

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to Walton County; creating the Glendale  
3 Fire District, an independent special district; providing  
4 definitions; providing for creation, status, charter  
5 amendments, boundaries, and purposes; providing for a  
6 board of commissioners; providing for election and terms  
7 of commissioners; providing for employment of board  
8 personnel; providing for election of board officers;  
9 providing for compensation and bonds of commissioners;  
10 providing powers, duties, and responsibilities of the  
11 board; preserving the authority to levy non-ad valorem  
12 special assessments; providing for impact fees;  
13 authorizing the board to levy special assessments;  
14 providing legislative intent; providing duties of the  
15 property appraiser; providing for special assessment as a  
16 lien; providing for deposit of such special assessments;  
17 providing for authority to disburse funds; authorizing the  
18 board to borrow money; providing for use of district  
19 funds; requiring a record of all board meetings;  
20 authorizing the board to adopt policies and regulations;  
21 providing for the board to make an annual budget;  
22 requiring an annual report; authorizing the board to enact  
23 fire prevention ordinances, appoint a district fire chief,  
24 acquire land, enter contracts, establish salaries, and  
25 establish and operate a fire rescue service; providing for  
26 district authority upon annexation of district lands;  
27 providing for dissolution; providing immunity from tort  
28 liability for officers, agents, and employees; providing

Page 1 of 20

29 | for construction and effect; requiring a referendum;  
 30 | providing an effective date.

31 |  
 32 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

33 |  
 34 | Section 1. Definitions.--As used in this act, unless  
 35 | otherwise specified:

36 | (1) "District" means the Glendale Fire District.

37 | (2) "Board" means the board of commissioners created  
 38 | pursuant to this act and chapter 191, Florida Statutes.

39 | (3) "Board of directors" means the existing policymaking  
 40 | and governing body of the Glendale Fire District of Walton  
 41 | County.

42 | (4) "Commissioner" means a member of the board of  
 43 | commissioners of and for the district.

44 | (5) "Director" means a member of the board of directors.

45 | (6) "Residence" means one single-family dwelling,  
 46 | including one single-apartment dwelling unit; one single-  
 47 | condominium dwelling unit; one single duplex, triplex, or other  
 48 | attached dwelling unit; one single-family detached dwelling  
 49 | unit; or one single mobile or modular home dwelling unit.

50 | (7) "Business" means a motel, apartment, or rental  
 51 | dwelling, along with any other standard commercial or industrial  
 52 | business such as a gasoline station, store, marina, or similar  
 53 | establishment, as authorized pursuant to the applicable local  
 54 | government comprehensive plan, whether or not such businesses  
 55 | are required to pay or collect sales taxes.

56           Section 2. Creation; status; charter amendments;  
 57 boundaries; district purposes.--There is created an independent  
 58 special fire control district and rescue service district  
 59 incorporating lands in Walton County described in subsection  
 60 (1), which shall be a public corporation having the powers,  
 61 duties, obligations, and immunities set forth in this act, under  
 62 the name of the Glendale Fire District. The district is  
 63 organized and exists for all purposes and shall hold all powers  
 64 set forth in this act and chapters 189 and 191, Florida  
 65 Statutes.

66           (1) The lands to be included within the district are the  
 67 following described lands in Walton County:

68           All Sections 24, 25, 26, 35, 36, Township 5 North,  
 69 Range 20 West; Walton County, Florida. Also all  
 70 Sections 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32,  
 71 33, 34, 35, 36, Township 5 North, Range 19 West;  
 72 Walton County, Florida. Also all Sections 28, 29, 30,  
 73 31, 32, 33, Township 5 North, Range 18 West; Walton  
 74 County, Florida. Also all Sections 1, 12, Township 4  
 75 North, Range 20 West; Walton County, Florida. Also all  
 76 sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13,  
 77 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 34, 35,  
 78 Township 4 North, Range 19 West, Walton County,  
 79 Florida. Also all Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17,  
 80 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, Township 4 North, Range 18  
 81 West, Walton County, Florida. Also all of Section 33,  
 82 Township 4 North, Range 19 West, Walton County,  
 83 Florida: less and except the south 1/4 of section 33.

