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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the North Port Orange Hammock Improvement District, City of North Port, Sarasota County; providing a short title; providing an exception to general law; providing a district charter; creating an independent special district; providing district boundaries; providing for charter amendment; providing powers, functions, and duties; providing for a governing board, elections, qualifications, terms of office, removal from office, and filling of vacancies; providing for election of a chair, vice chair, and secretary-treasurer; providing a quorum; providing requirements for meetings and notice; providing requirements for reports, budgets, and audits; providing for liberal construction; authorizing the levy of non-ad valorem assessments; specifying method of collection and enforcement of non-ad valorem assessments; authorizing property appraiser's and tax collector's fees or commissions; providing for collection and enforcement of fees, costs, and expenses; providing for issuance of revenue bonds, assessment bonds, bond anticipation notes, and general obligation bonds; providing boundaries; providing for the applicability of provisions of chapters 189 and 298, Florida Statutes, and other general laws; providing for the board's limited power of eminent domain; providing for severability; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Popular name.--This act may be cited as the "North Port Orange Hammock Improvement District Act."

Section 2. District; creation, jurisdiction, and

purpose. --

- (1) The North Port Orange Hammock Improvement District, the "district," is created and incorporated as an independent special district pursuant to chapter 189, Florida Statutes, to be known as the "North Port Orange Hammock Improvement District," in the City of North Port, Sarasota County, which independent special district shall be a public body corporate and politic.
- (2) The district's territorial boundary shall embrace and include that real property described in section 18.
- (3) The district is created for all purposes as shall be liberally construed from and set forth in this act, under sections 189.401-189.429 and chapter 298, Florida Statutes, provided that section 189.4045(2), Florida Statutes, is specifically excluded and not applicable to the district or the City of North Port and may perform such acts as shall be necessary, convenient, incidental, or proper for the provision, acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of those public infrastructure works and services authorized herein, including all facilities necessary and incidental thereto.
- (4) The district charter created by this act may be amended only by special act of the Legislature. Any expansion of the powers or the boundaries of the district within the City of North Port shall require prior approval of the City of North Port Commission or its designee.

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(5) The definition of terms and phrases shall be as set forth in chapters 189 and 298, Florida Statutes, unless otherwise herein defined.

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Section 3. Limitations of powers. -- All governmental planning, environmental, and land development laws, regulations, and ordinances apply to all development of the land within the district. The district does not have the power of a local government to adopt a comprehensive plan, building code, zoning code, or land development code, as those terms are defined in the Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act. The district shall take no action that is inconsistent with applicable comprehensive plans, ordinances, or regulations of the applicable local general-purpose government. Nothing in this act shall create any delegation of any responsibilities or authorities from the City of North Port to the district. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the district shall be required to obtain any and all permits for infrastructure planning and construction from the City of North Port that would otherwise be required of a private entity performing the same work. The district shall not have the power to supersede, contravene, or overrule any development or annexation agreements entered into by landowners within or outside of the district or any City of North Port joint planning agreements or interlocal agreements with Sarasota County or any other governmental entities. The district shall be subject to, as appropriate, any development order encompassing the entirety of the district or any part thereof and shall be bound by the terms of such development orders. Additionally, in order to seek

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the input of the appropriate unit of local government, the district shall consult with, and provide notice to, Charlotte County, Desoto County, Sarasota County, or any appropriate unit of state or local government, regarding any actions that may affect them prior to taking the proposed action.

Section 4. District powers, functions, and duties .--

- (1) In addition to any powers, functions, and duties set forth in this act, the district shall have the authority to exercise such powers, functions, and duties as may be set forth in chapter 298, Florida Statutes.
- (2) The district is hereby authorized and empowered as follows:
- (a) To adopt by resolution bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its business.
- (b) To adopt by resolution rules as necessary for implementation, regulation, and enforcement as are consistent with the purposes of the district and this act.
- (c) To adopt an official seal reflecting the name and nature of the district.
- (d) To acquire by grant, loan, purchase, gift, transfer, exchange, dedication, lease, devise, or, when reasonably necessary for the implementation of district-authorized public infrastructure works, facilities, or services by means of the exercise of the right of eminent domain pursuant to the laws of the state and in accordance with section 13, all property, real or personal, or any easement, license, estate, or interest therein necessary, desirable, or convenient for the purposes of this act, and to sell, convey, transfer, gift, lease, rent,

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dedicate, forfeit, abandon, exchange, or assign all or any part thereof to or with other entities, including governmental entities and agencies, and to exercise all of its powers and authority with respect thereto. The district shall have the right of eminent domain as limited by section 13, for the purposes of exercising its powers for the provision of services to the district, subject to the approval of the City of North Port Commission or its designee, or if otherwise required by another governmental entity or agency. Any property interests owned by the district which are used for nonpublic or private commercial purposes shall be subject to all ad valorem taxes, intangible personal property taxes, or non-ad valorem assessments, as would be applicable if said property were privately owned. To finance, plan (consistent with the City of North Port Comprehensive Plan as amended and implementing ordinances, studies, and plans, or those of other appropriate local or state governments), design, acquire, construct, install, operate, equip, upgrade, reclaim, replace, extend, renovate, mitigate, and maintain canals, swales, outfalls, dams, control structures, pumps and pumping systems, aerators, seawalls, berms, ditches, telemetry and monitoring equipment, retention areas, holding basins, marshes, wetlands, uplands, drains, levees, lakes, ponds, and other works or elements for modern comprehensive water management drainage, environmental, mitigation preservation, erosion, quality, and control purposes, and,

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further, that the district shall agree, at the request of the

City of North Port Commission or its designee, subject to a

developer's agreement with the City of North Port (neither party's consent to said developer's agreement shall be unreasonably withheld), to donate and turn over operation of all or any portion of said water management system to the City of North Port.

- (f) To regulate, modify, control, and redirect the supply and level of water within the district if consistent with City of North Port and Southwest Florida Water Management District rules and regulations, including the diversion of waters from one area, lake, pond, river, stream, basin, or water control facility to another; to control and restrict the development and use of natural or artificial streams or bodies of water, lakes, or ponds; and to take all measures determined by the board to be necessary or desirable to prevent or alleviate land erosion, flooding, or water quality problems or issues, provided all such activity shall be carried out in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local government rules and regulations.
- (g) To finance the implementation of appropriate studies, whether by the district or in conjunction with other agencies or entities; to assist in implementing the district's powers, authorities, and purposes as set forth herein; and to facilitate the orderly management of the district and its works and facilities.
- (h) To finance, plan (consistent with the City of North

 Port Comprehensive Plan as amended and implementing ordinances,

 studies, and plans, or those of other appropriate local or state

 governments), design, acquire, construct, install, operate,

equip, upgrade, replace, extend, renovate, and maintain irrigation works, machinery, plants, and appurtenances.

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To finance, plan (consistent with the City of North Port Comprehensive Plan as amended and implementing ordinances, studies, and plans, or those of Charlotte, Desoto, and Sarasota Counties or other appropriate local or state governments), design, acquire, construct, install, operate, equip, upgrade, replace, extend, renovate, and maintain roadways and to include, either as a component of such roads or independently by themselves, parkways, bridges, landscaping, irrigation, bicycle and jogging paths, street lighting, entry features, traffic signals, road striping, and all other customary elements or appurtenances of a modern road system as fulfillment of a requirement pursuant to any development agreement, development order, or plat or for the exclusive use and benefit of the district, a unit of development, and its landowners, residents, and invitees to control ingress and egress; to finance and maintain said roads and their associate elements and components as part of a plan of improvements; to construct and maintain security structures to control the use of said roads; to make provision for access by fire, police, and emergency vehicles and personnel for the protection of life and property; to include, in the annual assessment of non-ad valorem assessments as authorized, sufficient funds to finance and maintain said roads as part of a plan of improvements; and to adopt, by resolution of the board, rules and regulations for the control of traffic, noise levels, crime, and the use of the roads by those authorized. Provided that in the event the district should

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construct all or any portion of a major thoroughfare or transportation route as identified in section 163.3177(6)(b), Florida Statutes, the district shall not be permitted to limit said thoroughfare or transportation route for the exclusive use and benefit of the district, a unit of development, or its residents without the written consent of the applicable local general government. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, construction of roads by the district shall not be in conflict with City of North Port rules or, where applicable, the rules, master plans, plans, specifications, or regulations of the adjacent county where roads are required to be constructed or improved, or those of other appropriate units of state or local government. The district shall agree, at the request of the City of North Port Commission or its designee, subject to applicable impact fee ordinances and a developer's agreement with the City of North Port, neither party's consent to said developer's agreement shall be unreasonably withheld, to donate and turn over operation of all or any portion of any public roadway system to the City of North Port, the applicable adjacent county, or appropriate units of state and local government. To finance, plan (consistent with the City of North Port Comprehensive Plan as amended and implementing ordinances, studies, and plans, or those of other appropriate local or state

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governments), design, acquire, construct, install, operate,

features, garages, parking facilities, district offices,

equip, upgrade, replace, extend, renovate, and maintain entry

buildings, facilities, and structures.

