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A bill to be entitled  
 An act relating to the Lake Shore Hospital Authority,  
 Columbia County; amending, codifying, reenacting, and  
 repealing chapters 24443 (1947), 25736 (1949), 30264  
 (1955), 61-2048, 63-1247, 65-1414, 72-509, 90-409, and 92-  
 229, Laws of Florida, relating to the authority; providing  
 definitions; providing for a governing body; providing for  
 the governing body's purposes, powers, duties, and  
 responsibilities; authorizing the issuance of revenue  
 bonds, incidental powers, and refunding bonds; providing  
 remedies for any holder of bonds or trustee; providing for  
 transfer of existing facilities; providing exemption of  
 property from taxation; providing that bonds shall  
 constitute legal investments; providing that act is  
 complete and additional authority; providing taxing  
 authority, including authority to levy ad valorem taxes;  
 providing construction of act; providing severability;  
 repealing special acts relating to the authority;  
 providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Pursuant to section 189.429, Florida Statutes,  
this act constitutes the codification of all special acts  
relating to the Lake Shore Hospital Authority. It is the intent  
of the Legislature in enacting this law to provide a single,  
comprehensive special act charter for the authority, including  
all current legislative authority granted to the authority by  
its several legislative enactments and any additional authority

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30 granted by this act. It is further the intent of this act to  
 31 preserve all authority of the Lake Shore Hospital Authority,  
 32 including the authority to annually assess and levy against the  
 33 taxable property in Columbia County taxes. This act shall not  
 34 be construed to modify, amend, or alter any covenants,  
 35 contracts, or other obligations of the authority with respect to  
 36 bonded indebtedness or otherwise. Nothing pertaining to the act  
 37 shall be construed to affect the ability of the authority to  
 38 levy and collect taxes, assessments, fees, or charges for the  
 39 purpose of redeeming or servicing bonded indebtedness of the  
 40 authority or for any other authorized purpose.

41 Section 2. Chapters 24443 (1947), 25736 (1949), 30264  
 42 (1955), 61-2048, 63-1247, 65-1414, 72-509, 90-409, and 92-229,  
 43 Laws of Florida, are codified, reenacted, amended, and repealed  
 44 as herein provided.

45 Section 3. The charter for the Lake Shore Hospital  
 46 Authority is re-created and reenacted to read:

47 Section 1. Creation and establishment.--There is created  
 48 and established a body corporate and politic to be known as the  
 49 Lake Shore Hospital Authority of Columbia County.

50 Section 2. Definitions.--The following terms whenever used  
 51 or referred to in this act shall have the following meanings,  
 52 except in those instances where the context clearly indicates  
 53 otherwise:

54 (1) "Authority" means the body politic and corporate  
 55 created by this act and known as the Lake Shore Hospital  
 56 Authority of Columbia County.

57 (2) "Bonds" means and includes the notes, revenue bonds,  
 58 refunding revenue bonds, or other evidence of indebtedness or

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59 obligations in either temporary or definitive form which the  
60 authority is authorized to issue pursuant to this act.

61 (3) "County" means the County of Columbia.

62 (4) "Facility" or "facilities" means the Lake Shore  
63 Hospital, other hospitals, clinics, outpatient departments, and  
64 other appurtenant facilities of the authority.

65 (5) "Federal agency" means and includes the United States,  
66 the President of the United States, and any department of, or  
67 corporation, agency, or instrumentality heretofore or hereafter  
68 created, designated, or established by, the United States.

69 (6) "Members" means the governing body of the authority  
70 and the term "member" means one of the individuals constituting  
71 such governing body.

72 (7) "Revenues" means all rates, fees, rentals, and other  
73 charges derived from the operation of the facilities of the  
74 authority.

75  
76 Words importing singular number shall include the plural number  
77 in each case and vice versa, and words importing persons shall  
78 include firms and corporations.