84 Those portions in Township 3 North, Range 19 West,  
85 which include, those parts of Section 1 and 2 lying  
86 North of the centerline of County Road 1883 and  
87 Sunrise Road. The portion in Township 3 North, Range  
88 19 West, which includes, the part of Section 3 lying  
89 North of the centerline of Sunrise Road. The portion  
90 in Township 4 North, Range 19 West which includes, the  
91 part Section 36 lying North and East of the centerline  
92 of County Road 1883 and Coy Ellis Road. Those portions  
93 within Township 4 North, Range 18 West, which include,  
94 those portions of Section 31, lying North of the  
95 centerline of Coy Ellis Road. Those portions in  
96 Township 4 North, Range 18 West which includes,  
97 Sections 32, 33, lying North of the centerline of  
98 County Road 183 North. The portion in Township 4  
99 North, Range 18 West which includes, Section 33 lying  
100 Northeast of County Road 183B.

101 (2) The purpose of this act is to promote the general  
102 health, welfare, and safety of the citizens and residents of  
103 Walton County who reside within the geographical limits of the  
104 Glendale Fire District by providing for the financial support of  
105 the Glendale Fire District of Walton County, a Florida not-for-  
106 profit corporation, which currently provides the district with  
107 fire protection services, facilities, and firefighting  
108 equipment; the establishment and maintenance of fire stations  
109 and fire substations; the acquisition and maintenance of all  
110 firefighting and protection equipment necessary for the  
111 prevention of fires or fighting of fires; the employment and

112 training of such personnel as may be necessary to accomplish  
113 fire prevention and firefighting; the establishment and  
114 maintenance of emergency services; the acquisition and  
115 maintenance of rescue and other emergency equipment; and the  
116 employment and training of necessary emergency personnel. The  
117 district may provide emergency medical services. The district  
118 shall have all other powers necessary to carry out these  
119 purposes. The district shall be a fire control district and  
120 shall have no responsibility for providing ambulance or similar  
121 emergency services within the district's boundaries.

122 (3) Nothing in this act shall prevent the district from  
123 cooperating with the state or other local governments to render  
124 such services to communities adjacent to the lands described in  
125 this section as evidenced by a signed aid agreement.

126 (4) The district charter may be amended only by special  
127 act of the Legislature.

128 Section 3. Board of commissioners.--

129 (1) Pursuant to chapter 191, Florida Statutes, the  
130 business and affairs of the district shall be governed and  
131 administered by a board of five commissioners, who shall be  
132 qualified electors residing within the district and shall be  
133 elected by the qualified electors residing within the district  
134 at a special election, subject to the provisions of chapters 189  
135 and 191, Florida Statutes, and this act. Each commissioner shall  
136 hold office until his or her successor is elected and qualified  
137 under the provisions of this act. The procedures for conducting  
138 district elections and for qualification of candidates and

139 electors shall be pursuant to chapters 189 and 191, Florida  
140 Statutes.

141 (2) The five members of the initial board shall be elected  
142 by the qualified electors residing within the district. The  
143 three elected members for seats 1, 3, and 5 in the initial  
144 election under this act shall serve terms of 3 years each. The  
145 remaining two elected members for seats 2 and 4 in the initial  
146 election under this act shall serve terms of 2 years each.  
147 Subsequent elections under this act shall coincide with the  
148 general elections of this state, and members of the board shall  
149 serve on a nonpartisan basis for terms of 4 years each.

150 (3) Vacancies in office shall be filled by special  
151 election, said election to be held coincident with the next  
152 countywide general or special election. The board may appoint a  
153 qualified elector of the district to act as commissioner until  
154 the vacancy is filled by election. A commissioner must be a  
155 qualified elector residing within the district. A commissioner  
156 may be removed from office for any reason that a state or county  
157 officer may be removed.