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(k) To finance, plan (consistent with the City of North
Port Comprehensive Plan as amended and implementing ordinances,
studies, and plans, or those of other appropriate local or state
governments), design, acquire, construct, install, operate,
equip, upgrade, replace, extend, renovate, reclaim, mitigate,
protect, and remove exotics and maintain improvements, works,
landscaping, systems, structures, buildings, and facilities for
community or public preserves, uplands, wetlands, playgrounds,
parks, gymnasiums, stadiums, ball fields, greenways, waterways,
and facilities for indoor and outdoor recreational, sport,
cultural, and educational uses.

To finance, plan (consistent with the City of North (1) Port Comprehensive Plan as amended and implementing ordinances, studies, and plans, or those of other appropriate local or state governments), design, acquire, construct, install, operate, set, and charge by resolution access, user, or connection fees and charges, equip, upgrade, replace, store, extend, renovate, and maintain water plants and systems, plus appurtenances, to produce, desalinate, purify, sell, and distribute water for consumption, irrigation, or other purposes. The exercise of such construction, operation, fee establishment, and production powers by the district shall require the prior approval of the City of North Port Commission or its designee, and the district shall agree, at the request of the City of North Port Commission or its designee, subject to a utility developer's agreement with the City of North Port (neither party's consent to said developer's agreement shall be unreasonably withheld), to donate

and turn over operation of all or any portion of said water system to the City of North Port.

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- To finance, plan (consistent with the City of North Port Comprehensive Plan as amended and implementing ordinances, studies, and plans, or those of other appropriate local or state governments), design, acquire, construct, install, operate, set, and charge by resolution access, user, or connection fees and charges, equip, upgrade, replace, extend, renovate, and maintain sewer systems, plus appurtenances, for the collection, disposal, and reuse of effluent, waste, residue, or other byproducts of such system; prevent pollution; and improve water quality. The exercise of such construction, operation, and fee establishment powers by the district shall require the prior approval of the City of North Port Commission or its designee, and the district shall agree, at the request of the City of North Port Commission or its designee and subject to a utility developer's agreement with the City of North Port (neither party's consent to said developer's agreement shall be unreasonably withheld), to donate and turn over operation of all or any portion of said wastewater system to the City of North Port.
- (n) To finance, plan (if not inconsistent with other responsible agencies or authorities, or those of other appropriate local or state governments), design, acquire, construct, install, operate, equip, upgrade, replace, extend, renovate, and maintain improvements and facilities for and take measures to control mosquitoes or other insects and arthropods of public health importance.

(o) To finance, plan (consistent with the City of North
Port Comprehensive Plan as amended and implementing ordinances,
studies, and plans, or those of other appropriate local or state
governments), design, acquire, construct, install, operate,
equip, upgrade, replace, extend, renovate, and maintain lands,
works, systems, landscaping, and facilities for preservation
areas, conservation areas, environmental areas, mitigation
areas, and wildlife habitat or sanctuaries, including the
maintenance of any plant or animal species, and any related
interest in real or personal property. The district shall allow
the City of North Port access to all such improvements and shall
allow access by the public when appropriate.

- (p) To finance, plan (consistent with the City of North

 Port Comprehensive Plan as amended and implementing ordinances,
 studies, and plans, or those of other appropriate local or state
 governments), design, acquire, construct, install, equip,
 upgrade, replace, extend, renovate, and maintain additional
 systems and facilities for school buildings and related
 structures that may be donated to a public school district,
 subject to a developer's agreement (neither party's consent to
 said developer's agreement shall be unreasonably withheld), for
 use in the educational system; provided that donation of any
 land and the exercise of such construction powers by the
 district shall require the prior approval of the School Board of
 Sarasota County and the City of North Port Commission or its
 designee.
- (q) To levy non-ad valorem assessments; to prescribe, fix, establish, and collect rates, fees, rentals, fares, or other

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charges, and revise the same from time to time, for property, facilities, and services made available, furnished, or to be furnished by the district; and to recover the cost of making or authorizing the connection to any district facility or system or installing works or improvements on or within district property interests. However, no rates, fares, charges, or fees shall be established until after a public hearing of the board at the district at which all affected persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard.

- (r) To provide for the discontinuance of service and reasonable penalties, including reasonable attorney's fees, against any user or property for any such rates, fees, rentals, fares, or other charges that become delinquent and require collection.
- (s) To enter into agreements with any person, firm, entity, partnership, or corporation, whether public, private, or governmental, for the furnishing by such person, firm, entity, partnership, or corporation of any facilities and services of the type provided for, authorized, or necessarily implied as being authorized in this act.
- (t) To borrow money and issue negotiable or other bonds of said district as hereinafter provided; to borrow money, from time to time, and issue negotiable or other notes of said district therefore, bearing interest at not exceeding the maximum interest allowable by law, in anticipation of the collection of levies, fees, penalties, charges, fares, and assessments or revenues of said district; and to pledge or hypothecate such non-ad valorem assessments, levies,

assessments, and revenues to secure such bonds, notes, or obligations, and sell, discount, negotiate, and dispose of the same.

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- (u) To provide for safety enhancements, including, but not limited to, security, guardhouses, fences, gates, and electronic intrusion detection systems. The district shall not be authorized or empowered to exercise any police power but may contract with the appropriate local general-purpose government agencies for an increased level of such service. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, nothing herein shall allow the district to limit the level of law enforcement provided by federal, state, or local governmental agencies.
- (∇) To provide, at the request of local general-purpose governments consistent with the plans of the local generalpurpose government, systems and facilities for fire prevention and control and emergency medical services, including the construction of a hospital and police stations, and construction or purchase of fire stations, water mains and fire hydrants, fire trucks, and other vehicles and equipment consistent with any adopted local general-purpose government ordinances, rules, or regulations. The district shall agree, at the request of the local general-purpose government, subject to a developer's agreement with the City of North Port (neither party's consent to said developer's agreement shall be unreasonably withheld), to donate and turn over operation of all or any portion of said equipment and facilities to the local general-purpose government.

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(w) To submit for and obtain permits, make and enter into contracts and agreements as are necessary or incidental to the performance of the duties imposed and the execution of the powers granted under this act, and employ such consulting and other engineers, superintendents, managers, administrators, construction and financial experts, attorneys, and such employees and agents as may, in the judgment of the district, be necessary, and fix their compensation.

To require any individual or entity desiring to construct any structure in, over, under, upon, or occupying district property or right-of-way or connecting to or utilizing the works of the district to first obtain written authorization from the district and comply with all City of North Port and district plans, rules, regulations, policies, and specifications, provided that said written authorization shall be issued upon compliance with such applicable City of North Port and district plans, rules, regulations, policies, and specifications. The board of supervisors shall be permitted the discretion to deny or revoke any written authorization or application for same if it is found that the matter for which the authorization is sought or granted does not comply with the City of North Port and district plans, rules, regulations, or policies. All fees and costs, including construction, review, inspection, copying, engineering, legal, and administrative expenses of the district, shall be paid by the applicant seeking the authorization. Any such district's written authorization shall not be deemed or construed as being an alternative to or in place of the applicant's obligation to also obtain all other

governmental building and construction permits and approvals.

Any conflict between City of North Port and district plans,
rules, regulations, policies, and specifications shall be
resolved in favor of the City of North Port.

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- To include in a plan of improvements, the engineer's report, or the authorizing and implementing documents under chapter 170, Florida Statutes, which shall include, but are not limited to, all applicable resolutions, assessment maps, and assessment rolls ("chapter 170 authorizing documents"), all or one or more of the various powers and functions, including individual parts or components thereof, of the district or any combination of same, and to construct and finance said individual or a combination of such powers and functions, including individual parts or components thereof. It is the intent of this section that a plan of improvements, the engineer's report, or chapter 170 authorizing documents may provide for a single benefit to the land authorized by the laws pertaining to the district or one or more of all of said benefits or a combination thereof as long as there are benefits accruing to the land.
- (z) To provide in a plan of improvements, the engineer's report, or chapter 170 authorizing documents that in assessing the benefits and damages to be incurred by lands of the district from the implementation, provision, or construction of a plan of improvements or improvements or services, pursuant to chapter 170 authorizing documents, the varying types of existing or proposed land uses of the land within the unit or affected by such construction or implementation, as the case may be, may be

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considered and be entitled to so assess the benefits and damages. The district may levy non-ad valorem assessments based upon the benefits assessed in such manner, taking into account the varying existing or proposed land uses of the land affected by such construction as shall provide for the equitable apportionment of such assessments. Such assessments may be levied on the basis of lots, units, acreage, parcels, equivalent connection, or uses or as otherwise set forth in the engineer's report or in the chapter 170 authorizing documents.

