

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the Lakeland Downtown Development
3 Authority; codifying, amending, repealing, and reenacting
4 special acts relating to the Lakeland Downtown Development
5 Authority, an independent special district; providing
6 definitions; providing a statement of policy; providing a
7 method of defining the downtown area; creating a board to
8 be known as the Lakeland Downtown Development Authority;
9 providing for composition of the board; providing for
10 appointment, term of office, compensation, bonding, and
11 liability of the members of the board; providing for
12 filling vacancies in office; providing for bylaws and
13 internal governance of the board; prescribing the
14 functions and powers of the board; providing for Polk
15 County to levy an ad valorem tax of not more than 2 mills;
16 providing for records and fiscal management; providing for
17 issuing revenue certificates; providing for succession by
18 the city if the board ceases to exist or operate;
19 providing for referenda; prescribing the scope of this
20 act; providing for liberal construction; repealing
21 chapters 77-588 and 78-549, Laws of Florida; providing an
22 effective date.

23
24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

25
26 Section 1. Pursuant to section 189.429, Florida Statutes,
27 this act constitutes the codification of all special acts
28 relating to the Lakeland Downtown Development Authority

29 District, also known as the Lakeland Downtown Development
 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 36 are codified, reenacted, amended, and repealed as herein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
 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
 85 Commencing at a point at the intersection of Iowa Av.
 86 and Magnolia St., proceed south and easterly along the
 87 western right-of-way of the proposed In-Town Bypass
 88 (SR 600), Project No. 16000-3502, to the intersection
 89 with the CSX railroad tracks; thence proceed
 90 northeasterly along the CSX railroad tracks to the
 91 intersection with the proposed In-Town Bypass; thence
 92 southeasterly along the proposed In-Town Bypass to
 93 Lake Av.; thence southerly along Lake Av. to E. Orange
 94 St.; thence westerly along E. Orange St. to S. Iowa
 95 Ave.; thence southerly along S. Iowa Ave. to Lake
 96 Morton Dr.; thence westerly along Lake Morton Dr. to
 97 Louise Place; thence westerly along Louise Place to S.
 98 Florida Ave.; thence northerly along S. Florida Ave.
 99 to W. Walnut St.; thence westerly along W. Walnut St.
 100 to S. Missouri Ave.; thence southerly along the
 101 western right-of-way line of S. Missouri Ave. to the
 102 centerline of W. Hickory St.; thence westerly along
 103 the centerline of W. Hickory St. approximately 135'
 104 from the western right-of-way line of S. Missouri Ave.
 105 to the centerline of the closed north-south alley way;
 106 thence southerly along the centerline of said closed
 107 alley way to the north right-of-way line of W.
 108 Palmetto St.; thence westerly approximately 830.68'
 109 along W. Palmetto St. to the northwestern corner of
 110 the intersection of W. Palmetto St. and Lakeside Ave.;
 111 thence northerly approximately 199.98'; thence

112 westerly approximately 219.26' to the southeasterly
 113 right-of-way line of Sikes Blvd.; thence southeasterly
 114 along Sikes Blvd. to the extended north-south
 115 alignment of the western boundary of The Lakeland
 116 Center south parking lot; thence northerly along said
 117 alignment to W. Lime St.; thence westerly along W.
 118 Lime St. to Lake Beulah Dr.; thence northerly along
 119 Lake Beulah Dr. to W. Lemon St.; thence easterly along
 120 W. Lemon St. to Dakota Ave.; thence northerly along
 121 Dakota Ave. and Dakota Ave. extended to Lake Wire Dr.;
 122 thence easterly along the south and east side of Lake
 123 Wire to New York Av.; thence northerly along New York
 124 Av. to Magnolia St.; thence easterly along Magnolia
 125 St. to the point of beginning.

126 (a) The city commission shall set a date for a public
 127 hearing for the adoption of an ordinance describing the downtown
 128 area. Upon the adoption of a resolution, the city commission
 129 shall cause a notice of the public hearing to be published in a
 130 newspaper of general circulation published in the city, which
 131 notice shall be published two times, not less than 30 nor more
 132 than 60 days from the date of the hearing. The notice shall set
 133 forth the date, time, and place of the hearing and shall
 134 describe the proposed boundaries of the downtown area.
 135 Additionally, the board shall cause to be mailed to each owner
 136 of real property within the proposed area not wholly exempt from
 137 taxes, according to the tax collector's records existing in Polk
 138 County, a copy of the notice as published in the paper, not less
 139 than 15 days prior to the hearing. Any citizen, taxpayer, or

140 property owner shall have the right to be heard in favor of, or
 141 in opposition to, the proposed boundaries of the downtown
 142 district.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

178
 179 In any election, each qualified voter shall have the right to
 180 write in any additional person on the ballot for each office.
 181 Any ballot received more than 2 weeks later than the date mailed
 182 by the authority shall be null and void. Similarly, any ballot
 183 containing fewer than 2 votes shall be null and void.
 184 Nominations for board members shall be made by filing with the
 185 city clerk a petition on a form to be prescribed by the clerk,
 186 bearing the signatures of at least 10 electors or freeholders
 187 entitled to vote in the election.

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

195 position of commissioner board member on the Lakeland Downtown
 196 Development Authority.

