

HB 1519

2010

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Sarasota County Tourist Development
3 Council; providing legislative findings; providing for
4 appointment of additional members to the membership of the
5 Sarasota County Tourist Development Council; specifying
6 requirements for the council members; providing for
7 duties, responsibilities, and procedures of the council;
8 providing for superseding certain provisions of general
9 law; providing construction; providing an effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.—The Legislature
14 finds that, in November 1988, Sarasota County first levied its
15 tourist development tax and created the Sarasota County Tourist
16 Development Council as authorized in section 125.0104, Florida
17 Statutes. The Legislature also finds that the population of
18 Sarasota County has grown from 257,667 persons in 1988 to
19 389,320 in 2009, and that the City of North Port, an inland
20 municipality within Sarasota County, has experienced a surge in
21 growth that has resulted in it becoming more populous than the
22 coastal municipalities which generate the highest percentage of
23 tourist tax revenues. Moreover, section 125.0104, Florida
24 Statutes, requires that the tourist development council be
25 comprised of two municipal officials, one from the most populous
26 municipality, resulting in a lack of representation from two of
27 the three coastal municipalities. The Legislature further finds
28 that increasing municipal representation on the tourist

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29 development council necessitates increasing tourist industry
30 membership such that all sectors are proportionately
31 represented. Given Sarasota County's growth in population and
32 the important role all municipalities play in the county's
33 tourist development, the Legislature declares it to be
34 appropriate to authorize the governing board of Sarasota County
35 to expand the membership of its tourist development council from
36 nine to 13 members in order that all municipalities within
37 Sarasota County may be represented with a proportionate
38 representation from the tourist industry.

39 (2) SARASOTA COUNTY TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.—

40 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section
41 125.0104(4)(e), Florida Statutes, limiting the composition of a
42 tourist development council to nine members, the governing board
43 of Sarasota County shall increase the composition of the
44 Sarasota County Tourist Development Council from nine to 13
45 members. The county's governing board shall amend its current
46 ordinance within 90 days after the effective date of this
47 section to reflect the increased number of council members and
48 must appoint the four additional members no later than October
49 1, 2010. The Chair of the Sarasota County Board of County
50 Commissioners or any other member designated by the Chair shall
51 serve on the council. Notwithstanding section 125.0104(4)(e),
52 Florida Statutes, four members of the council shall be elected
53 municipal officials, one from each of the four incorporated
54 municipalities within the county on the effective date of this
55 section; and eight members of the council shall be persons who
56 are involved in the tourist industry and who have demonstrated

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57 an interest in tourist development, of which members, not fewer
58 than four nor more than five shall be owners or operators of
59 motels, hotels, recreational vehicle parks, or other tourist-
60 related accommodations in the county and subject to the tax.

61 (b) Except as provided in this subsection, the Sarasota
62 County Tourist Development Council shall have all the duties and
63 responsibilities as provided for tourist development councils by
64 general law.

65 (3) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be
66 construed to affect the terms of those members serving on the
67 Sarasota County Tourist Development Council on the effective
68 date of this section or any actions taken by the council prior
69 to the appointment of any additional members authorized in
70 subsection (2). This section supersedes the provisions of
71 section 125.0104, Florida Statutes, to the extent of any
72 conflict. Except as provided in this section, the provisions of
73 section 125.0104(4)(e), Florida Statutes, shall apply to the
74 Sarasota County Tourist Development Council.

75 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.