To establish and create such departments, committees, (aa) boards, or other agencies, including a public relations committee, as from time to time the board of supervisors may deem necessary or desirable in the performance of the acts or other things necessary to the exercise of the powers provided in this act, and to delegate to such departments, committees, boards, or other agencies such administrative duties and other powers as the board of supervisors may deem necessary and to exercise all other powers necessary, convenient, or proper in connection with any of the powers or duties of said district stated in this act by and through the board of supervisors. Notwithstanding anything contained herein, no such departments, committees, boards, or other agencies shall have the power or authority to supersede any powers or authorities of the City of North Port.

(bb) Notwithstanding any authority contained within this section, the development, operation, or maintenance of any district facilities or services shall comply with the adopted

comprehensive plan, unified land development code, zoning code, and any other city codes of the City of North Port.

- (cc) To establish, or otherwise make available, a plan for retirement, disability, dental, death, hospitalization, and other appropriate benefits for employees of the district.
- (dd) To invest surplus funds of the district consistent with the Investment of Local Government Surplus Funds Act, part IV, chapter 218, Florida Statutes.
- (ee) To submit to the City of North Port the plan of improvement for major government infrastructure capital elements that may eventually be dedicated or donated to the City of North Port so that the city can rely on and incorporate said plan of improvement into the city's capital improvement plan.
- (ff) To apply for, obtain, and utilize any grants from other entities consistent with the powers of the district; provided, however, that the district shall coordinate with and obtain timely authorization from the City of North Port Commission or its designee prior to the submittal of any grant application.
- (gg) Following methodology consistent with the county's concurrency management regulations, or the concurrency regulations of an adjacent county impacted by the development, and notwithstanding any authority contained within this section, the district shall not construct any improvements within the district pursuant to any development order where that development would cause the level of service on any concurrency regulated facility in Sarasota County, Charlotte County, or Desoto County to drop below the level of service adopted as of

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the effective date of this act, or a subsequently reduced level of service, in any affected county's comprehensive plan pursuant to chapter 163, Florida Statutes, without paying its fair share contribution to improving that facility. Affected counties shall have the right under section 163.3215, Florida Statutes, to contest any such development order on the basis that it fails to require the district to pay its fair share contribution. The fair share contribution shall include both the contribution to the county from the fair share collected by the City of North Port pursuant to the county's impact fee ordinance and interlocal agreements between Sarasota County, affected counties, and the City of North Port, as well as direct contributions made to the counties by the district. Nothing contained herein shall be construed as limiting the obligations of the district or property owners therein as set forth in Florida Statutes and applicable rules or to limit the development of infrastructure, roads, or public improvements. To collect fair share contributions from Sarasota (hh) County should Sarasota County approve any development order in Sarasota County that creates impacts to concurrency regulated facilities within the district, which would cause the level of service on any concurrency regulated facility in the district to

subsequently reduced level of service.

(3) To include in a plan of improvements the engineer's report, chapter 170 authorizing documents, or otherwise provide for the exercise of the district's powers, services, facilities,

Port for such facility as of the effective date of this act, or

drop below the level of service adopted by the City of North

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500 and improvements beyond the territorial boundaries of the 501 district, when necessary and appropriate to provide a benefit on 502 behalf of lands located within the district and pursuant to an 503 approved plan of improvements or chapter 170 authorizing 504 documents. Any such construction must be in accordance with the 505 city's master plans and requirements. Any such construction 506 within Sarasota County must be in accordance with the county's comprehensive plan, master plans, and thoroughfare plan. The 507 508 North Port Orange Hammock Improvement District shall cooperate 509 and coordinate its activities with the units of general-purpose local government in which it is located, including the City of 510 511 North Port and Sarasota County, as well as Charlotte and DeSoto 512 Counties, with regard to roadway and traffic issues that may 513 arise. The district is authorized to enter into interlocal 514 agreements with the City of North Port, Sarasota County, 515 Charlotte County, Desoto County, or any other units of 516 government. Whenever the district intends to utilize its powers 517 to construct or cause to be constructed infrastructure projects 518 or programs within the district or as necessary and permitted outside the district boundaries, the district shall provide 519 520 copies of all plans and infrastructure permit applications to 521 the appropriate county planning director or development services 522 business center at such time as the district submits such plans 523 or permit applications to the City of North Port or other permitting authority, but, in any event, at least 30 days before 524 525 the City of North Port or other permitting authority issues permits for those projects. The district shall allow Sarasota 526 527 County, and adjacent counties where appropriate, 30 days after

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submission to the county to comment on those plans and permit applications, but, as to construction or improvements that are not within Sarasota County, the county's approval is not required for the district to proceed with the project. Sarasota County shall not unduly interfere with the district's exercise of its powers conferred by this act.

- Section 5. <u>Board of supervisors; election, organization,</u> powers, duties, and terms of office.--
- (1) There is hereby created the board of supervisors of the North Port Orange Hammock Improvement District, which shall be the governing body of said district.
- (2) Said board of supervisors shall consist of five persons who, except as herein otherwise provided, shall hold office for terms of 4 years each and until their successors shall be duly elected and qualified.
- (3) The first board of supervisors shall be composed of five persons, two of whom shall hold office for 4 years each, one of whom shall hold office for 3 years, one of whom shall hold office for 1 year, which terms shall terminate in June of their applicable final year. Within 120 days after this act becomes a law, a special meeting of landowners of the North Port Orange Hammock Improvement District shall be held for the purpose of electing the first board of supervisors as herein provided. Notice of such special meeting of landowners shall be given by causing publication thereof to be made once a week for 2 consecutive weeks prior to such meeting in the newspaper of general paid circulation that the City of North Port publishes notices of

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city meetings, and, prior to the meeting, provision of 2 weeks' advance written notice to the City of North Port Manager, including the agenda and any backup material. Such special meeting of landowners shall be held in a public place in the City of North Port, and the place, date, and hour of holding such meeting and the purpose thereof shall be stated in the notice. The landowners, when assembled, shall organize by electing a chair who shall preside at the meeting and a vice chair, secretary, and treasurer. At such meeting, each and every acre, or any fraction thereof, of land in the district shall represent one vote, and each owner shall be entitled to one vote in person or by written proxy for every acre of land, or any fraction thereof, owned by such owner in the district. Candidates must be citizens of the United States and shall be nominated prior to commencement of the initial election. The landowners shall first vote for the two supervisors who are to hold office for the two seats for initial terms of 4 years as herein provided, and the persons receiving the highest and next highest number of votes for such supervisor offices shall be declared and elected as the supervisors for said two seats. The landowners shall next vote for the supervisor who is to hold office for that seat for a term of 3 years as provided herein, and the person receiving the highest number of votes for such supervisor shall be declared and elected as such supervisor for said seat. Said landowners shall continue to so vote for each remaining seat until the supervisor who is to hold office for the term of 1 year as herein provided is elected for said seat.

The landowners present or voting by proxy at the meeting shall constitute a quorum.

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- Each year during the month of June, beginning with June of the second year following the first election, a supervisor shall be elected, as hereinafter provided, by the landowners of said district to take the place of the retiring supervisor. All vacancies or expirations on said board shall be filled as provided by this act. All supervisors of the district shall be citizens of the United States. In order to be eligible for election following the initial election of supervisors, a candidate for an office of supervisor shall be required to file a written notice of intention to be a candidate in said office of the district at least 30 calendar days but not earlier than 90 calendar days before, but not including, the day of the annual meeting of the landowners. In case of a vacancy in the office of any supervisor, the remaining supervisors within 90 calendar days of the vacancy shall fill such vacancy until the expiration of that seat's outstanding term when a successor shall be elected by the landowners.
- (5) As soon as practicable after their election and the taking of oaths of office, the board of supervisors shall organize by choosing a chair and vice chair of the board of supervisors and by electing some suitable persons, who may or may not be members of the board, secretary and treasurer. The board of supervisors shall adopt a seal that shall be the seal of the district.
- (6) Each supervisor shall hold office until his or her successor shall be elected and qualified. Whenever any election

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shall be authorized or required by this act to be held by the landowners at any particular or stated time or day, and if for any reason such election shall not or cannot be held at such time or on such day, then, in such event and in all and every such event, the power or duty to hold such election shall not cease or lapse, but such election shall be held thereafter as soon as practicable and consistent with this act.