79 Section 3. Governing body.--

80 (1) The governing body of the authority shall consist of  
81 seven members. Such members shall be citizens and residents of  
82 Columbia County who shall be appointed by the Governor. One  
83 member shall be a physician engaged in the practice of medicine  
84 at the Lake Shore Hospital. The present trustees of the Lake  
85 Shore Hospital Authority, having been appointed by the Governor,  
86 shall serve as the initial members of the authority until their  
87 respective terms of office expire. Thereafter, the term of

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88 office of each appointed member shall be for 4 years. Each  
 89 appointed member shall hold office until his or her successor  
 90 has been appointed and qualified. A vacancy occurring during a  
 91 term shall be filled only for the balance of the unexpired term.

92 (2) No elected public official shall be a member of the  
 93 authority.

94 (3) The members of the authority shall not be entitled to  
 95 compensation as such, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for  
 96 their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance  
 97 of their official duties.

98 (4) Four members of the authority shall constitute a  
 99 quorum and ordinances or resolutions enacted or adopted by a  
 100 vote of a majority of the members shall become effective without  
 101 publication or posting or any further action of the authority.

102 Section 4. Officers.--Immediately after the effective date  
 103 of this act, the members of the authority shall meet and qualify  
 104 by taking the oath of office regularly prescribed for state and  
 105 county officials in the state. They shall maintain a place  
 106 within Columbia County for the principal office of the  
 107 authority, where the members shall meet at least once each month  
 108 for the transaction of business. The members shall annually  
 109 elect from among their number a chair, one or more vice chairs,  
 110 and a secretary and treasurer, except that the offices of  
 111 secretary and treasurer may be combined. The chair, or a vice  
 112 chair presiding in his or her absence, shall not be entitled to  
 113 vote upon any matter before the authority except when the votes  
 114 that have been cast shall be evenly divided. The treasurer  
 115 shall give a bond by a reputable bonding company authorized to  
 116 do business in the state, in an amount to be designated by a

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117 majority vote of the members, conditioned upon the faithful  
 118 performance of his or her duties. The members are hereby  
 119 authorized to pay the secretary and the treasurer salaries and  
 120 expenses commensurate with the work done and in keeping with the  
 121 salaries paid from time to time by other businesses for like  
 122 work.

123 Section 5. Duties of secretary and treasurer.--It shall be  
 124 the duty of the secretary to keep full and correct minutes of  
 125 all proceedings and meetings of the authority and it shall be  
 126 the duty of the treasurer to keep separate accounts of all  
 127 receipts and disbursements of the authority.

128 Section 6. Control of expenditures.--The members shall  
 129 have exclusive control of all expenditures of and from the  
 130 moneys, loan proceeds, contributions, receipts, revenues, and  
 131 collections of the authority, except that persons who shall  
 132 desire to make contributions for the benefit of any facility or  
 133 facilities of the authority shall have the right to attach  
 134 conditions to their gifts, and the authority, upon accepting any  
 135 such contribution, shall be controlled by the terms of the gift,  
 136 bequest, or devise.

137 Section 7. Purposes and powers.--The authority is created  
 138 and shall have the power generally to acquire, construct,  
 139 improve, enlarge, repair, equip, operate, and maintain hospitals  
 140 and hospital facilities in Columbia County. The authority is  
 141 granted the following rights and powers and shall have and may  
 142 exercise all powers necessary or appurtenant, convenient, or  
 143 incidental to the carrying out of the powers enumerated in this  
 144 act:

145 (1) To sue and be sued, implead, complain, and defend in

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146 all courts.

147 (2) To adopt, use, and alter at will a corporate seal.

148 (3) To acquire, own, hold, purchase, construct, improve,  
 149 maintain, operate, extend, equip, repair, own, and lease  
 150 hospitals, clinics, outpatient departments, and other  
 151 appurtenant facilities, including, without limitation, all  
 152 lands, buildings, structures, furniture, fixtures, machinery,  
 153 equipment, books, records, and all other real and personal  
 154 property of any kind and nature whatsoever presently owned,  
 155 controlled, maintained, and operated or which was heretofore or  
 156 may hereafter be acquired, constructed, or improved by the Lake  
 157 Shore Hospital Authority of Columbia County.

