

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LOCAL BILL STAFF ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 1295

City of Lauderhill, Broward County

**SPONSOR(S):** Porth

**TIED BILLS:**

**IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

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|    | <b>REFERENCE</b>  | <b>ACTION</b> | <b>ANALYST</b> | <b>STAFF DIRECTOR</b> |
|----|---|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1) | Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee               | 14 Y, 0 N     | Nelson         | Hoagland              |
| 2) | Finance & Tax Council                                   | 12 Y, 0 N     | Wilson         | Langston              |
| 3) | Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council |               | Nelson         | Tinker                |
| 4) |   |               |                |                       |
| 5) |   |               |                |                       |

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**SUMMARY ANALYSIS**

This bill enlarges the corporate limits of the City of Lauderhill in Broward County to include one commercial property, a gas station. The bill provides for: an effective date of the annexation; land use and zoning governance of the annexed area; continuation of uses; and preservation of existing contracts.

According to the Economic Impact Statement, the bill will provide the city with \$8,951.13 in additional revenue for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.

The bill is effective upon becoming law.

**Pursuant to House Rule 5.5(b), a local bill providing an exemption from general law may not be placed on the Special Order Calendar for expedited consideration. The provisions of House Rule 5.5(b) appear to apply to this bill.**

## HOUSE PRINCIPLES

Members are encouraged to evaluate proposed legislation in light of the following guiding principles of the House of Representatives

- Balance the state budget.
- Create a legal and regulatory environment that fosters economic growth and job creation.
- Lower the tax burden on families and businesses.
- Reverse or restrain the growth of government.
- Promote public safety.
- Promote educational accountability, excellence, and choice.
- Foster respect for the family and for innocent human life.
- Protect Florida's natural beauty.

## FULL ANALYSIS

### I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

#### A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

##### **Present Situation**

##### Constitutional/Statutory Provisions Relating to Annexation<sup>1</sup>

Section 2 (c), of Art. VIII of the State Constitution provides that “[m]unicipal annexation of unincorporated territory, merger of municipalities, and exercise of extra-territorial powers by municipalities shall be as provided by general or special law.” This provision authorizes the Legislature to annex unincorporated property into a municipality by special act.<sup>2</sup> It also authorizes the Legislature to establish procedures in general law for the annexation of property.

The Legislature established local annexation procedures by general law in 1974, with the enactment of ch. 171, F. S., the “Municipal Annexation or Contraction Act.” Chapter 171, F.S., describes the ways that property can be annexed or deannexed by cities without passage of an act by the Legislature. In 2006, this chapter was expanded to provide an alternative process for annexation that allows counties and municipalities to jointly determine how services are provided to residents and property.<sup>3</sup>

##### Requirements for Annexation

Before local annexation procedures may begin, pursuant to s. 171.042, F.S., the governing body of the municipality must prepare a report containing plans for providing urban services to any area to be annexed. A copy of the report must be filed with the board of county commissioners where the municipality is located. This report must include appropriate maps, plans for extending municipal services, timetables and financing methodologies. It must certify that the area proposed to be annexed is appropriate for annexation because it meets the following standards and requirements described by s. 171.043, F.S.:

- The area to be annexed must be an unincorporated area that is contiguous to the boundary of the annexing municipality.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The term “annexation” is defined in the Florida Statutes to mean “the adding of real property to the boundaries of an incorporated municipality, such addition making such real property in every way a part of the municipality.” See, s. 171.031(1), F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Miami-Dade County, however, has exclusive jurisdiction over its municipal annexations under ss. 11(1)(c), (5) and (6), Art. VIII of the 1885 State Constitution, as adopted by reference in s. 6(e), Art. VIII of the State Constitution.

<sup>3</sup> See, part II of ch. 171, F.S., the “Interlocal Service Boundary Agreement Act.”

<sup>4</sup> This means that a substantial part of the boundary of the area to be annexed has a common boundary with the municipality. There are specified exceptions for cases in which an area is separated from the city's boundary by a publicly owned county park, right-of-way or body of water.

- The area to be annexed must be reasonably compact.<sup>5</sup>
- No part of the area to be annexed may fall within the boundary of another incorporated municipality.
- Part or all of the land to be annexed must be developed for urban purposes.<sup>6</sup>
- Alternatively, if the proposed area is not developed for urban purposes, it can either border at least 60 percent of a developed area, or provide a necessary bridge between two urban areas for the extension of municipal services.