(7) The supervisors shall not receive any compensation for their services.

Section 6. Meetings of landowners.--

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Each year during the month of June, a meeting of the landowners of the district shall be held, when necessary, for the purpose of electing a supervisor and hearing reports of the board of supervisors and considering any matters upon which the board of supervisors may request the advice and views of the landowners. The board of supervisors shall have the power to call special meetings of the landowners at any time to consider and act upon any matter upon which the board of supervisors may request action, direction, or advice. Notice of all meetings of the landowners shall be given by the board of supervisors by causing publication thereof to be made for 2 consecutive weeks prior to such meeting in the newspaper of general paid circulation that the City of North Port publishes notices of city meetings, and, prior to the meeting, provision of 2 weeks' advance written notice to the City of North Port Manager, including the agenda and any backup material. The meetings of the landowners shall be held in a public place in the City of North Port, and the place, day, and hour of holding such

meetings shall be stated in the notice. The landowners, when assembled, shall organize by electing a chair who shall preside at the meeting. The secretary of the board of supervisors shall be the secretary of such meeting. At all such meetings, each and every acre, or any fraction thereof, of land in the district shall represent one vote, and each owner shall be entitled to one vote in person or by written proxy for every acre, or any fraction thereof, of land owned by such owner in the district. The person receiving the highest number of votes for a supervisor position shall be declared and elected as such supervisor. Those landowners present or voting by proxy at the meeting, including the initial meeting, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the landowners.

- (2) Guardians may represent their wards, and personal representatives may represent the estates of deceased persons.

 Trustees may represent lands held by them in trust, and private and municipal corporations may be represented by their officers or duly authorized agents. Guardians, personal representatives, trustees, and corporations may vote by proxy.
- Section 7. <u>Installment assessments; levied and apportioned; collection.--</u>
- (1) The board of supervisors shall determine, order, and levy the amount of the annual installments of the non-ad valorem assessments levied under section 298.305, Florida Statutes, which shall become due and collected during each year at the same time that county taxes are due and collected, which levy shall be evidenced to and certified by the board to the Tax Collector of Sarasota County, pursuant to sections 197.3631,

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197.3632, and 197.3635, Florida Statutes. Said non-ad valorem assessments shall be extended by the county tax collector on the tax roll and shall be collected by the tax collector and the net proceeds thereof paid to said district. Said non-ad valorem assessments shall be a lien until paid on the property against which it is assessed and enforceable in like manner as county taxes.

(2) As an alternative, in addition to, or in combination with the above levy and assessment procedure for non-ad valorem assessments, the district shall have, and the board of supervisors may exercise, the power to determine, order, levy, impose, collect, and enforce special assessments pursuant to chapter 170, Florida Statutes. Such special assessments may, at the discretion of the district, be collected and enforced pursuant to the provisions of sections 197.3631, 197.3632, and 197.3635, Florida Statutes, chapter 170, Florida Statutes, or as otherwise determined by the board.

Section 8. Maintenance assessment. --

(1) In lieu of any maintenance assessment provision of chapter 298, Florida Statutes, when, in order to operate, maintain, and preserve the improvements made, constructed, installed, acquired, or received pursuant to this act and to repair, upgrade, replace, extend, and restore the same, when needed, and for the purpose of defraying the expenses, including administration, of the district, the board of supervisors may levy annually an assessment on specified property in the district, to be known as a "maintenance assessment." Said maintenance assessment shall be evidenced to and certified by

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the board to the Tax Collector of Sarasota County in the same fashion and manner as other district non-ad valorem assessments and shall be collected by the tax collector in the same manner and time as county taxes and the proceeds therefrom paid to said district. Said assessments shall be a lien until paid on the property against which assessed and enforceable in like manner as county taxes.

(2) Provisions may be made for the financing, acquisition, replacement, and maintenance of capital improvements necessary for the operation of the district as a part of the maintenance assessment.

Section 9. Compensation of property appraiser and tax collector.--The property appraiser and tax collector shall be entitled to compensation for services performed in connection with assessments of said district as provided by general law.

Section 10. Acreage assessment for payment of initial formation and organization expenses.--There is hereby authorized by the Legislature upon each and every acre of land within the territorial boundary of the district, the authority through its said board of supervisors, and for the purpose of paying expenses incurred or to be incurred in organizing the district, the authority to levy such non-ad valorem assessments as may be determined by said board of supervisors, before said board of supervisors shall otherwise be able to obtain funds under the provisions of this act or the general laws of the state. Such organizing assessments shall become due and payable as determined by the board of supervisors and shall become delinquent 90 days thereafter. Said assessment shall be a lien

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upon the lands in said district from the date of the enactment of this act and may be collected in the same manner as the annual installment of non-ad valorem assessments or as otherwise determined by the board of supervisors. If it shall appear to the board of supervisors to be necessary to obtain funds to pay any expenses incurred or to be incurred in organizing said district, preparing a plan of improvements or chapter 170 authorizing documents, or other expenses of the conduct and operation of the district before a sufficient sum can be obtained by the collection of the organization assessment authorized by this section, said board of supervisors may also borrow a sufficient sum of money for any of said purposes at a statutory lawful rate of the interest and may issue negotiable notes or bonds therefor and may pledge any and all assessments of the formation assessment that may be levied under the provisions of this section for the repayment thereof. Section 11. Bonds may be issued, sale and disposition of

Section 11. Bonds may be issued, sale and disposition of proceeds; interest; levy to pay bonds; bonds and duties of treasurer.--

- (1) The provisions of this section shall constitute full and complete authority for the issuance of bonds by the district.
- (2) Provided that any and all loans or bonds of the district are nonrecourse as to the City of North Port, the board of supervisors may issue bonds not to exceed the lesser of \$500 million in principal at any time or 90 percent of the total amount of the non-ad valorem assessments levied under the provisions of section 298.305, Florida Statutes, or equal to the

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total amount levied under chapter 170, Florida Statutes, bearing interest from date at a rate not to exceed the statutory lawful maximum per annum, payable annually or semiannually, to mature at annual intervals within 40 years commencing after a period of not later than 10 years, to be determined by the board of supervisors, with both principal and interest payable at some convenient place designated by the board of supervisors to be named in said bonds, which bonds shall be signed by the chair of the board of supervisors, and attested with the seal of the district and by the signature of the secretary of the board. All of said bonds shall be executed and delivered to the district or its agent, which shall sell the same in such quantities and at such dates as the board of supervisors may deem necessary to meet the payments for the works, services, and improvements in and of the district. A sufficient amount of the non-ad valorem assessment shall be appropriated by the board of supervisors for the purpose of paying the principal, premium, if any, and interest of said bonds, and the same shall, when collected, be preserved in a separate fund for that purpose and no other. All bonds not paid at maturity shall bear interest at a rate not to exceed the statutory lawful maximum per annum from maturity until paid, or until sufficient funds have been deposited at the place of payment, and said interest shall be appropriated by the board of supervisors out of the penalties and interest collected on delinquent assessments or other available funds of the district. Provided, however, that it may, at the discretion of said board, be provided that at any time after such date as shall be fixed by the said board, said bonds may be redeemed

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before maturity at the option of said board, or their successors in office, by being made callable prior to maturity at such times and upon such prices and terms and other conditions as said board shall determine. If any bond so issued subject to redemption before maturity shall not be presented when called for redemption, it shall cease to bear interest from and after the date so fixed for redemption.

The board of supervisors shall have authority to issue refunding bonds to take up any outstanding bonds and any interest accrued thereon when, in the judgment of said board, it shall be for the best interest of said district so to do. The said board is hereby authorized and empowered to issue refunding bonds to take up and refund all bonds of said district outstanding that are subject to call and prior redemption, all interest accrued to the date of such call or prior redemption, and all bonds of said district that are not subject to call or redemption, together with all accrued interest thereon, where the surrender of said bonds can be procured from the holders thereof at prices satisfactory to the board or can be exchanged for such outstanding bonds with the consent of the holder thereof. Such refunding bonds may mature at any time or times at the discretion of said board, not later, however, than 40 years from the date of issuance of said refunding bonds. Said refunding bonds shall bear such date of issue and such other details as the board shall determine, and may, at the discretion of said board, be made callable prior to maturity at such times and upon such prices and terms and other conditions as said board shall determine. All the other applicable provisions of

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this act not inconsistent therewith shall apply fully to said refunding bonds, and the holders thereof shall have all the rights, remedies, and security of the outstanding bonds refunded, except as may be provided otherwise in the resolution of the board authorizing the issuance of such refunding bonds. Any funds available in the sinking fund for the payment of the principal, premium, if any, and interest of outstanding bonds may be retained in the fund to be used for the payment of the principal, premium, if any, and interest of the refunding bonds at the discretion of the board of supervisors. Any expenses incurred in buying any or all bonds authorized under the provisions of this section, and the interest thereon and a reasonable compensation for paying same, shall be paid out of the funds in the hands of the district and collected for the purpose of meeting the expenses of administration. It shall be the duty of the said board of supervisors in making the annual non-ad valorem assessment levy as heretofore provided to take into account the maturing bonds and interest on all bonds and expenses and to make provisions in advance for the payment of same.

