly along  
 125 | W. Lemon St. to Dakota Ave.; thence northerly along  
 126 | Dakota Ave. and Dakota Ave. extended to Lake Wire Dr.;  
 127 | thence easterly along the south and east side of Lake  
 128 | Wire to New York Av.; thence northerly along New York  
 129 | Av. to Magnolia St.; thence easterly along Magnolia  
 130 | St. to the point of beginning.  
 131 | (a) The city commission shall set a date for a public  
 132 | hearing for the adoption of an ordinance describing the downtown  
 133 | area. Upon the adoption of a resolution, the city commission  
 134 | shall cause a notice of the public hearing to be published in a

135 newspaper of general circulation published in the city, which  
 136 notice shall be published two times, not less than 30 nor more  
 137 than 60 days from the date of the hearing. The notice shall set  
 138 forth the date, time, and place of the hearing and shall  
 139 describe the proposed boundaries of the downtown area.  
 140 Additionally, the board shall cause to be mailed to each owner  
 141 of real property within the proposed area not wholly exempt from  
 142 taxes, according to the tax collector's records existing in Polk  
 143 County, a copy of the notice as published in the paper, not less  
 144 than 15 days prior to the hearing. Any citizen, taxpayer, or  
 145 property owner shall have the right to be heard in favor of, or  
 146 in opposition to, the proposed boundaries of the downtown  
 147 district.

148 (b) After the public hearing, the city commission shall,  
 149 in the manner authorized by law, adopt an ordinance defining the  
 150 downtown area. The city commission shall not incorporate land  
 151 into the district not included in the description contained in  
 152 the notice of the public hearing, but it may eliminate any lands  
 153 from the area, as published, in the final determination of the  
 154 boundaries. Such eliminated lands shall be free from any  
 155 additional tax imposed herein. From and after the effective date  
 156 of the ordinance, it shall have existence as herein provided.

157 (2) The city commission may from time to time, by the  
 158 procedure herein provided, alter or amend the boundaries of the  
 159 downtown area by the inclusion of additional territory or the  
 160 exclusion of lands from the limits of the district.

161 Section 5. Creation of the board; composition and  
 162 provisions relating to members.--There is hereby created a board

163 composed of seven members to be known officially as the  
 164 "Lakeland Downtown Development Authority." The board is hereby  
 165 constituted a body corporate and an agency of the city.  
 166 Performance by the board of its duties and exercise of its  
 167 powers are hereby designated municipal functions and shall be so  
 168 construed.

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

173 (a) The electors residing within the downtown area and  
 174 registered within a precinct which lies within the downtown  
 175 area.

176 (b) The designated voting representatives of any  
 177 corporation or other artificial legal entity owning property  
 178 within the taxing district.

179 (c) Any freeholder owning property within the district.  
 180 Corporations or other artificial legal entities desiring to  
 181 designate a voting representative with the board shall do so in  
 182 the form and manner specified in the bylaws.

183  
 184 In any election, each qualified voter shall have the right to  
 185 write in any additional person on the ballot for each office.  
 186 Any ballot received more than 2 weeks later than the date mailed  
 187 by the authority shall be null and void. Similarly, any ballot  
 188 containing fewer than 2 votes shall be null and void.  
 189 Nominations for board members shall be made by filing with the  
 190 city clerk a petition on a form to be prescribed by the clerk,

191 bearing the signatures of at least 10 electors or freeholders  
 192 entitled to vote in the election.

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

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

204 (4) To qualify for service on this board and to remain  
 205 qualified for service on it, all board members, except for  
 206 commissioner members, shall have their principal places of  
 207 business or employment in the downtown area or shall hold  
 208 property in the downtown area.

209 (5) In the event of any vacancies in office, the board  
 210 shall appoint someone to serve temporarily until the next  
 211 scheduled election, at which time there shall be nominations, as  
 212 provided herein, for the remainder of the unexpired term.

213 (6) Each member of the board shall serve without  
 214 compensation for services rendered as a member but may be  
 215 reimbursed by the board for necessary and reasonable expenses  
 216 actually incurred in the performance of duty. The board may  
 217 require that all its members or any or all of its officers or  
 218 employees be required to post bond for faithful performance of



219 duty. The board shall require such bond of all persons  
 220 authorized to sign on accounts of the board, and the board shall  
 221 pay bonding costs. No member of the board shall be personally  
 222 liable for any action taken in attempting in good faith to  
 223 perform his or her duty, or for a decision not to act, except in  
 224 instances of fraud or willful neglect of duty.