158 (4) All elections shall be noticed, called, and held  
159 pursuant to the provisions of the general laws of the state,  
160 except as otherwise provided in this act. The board shall, to  
161 the extent possible, coordinate all elections with countywide  
162 general or special elections in order to minimize cost.  
163 Elections shall be called through the adoption of an appropriate  
164 resolution of the district directed to the Board of County  
165 Commissioners of Walton County, the Supervisor of Elections of  
166 Walton County, and other appropriate officers of the county. The

167 district shall reimburse county government for the actual cost  
168 of district elections. No commissioner shall be paid a employee  
169 of the district while holding said position. This shall not  
170 prevent volunteers receiving reimbursement for expenses from  
171 servng as commissioners.

172 (5) The board may employ such personnel as deemed  
173 necessary for the proper function and operation of a fire  
174 district. The salaries of fire department and emergency service  
175 personnel, and any other wages, shall be determined by the  
176 board.

177 Section 4. Officers; board compensation; bond.--

178 (1) In accordance with chapter 191, Florida Statutes, each  
179 elected member of the board shall assume office 10 days  
180 following the member's election. Annually, within 60 days after  
181 election of new members of said board, the members immediately  
182 upon their election as herein provided, or within 10 days  
183 thereafter and annually in November, shall organize by electing  
184 from their number a chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer.  
185 However, the same member may be both secretary and treasurer, in  
186 accordance with chapter 191, Florida Statutes, as amended from  
187 time to time.

188 (2) The commissioners may receive reimbursement for actual  
189 expenses incurred while performing the duties of their offices  
190 in accordance with general law governing per diem for public  
191 officials. Commissioners may receive compensation for their  
192 services in accordance with chapter 191, Florida Statutes, as  
193 amended from time to time.

194       (3) Each commissioner, upon taking office and in  
195 accordance with chapters 189 and 191, Florida Statutes, shall  
196 execute to the Governor, for the benefit of the district, a bond  
197 of \$5,000 with a qualified personal or corporate surety,  
198 conditioned upon the faithful performance of the duties of the  
199 commissioner's office and upon an accounting for all funds that  
200 come into his or her hands as commissioner; however, the  
201 treasurer shall furnish a bond of \$10,000, which may be in lieu  
202 of the \$5,000 bond. The premium for such bonds shall be paid  
203 from district funds.

204       Section 5. Powers; duties; responsibilities.--

205       (1) The district shall have and the board may exercise by  
206 majority vote all the powers and duties set forth in this act  
207 and chapters 189, 191, and 197, Florida Statutes, as they may be  
208 amended from time to time, including, but not limited to,  
209 special assessments, other revenue-raising capabilities, budget  
210 preparation and approval, liens and foreclosure of liens, use of  
211 tax deeds and tax certificates as appropriate from non-ad  
212 valorem assessments, contractual agreements, and adoptions of  
213 ordinances and resolutions that are necessary to conduct  
214 district business if such ordinances do not conflict with an  
215 ordinance of a local general purpose government within whose  
216 jurisdiction the district is located.

217       (2) The board shall continue to have the right, power, and  
218 authority to levy annually special assessments against the  
219 taxable real estate within the district to provide funds for the  
220 purposes of the district, in an amount not to exceed the limit  
221 provided in chapter 191, Florida Statutes.

222       (3) The methods for assessing and collecting special  
 223 assessments, fees, or service charges shall be as set forth in  
 224 this act and chapters 170, 189, 191, and 197, Florida Statutes.

225       (4) The district shall levy and collect special  
 226 assessments in accordance with chapter 200, Florida Statutes, as  
 227 amended from time to time.

228       (5) The district is authorized to levy and enforce special  
 229 assessments in accordance with chapters 170, 189, 191, and 197,  
 230 Florida Statutes.

231       (6) The district's planning requirements shall be as set  
 232 forth in this act and chapters 189 and 191, Florida Statutes.