(4) In addition to the other powers provided the district, and not in limitation thereof, the district shall have the power, at any time, and from time to time after the issuance of any bonds of the district shall have been authorized, to borrow money for the purposes for which such bonds are to be issued in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of the sale of such bonds and to issue bond anticipation notes in a principal sum

not in excess of the authorized maximum amount of such bond issue.

- (5) The district shall have the power to issue revenue bonds from time to time without limitation as to amount for the purpose of financing its systems and facilities. Such revenue bonds may be secured by, or payable from, the gross or net pledge of the revenues to be derived from any project or combination of projects; from the rates, fees, or other charges to be collected from the users of any project or projects; from any revenue-producing undertaking or activity of the district; from special assessments; or from any other source or pledged security. Such bonds shall not constitute an indebtedness of the district, and the approval of qualified electors shall not be required unless such bonds are additionally secured by the full faith and credit and assessing power of the district.
- (6) Prior to the issuance of bonds under the provisions of this act, the board of supervisors may from time to time issue warrants or negotiable notes or other evidences of debt of the district, all of which shall be termed "floating indebtedness" in order to distinguish the same from the bonded debt provided for. The notes or other evidences of indebtedness shall be payable at such times and shall bear interest at a rate not exceeding the lawful statutory maximum per annum and may be sold or discounted at such price or on such terms as the board may deem advisable. The board shall have the right, in order to provide for the payment thereof, to pledge the whole or any part of the assessments or revenues provided for in this act, whether the same shall be theretofore or thereafter levied, and said

board shall have the right to provide that the floating debt shall be payable from the proceeds arising from the sale of bonds or from the proceeds of any such assessment, or both.

After the issuance of any bonds of the district under the provisions of this act, the power to create such floating debt and pledge the assessments or revenue therefor shall continue.

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- (7) (a) Pursuant to this act, the district shall have the power from time to time to issue general obligation bonds to finance or refinance capital projects or to refund outstanding bonds in an aggregate principal amount of bonds outstanding at any one time not in excess of 35 percent of the assessed value of the taxable property within the district as shown on the pertinent property appraiser valuation records at the time of the authorization of the general obligation bonds for which the full faith and credit of the district is pledged. Except for refunding bonds, no general obligation bonds shall be issued unless the bonds are issued to finance or refinance a capital project, and the issuance has been approved at an election held in accordance with the requirements for such election as prescribed by the State Constitution. Such elections shall be called to be held in the district, with the expenses of calling and holding an election to be at the expense of the district.
- (b) The district may pledge its full faith and credit for the payment of the principal and interest on such general obligation bonds and for any reserve funds provided therefor and may unconditionally and irrevocably pledge its assessments or revenues on all taxable property within the district, to the

extent necessary for the payment thereof, without limitations as to greater amount.

- (c) If the board determines to issue general obligation bonds for more than one capital project, the approval of the issuance of the bonds for each and all such projects may be submitted to the electorate on one and the same ballot. The failure of the electors to approve the issuance of bonds for any one or more of the capital projects shall not defeat the approval of bonds for any capital project that has been approved by the electors.
- (d) In arriving at the amount of general obligation bonds permitted to be outstanding at any one time pursuant to paragraph (a), there shall not be included any general obligation bonds that are additionally secured by the pledge of:
- 1. Special assessments levied in the amount sufficient to pay the principal and interest on a general obligation bond so additionally secured, which assessments have been equalized and confirmed by resolution or ordinance of the board pursuant to section 170.08, Florida Statutes.
- 2. Water revenues, sewer revenues, or water and sewer revenues of the district to be derived from user fees that have been approved by the City of North Port Commission or its designee and in an amount sufficient to pay the principal and interest on the general obligation bond so additionally secured.
- 3. Any combination of assessments and revenues described in subparagraphs 1 and 2.
- (8) In case the proceeds of the original assessment and levy made under the provisions of section 298.305, Florida

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Statutes, or chapter 170, Florida Statutes, is not sufficient to pay the principal, premium, if any, and interest of all bonds issued, then the board of supervisors shall make such additional levy or levies upon the benefits assessed as are necessary for this purpose, and under no circumstances shall any levies be made that will in any manner or to any extent impair the security of said bonds or the fund available for the payment of the principal and interest of the same.

- (9) After the several bonds are paid and retired as herein provided, they shall be returned and canceled and an appropriate record thereof made in a book to be kept for that purpose, which record of paid and canceled bonds shall be kept at the office of the treasurer and shall be open for inspection by any bondholder at any time.
- agreement by and between the district and a corporate trustee or trustees, which may be any trust company or bank having the powers of a trust company within or without the state. The resolution authorizing the issuance of the bonds or such trust agreement may pledge the revenues to be received from any projects of the district and may contain such provisions for protecting and enforcing the rights and remedies of the bondholders as the board may approve, including, without limitation, covenants setting forth the duties of the district in relation to the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, improvement, maintenance, repair, operation, and insurance of any projects; the fixing and revising of the rates, fees, and charges; and the custody, safeguarding, and application of all

moneys and for the employment of consulting engineers in connection with such acquisition, construction, reconstruction, improvement, maintenance, repair, or operation.

- interest at such rate or rates, including variable rates, which interest may be tax exempt or taxable for federal income tax purposes; shall mature at such time or times from their date or dates; and may be made redeemable before maturity at such price or prices and under such terms and conditions as may be determined by the board.
- (12) No bonds issued by the district shall be required to be validated under chapter 75, Florida Statutes, or other provision of law.
- Section 12. <u>Unit development; powers of supervisors to</u>

 <u>designate units of development and adopt systems of progressive</u>

 <u>development by units; plan of improvements and financing</u>

 <u>assessments for each unit.--</u>
- (1) Upon written petition signed by the owners of 51 percent of the acreage in any area, the board of supervisors of the district shall have the power and is hereby authorized in its discretion to exercise such powers authorized in this act, the lands in said designated area or part of the district to be called a "unit." The units into which said district may be so divided shall be given appropriate numbers or names by said board of supervisors, so that said units may be readily identified and distinguished. The board of supervisors shall have the power to fix and determine the location, area, and boundaries of and lands to be included in each and all such

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units with the consent of the owners of 51 percent of the acreage in any area, and the method of carrying on the work in each unit. If the board of supervisors shall determine that it is advisable to conduct the work of the district by units, as authorized by this section, said board shall, by resolution duly adopted and entered upon its minutes, declare its purpose to conduct such work accordingly and, upon petition of the owners of 51 percent of the acreage in any area, shall at the same time and manner fix the number, location, and boundaries of and description of lands within such unit or units and give appropriate numbers or names, which unit or units may overlay or overlap one or more other units. As soon as practicable after the adoption and recording of a resolution as to any unit, said board of supervisors shall publish a notice once a week for 2 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general paid circulation in which the City of North Port publishes notices of city meetings and, by provision of 2 weeks' advance written notice to the City of North Port Manager, briefly describing the unit or units into which the district has been divided and the lands embraced in each unit, giving the name, number, or other designation of such units, requiring all owners of lands in the district to show cause in writing before said board of supervisors at a time and place to be stated in such notice why such division of said district into such unit or units should not be approved, and why the proceedings and powers authorized by this section should not be had, taken, and exercised. At the time and place stated in said notice, said board of supervisors shall hear all objections or causes of objection, all of which shall be in writing, of any

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1001 landowner in the district to the matters mentioned and referred 1002 to in such notice, and if no objections are made, or if said objections, if made, shall be overruled by said board, then said 1003 1004 board shall enter in its minutes its finding and order 1005 confirming said resolution and may thereafter proceed with the 1006 development of the district by unit or units pursuant to such 1007 resolution and to the provisions of this act. If, however, said board of supervisors shall find as a result of such objections, 1008 or any of them, or the hearing thereon, that the division of the 1009 1010 district into such unit or units as aforesaid should not be 1011 approved, or that the proceedings and powers authorized by this 1012 section should not be had, taken, or exercised, or that any 1013 other matter or thing embraced in said resolution would not be 1014 in the best interest of the landowners of said unit or units or 1015 would be unjust or unfair to any landowner therein or otherwise 1016 inconsistent with fair and equal protection and enforcement of 1017 the rights of every landowner in said unit or units, then the 1018 board of supervisors shall not proceed further under such 1019 resolution; but said board of supervisors may, as a result of such hearing, modify or amend said resolution so as to meet such 1020 1021 objections so made, and thereupon said board may confirm said 1022 resolution as so modified or amended and may thereafter proceed accordingly. If said board of supervisors shall overrule or 1023 1024 refuse to sustain any such objections in whole or in part made by any landowner in the district, or if any such landowner shall 1025 1026 deem himself or herself aggrieved by any action of the board of supervisors in respect to any objections so filed, such 1027 landowner may, within 10 days after the ruling of said board, 1028

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County against said district, praying an injunction or other appropriate relief against the action or any part of such action proposed by such resolution or resolutions of said board, and such suits shall be conducted like other suits, except that said suits shall have preference over all other pending actions except criminal actions and writs of habeas corpus. Upon the hearing of said cause, the circuit court shall have the power to hear the objections and receive the evidence thereon of all parties to such cause and approve or disapprove said resolutions and action of the board in whole or in part, and to render such decree in such cause as right and justice require.

When said resolutions creating said unit or units (2) shall be confirmed by the board of supervisors (or by the Circuit Court of Sarasota County, if such proposed action shall be challenged by a landowner by the judicial proceedings hereinabove authorized), the board of supervisors may adopt a plan of improvements or chapter 170 authorizing documents for and in respect to any or all such units and to have the benefits and damages resulting therefrom assessed and apportioned as is provided by law in regard to a plan of improvements or chapter 170 authorizing documents for and assessments for benefits and damages of the entire district. With respect to the plan of improvements, notices, appointment of engineer to prepare a report assessing the benefits and damages, the engineer's report and notice and confirmation thereof, the levy of assessments, including maintenance assessments, the issuance of bonds, the exercise or use of chapter 170, Florida Statutes, proceedings

1057 and all other proceedings as to each and all of such units, said 1058 board shall follow and comply with the same procedure as is 1059 provided by law with respect to the entire district, and said 1060 board of supervisors shall have the same powers in respect to 1061 each and all of such units as is vested in them with respect to 1062 the entire district. All the provisions of this act shall apply 1063 to the improvement of each, any, and all of such units, and the enumeration of or reference to specific powers or duties of the 1064 1065 supervisors or any other officers or other matters in this act 1066 as hereinabove set forth, shall not limit or restrict the 1067 application of any and all of the proceedings and powers herein 1068 for such units as fully and completely as if such unit or units were specifically and expressly named in every section and 1069 1070 clause of this act where the entire district is mentioned or referred to. All assessments, levies, bonds, and other 1071 1072 obligations made, levied, assessed, or issued for or in respect 1073 to any such unit or units shall be a lien and charge solely and 1074 only upon the lands in such unit or units, respectively, for the 1075 benefit of which the same shall be levied, made, or issued, and 1076 not upon the remaining units or lands in the district. The board 1077 of supervisors, upon an affirmative vote of a simple majority of 1078 qualified electors, as defined in chapter 189, Florida Statutes, 1079 within said unit voting in a referendum, or upon approval of the landowners of 51 percent of the acreage in said unit if there 1080 are no residents in said unit, may at any time amend its 1081 1082 resolutions by changing the location and description of lands in any such unit or units and provided, further, that if the 1083 1084 location or description of lands located in any such unit or

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units is so changed, notice of such change shall be published as hereinabove required in this section for notice of the formation or organization of such unit or units; provided, however, that no lands against which benefits shall have been assessed may be detached from any such unit after the final adoption of the engineer's report of benefits or chapter 170 authorizing document, in such unit or units or the issuance of bonds or other obligations which are payable from assessments for benefits levied upon the lands within such unit or units. If, after adoption of the engineer's report of benefits and chapter 170 authorizing documents in such unit or units, or the issuance of bonds or other obligations that are payable from assessments for benefits levied upon lands within such unit or units, the board of supervisors finds the plan of improvements, engineer's report, or chapter 170 authorizing documents for any such unit or units insufficient or inadequate for efficient development, the same may be amended or changed as provided in this act or chapter 170 or chapter 298, Florida Statutes, and the unit or units may be amended or changed as provided in this section by changing the location and

units in proportion to the benefits assessed by the engineer's

description of lands in any such unit or units by detaching

lands therefrom or by adding land thereto, upon the approval of

any such unit, and provided that in such event all assessments,

assessed, incurred, or issued for or in respect to any such unit or units may be allocated and apportioned to the amended unit or

at least 51 percent of the landowners according to acreage in

levies, fees, bonds, and other obligations made, levied,

1113 report, for the amended plan of improvements and said report 1114 shall specifically provide for such allocation and 1115 apportionment. The landowners shall file their approval of or 1116 objections to such amended plan of improvements within the time 1117 provided in section 298.301, Florida Statutes, or, when used, such applicable deadline provision, if any, of chapter 170, 1118 1119 Florida Statutes, and shall file their approval of or objections to the amendment of such unit as provided in this section. 1120 1121 No assessable lands shall be detached from any unit 1122 after the issuance of bonds or other obligations for such unit 1123 except upon the consent of a majority of the holders, based on face value of the outstanding bonds, of such bonds or other 1124 1125 obligations. In the event of the change of the boundaries of any 1126 unit as provided herein and the allocation and apportionment to the amended unit or units of assessments, levies, fees, bonds, 1127 1128 and other obligations in proportion to the benefits assessed, the holder of the bonds or other obligations heretofore issued 1129 for the original unit who consents to such allocation and 1130 1131 apportionment shall be entitled to all rights and remedies 1132 against any lands added to the amended unit or units as fully 1133 and to the same extent as if such added lands had formed and constituted a part of the original unit or units at the time of 1134 the original issuance of such bonds or other obligations, and 1135 1136 regardless of whether the holders of such bonds or other 1137 obligations are the original holders thereof or the holders from time to time hereafter, and the rights and remedies of such 1138

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including any lands added thereto, under such allocation and

holders against the lands in the amended unit or units,

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apportionment, shall constitute vested and irrevocable rights
and remedies to the holders from time to time of such bonds or
other obligations as fully and to the same extent as if such
bonds or other obligations had been originally issued to finance
the improvements in such amended unit or units.

- (5) Upon the formation of a unit, the board is authorized to levy a one-time organizational special assessment tax per acre on the lands in a unit sufficient to prepare a plan of improvements or chapter 170 authorizing documents and have the benefits assessed as provided herein.
- include additional land by agreement between the district and all of the landowners of the land to be included in the unit, provided that, at the time of the execution of the agreement, the additional land is contained within the jurisdictional boundaries of the district. Land included in the unit by agreement shall thereafter be subject to the payment of all assessments or fees levied by the district in the unit and shall be subject to the provisions of all laws under which the district operates. The agreement shall be in recordable form and filed in the official records.
- (7) The district shall not amend any plan of improvement for any unit in which any real property has been sold to the general public at large for residential and noncommercial purposes in such a way that said amendment results in any increase in the principal amount of debt then authorized for that unit, without an affirmative vote of a simple majority of

qualified electors, as defined in chapter 189, Florida Statutes, within said unit voting in a referendum.

- Section 13. Eminent domain.--The board of supervisors is hereby authorized, when reasonably necessary for the implementation of the powers granted to it under section 4, or for the implementation of district-authorized public infrastructure works, facilities, services, or roads and rights-of-way, to exercise its right and power of eminent domain:
- (1) Within the district with prior approval by resolution of the governing body of the district and the City of North Port Commission.
- (2) Further provided that the powers set forth in subsection (1) shall be exercised pursuant to the provisions of chapters 73 and 74, Florida Statutes, over any property within the district, except municipal, county, School District of Sarasota County, state, and federal property. Such right and power of eminent domain shall be subject to approval, by resolution, of the governing body of the affected county or municipality.

Section 14. <u>Definition of 51 percent of acreage in any</u> area.--When the consent of 51 percent of the acreage is required in any described geographical area for any purpose, in determining the acreage in the area, the lands and rights-of-way of the district and all lands which are or will be exempt or excluded from payment of the district assessments shall not be included in the acreage to determine the 51 percent consent requirements.