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

226 (1) The board shall formulate and may amend its own rules  
 227 of procedure and written bylaws, not inconsistent herewith, but  
 228 such rules of procedure and written bylaws and amendments  
 229 thereto shall become effective only after the approval of a  
 230 majority of the voting members of the board.

231 (2) Four voting members of the board shall constitute a  
 232 quorum for the transaction of business, but fewer than a quorum  
 233 may adjourn from time to time. All action shall be taken by vote  
 234 of at least a majority present and voting. Each year the board  
 235 shall select one of its members as chair and another as vice  
 236 chair. It shall hold regular meetings at least once a month at a  
 237 regular meeting place to facilitate the attendance of interested  
 238 parties and shall provide in its bylaws for holding special  
 239 meetings. All owners of property in the downtown area not wholly  
 240 exempt from taxes shall be notified by mail of the time and  
 241 place of all special meetings, and any person shall have the  
 242 right to attend and voice opinions at such meetings.

243 Section 7. Functions of the board.--The board shall  
 244 perform the following functions:

245 (1) The board shall not provide city governmental  
 246 services, but shall act as a catalyst to see that such services

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247 are properly planned for within the downtown area and are  
 248 provided in a proper and full manner within that area.

249 (2) Assist the city in preparing and maintaining on a  
 250 current basis an analysis of the economic conditions and changes  
 251 occurring in the downtown area, including the effect thereon of  
 252 such factors as metropolitan growth, traffic congestion, parking  
 253 and other access facilities, and structural obsolescence and  
 254 deterioration.

255 (3) Assist the city in formulating and maintaining on a  
 256 current basis both short-range and long-range plans for  
 257 improving the attractiveness and accessibility to the public of  
 258 downtown facilities, promoting efficient use thereof, remedying  
 259 the deterioration of downtown property values, and developing  
 260 the downtown area in general.

261 (4) Recommend to the city, for its consideration and  
 262 approval, the actions deemed most suitable for implementing any  
 263 downtown development plans, including removal, razing, repair,  
 264 renovation, reconstruction, remodeling, and improvement of  
 265 existing structures, addition of new structures and facilities,  
 266 relocation of those existing, and changes in facilities for  
 267 getting thereto and therefrom.

268 (5) Participate actively in the implementation and  
 269 execution of downtown development plans, including  
 270 establishment, acquisition, construction, ownership, financing,  
 271 leasing, licensing, operation, and management of publicly owned  
 272 or leased facilities deemed feasible and beneficial in effecting  
 273 implementation for public purposes; however, this subsection  
 274 shall not give the board any power or control over any city

275 property unless and until assigned to it by the city commission  
 276 under the provision of subsection (6).

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

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

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

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

287 (3) To accept grants and donations of any type of  
 288 property, labor, or other thing of value from any public or  
 289 private source.

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

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

295 (6) To have exclusive control of funds legally available  
 296 to it, subject to limitations imposed upon it by law or by any  
 297 agreement validly entered into by it.

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

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

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

325       (10) To acquire, own, convey, or otherwise dispose of,  
 326 lease as lessor or lessee, construct, maintain, improve,  
 327 enlarge, raze, relocate, operate, and manage property and  
 328 facilities of whatever type to which it holds title and to grant  
 329 or acquire licenses, easements, and options with respect  
 330 thereto.

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

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

349       (1) The funds of the board shall be maintained under a  
 350 separate account, shall be used for the purposes herein  
 351 authorized, and shall be distributed only by direction of or  
 352 with the approval of the board pursuant to requisitions signed  
 353 by the director or other designated chief fiscal officer of the  
 354 board and countersigned by at least one other person who shall  
 355 be a member of the board.

356       (2) The board bylaws shall provide for maintenance of  
 357 minutes and other official records of its proceedings and  
 358 actions, for preparation and adoption of an annual budget for

359 each ensuing fiscal year, for internal supervision and control  
 360 of its accounts, which function the appropriate city fiscal  
 361 officers may perform at its request, and for an external audit  
 362 at least annually by an independent certified public accountant  
 363 who has no personal interest, direct or indirect, in its fiscal  
 364 affairs. A copy of the external audit shall be filed with the  
 365 city clerk within 90 days after the end of each fiscal year.