233       (7) Requirements for financial disclosure, meeting  
 234 notices, reporting, public records maintenance, and per diem  
 235 expenses for officers and employees shall be as set forth in  
 236 this act and chapters 112, 119, 189, 191, and 286, Florida  
 237 Statutes.

238       Section 6. Impact fees.--

239       (1) Pursuant to section 191.009(4), Florida Statutes, it  
 240 is hereby declared that the cost of new facilities upon fire  
 241 protection and emergency services should be borne by new users  
 242 of the district's services to the extent new construction  
 243 requires new facilities, but only to that extent. It is the  
 244 legislative intent of this section to transfer to the new users  
 245 of the district's fire protection and emergency services a fair  
 246 share of the costs that new users impose on the district for new  
 247 facilities. This shall only apply in the event that the general  
 248 purpose local government in which the district is located has  
 249 not adopted an impact fee for fire services that is distributed

250 to the district for construction within its jurisdictional  
251 boundaries.

252 (2) The impact fees collected by the district pursuant to  
253 this section shall be kept as a separate fund from other  
254 revenues of the district and shall be used exclusively for the  
255 acquisition, purchase, or construction of new facilities or  
256 portions thereof required to provide fire protection and  
257 emergency services to new construction. "New facilities" means  
258 land, buildings, and capital equipment, including, but not  
259 limited to, fire and emergency vehicles and radio telemetry  
260 equipment. The fees shall not be used for the acquisition,  
261 purchase, or construction of facilities that must be obtained in  
262 any event, regardless of growth within the district. The board  
263 of fire commissioners shall maintain adequate records to ensure  
264 that impact fees are expended only for permissible new  
265 facilities.

266 Section 7. Special assessments.--

267 (1) The board shall have the right, power, and authority  
268 to levy special assessments against the taxable real estate  
269 within the district to provide funds for the purposes of the  
270 district.

271 (2) (a) The annual rate of the special assessment for a  
272 residence will be \$25.

273 (b) The annual rates of the special assessments for  
274 nonresidential property shall be as follows:

- 275 1. Commercial property: \$0.04 per square foot.  
276 2. Industrial/warehouse property: \$0.01 per square foot.  
277 3. Institutional property: \$0.05 per square foot.

278        (c) Any increase in the special assessments must be  
 279 approved by a majority of the electors within the Glendale Fire  
 280 District.

281        (3) It is the legislative intent that this act shall  
 282 authorize the Walton County Property Appraiser and the Walton  
 283 County Tax Collector to take all appropriate action to comply  
 284 with the intent and the purpose of this act.

285        (4) It is also the legislative intent that the board of  
 286 commissioners shall be a vehicle to provide funding to  
 287 accomplish the purposes set out in this act.

288        Section 8. Property appraiser.--

289        (1) The Walton County Property Appraiser shall furnish the  
 290 commissioners a tax roll covering all taxable properties within  
 291 the district on or before July 1 of each year.

292        (2) The Walton County Property Appraiser shall include in  
 293 the Walton County tax roll the assessments made by the board,  
 294 and the same shall be collected in the manner as provided for by  
 295 this act and paid over by the Walton County Tax Collector to the  
 296 board.

297        (3) The Walton County Property Appraiser shall be  
 298 reimbursed for assessing such special assessments in the manner  
 299 and amount authorized by general law, and the Walton County Tax  
 300 Collector shall receive a commission or fee of 3 percent for  
 301 collection of such special assessments.

302        Section 9. Special assessment as a lien.--The special  
 303 assessment levied and assessed by the district shall be a lien  
 304 upon the property so assessed along with the county taxes  
 305 assessed against such property until said assessments and taxes

306 have been paid, and if the special assessment levied by the  
307 district becomes delinquent, such special assessment shall be  
308 considered a part of the county tax subject to the same  
309 penalties, charges, fees, and remedies for enforcement and  
310 collection of such taxes.