158 (4) To acquire, purchase, hold, own, operate, and lease  
 159 and use any franchises, properties, real, personal, or mixed,  
 160 tangible or intangible, or any interest therein necessary or  
 161 desirable for carrying out the purposes of the authority and  
 162 this act and to sell, lease, transfer, and dispose of any  
 163 property or interest therein at any time acquired by it.

164 (5) To provide at one time or from time to time for the  
 165 issuance of bonds as hereinafter provided.

166 (6) To enter into and make leases, either as lessee or  
 167 lessor, for such period or periods of time and under such terms  
 168 and conditions as the authority shall determine. Such leases may  
 169 be entered into for buildings, structures, or facilities  
 170 constructed or acquired or to be constructed or acquired by the  
 171 authority, or may be entered into for lands owned by the  
 172 authority when the lessee of said lands agrees as a  
 173 consideration for said lease to construct or acquire buildings,  
 174 structures, or facilities on said lands which will become the

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175 property of the authority under such terms, rentals, and other  
 176 conditions as the authority shall deem proper.

177 (7) To fix, alter, charge, establish, and collect rates,  
 178 fees, rentals, and other charges for the services and facilities  
 179 of hospitals, clinics, outpatient departments, and other  
 180 appurtenant facilities related thereto, or any part thereof, at  
 181 reasonable and uniform rates to be determined exclusively by the  
 182 authority for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of  
 183 this act.

184 (8) To furnish temporary relief to the indigent of  
 185 Columbia County and study the cause of their poverty; to seek a  
 186 plan for their permanent rehabilitation; generally, to assist  
 187 them to support themselves whenever possible to the end that  
 188 they may cease to be a charge upon the community and, instead,  
 189 become useful citizens thereof; and to bury the indigent dead of  
 190 Columbia County and provide cemeteries for that purpose.

191 (9) To make contracts of every kind and nature and to  
 192 execute all instruments necessary or convenient for the carrying  
 193 on of its business.

194 (10) Without limitation of the foregoing, to borrow money  
 195 and accept grants, contributions, or loans from, and to enter  
 196 into contracts, leases, or other transactions with the United  
 197 States Government or any agency thereof, the state, or any  
 198 agency thereof, the County of Columbia, the City of Lake City,  
 199 or with any other public body of any nature whatsoever.

200 (11) To pledge, hypothecate, or otherwise encumber all or  
 201 any part of the revenues and other available funds of the  
 202 authority as security for all or any of the bonds issued by the  
 203 authority.

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204       (12) To employ an executive director, physicians,  
 205 surgeons, accountants, attorneys, bacteriologists, chemists,  
 206 contractors, engineers, architects, superintendents, nurses,  
 207 technicians, managers, construction and financial experts,  
 208 radiologists, or any other person or persons skilled in hygiene  
 209 or medical research, and such other employees and agents as may,  
 210 in the judgment of the authority, be necessary, and fix their  
 211 compensation.

212       (13) To provide for those inhabitants of Columbia County  
 213 who, by reason of age, infirmity, or misfortune, have claims  
 214 upon the aid and sympathy of society.

215       (14) To receive and accept grants, gifts, and donations  
 216 from any person, firm, or governmental agency.

217       (15) To do all acts and things necessary or convenient in  
 218 the carrying out of the powers granted herein.

219       Section 8. Maintenance and operation.--The Board of County  
 220 Commissioners of Columbia County is hereby directed and charged  
 221 with the duty of providing sufficient revenue for the  
 222 maintenance and operation of the facilities of the authority  
 223 from year to year, which such revenue, when made available,  
 224 shall be paid over to the authority to be expended for such  
 225 purposes.

226       Section 9. Revenue bonds.--

227       (1) The authority is authorized to provide by resolution  
 228 at one time or from time to time for the issuance of bonds of  
 229 the authority for the purpose of paying all or a part of the  
 230 cost of acquisition, construction, equipping, repairing,  
 231 extending, maintaining, and reconstructing any facility or  
 232 facilities or any combination of facilities of the authority.