Annexed areas are declared to be subject to taxation (and existing indebtedness) for the current year on the effective date of the annexation, unless the annexation takes place after the municipal governing body levies such tax for that year. In the case of municipal contractions, the city and county must reach agreement on the transfer of indebtedness or property—the amount to be assumed, its fair value and the manner of transfer and financing.<sup>7</sup>

## Types of Annexations

### *Voluntary Annexation*

If the property owners of a reasonably compact, unincorporated area desire annexation into a contiguous municipality, they can initiate voluntary annexation proceedings. Section 171.044 (4), F. S., provides that the procedures for voluntary annexation are “supplemental to any other procedure provided by general law or special law.” The following process governs voluntary annexations in every county, except for those counties with charters providing an exclusive method for municipal annexation:

- submission of a petition—signed by all property owners in the area proposed to be annexed—to the municipal governing body; and
- adoption of an ordinance by the governing body of the municipality to annex the property after publication of a notice—which sets forth the proposed ordinance in full—at least once a week for two consecutive weeks.

The governing body of the municipality also must provide a copy of the notice to the board of county commissioners of the county where the municipality is located.

Land cannot be annexed through voluntary annexation when the process results in the creation of an enclave.<sup>8</sup>

### *Involuntary Annexation*

A municipality may annex property where the property owners have not petitioned for annexation pursuant to s. 171.0413, F. S. This process is referred to as “involuntary” annexation. In general, the requirements for an involuntary annexation are:

- the adoption of an annexation ordinance by the annexing municipality's governing body;
- at least two advertised public hearings held by the governing body of the municipality prior to the adoption of the ordinance, with the first hearing on a weekday at least seven days after the

<sup>5</sup> Section 171.031(12), F.S., defines “compactness” as concentration of a piece of property in a single area and precludes any action which would create enclaves, pockets, or finger areas in serpentine patterns. Any annexation proceeding in any county in the state is required to be designed in such a manner as to ensure that the area will be reasonably compact.

<sup>6</sup> An area developed for urban purposes is defined as an area which meets any one of the following standards: (a) a total resident population equal to at least two persons per acre; (b) a total resident population equal to at least one person per acre, with at least 60 percent of subdivided lots one acre or less; or (c) at least 60 percent of the total lots used for urban purposes, with at least 60 percent of the total urban residential acreage divided into lots of five acres or less.

<sup>7</sup> See, s. 171.061, F.S.

<sup>8</sup> An enclave is: (a) any unincorporated, improved or developed area that is enclosed within and bounded on all sides by a single municipality; or (b) any unincorporated, improved or developed area that is enclosed within and bounded by a single municipality and a natural or manmade obstacle that allows the passage of vehicular traffic to that unincorporated area only through the municipality. Section 171.031(13), F.S.

first advertisement and the second hearing held on a weekday at least five days after the first advertisement;<sup>9</sup> and

- submission of the ordinance to a vote of the registered electors of the area proposed for annexation once the governing body has adopted the ordinance.<sup>10</sup>

Any parcel of land which is owned by one individual, corporation or legal entity, or owned collectively by one or more individuals, corporations or legal entities, proposed to be annexed cannot be severed, separated, divided or partitioned by the provisions of the ordinance, unless the owner of such property waives this requirement.

If there is a majority vote in favor of annexation in the area proposed to be annexed, the area becomes part of the city. If there is no majority vote, the area cannot be made the subject of another annexation proposal for two years from the date of the referendum.

If more than 70 percent of the land in an area proposed to be annexed is owned by individuals, corporations or legal entities which are not registered electors of such area, the area cannot be annexed unless the owners of more than 50 percent of the land in such area consent to the annexation. This consent must be obtained by the parties proposing the annexation prior to the referendum.

If the area proposed to be annexed does not have any registered electors on the date the ordinance is finally adopted, a vote of electors of the area proposed to be annexed is not required. The area may not be annexed unless the owners of more than 50 percent of the parcels of land in the area proposed to be annexed consent to the annexation. If the governing body does not choose to hold a referendum of the annexing municipality, then the property owner consents must be obtained by the parties proposing the annexation prior to the final adoption of the ordinance.

#### Effect of Annexation on an Area

Upon the effective date of an annexation, the area becomes subject to all laws, ordinances and regulations in force in the annexing municipality. An exception occurs pursuant to s. 171.062(2), F.S., in that if the area annexed was subject to a county land use plan and county zoning or subdivision regulations, these regulations remain in effect until the municipality adopts a comprehensive plan amendment that includes the annexed area. In contractions, excluded territory is immediately subject to county laws, ordinances and regulations.

Any changes in municipal boundaries require revision of the boundary section of the municipality's charter. Such changes must be filed as a charter revision with the Department of State within 30 days of the annexation or contraction.<sup>11</sup>

#### Appeal of Annexation or Contraction

Affected persons who believe they will suffer material injury because of the failure of a city to comply with annexation or contraction laws as applied to their property can appeal the annexation ordinance. They may file a petition within 30 days following the passage of the ordinance with the circuit court for the county in which the municipality is located seeking the court's review by certiorari. If an appeal is won, the petitioner is entitled to reasonable costs and attorney's fees.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> This new requirement was passed by the 1999 Legislature.

