

HB 1123

2010

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to Broward County; providing legislative  
3           findings; authorizing municipalities in Broward County to  
4           levy special assessments to fund law enforcement services;  
5           providing for a reduction in ad valorem assessments when a  
6           law enforcement special assessment is levied pursuant to  
7           this act; providing an effective date.  
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9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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11           Section 1. Legislative findings.—Broward County is the  
12 second most populous county in the state with 31 municipalities  
13 within the county and little unincorporated area within the  
14 developed portion of the county. Law enforcement is a vital  
15 municipal service as it protects both persons and property from  
16 crime. In urban areas such as Broward County, property crimes,  
17 including burglary, vandalism, trespassing, arson, and others  
18 have a dramatic impact on property owners and the value of real  
19 property. Law enforcement services work to prevent these  
20 significant property crimes, and thus prevent the loss of  
21 property values and use. Moreover, after a property crime  
22 occurs, law enforcement efforts to solve such crimes prevents  
23 additional property crimes from occurring in the community.  
24 Finally, law enforcement provides protection for unoccupied  
25 properties and prevents additional losses to property owners,  
26 especially in times of economic distress. As a result, the  
27 Legislature finds that there is a logical relationship between  
28 law enforcement services attributable to the protection of real

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29 property and the prevention of real property crimes and the  
30 benefit to real property.

31 Section 2. A municipality in Broward County may fund the  
32 costs of law enforcement services, in whole or in part, through  
33 the levy of a law enforcement services special assessment  
34 provided that the governing body of the municipality:

35 (1) Adopts a law enforcement services assessment ordinance  
36 that authorizes the special assessment, requires that it be  
37 levied by resolution each year, and apportions such assessable  
38 costs among the property based on a methodology that charges a  
39 parcel in reasonable proportion to its benefits.

40 (2) In the initial year of implementation, reduces its  
41 total ad valorem tax revenue, as projected for the upcoming  
42 fiscal year and calculated as if there were no law enforcement  
43 services assessment, by an amount equal to the amount of the law  
44 enforcement services assessment, except that no municipality  
45 shall be required to reduce its millage rate by more than 75  
46 percent; thereafter, such assessment shall be increased only in  
47 the same manner as ad valorem revenue is permitted to be  
48 increased pursuant to section 200.065, Florida Statutes. The  
49 initial reduction in ad valorem tax revenue shall be limited to  
50 no more than 50 percent if the implementing resolution is  
51 adopted by a extraordinary majority vote of the governing body.

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