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233 The bonds of each issue shall be dated, shall bear interest at  
 234 such rate or rates not exceeding the maximum rate authorized by  
 235 general law, shall mature at such time or times not exceeding 40  
 236 years from their date or dates, as may be determined by the  
 237 authority, and may be made redeemable before maturity, at the  
 238 option of the authority, at such price or prices and under such  
 239 terms and conditions as may be fixed by the authority prior to  
 240 the issuance of the bonds. The authority shall determine the  
 241 form of the bonds, including any interest coupons to be attached  
 242 thereto, and the manner of execution of the bonds and coupons,  
 243 and shall fix the denomination or denominations of the bonds and  
 244 the place or places of payment of principal and interest, which  
 245 may be at any bank or trust company within or without the state.  
 246 In case any officer whose signature or a facsimile of whose  
 247 signature shall appear on any bonds or coupons shall cease to be  
 248 such officer before the delivery of such bonds, such signature  
 249 or such facsimile shall nevertheless be valid and sufficient for  
 250 all purposes the same as if he or she had remained in office  
 251 until such delivery. All bonds issued under the provisions of  
 252 this act shall have all the qualities and incidents of  
 253 negotiable instruments under the negotiable instruments laws of  
 254 the state. The bonds may be issued in coupon or in registered  
 255 form, or both, as the authority may determine, and provisions  
 256 may be made for the registration of any coupon bonds as to  
 257 principal alone and also as to both principal and interest, and  
 258 for the reconversion into coupon bonds of any bonds registered  
 259 as to both principal and interest. The issuance of such bonds  
 260 shall not be subject to any limitations or conditions contained  
 261 in any other law, and the authority may sell such bonds in such

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262 manner and for such price as it may determine to be for the best  
 263 interest of the authority. Prior to the preparation of  
 264 definitive bonds, the authority may, under like restrictions,  
 265 issue interim receipts or temporary bonds with or without  
 266 coupons, exchangeable for definitive bonds when such bonds have  
 267 been executed and are available for delivery. The authority may  
 268 also provide for the replacement of any bonds which shall be  
 269 mutilated, destroyed, or lost.

270 (2) Such bonds may be payable from the revenues derived  
 271 from the operation of the facilities or of any combination  
 272 thereof and from any other funds legally available therefor.  
 273 The bonds shall be entitled to such priorities on such revenues  
 274 as the authority shall provide. The issuance of such bonds  
 275 shall not directly, indirectly, or contingently obligate the  
 276 county to levy ad valorem taxes for their payment and the  
 277 authority shall not convey or mortgage such facilities or any  
 278 part thereof as security for payment of the bonds.

279 Section 10. Incidental powers.--

280 (1) In the discretion of the authority, each or any issue  
 281 of such bonds may be secured by a trust agreement by and between  
 282 the authority and a corporate trustee, which may be any trust  
 283 company or bank having the powers of a trust company within or  
 284 outside of the state. Such trust agreement may pledge or assign  
 285 the revenues to be received by the authority. The resolution  
 286 providing for the issuance of bonds or such trust agreement may  
 287 contain such provisions for protecting and enforcing the rights  
 288 and remedies of the bondholders as may be reasonable, proper,  
 289 and not in violation of law, including covenants setting forth  
 290 the duties of the authority in relation to the acquisition,

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291 construction, improvement, maintenance, operation, repair, and  
 292 insurance of the facilities and the custody, safeguarding, and  
 293 application of all moneys. It is lawful for any bank or trust  
 294 company incorporated under the laws of the state to act as such  
 295 depository and to furnish such indemnifying bonds or to pledge  
 296 such securities as may be required by the authority. Such  
 297 resolution or such trust agreement may restrict the individual  
 298 rights of action by bondholders as is customary in trust  
 299 agreements securing bonds or debentures of corporations. In  
 300 addition to the foregoing, such resolution or such trust  
 301 agreement may contain such other provisions as the authority may  
 302 deem reasonable and proper for the security of the bondholders.  
 303 Except as in this act otherwise provided, the authority may  
 304 provide, by resolution or by trust agreement, for the payment of  
 305 the proceeds of the sale of the bonds and the revenues to such  
 306 officer, board, or depository as it may determine for the  
 307 custody thereof, and for the method of disbursement thereof,  
 308 with such safeguards and restrictions as it may determine. All  
 309 expenses incurred in carrying out such trust agreement may be  
 310 treated as a part of the cost of operation of the facility or  
 311 facilities affected by such trust agreement.