Section 15. Amending plan of improvements, engineer's report, or chapter 170 authorizing documents.--In addition to, and as an alternative to, the provisions of chapters 298 and 170, Florida Statutes, a plan of improvements, the engineer's report, or chapter 170 authorizing document may be amended, modified, corrected, and changed from time to time in the following manner:

- (1) The intent of this section, in part, is to give the board of supervisors power with broad latitude to make additional and such other improvements to the plan of improvements or chapter 170 authorizing documents that the board of supervisors considers appropriate to implement the purpose and intent of the plan of improvements or chapter 170 authorizing documents and that, in the opinion of the board, results in a benefit to the land and will not increase the cost in excess of the total benefits assessed as provided herein. The district may accept for operation maintenance additional facilities which are within or outside its boundaries and supplement a plan of improvements or chapter 170 authorizing documents.
- (2) As an alternate procedure, the board of supervisors shall have the power to change, alter, or amend a previously approved or adopted plan of improvements, engineer's report, or chapter 170 authorizing documents by duly adopted resolution; provided the district engineer certifies that all land subject to the previously approved or adopted plan of improvements or chapter 170 authorizing documents will receive the same or greater benefits as previously assessed and that the estimated

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cost of constructing the plan of improvements, including the changes or amendments to it, the engineer's report, or chapter 170 authorizing documents do not exceed the total benefits assessed. Said resolution shall be filed with the secretary of the district and shall be binding upon the owners of lands subject to the plan of improvements, the engineer's report, or chapter 170 authorizing documents, as applicable, including their successors and assigns.

- (3) When a plan of improvements, engineer's report, or chapter 170 authorizing document is amended, modified, or changed by any authorized procedure, the approval or consent of the holders of the bonds issued in respect to such plan, engineer's report, or chapter 170 authorizing document shall not be required, and amendments, modifications, and changes may be made to the plan of improvements, engineer's report, or chapter 170 authorizing document without bondholders' approval or consent.
- (4) The district shall not amend any plan of improvement for any unit in which any real property has been sold to the general public at large for residential and noncommercial purposes, in such a way that said amendment results in any increase in the principal amount of debt then authorized for that unit, without an affirmative vote of a simple majority of qualified electors, as defined in chapter 189, Florida Statutes, within said unit voting in a referendum.
- Section 16. Meetings and notices.--All meetings of the board of supervisors of the district shall be held in the City of North Port and shall be audio or video taped. Further, all

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meetings shall be conducted under the procedures set forth in Robert's Rules of Order (the "Rules"), especially when making and discussing motions. Each board member shall receive a copy of the Rules and the board shall name a Parliamentarian who is well-versed in the application of the Rules to ensure adherence. The chairperson shall be responsible for preparing an agenda for each meeting and shall supply the agenda to all board members and make the same available to the residents and landowners at least 10 days prior to each meeting. Moreover, the right to public comment must be made available to the residents and landowners before the board of supervisors has made a decision. All public records held by the district shall be made available to the public pursuant to chapter 119, Florida Statutes, including exemptions thereto. Except as otherwise specifically set forth in the act, the board of supervisors shall hold its meetings pursuant to sections 189.416 and 189.417, Florida Statutes.

Section 17. Reports, budgets, audits.--The board of supervisors shall, on a semiannual basis, prepare a financial statement setting forth the necessary financial information to allow the residents and landowners to clearly determine the manner and methods used to address the needs of the district while ensuring the financial security of the district. The financial report shall include, but is not limited to, income statements, expense statements on a line-item basis, and any capital expenditures, maintenance expenditures, salaries, and other ordinary and extraordinary expenses attributed to the operation of the district. Said financial statements shall be

1279 provided to the City of North Port Finance Director at least 3 1280 weeks prior to the semiannual meeting of the board of 1281 supervisors. The district shall prepare and submit reports, 1282 budgets, and audits as provided in sections 189.415 and 189.418, 1283 Florida Statutes. 1284 Section 18. Territorial boundaries. -- The territorial 1285 boundaries of the district shall be as follows, to wit: 1286 1287 All of Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14 and a portion of 1288 Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 15 and 16, Township 39 South, Range 22 East, Sarasota County, Florida, being more 1289 particularly described as follows: 1290 1291 1292 BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 9, 1293 TOWNSHIP 39 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST ALSO BEING THE 1294 NORTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 10; THENCE N.89°56'00"W., 1295 (GRID BEARING, FLORIDA TRANSVERSE MERCATOR, WEST ZONE) 1296 ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 9, A DISTANCE OF 1297 324.51 FEET TO A POINT IN THE ALDERMAN SLOUGH; THENCE FOLLOWING SAID ALDERMAN SLOUGH IN A SOUTHERLY 1298 1299 DIRECTION, THE FOLLOWING COURSES: S.18°25'53"W., 1300 THROUGH SECTION 9 A DISTANCE OF 85.39 FEET; THENCE S.27°12'16"E., A DISTANCE OF 517.18 FEET; THENCE 1301 1302 S.57°39'41"E., A DISTANCE OF 124.04 FEET TO A POINT ON 1303 THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 10, BEARING S.00°58'09"W., A 1304 DISTANCE OF 607.04 FEET FROM THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 10; THENCE S.57°39'41"E., THROUGH SECTION 1305 10 A DISTANCE OF 63.21 FEET; THENCE S.10°12'48"E., A 1306

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1307	DISTANCE OF 555.38 FEET; THENCE S.07°21'16"E., A
1308	DISTANCE OF 672.34 FEET; THENCE S.10°44'03"E., A
1309	DISTANCE OF 651.24 FEET; THENCE S.10°36'13"W., A
1310	DISTANCE OF 530.75 FEET; THENCE S.01°14'47"W., A
1311	DISTANCE OF 820.24 FEET; THENCE S.03°22'21"E., A
1312	DISTANCE OF 253.99 FEET; THENCE S.08°05'01"E., A
1313	DISTANCE OF 925.01 FEET; THENCE S.12°02'12"E., A
1314	DISTANCE OF 324.13 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTH LINE
1315	OF SECTION 15, BEARING S.89°40'03"E., A DISTANCE OF
1316	536.06 FEET FROM THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION
1317	15; THENCE THROUGH SECTION 15, S.12°02'12"E., A
1318	DISTANCE OF 127.44 FEET; THENCE S.09°19'36"E., A
1319	DISTANCE OF 688.88 FEET; THENCE S.04°17'39"E., A
1320	DISTANCE OF 145.23 FEET; THENCE S.11°04'54"E., A
1321	DISTANCE OF 278.80 FEET; THENCE S.18°24'37"W., A
1322	DISTANCE OF 118.03 FEET; THENCE S.27°30'33"W., A
1323	DISTANCE OF 170.26 FEET; THENCE S.05°11'15"E., A
1324	DISTANCE OF 86.33 FEET; THENCE S.07°05'59"W., A
1325	DISTANCE OF 206.26 FEET; THENCE S.03°47'11"E., A
1326	DISTANCE OF 108.15 FEET; THENCE S.15°38'29"W., A
1327	DISTANCE OF 229.08 FEET; THENCE S.11°11'29"W., A
1328	DISTANCE OF 651.33 FEET; THENCE S.04°17'53"W., A
1329	DISTANCE OF 74.25 FEET; THENCE S.16°13'07"W., A
1330	DISTANCE OF 79.94 FEET; THENCE S.06°56'07"W., A
1331	DISTANCE OF 292.06 FEET; THENCE S.19°33'24"W., A
1332	DISTANCE OF 62.42 FEET; THENCE S.51°48'15"W., A
1333	DISTANCE OF 177.50 FEET; THENCE S.35°17'02"W., A
1334	DISTANCE OF 182.82 FEET; THENCE S.51°44'00"W., A
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CODING: Words $\underline{\text{stricken}}$ are deletions; words $\underline{\text{underlined}}$ are additions.