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

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

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

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

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

221 (1) The board shall formulate and may amend its own rules
 222 of procedure and written bylaws, not inconsistent herewith, but

223 such rules of procedure and written bylaws and amendments
 224 thereto shall become effective only after the approval of a
 225 majority of the voting members of the board.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

298 (8) To borrow money and to issue and sell revenue
 299 certificates as hereinafter provided, or in any other manner
 300 permitted by law and not inconsistent with the provisions
 301 hereof, and to take all steps necessary for efficient
 302 preparation and marketing of the certificates at public or
 303 private sale at the best price obtainable, including the entry
 304 into agreements with corporate trustees, underwriters, and the
 305 holders of the certificates, and the employment and payment as a

306 necessary expense of issuance, for the service of consultants on
 307 valuations, costs, and feasibility of undertaking, revenues to
 308 be anticipated and other financial matters, architecture,
 309 engineering, legal matters, accounting matters, and any other
 310 fields in which expert advice may be needed to effectuate
 311 advantageous issuance and marketing.

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

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

326 Section 9. Levy of ad valorem tax.--Polk County, upon
 327 request of the board for the purpose of implementing its
 328 authority under this act, shall levy an ad valorem tax in
 329 addition to all other ad valorem taxes that may be levied
 330 annually by the county on all real property within the area
 331 described in section 4, except that no such tax shall be levied
 332 on property qualifying for homestead exemption, and Polk County
 333 shall administer such levy as a special taxing district levy

334 authorized under Section 9 of Article VII of the State
 335 Constitution. The rate shall not exceed 2 mills on each dollar
 336 of tax base, and the board shall establish its budget for the
 337 coming fiscal year and for each fiscal year thereafter prior to
 338 the time the Tax Collector of Polk County shall prepare his or
 339 her tax bills. After making public the proposed budget, the
 340 board shall communicate by written notice to the Tax Assessor of
 341 Polk County what millage rate, within the 2-mill limit, shall be
 342 in effect for the next year's billing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

387 (a) Prepare or procure from a reliable source detailed
 388 estimates of the total cost of the undertaking for which the

389 certificates are contemplated and of the annual revenues to be
390 obtained therefrom and pledged as security for payment of the
391 certificates.

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

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

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

406 (4) The board may, with respect to any issue of revenue
407 certificates, engage the services of a corporate trustee for the
408 issue and may treat any or all costs of carrying out the trust
409 agreement as part of the operating costs of the undertaking for
410 which the certificates are issued.

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

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

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

420 (8) Validation bonds shall be in accordance with chapter
 421 75, Florida Statutes.

422 Section 12. Transfer upon cessation of the board.--Should
 423 the board cease to exist or to operate for whatever reason, all
 424 property of whatever kind shall forthwith become the property of
 425 the city, subject to the outstanding obligations of the board
 426 incurred in conformity with all of the foregoing provisions, and
 427 the city shall use this property to the maximum extent then
 428 practicable for effectuating the purposes hereof and shall
 429 succeed to and exercise only such powers of the board as shall
 430 be necessary to meet outstanding obligations of the board and
 431 effect an orderly cessation of its powers and functions.

432 However, under no circumstances shall the city directly or
 433 indirectly be obligated to pledge or use any of its tax moneys
 434 to accomplish these functions.

435 Section 13. Referendum.--No ad valorem tax shall be levied
 436 hereunder unless the question of the right of the board to levy
 437 an annual tax pursuant to section 9 has been submitted to the
 438 electors who reside within the downtown area and are registered
 439 within a precinct which lies within the downtown area and to the
 440 freeholders owning property in the downtown area.

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

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

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

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

464 (5) Within 30 days after the closing of the registration
465 list, the clerk shall have a secret and direct ballot of the
466 persons entitled to vote in such a referendum by providing a
467 certified voting machine or paper ballot at City Hall of the
468 City of Lakeland, between the legal hours of voting in normal
469 elections. The clerk shall place the date of this election in
470 the original notification and, additionally, the day after the
471 registration list is closed, shall mail to all eligible voters

472 additional notification of the time and place of said election.
473 Within 1 day after holding said election, the clerk shall
474 certify the results thereof to the City Commission of Lakeland
475 and to the board. Any person voting who has knowledge that he or
476 she is not a freeholder or elector residing within the district
477 as defined by this act shall be guilty of perjury and shall be
478 prosecuted and, upon conviction, punished in accordance with the
479 provisions of the laws of this state.

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

490 (7) Additional referenda called for levying special taxing
491 district taxes after changing the boundaries of the downtown
492 area originally established in accordance with section 4 shall
493 be held in accordance with the referendum provisions of this
494 act.

495 (8) A repeal referendum may be called by petition of the
496 property owners and electors representing at least 30 percent of
497 the property owners and electors in the downtown area as defined
498 in section 5(1)(a) for the purpose of abolishing the board and
499 repealing this act. Upon the receipt of such a petition for a

500 repeal referendum by the city clerk, a referendum election shall
 501 be called by the city clerk and shall be held under the
 502 procedures as specified in this section. If the repeal shall
 503 fail, there shall be no additional repeal referendum made by
 504 petition at any time until 1 year after the certification of the
 505 results of the previous repeal referendum by the clerk.

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

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

520 Section 15. Liberal construction.--The provisions of this
 521 act, being desirable for the welfare of the city and its
 522 inhabitants, shall be liberally construed to effectuate the
 523 purposes herein set forth.

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

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