311 Section 10. Deposit of special assessments; fees;  
312 authority to disburse funds.--

313 (1) The proceeds of the assessments and funds of the  
314 district shall be deposited in qualified public depositories, in  
315 accordance with chapters 191 and 280, Florida Statutes, as they  
316 may be amended from time to time, in the name of the district in  
317 a bank authorized to receive deposits of district funds. The  
318 bank shall be designated by a resolution of the board.

319 (2) All warrants for the payment of labor, equipment, and  
320 other expenses of the board, and in carrying into effect this  
321 act and the purposes thereof, shall be payable by the treasurer  
322 of the board on accounts and vouchers approved and authorized by  
323 the board. No funds of the district shall be paid out or  
324 disbursed except by check signed by the treasurer of the board  
325 and either the chair or vice chair of the board.

326 Section 11. Authority to borrow money.--

327 (1) The board of commissioners shall have the power and  
328 authority to borrow money or issue other evidences of  
329 indebtedness for the purpose of the district in accordance with  
330 chapters 189 and 191, Florida Statutes, provided that the total  
331 payments in any one year, including principal and interest, on  
332 any indebtedness incurred by the district shall not exceed 50

333 percent of the total estimated annual budgeted revenues of the  
334 district.

335 (2) The board of commissioners, board of directors as a  
336 body, or any of the members of either board as individuals shall  
337 not be personally or individually liable for the repayment of  
338 such loan. Such repayment shall be made out of the special  
339 assessment receipts of the district, except as provided in this  
340 subsection. The commissioners shall not create any indebtedness  
341 or incur obligations for any sum or amount that they are unable  
342 to repay out of district funds available to them at that time,  
343 except as otherwise provided in this act; however, the  
344 commissioners may make purchases of equipment on an installment  
345 basis as necessary if funds are available for the payment of the  
346 current year's installment on such equipment and the amount due  
347 in that year of any of the installments and the repayment of any  
348 bank loan or other existing indebtedness that may be due that  
349 year.

350 Section 12. Use of district funds.--No funds of the  
351 district shall be used for any purposes other than the  
352 administration of the affairs and business of the district; the  
353 construction, care, maintenance, upkeep, operation, and purchase  
354 of firefighting and rescue equipment or a fire station; the  
355 payment of public utilities; and the payment of salaries of  
356 district personnel as the board may from time to time determine  
357 to be necessary for the operations and effectiveness of the  
358 district.

359 Section 13. Record of board meetings; authority to adopt  
360 rules and regulations; annual reports; budget.--

361       (1) A record shall be kept of all meetings of the board,  
362 and in such meetings concurrence of a majority of the  
363 commissioners present shall be necessary to any affirmative  
364 action by the board.

365       (2) The board shall have the authority to adopt and amend  
366 policies and regulations for the administration of the affairs  
367 of the district under the terms of this act and chapters 189 and  
368 191, Florida Statutes, which shall include, but not be limited  
369 to, the authority to adopt the necessary rules and regulations  
370 for the administration and supervision of the property and  
371 personnel of the district; for the prevention of fires, fire  
372 control, fire hydrant placement, and flow testing in accordance  
373 with current NFPA rules; and for rescue work within the  
374 district. Said commissioners shall have all the lawful power and  
375 authority necessary to carry out the purposes of said fire  
376 district; to purchase all necessary real and personal property;  
377 to purchase and carry standard insurance policies on all such  
378 equipment; to employ such personnel as may be necessary to carry  
379 out the purposes of said fire district; to provide adequate  
380 insurance for said employees; to purchase and carry appropriate  
381 insurance for protection of all firefighters and personnel as  
382 well as all equipment and personal property on loan to the  
383 district; to sell surplus real and personal property in the same  
384 manner and subject to the same restrictions as provided for such  
385 sales by counties; to enter into contracts with qualified  
386 service providers, the Glendale Fire District of Walton County,  
387 other fire departments, municipalities, and state and federal  
388 governmental units for the purpose of obtaining financial aid;

389 and for otherwise carrying out the purposes of the district. The  
 390 commissioners shall adopt a fiscal year for said fire district,  
 391 which shall be October 1 to September 30.