312 (2) The resolution or trust agreement providing for the  
 313 issuance of the bonds may also contain such limitations upon the  
 314 issuance of additional revenue bonds as the authority may deem  
 315 proper, and such additional bonds shall be issued under such  
 316 restrictions or limitations as may be prescribed by such  
 317 resolution or trust agreement.

318 (3) Bonds may be issued under the provisions of this act  
 319 without obtaining the consent of any commission, board, bureau,

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320 or agency of the state or county and without any other  
 321 proceedings or the happening of any condition or thing other  
 322 than those proceedings, conditions, or things which are  
 323 specifically required by this act.

324 (4) The proceeds of the bonds shall be used solely for the  
 325 payment of the cost of the facility or facilities for which such  
 326 bonds shall have been authorized and shall be disbursed in the  
 327 manner provided in the resolution or in the trust agreement  
 328 authorizing the issuance of such bonds. If the proceeds of the  
 329 bonds of any issue shall exceed the amount required for the  
 330 purpose for which the same shall have been issued, the surplus  
 331 shall be set aside and used only for paying the principal of and  
 332 interest on such bonds.

333 Section 11. Refunding bonds.--The authority is hereby  
 334 authorized to provide by resolution for the issuance of  
 335 refunding revenue bonds for the purpose of refunding any bonds  
 336 then outstanding and issued under the provisions of this act.  
 337 The authority is further authorized to provide by resolution for  
 338 the issuance of bonds for the combined purpose of paying the  
 339 cost of any acquisition, construction, repair, extensions,  
 340 additions, equipping, and reconstruction of any facilities of  
 341 the authority, and refunding bonds of the authority which shall  
 342 theretofore have been issued under the provisions of this act  
 343 and shall then be outstanding. The issuance of such  
 344 obligations, the maturities and other details thereof, the right  
 345 and remedies of the holders thereof, and the rights, powers,  
 346 privileges, duties, and obligations of the authority with  
 347 respect to the same shall be governed by the foregoing  
 348 provisions of this act insofar as the same may be applicable.

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349 Section 12. Remedies.--Any holder of bonds issued under  
 350 the provisions of this act or any of the coupons appertaining  
 351 thereto and the trustee under any trust agreement, except to the  
 352 extent that the rights herein given may be restricted by such  
 353 trust agreement, may, either at law or in equity, by suit,  
 354 action, mandamus, or other proceedings, protect and enforce any  
 355 and all rights under the laws of the state or granted hereunder  
 356 or under such trust agreement or the resolution authorizing the  
 357 issuance of such bonds, and may enforce and compel the  
 358 performance of all duties required by this act or by such trust  
 359 agreement or resolution to be performed by the authority or by  
 360 any officer thereof.

361 Section 13. Transfer of existing facilities.--

362 (1) On the effective date of this act, all of the right,  
 363 title, and interest of the Lake Shore Hospital District and Lake  
 364 Shore Hospital Corporation in and to the existing hospital  
 365 facilities situated in Lake City, Columbia County, and known as  
 366 the Lake Shore Hospital, including all land, buildings,  
 367 structures, furniture, fixtures, machinery, equipment, books,  
 368 records, and all other real and personal property of any kind  
 369 and nature whatsoever, and all powers, jurisdiction, and control  
 370 over or relating thereto, heretofore vested in the Columbia  
 371 County Board by reason of chapter 30264, Laws of Florida (1955),  
 372 as amended, shall, upon request of the authority, be  
 373 transferred, set over, assigned, and conveyed to said authority,  
 374 and the said Lake Shore Hospital Board shall thereupon transmit  
 375 to the proper officers of the authority all deeds, conveyances,  
 376 documents, books, and records relating to said Lake Shore  
 377 Hospital Board and shall execute all necessary documents and

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378 papers to carry out and consummate the conveyance and transfer  
 379 of said property to said authority.

