

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the Ranger Drainage District, Orange  
3 County; amending chapter 99-453, Laws of Florida;  
4 providing additional authority for limited fire control  
5 and prevention; providing for maintenance of passive  
6 recreation areas and facilities, environmental mitigation,  
7 security services, signage, and maintenance of common  
8 areas; increasing the membership of the governing board;  
9 providing for staggered terms of members; providing for a  
10 referendum; providing a ballot statement; providing an  
11 effective date.

12  
13 WHEREAS, the Ranger Drainage District is the primary local  
14 public agency that provides for maintenance of infrastructure,  
15 including drainage, flood protection facilities, and  
16 environmental features within the district, and

17 WHEREAS, residential development within the district is  
18 occurring at an extremely rapid rate and requires increased  
19 maintenance to public infrastructure such as common areas,  
20 passive recreational areas, and district rights of way, and

21 WHEREAS, there is a need for better security and fire  
22 protection to ensure safety of persons and property within the  
23 district, and

24 WHEREAS, all neighborhood associations within the district  
25 have urged the Legislature to grant the district additional  
26 authority to maintain and restore public infrastructure, and

27 WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature to provide the  
28 district with the powers necessary to maintain public

29 | infrastructure and protect public and private property within  
 30 | the district, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

33 |  
 34 | Section 1. Subsection (4) is added to section 5 of chapter  
 35 | 99-453, Laws of Florida, to read:

36 | Section 5. Additional district powers.--

37 | (4) The Ranger Drainage District shall have the following  
 38 | additional powers and authorities:

39 | (a) To construct and maintain firebreaks and related  
 40 | facilities for fire prevention and control within district  
 41 | easements, rights-of-way, and property in cooperation with the  
 42 | Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Division of  
 43 | Forestry, or other fire prevention agencies.

44 | (b) To own, acquire, construct, operate, and maintain  
 45 | passive recreation areas and facilities within the district,  
 46 | including, but not limited to, parks, walking or hiking trails,  
 47 | and related facilities.

48 | (c) To acquire property for construction of projects  
 49 | within and adjacent to the district for environmental  
 50 | protection, restoration, or mitigation purposes. The district is  
 51 | also authorized to cooperate with public agencies and landowners  
 52 | in such projects.

53 | (d) To provide security services within the district for  
 54 | the purpose of protecting district property and facilities.

55 | (e) To construct and maintain signage and facilities  
 56 | identifying district ingress and egress locations.

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

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

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

64        (5) In accordance with chapter 189, Florida Statutes, this  
65 act, and s. 298.11, Florida Statutes, the district is governed  
66 by a five-member ~~three-member~~ board, elected on a one-acre, one-  
67 vote basis by the landowners in the district; however,  
68 landowners owning less than one acre shall be entitled to one  
69 vote. Landowners with more than one acre shall be entitled to  
70 one additional vote for any fraction of an acre greater than  $\frac{1}{2}$   
71 acre owned, when all of the landowner's acreage has been  
72 aggregated for purposes of voting. The current board position  
73 which term expires in 2005 shall be denominated seat 1 and shall  
74 be elected for a term of 3 years or until a successor is  
75 elected. The current board position which term expires in 2006  
76 shall be denominated seat 2 and shall be elected for a term of 3  
77 years or until a successor is elected. The current board  
78 position which term expires in 2007 shall be denominated seat 3  
79 and shall be elected for a term of 3 years or until a successor  
80 is elected. The newly created seats to be elected in 2005 shall  
81 be denominated seat 4 and seat 5. Seat 4 shall be elected for a  
82 term of 3 years. Seat 5 shall be elected for a term of 2 years.  
83 After the election in 2005, all terms of board members shall be  
84 3 years or until a successor is elected. The membership and

85 organization of the board shall be as set forth in this act and  
 86 chapter 298, Florida Statutes, as they may be amended from time  
 87 to time, provided, however, that the annual landowners' meeting  
 88 held for the purpose of electing board members and other  
 89 purposes shall be held in September at a time and place to be  
 90 determined by the board.

91 Section 3. Referendum.--On or before September 15, 2005,  
 92 the Supervisor of Elections of Orange County shall conduct a  
 93 referendum on the question of expanding the governing board of  
 94 the Ranger Drainage District from three to five members and  
 95 granting the district certain additional powers. The referendum  
 96 question shall be posed as follows:

97  
 98 Shall the Ranger Drainage District Board of Supervisors be  
 99 expanded from three to five members and granted the authority to  
 100 provide services and facilities within the district for limited  
 101 fire protection, passive recreation, environmental protection,  
 102 security, ingress/egress signage, and maintenance of district  
 103 common property?

104  
 105 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes

106 \_\_\_\_\_ No

107  
 108 Section 4. This act shall take effect only upon its  
 109 approval by a majority vote of those qualified electors of the  
 110 district voting in the referendum specified by section 3 of this  
 111 act in accordance with the provisions of law relating to

112 | elections currently in force, except that this section and  
113 | section 3 shall take effect upon becoming law.