392 (3) Any policies, rules, and regulations adopted and made  
 393 by the board shall have the force and effect of law after copies  
 394 thereof, signed by the secretary and chair or vice chair, are  
 395 posted in three public places within the district in conspicuous  
 396 locations and advertised by title once per week for 2  
 397 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general paid circulation in  
 398 the district.

399 (4) The board shall, on or before November 1, make an  
 400 annual report of its actions and accounting of its funds as of  
 401 September of that year and shall file said report in the Office  
 402 of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Walton County, whose duty  
 403 it shall be to receive and file said report and hold and keep  
 404 the same as a public record.

405 (5) For the purposes of carrying into effect this act, the  
 406 board shall annually prepare, consider, and adopt a district  
 407 budget pursuant to the applicable requirements of chapters 189  
 408 and 191, Florida Statutes. The board shall, at the same time as  
 409 it makes its annual report, file its estimated budget for the  
 410 fiscal year beginning October 1, which budget shall show the  
 411 estimated revenue to be received by the district and the  
 412 estimated expenditures to be incurred by the district in  
 413 carrying out its operations.

414 Section 14. Authority to enact fire prevention ordinances;  
 415 appoint fire chief, acquire land, enter contracts, establish

416 salaries, general and special powers; authority to provide  
417 emergency medical and rescue services.--

418 (1) The board of commissioners shall have the right and  
419 power to enact fire prevention ordinances in the same manner  
420 provided for the adoption of policies and regulations in  
421 subsection (2) of section 13, and when the provisions of such  
422 fire prevention ordinances are determined by the board to be  
423 violated, the office of the state attorney, upon written notice  
424 of such violation issued by the board, is authorized to  
425 prosecute such person or persons held to be in violation  
426 thereof. Any person found guilty of a violation may be punished  
427 as provided in chapter 775, Florida Statutes, as a misdemeanor  
428 of the second degree. The cost of such prosecution shall be paid  
429 out of district funds, unless otherwise provided by law.

430 (2) The board shall have the power to appoint a fire  
431 chief, who shall be a person experienced in all types of  
432 firefighting and fire prevention and who shall work with the  
433 State Fire Marshal in which the district is situated in the  
434 prevention of fires of all types. The district fire chief shall  
435 be authorized to enter, at all reasonable hours, any building or  
436 premises for the purpose of making any inspection or  
437 investigation that the State Fire Marshal is authorized to make  
438 pursuant to state law and regulation. The owner, lessee,  
439 manager, or operator of any building or premises shall permit  
440 the district fire chief to enter and inspect the building or  
441 premises at all reasonable hours. The district fire chief shall  
442 report any violations of state firesafety laws or regulations to  
443 the appropriate officials.

444       (3) The board shall have the power to acquire, by gift or  
445 purchase, lands or rights in lands and any other property, real  
446 and personal, tangible or intangible, necessary, desirable, or  
447 convenient for carrying out the purposes of the district and to  
448 pay any and all costs of same out of the funds of the district,  
449 provided that prior to the acquisition of the location of a fire  
450 station site, an appropriate investigation shall be conducted  
451 that shall include, but not be limited to, obtaining the staff  
452 recommendation of the Walton County Planning Department.

453       (4) The board shall have the power to enter into contracts  
454 or to otherwise join with the Glendale Fire District of Walton  
455 County, or to otherwise join with any other district, city, or  
456 town, the United States of America, or any agency or authority  
457 thereof, for the purpose of expanding services, providing  
458 effective aid, and accomplishing and carrying out the purposes  
459 for which the district was created and for the further purpose  
460 of specifically obtaining financial aid, assistance, or subsidy.

461       (5) The salaries of fire department personnel and any  
462 other wages shall be determined by the board.

463       (6) The district is authorized to establish and maintain  
464 emergency medical and rescue response services and acquire and  
465 maintain rescue, medical, and other emergency equipment, subject  
466 to the provisions of chapter 401, Florida Statutes.

467       Section 15. Annexations.--If any municipality or other  
468 fire control district annexes any land included in the district,  
469 such annexation shall follow the procedures set forth in section  
470 171.093, Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time.

471           Section 16. Dissolution.--The district shall exist until  
472 dissolved in the same manner as it was created. If the Glendale  
473 Fire District of Walton County is dissolved or ceases to exist  
474 for any reason, or if the board determines that the Glendale  
475 Fire District of Walton County is unable to carry out its  
476 objectives as stated in subsection (2) of section 2 or the  
477 district's published policies, the board shall in its discretion  
478 make arrangements for other means of providing fire protection  
479 and rescue services.

480           Section 17. Immunity from tort liability.--

481           (1) The district and its officers, agents, and employees  
482 shall have the same immunity from tort liability as other  
483 agencies and subdivisions of the state. The provisions of  
484 chapter 768, Florida Statutes, as from time to time amended,  
485 shall apply to all claims asserted against the district.

486           (2) The district commissioners and all officers, agents,  
487 and employees of the district shall have the same immunity and  
488 exemption from personal liability as is provided by general law  
489 for state, county, and municipal officers.

490           (3) The district shall defend all claims against the  
491 commissioners, officers, agents, and employees that arise within  
492 the scope of employment or purposes of the district and shall  
493 pay all judgments against said persons, except where said  
494 persons acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose or in a  
495 manner exhibiting wanton and willful disregard of human rights,  
496 safety, or property.

497           Section 18. District expansion.--

498       (1) The district boundaries may be extended from time to  
499 time as follows:

500       (a) Land contiguous to the boundaries of the district in  
501 unincorporated Walton County may be included in the district  
502 when petition for inclusion signed and sworn to by a majority of  
503 the owners of the real property within the tract or tracts to be  
504 included in the district has been presented to the board of  
505 commissioners and the proposal has been approved by the  
506 affirmative vote of no fewer than three members of the board of  
507 commissioners at a regular meeting.

508       (b) The petition must contain the legal description of the  
509 property sought to be added to the district and the names and  
510 addresses of the owners of the property.

511       (2) If a proposal to add an area to the district as  
512 described in subsection (1) is approved by the affirmative vote  
513 of no fewer than three members of the board of commissioners at  
514 a regular meeting, the board of commissioners shall thereafter  
515 adopt a resolution describing the lands to be included within  
516 the district and shall cause such resolution to be duly enrolled  
517 in the record of the meeting and a certified copy of the  
518 resolution to be recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the  
519 Circuit Court of Walton County.

520       (3) Upon adoption of the resolution by the board, the  
521 district shall, pursuant to chapter 191, Florida Statutes,  
522 request that its legislative delegation approve said addition  
523 and sponsor legislation amending the district boundary. Upon  
524 approval by the Legislature, the boundary shall be amended.

525           Section 19. Construction.--This act shall be construed as  
526 remedial and shall be liberally construed to promote the purpose  
527 for which it is intended.

528           Section 20. Effect.--In the event that any part of this  
529 act should be held void for any reason, such holding shall not  
530 affect any other part thereof.

531           Section 21. On or before December 30, 2006, the Board of  
532 County Commissioners of Walton County shall call and the  
533 Supervisor of Elections of Walton County shall conduct a  
534 referendum of the qualified voters of the Glendale Fire District  
535 on the question of whether the Glendale Fire District shall be  
536 created by special act of the Legislature with authority to  
537 impose impact fees pursuant to section 6 of this act and special  
538 assessments pursuant to section 7 of this act.

539           Section 22. This act shall take effect only if a majority  
540 of those qualified electors of the Glendale Fire District voting  
541 in a referendum held pursuant to this act approve the referendum  
542 question in accordance with section 21, except that this section  
543 and section 21 shall take effect upon becoming a law.