

By Senator Posey

24-1323-05

See HB

1   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Ranger Drainage  
3           District, Orange County; amending chapter  
4           99-453, Laws of Florida; providing additional  
5           authority for limited fire control and  
6           prevention; providing for maintenance of  
7           passive recreation areas and facilities,  
8           environmental mitigation, security services,  
9           signage, and maintenance of common areas;  
10          providing authority for enforcement of  
11          covenants and deed restrictions; increasing the  
12          membership of the governing board; providing  
13          for staggered terms of members; providing an  
14          effective date.

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16           WHEREAS, the Ranger Drainage District is the primary  
17   local public agency that provides for maintenance of  
18   infrastructure, including drainage, flood protection  
19   facilities, and environmental features within the district,  
20   and

21           WHEREAS, residential development within the district is  
22   occurring at an extremely rapid rate and requires increased  
23   maintenance to public infrastructure such as common areas,  
24   passive recreational areas, and district rights of way, and

25           WHEREAS, there is a need for better security and fire  
26   protection to ensure safety of persons and property within the  
27   district, and

28           WHEREAS, all neighborhood associations within the  
29   district have urged the Legislature to grant the district  
30   additional authority to maintain and restore public  
31   infrastructure, and

1           WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature to provide  
2 the district with the powers necessary to maintain public  
3 infrastructure and protect public and private property within  
4 the district, NOW, THEREFORE,

5  
6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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8           Section 1. Subsection (4) is added to section 5 of  
9 chapter 99-453, Laws of Florida, to read:

10           Section 5. Additional district powers.--

11           (4) The Ranger Drainage District shall have the  
12 following additional powers and authorities:

13           (a) To construct and maintain firebreaks and related  
14 facilities for fire prevention and control within district  
15 easements, rights-of-way, and property in cooperation with the  
16 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Division  
17 of Forestry, or other fire prevention agencies.

18           (b) To own, acquire, construct, operate, and maintain  
19 passive recreation areas and facilities within the district,  
20 including, but not limited to, parks, walking or hiking  
21 trails, and related facilities.

22           (c) To acquire property for construction of projects  
23 within and adjacent to the district for environmental  
24 protection, restoration, or mitigation purposes. The district  
25 is also authorized to cooperate with public agencies and  
26 landowners in such projects.

27           (d) To provide security services within the district  
28 for the purpose of protecting district property and  
29 facilities.

30           (e) To construct and maintain signage and facilities  
31 identifying district ingress and egress locations.

1           (f) To maintain all district common areas, including,  
2 but not limited to, easements, road shoulders, and medians.

3           (g) To enforce landowner covenants and restrictions  
4 within district communities, provided a community property  
5 owners' association approves such action by majority vote of  
6 its board.

7           Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 7 of chapter  
8 99-453, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

9           Section 7. Minimum charter requirements.--In  
10 accordance with s. 189.404(3), Florida Statutes, the following  
11 subsections shall constitute the charter of the Ranger  
12 Drainage District:

13           (5) In accordance with chapter 189, Florida Statutes,  
14 this act, and s. 298.11, Florida Statutes, the district is  
15 governed by a five-member ~~three-member~~ board, elected on a  
16 one-acre, one-vote basis by the landowners in the district;  
17 however, landowners owning less than one acre shall be  
18 entitled to one vote. Landowners with more than one acre shall  
19 be entitled to one additional vote for any fraction of an acre  
20 greater than 1/2 acre owned, when all of the landowner's  
21 acreage has been aggregated for purposes of voting. The  
22 current board position which term expires in 2005 shall be  
23 denominated seat 1 and shall be elected for a term of 3 years  
24 or until a successor is elected. The current board position  
25 which term expires in 2006 shall be denominated seat 2 and  
26 shall be elected for a term of 3 years or until a successor is  
27 elected. The current board position which term expires in 2007  
28 shall be denominated seat 3 and shall be elected for a term of  
29 3 years or until a successor is elected. The newly created  
30 seats to be elected in 2005 shall be denominated seat 4 and  
31 seat 5. Seat 4 shall be elected for a term of 3 years. Seat 5

1 shall be elected for a term of 2 years. After the election in  
2 2005, all terms of board members shall be 3 years or until a  
3 successor is elected. The ~~membership and~~ organization of the  
4 board shall be as set forth in this act and chapter 298,  
5 Florida Statutes, as they may be amended from time to time,  
6 provided, however, that the annual landowners' meeting held  
7 for the purpose of electing board members and other purposes  
8 shall be held in September at a time and place to be  
9 determined by the board.

10           Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
11 law.

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