366 (3) No member or employee of the board shall participate  
 367 by vote or otherwise on behalf of the board in any matter in  
 368 which he or she has a direct financial interest or an indirect  
 369 financial interest other than of the benefits to be derived  
 370 generally from the development of the downtown area.

371 Participation with knowledge of such interest shall constitute  
 372 malfeasance and shall result, as regards a member, in automatic  
 373 forfeiture of office or, as regards an employee, in prompt  
 374 dismissal.

375 Section 11. Issuance of revenue certificates.--Issuance of  
 376 revenue certificates by the board shall be governed by the  
 377 following general provisions:

378 (1) Revenue certificates for purposes hereof are limited  
 379 to obligations that are secured solely by pledge of revenues  
 380 produced by the facility or facilities for the benefit of which  
 381 the certificates are issued and the sale proceeds used and that  
 382 do not constitute a lien or encumbrance, legal or equitable, on  
 383 any real property of the board or on any of its personal  
 384 property other than the revenues pledged to secure payment of  
 385 the certificates.

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386       (2) The faith and credit of the city shall not be pledged  
 387 and the city shall not be obligated directly or indirectly to  
 388 make any payments on or appropriate any funds for certificates  
 389 issued by the board.

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

392       (a) Prepare or procure from a reliable source detailed  
 393 estimates of the total cost of the undertaking for which the  
 394 certificates are contemplated and of the annual revenues to be  
 395 obtained therefrom and pledged as security for payment of the  
 396 certificates.

397       (b) Determine that the anticipated net proceeds from the  
 398 sale, together with any other funds available and intended for  
 399 the purposes of the issue, will be sufficient to cover all costs  
 400 of the undertaking and of preparing and marketing the issues  
 401 connected therewith.

402       (c) Determine that the annual revenues anticipated from  
 403 the undertaking will be sufficient to pay not only the estimated  
 404 annual cost of maintaining, repairing, operating, and replacing,  
 405 to any necessary extent, the undertaking, but also the punctual  
 406 payment of the principal of, and interest on, the contemplated  
 407 certificates.

408       (d) Specify its determinations in, and include the  
 409 supporting estimates as part of, the resolution providing for  
 410 the issue.

411       (4) The board may, with respect to any issue of revenue  
 412 certificates, engage the services of a corporate trustee for the  
 413 issue and may treat any or all costs of carrying out the trust

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414 agreement as part of the operating costs of the undertaking for  
415 which the certificates are issued.

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

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

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

425 (8) Validation bonds shall be in accordance with chapter  
426 75, Florida Statutes.

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

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



442 an annual tax pursuant to section 9 has been submitted to the  
 443 electors who reside within the downtown area and are registered  
 444 within a precinct which lies within the downtown area and to the  
 445 freeholders owning property in the downtown area.

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

449 (2) The Clerk of the City of Lakeland shall compile a list  
 450 of the names and the last known addresses of the property owners  
 451 of real property not wholly exempt from taxes as determined from  
 452 the tax assessment rolls of Polk County, and the list so  
 453 prepared shall constitute the registration list for the purposes  
 454 of the referendum herein, except as hereinafter provided.

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

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

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469       (5) Within 30 days after the closing of the registration  
 470 list, the clerk shall have a secret and direct ballot of the  
 471 persons entitled to vote in such a referendum by providing a  
 472 certified voting machine or paper ballot at City Hall of the  
 473 City of Lakeland, between the legal hours of voting in normal  
 474 elections. The clerk shall place the date of this election in  
 475 the original notification and, additionally, the day after the  
 476 registration list is closed, shall mail to all eligible voters  
 477 additional notification of the time and place of said election.  
 478 Within 1 day after holding said election, the clerk shall  
 479 certify the results thereof to the City Commission of Lakeland  
 480 and to the board. Any person voting who has knowledge that he or  
 481 she is not a freeholder or elector residing within the district  
 482 as defined by this act shall be guilty of perjury and shall be  
 483 prosecuted and, upon conviction, punished in accordance with the  
 484 provisions of the laws of this state.

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

495       (7) Additional referenda called for levying special taxing  
 496 district taxes after changing the boundaries of the downtown

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497 area originally established in accordance with section 4 shall  
 498 be held in accordance with the referendum provisions of this  
 499 act.

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

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

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

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525           Section 15. Liberal construction.--The provisions of this  
526 act, being desirable for the welfare of the city and its  
527 inhabitants, shall be liberally construed to effectuate the  
528 purposes herein set forth.

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

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