

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to firefighting; amending s. 40.013, F.S.;
 3 excusing certain firefighters from jury duty service;
 4 amending s. 191.008, F.S.; authorizing the governing board
 5 of a fire control district to recover court costs and
 6 attorney's fees in certain civil actions; amending s.
 7 191.011, F.S.; authorizing a fire control district to
 8 exempt property owned or operated by religious
 9 institutions from non-ad valorem assessments; providing a
 10 definition; creating s. 191.016, F.S.; revising the
 11 application of a provision relating to municipal
 12 annexation within independent special districts; revising
 13 criteria used in determining the defined boundaries of a
 14 special fire control district for certain purposes;
 15 requiring certain annexing municipalities to make payments
 16 to special fire control districts; requiring special fire
 17 control districts to provide certain services to annexed
 18 properties; providing an effective date.

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

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 22 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
 23 40.013, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

24 40.013 Persons disqualified or excused from jury
 25 service.--

26 (2)

27 (b) Any full-time federal, state, or local law enforcement
 28 officer or such entities' investigative personnel or any full-

29 time firefighter, as defined in s. 112.81, shall be excused from
 30 jury service unless such persons choose to serve.

31 Section 2. Subsections (5), (6), and (7) of section
 32 191.008, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6),
 33 (7), and (8), respectively, and a new subsection (5) is added to
 34 that section, to read:

35 191.008 Special powers.--Independent special fire control
 36 districts shall provide for fire suppression and prevention by
 37 establishing and maintaining fire stations and fire substations
 38 and acquiring and maintaining such firefighting and fire
 39 protection equipment deemed necessary to prevent or fight fires.
 40 All construction shall be in compliance with applicable state,
 41 regional, and local regulations, including adopted comprehensive
 42 plans and land development regulations. The board shall have and
 43 may exercise any or all of the following special powers relating
 44 to facilities and duties authorized by this act:

45 (5) Recover reasonable court costs, including attorney's
 46 fees, from the nonprevailing party in any civil action to
 47 enforce the provisions of chapter 553 or chapter 633 and this
 48 section concerning fire suppression and prevention and the
 49 enforcement of the firesafety code.

50 Section 3. Subsection (12) is added to section 191.011,
 51 Florida Statutes, to read:

52 191.011 Procedures for the levy and collection of non-ad
 53 valorem assessments.--

54 (12) Property owned or operated by a religious institution
 55 and used primarily as a place of worship shall be exempt from
 56 any non-ad valorem assessments levied pursuant to this act if

57 the governing board of the district desires to exempt all
58 religious institutions in the district from such assessments.
59 The term "religious institution" means any church, synagogue, or
60 other established physical place for worship at which nonprofit
61 religious services and activities are regularly conducted and
62 carried on.

63 Section 4. Section 191.016, Florida Statutes, is created
64 to read:

65 191.016 Annexations within fire control district.--

66 (1) Section 171.093 applies to annexations pursuant to
67 part I of chapter 171 within the boundaries of a district,
68 unless the district's charter provides that the district remains
69 the service provider following an annexation within its
70 boundaries or prohibits annexations within its boundaries.

71 (2) For purposes of determining the defined boundaries of
72 a district pursuant to s. 175.101(1), the boundaries shall be
73 deemed to include annexed areas until the end of the 4-year
74 period provided for in s. 171.093(4) or other agreed-upon
75 extension or the termination of an interlocal agreement executed
76 pursuant to s. 171.093(3).

77 (3) An annexing municipality shall make payments to the
78 district as required under s. 171.093(4)(a) by March 31 of each
79 year of the 4-year period provided for in that section or in an
80 agreed-upon extension. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the
81 annexing municipality shall not be required to pay the district
82 moneys that have not been paid on a specific parcel until such
83 time as the moneys have been received by the annexing

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84 municipality, and, within 30 days after receipt, the annexing
85 municipality shall make payment of such moneys to the district.

86 (4) During the term of the district's provision of fire
87 protection services to annexed properties pursuant to s.
88 171.093(4), the district shall continue to provide all services
89 relating to the provision of fire protection, including, but not
90 limited to, the applicability of the fire control district's
91 regulations and inspections.

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