380 (2) This section, without reference to any other laws,  
 381 shall be deemed to be and shall constitute complete authority  
 382 for the transfer, assignment, and conveyance herein authorized.  
 383 Any provisions of other laws to the contrary notwithstanding and  
 384 no proceedings or other actions shall be required, except as  
 385 herein prescribed.

386 Section 14. Exemption of property from taxation.--The  
 387 effectuation of the purposes of the authority created under this  
 388 act is in all respects for the benefit of the people of the  
 389 state and of Columbia County, for the increase of their commerce  
 390 and prosperity. The exercise of the powers by the authority,  
 391 conferred by this act, to effect such purposes constitutes the  
 392 performance of essential county functions and is declared to be  
 393 a county purpose. As the facilities owned, operated, supervised,  
 394 and controlled by the authority, under the provisions of this  
 395 act, constitute public property and are used for county  
 396 purposes, the authority shall not be required to pay any taxes  
 397 or assessments upon any such facilities or any parts thereof.

398 Section 15. Bonds to constitute legal investments.--Any  
 399 bonds issued pursuant to this act shall be and constitute legal  
 400 investments for banks, savings banks, trustees, executors,  
 401 administrators, and all other fiduciaries for all state,  
 402 municipal, and public funds and shall also be and constitute  
 403 securities eligible for deposit as security for all state,  
 404 municipal, or other public funds notwithstanding the provisions  
 405 of any other law or laws to the contrary.

406 Section 16. Act complete and additional authority.--The

407 powers conferred by this act shall be in addition and  
 408 supplemental to the existing powers of the authority, if any,  
 409 and this act shall not be construed as repealing any of the  
 410 provisions of any other law, whether general, special, or local,  
 411 but shall be deemed to supersede such other law or laws in the  
 412 exercise of the powers provided in this act insofar as such  
 413 other law or laws are inconsistent with the provisions of this  
 414 act and to provide a complete method for the exercise of the  
 415 powers granted herein.

416 Section 17. Taxing authority.--

417 (1) The members of the Lake Shore Hospital Authority of  
 418 Columbia County are authorized to request, by resolution of said  
 419 hospital authority, the Board of County Commissioners of  
 420 Columbia County to levy a tax not to exceed 3 mills on all  
 421 taxable property in the county for the purpose of maintenance  
 422 and operation of the hospital and facilities and for providing  
 423 health care for the indigent residents of Columbia County.

424 (2) Upon request by resolution of the Lake Shore Hospital  
 425 Authority, the Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County  
 426 shall levy a tax upon all the taxable property in the county for  
 427 the purpose of maintenance and operation of the hospital and  
 428 facilities and care of the indigent residents of Columbia County  
 429 in an amount not to exceed 3 mills. Upon the assessment and  
 430 collection of said tax, the county tax collector shall remit the  
 431 moneys thereby collected to the director of the authority.

432 Section 18. Construction of act.--This act shall be  
 433 construed as remedial and shall be liberally construed to  
 434 promote the purpose for which it is intended.

435 Section 19. If any section, clause, or provision of this

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436 act shall be held unconstitutional, void, or ineffective for any  
437 reason in whole or in part, to the extent that it is not  
438 unconstitutional or ineffective, it shall be valid and  
439 effective, and no other section, clause, or provision shall on  
440 account thereof be deemed invalid or ineffective.

441 Section 4. Chapters 24443 (1947), 25736 (1949), 30264  
442 (1955), 61-2048, 63-1247, 65-1414, 72-509, 90-409, and 92-229,  
443 Laws of Florida, are repealed.

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