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1335	DISTANCE OF 129.18 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF
1336	SECTION 16, BEARING N.00°16'13"E., A DISTANCE OF
1337	1734.15 FEET FROM THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION
1338	16; THENCE S.51°44'00"W. THROUGH SECTION 16, A
1339	DISTANCE OF 18.84 FEET; THENCE S.35°17'35"W., A
1340	DISTANCE OF 203.28 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTHERLY
1341	LIMITED ACCESS RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR INTERSTATE
1342	HIGHWAY #75; THENCE S.44°57'25"E., ALONG SAID RIGHT-
1343	OF-WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 186.37 FEET TO A POINT ON
1344	THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 15, BEARING N.00°06'13"E., A
1345	DISTANCE OF 1424.68 FEET FROM THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF
1346	SAID SECTION 15, THENCE S.44°57'25"E. ALONG SAID
1347	RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 2023.63 FEET TO AN
1348	INTERSECTION WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SECTION 15,
1349	BEARING S.89°42'25"E. A DISTANCE OF 1432.44 FEET FROM
1350	THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 15; THENCE
1351	S.89°42'25"E., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 15
1352	A DISTANCE OF 3869.24 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF
1353	SECTION 14; THENCE S.89°42'24"E., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE
1354	OF SAID SECTION 14 A DISTANCE OF 5321.72 FEET TO THE
1355	SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 13; THENCE S.89°42'24"E.,
1356	ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 13 A DISTANCE OF
1357	5413.63 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION
1358	13 AND THE EAST RANGE LINE OF SAID TOWNSHIP 39 SOUTH,
1359	RANGE 22 EAST; THENCE N.00°14'50"E., ALONG THE EAST
1360	LINE OF SAID SECTION 13 A DISTANCE OF 5325.52 FEET TO
1361	THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 12; THENCE
1362	N.00°14'45"E., ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 12

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OF SAID SECTION 1 A DISTANCE OF 5324.24 FEET 1366 NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 1 AND THE N 1367 CORNER OF TOWNSHIP 39 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST; 1368 N.89°44'59"W., ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF THE N 1369 QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 1 A DISTANCE OF 2655 1370 TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUA 1371 SAID SECTION 1; THENCE N.89°44'46"W., ALONG 1372 LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER A DISTANCE OF 1373 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 2; T 1374 N.89°44'34"W., ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF THE N 1375 QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 2 A DISTANCE OF 2655 1376 TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUA 1377 SAID SECTION 2; THENCE N.89°44'21"W., ALONG 1378 LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER A DISTANCE OF 1379 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 2; W 1380 THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 3; THENCE 1381 N.89°43'55"W. ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF THE NO 1382 QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 3 A DISTANCE OF 2655 1383 TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUA 1384 SAID SECTION 3; THENCE N.89°43'42"W. ALONG T 1385 LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 3 A 1386 OF 2655.22 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF S 1387 THENCE S.00°47'59"W. ALONG THE WEST LINE OF 1388 HALF OF SECTION 3 A DISTANCE OF 2663.2 FEET 1389 SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID S	1363 <u>A</u>	A DISTANCE OF 5324.68 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF
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	_390 <u>A</u>	AND THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTH HALF OF SECTION

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1391	4; THENCE N.89°49'42"W. ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF THE
1392	NORTH HALF OF SECTION 4 A DISTANCE OF 32.18 FEET TO A
1393	POINT IN THE ALDERMAN SLOUGH; THENCE FOLLOWING SAID
1394	ALDERMAN SLOUGH IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION, THE
1395	FOLLOWING COURSES: S.19°46'12"W. A DISTANCE OF 384.63
1396	FEET; THENCE S.06°17'38"E. A DISTANCE OF 74.84 FEET;
1397	THENCE S.16°26'43"E. A DISTANCE OF 499.12 FEET TO A
1398	POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 3 BEARING
1399	N.00°47'59"E. A DISTANCE OF 1748.17 FEET FROM THE
1400	SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 3; THENCE
1401	S.16°26'43"E. THROUGH SECTION 3 A DISTANCE OF 211.62
1402	FEET; THENCE S.03°07'54"W. A DISTANCE OF 225.97 FEET;
1403	THENCE S.07°53'10"W. A DISTANCE OF 216.17 FEET; THENCE
1404	S.18°35'25"W. A DISTANCE OF 87.96 FEET TO A POINT ON
1405	THE EAST LINE OF SECTION 4 BEARING N.00°47'59"E. A
1406	DISTANCE OF 1022.0 FEET FROM THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF
1407	SAID SECTION 4; THENCE S.18°20'50"W. A DISTANCE OF
1408	1076.23 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID
1409	SECTION 4; THENCE S.89°56'00"E. A DISTANCE OF 324.51
1410	FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 3 AND THE
1411	NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 9 AND THE POINT OF
1412	BEGINNING.
1413	
1414	CONTAINING NOT LESS THAN 5,771.37 ACRES.
1415	
1416	THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY IS COMPOSED OF THAT
1417	PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN A WARRANTY DEED FROM MCK FARMS,
1418	LTD. AND RECORDED IN THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF SARASOTA

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L419	COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS INSTRUMENT NO 2000076815, AND A
L420	PORTION OF THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN A SPECIAL
L421	WARRANTY DEED FROM CARLTON SARASOTA, L.L.C., et al, to
L422	GLAWSON INVESTMENTS CORP. DATED JUNE 16, 2000, AND
L423	RECORDED IN THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF SARASOTA COUNTY,
L424	FLORIDA, AS INSTRUMENT NO. 2000164425.
L425	
L426	A PORTION OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 39 SOUTH, RANGE 22
L427	EAST, SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE
L428	PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS;
L429	
L430	COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTH HALF OF
L431	SAID SECTION 4; THENCE NORTH 88°49'42" WEST ALONG THE
L432	SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTH HALF A DISTANCE OF 32.18 FEET
L433	TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 19°46'12" WEST
L434	A DISTANCE OF 173.97 FEET TO AN INTERSECTION WITH A
L435	NON-TANGENT CURVE CONCAVE TO THE NORTH HAVING A RADIUS
L436	OF 550.00 FEET; THENCE NORTHWESTERLY ALONG SAID CURVE
L437	TO THE RIGHT THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 26°22'34", AN
L438	ARC DISTANCE OF 253.19 FEET (CHORD=250.96 FEET
L439	BEARING=NORTH 49°03'24" WEST) TO THE INTERSECTION WITH
L440	THE AFORESAID SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH HALF; THENCE
L441	SOUTH 89°49'42" EAST ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE A DISTANCE
L442	OF 248.41 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
L443	
L444	THIS IS A PORTION OF THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED TO
L445	GLAWSON INVESTMENTS CORP. BY CARLTON SARASOTA, L.L.C.,
L446	DAVID SARASOTA, L.L.C., PALLARDY SARASOTA, L.L.C. AND

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NORTHPORT MATERIALS, L.L.C. BY SPECIAL WARRANTY DEED

DATED MARCH 14, 2002, AND FILED IN THE OFFICIAL

RECORDS OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF SARASOTA COUNTY,

FLORIDA AS INSTRUMENT 2002056489.

Section 19. Severability.--In case any one or more of the sections or provisions of this act or the application of such sections or provisions to any situation, circumstance, or person shall for any reason be held to be unconstitutional, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any other sections or provisions of this act or the application of such sections or provisions to any other situation, circumstance, or person, and it is intended that this law shall be construed and applied as if such section or provision had not been included herein for any unconstitutional application.

Section 20. Public disclosures. --

- (1) The district shall be required to comply with all current or future requirements, if any, to provide disclosure to the public and current or potential property owners concerning the district and its assessments.
- (2) Any contract for sale of real property within the district whereby a land developer or builder is selling property to the general public at large for residential and noncommercial purposes must contain a disclosure to the potential purchaser disclosing the existence and nature of the district, as well as actual amounts of bonded indebtedness applicable to that property and projected assessments for principal debt repayment that the district is then obligated to assess and collect

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annually upon the subject real property. Said disclosure must be presented prominently and specifically acknowledged in writing by the buyer in the sales and closing documents.

- (3) Prior to the closing, the developer, builder, or current landowner shall inform the potential buyer of the current annual operating maintenance budget assessment and any identified planned increases to that assessment required to be paid by the purchaser upon taking ownership of the real estate.
- (4) Any property owners' association created within the district by a land developer or builder shall contain language in its charter or a declaration of covenants disclosing the existence and purpose of the district.
- (5) The district shall cause to be recorded in the public records of Sarasota County the formation of any unit created pursuant to section 12 and, upon of the sale of any debt, the principal amount of bonded indebtedness incurred for that unit.
- (6) Any land developer or builder who maintains a sales office for the purpose of the initial sale of homes or lots within the district to the general public at large shall post a readily visible sign of not less than 24 inches by 36 inches in the sales office that advises potential buyers of the existence and purpose of the district.
- Section 21. Sale of lands.--In the event that any part of the lands described in Section 18 are sold to the state or any executive branch department thereof or the Southwest Florida

 Water Management District:

	(1)	The	seller	of	said	land	shall	be	able	to	utilize	any
such	lands	s sol	d for	open	spac	e mit	tigatio	on,	wetla	ınd	mitigat	ion,
and	stormv	vater	mitig	gatio	n for	deve	elopmer	nt	within	ı th	e distr	ict.

1501

1502 1503

1504 1505

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1507

- (2) Any development within the district that shall be required to obtain any permits from any executive branch department of the state or the Southwest Florida Water

 Management District shall receive expedited review of those permits.
- 1509 Section 22. This act shall take effect upon becoming a 1510 law.