<sup>10</sup> In 1999, the Florida Legislature removed the requirement of a dual referendum in specific circumstances. Previously, in addition to a vote by the electors in the proposed annexed area, the annexation ordinance was submitted to a separate vote of the registered electors of the annexing municipality if the total area annexed by a municipality during any one calendar year period cumulatively exceeded more than five percent of the total land area of the municipality or cumulatively exceeded more than five percent of the municipal population. The holding of a dual referendum is now at the discretion of the governing body of the annexing municipality.

<sup>11</sup> Section 171.091, F.S.

<sup>12</sup> Section 171.081, F.S.

## Broward County Annexations

Broward County is located on Florida's South Atlantic coast and consists of nearly 1,200 square miles with a population of approximately 1.8 million residents. Broward County currently contains 31 municipalities, the majority of which achieved their current corporate boundaries through a multitude of annexations.

The 1996 Florida Legislature adopted a special act<sup>13</sup> which describes Broward County has having "numerous scattered unincorporated pockets which reflect the haphazard manner in which annexation into municipalities has taken place over the years by the application of general annexation laws of the state...." This law requires that any annexation of unincorporated property within Broward County proposed to be accomplished pursuant to ch. 171, F.S., first must be considered at a public hearing conducted by the Broward County Legislative Delegation, pursuant to its adopted rules. The annexation is not effective until the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September following adjournment sine die of the next regular legislative session following the completion of all necessary procedures for annexation.

That same year, in cooperation with the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, the Broward County Legislative Delegation created the "Ad Hoc Committee on Annexation Policy." The delegation charged the committee with the responsibility of developing and recommending policy regarding future annexations. The committee recommended that annexation of all unincorporated areas of Broward County be encouraged to occur by the year 2010, and that any remaining unincorporated areas would be subject to annexation by the Florida Legislature. In 2001, this goal was changed to the year 2005.

The Broward County Legislative Delegation sponsors several local annexation bills each year.

### **Effect of Proposed Changes**

The City of Lauderhill was incorporated in 1959, and has an estimated population of 64,000.<sup>14</sup> HB 1295 provides for the annexation of one commercial parcel, a gas station located on the northwest corner of Sunrise Boulevard and N.W. 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue, into the municipality. This corner parcel is surrounded by the city on three sides. The city has attempted to annex this parcel since 2005. On October 27, 2009, the city sent the owner of the property a letter requesting that he voluntarily annex. On January 20, 2010, the Executive Director of the Broward Legislative Delegation sent a letter to the owner which indicated that the delegation would be meeting to discuss the annexation of his property pursuant to a proposed local bill and that he would be able to give public testimony at the meeting. The owner has not responded to either the city or the delegation.

The annexation is effective on September 15, 2010. Upon annexation into the City of Lauderhill, the area will be governed as follows:

- (1) The annexed property will be subject to the relevant land use and zoning provisions of the City of Lauderhill's Code of Ordinances.
- (2) Any change of zoning districts or land use designations may only be accomplished by a supermajority vote of the full governing body of the City of Lauderhill.
- (3) Any use, building or structure that is legally in existence at the time of annexation may not be made a prohibited use by the City of Lauderhill, as long as the use continues and is not voluntarily abandoned.

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<sup>13</sup> Chapter 96-542, L.O.F, as amended by ch. 99-447, L.O.F.

<sup>14</sup> Florida Estimates of Population 2009; Warrington College of Business Administration; Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida.

The bill further provides that nothing in it shall be construed to affect or abrogate the rights of parties to any contract which is in effect prior to the annexation, whether the contract is between Broward County and a third party or the City of Lauderhill and a third party or between nongovernmental entities.

The act takes effect upon becoming a law.

**B. SECTION DIRECTORY:**

Section 1: Provides a legal description of the area to be annexed.

Section 2: Provides an effective date for the annexation.

Section 3: Provides for land use and zoning governance, and continued use.

Section 4; Provides for continuation of existing contracts.

Section 5: Provides an effective date.

**II. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes  No

IF YES, WHEN? January 26, 2010.

WHERE? The *Sun-Sentinel*, a daily newspaper published in Broward County, Florida.

B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED? Yes  No

IF YES, WHEN?

C. LOCAL BILL CERTIFICATION FILED? Yes, attached  No

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FILED? Yes, attached  No

According to the Economic Impact Statement, the bill will provide the city with \$8,951.13 in additional revenue for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. The annexation of this property is logical due to location of the property and the surrounding city boundaries. It prevents the creation of an enclave and clarifies jurisdiction for police and fire responders.

**III. COMMENTS**

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

**Drafting Issues**

None.

## **Other Comments**

House Rule 5.5(b) states that a local bill that provides an exemption from general law may not be placed on the Special Order Calendar in any section reserved for the expedited consideration of local bills. This bill may create an exemption to s. 171.062(1), F.S., which provides that an area annexed to a municipality shall be subject to all laws, ordinances and regulations in force in that municipality, via the "continued use" provisions contained in Section 3.

## **IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES**