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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Gasparilla Island Bridge Authority,
 3 Lee and Charlotte Counties; amending chapter 2000-425,
 4 Laws of Florida; renaming the authority; providing that
 5 the district is an independent special district; revising
 6 vote requirements for the election of the voting members
 7 of the board of supervisors; revising the district's
 8 fiscal year; providing an effective date.

9
 10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

11
 12 Section 1. Sections 1 through 23 of section 2 of chapter
 13 2000-425, Laws of Florida, are amended to read:

14 Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.—It is declared as a
 15 matter of legislative determination that the residents of
 16 Gasparilla Island and its neighboring islands have a vital
 17 interest in the operation and the continued maintenance and
 18 improvement of the bridge and causeway linking the islands to
 19 the mainland. The bridge and causeway were constructed in 1952
 20 by a private company. That company and its successors have
 21 operated the bridge and collected tolls since 1952 under a 50-
 22 year lease from the state which expires in May 2002. The
 23 residents of Gasparilla Island are the primary users of the
 24 bridge and pay the majority of tolls collected for its continued
 25 maintenance. It is the intent of the Legislature to create an
 26 independent special district ~~authority~~ on Gasparilla Island and
 27 surrounding islands, in both Lee and Charlotte Counties, with
 28 overall responsibility for the ownership, operation,

29 maintenance, repair, and reconstruction of the bridge and
 30 causeway connecting Gasparilla Island with the mainland in
 31 Charlotte County, thereby creating an organization to permit the
 32 continuing responsibility on the part of the residents of
 33 Gasparilla Island and surrounding islands for the operation,
 34 maintenance, repair, and reconstruction of the bridge and
 35 causeway. This act shall be known as "The Gasparilla Island
 36 Bridge Agency ~~Authority~~ Act."

37 Section 2. AGENCY ~~AUTHORITY~~ CREATED.—There is hereby
 38 created and established an independent special district and a
 39 local governmental body, corporate and politic, to be known as
 40 the Gasparilla Island Bridge Agency ~~Authority~~. The boundaries of
 41 the district ~~authority~~ shall include: all of Gasparilla Island,
 42 including Boca Grande Isles and Gasparilla Golf Course Island,
 43 Three Sisters Island, Hoagen's Key, Loomis Island, and Cole
 44 Island situated in Lee County and Charlotte County including all
 45 adjacent submerged lands, tidal lands, overflow lands, and tidal
 46 ponds hereinafter referred to as the "islands," and the
 47 following described lands located on or between the islands and
 48 the mainland of Charlotte County, Florida:

49 Parcel I:
 50 That real property described in the Final Judgment
 51 entered in Condemnation Suit, Case #1048 entitled
 52 Florida Bridge Company, Plaintiff -vs- Sunset Realty
 53 Corporation, Defendant, Circuit Court, Charlotte
 54 County, Florida, said judgment being dated June 18,
 55 1958, recorded June 13, 1958, in O.R. Book 39 at Page
 56 178, et. seq., of the Public Records of Charlotte

57 County, Florida, which property is more particularly
 58 described as follows: A parcel containing 3.4937 acres
 59 of land, lying and being in Charlotte County Florida,
 60 lying 15' on either side of the following described
 61 centerline:

62 Commencing at the intersection of Sections 26, 27, 34
 63 and 35, Township 42 South, Range 20 East; thence North
 64 89°47'36" West, 292.84 feet; thence North 22°39'51"
 65 West 147.19 feet; thence North 16°28'24" East, 1,105.2
 66 feet to the South end of the South relief bridge as
 67 constructed by the Florida Bridge Corp. under its
 68 franchise, to point of beginning; thence from said
 69 point of beginning South 16°28'24" West 286.85 feet to
 70 a point of curvature; thence Southeasterly along a
 71 curve whose radius is 2,864.79 feet, an arc distance
 72 of 1,956.88 feet to a point; thence South 21°56'21"
 73 East 800 feet to the center of the County road
 74 pavement as exists at present, crossing the 30' R/W
 75 line of said County road 157.6 feet North of the point
 76 as established in the center of said County road, all
 77 lying a being in Sections 26, 27, 34 and 35, Township
 78 42 South, Range 20 East, Charlotte County, Florida.

79 Parcel II:

80 The following described lands (herein Parcels A, B, C,
 81 and D, respectively) situated in Charlotte County,
 82 Florida:

83 Parcel A. Those lands described in instrument dated
 84 November 26, 1954, between Boca Grande Inn, Inc., a

85 Florida corporation, and Florida Bridge Company, a
 86 Florida corporation, recorded April 11, 1958 in O.R.
 87 Book 36, Page 211 et. seq. Of the Public Records of
 88 Charlotte County, Florida, more particularly described
 89 as follows:
 90 A strip or parcel of land in Section 12, Township 42
 91 South, Range 20 East, which strip or parcel is 33 feet
 92 on each side of, as measured at right angles to, the
 93 following described center line: From the intersection
 94 of the centerline of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad
 95 (Charlotte Harbor and Northern Railroad) with the
 96 center line of Florida State Road No. 775 in said
 97 Section 12, run North 59°01'06" West, (being the same
 98 line as shown as having a bearing of North 58°59' West
 99 on the right-of-way map of said State Road) along the
 100 center line of said State Road No. 775 for 1,260 feet
 101 to a point of curve of a curve to the right; thence
 102 continue along the tangent of said curve for 111.93
 103 feet to a point; thence run South 01°00'54" West for
 104 55.64 feet to a point on the South right-of-way line
 105 of State Road No. 775 and the point of beginning of
 106 the center line of the lands hereby conveyed; from
 107 said point of beginning continue South 01°00'54" West
 108 for 1,049.49 feet to the point of curve of a curve to
 109 the right having a radius of 2,864.79 feet; thence run
 110 Southerly to Southwesterly along the arc of said curve
 111 for 420 feet, more or less, to the mean high water
 112 mark of Gasparilla Sound. All bearings hereinabove

113 mentioned are plane coordinate bearings for the
114 Florida West Zone.
115 Parcel B. Those lands described in Grant of Right-of-
116 Way from the Trustees of the Internal Improvement
117 Trust Fund of the State of Florida to Florida Bridge
118 Company, Inc. dated December 30, 1954, bearing
119 instrument no. 20840, recorded January 26, 1955, in
120 O.R. Book 1, Page 146 et. seq. of the Public Records
121 of Charlotte County, Florida, as amended, more
122 particularly described as follows:
123 CAUSEWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY
124 Lands for highway right-of-way purposes across the
125 submerged bottoms of Gasparilla Sound from the mean
126 high water mark of said Sound on the mainland at the
127 town of Placida to the mean high water mark on
128 Gasparilla Island, said lands being 300 feet wide on
129 each side of, as measured at right angles to, a center
130 line, more particularly described as follows:
131 Commence at the intersection of the center line of the
132 S.A.L. R.R. and the center line of S.R. No. 775 in
133 Section 12, Township 42 South, Range 20 East,
134 Charlotte County, Florida.
135 Thence North 59°01'06" West along the center of said
136 S.R. No. 775 1,260 feet the P.C. of a curve to the
137 right;
138 Thence continue along the tangent to said curve 111.93
139 feet to a point;

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140 Thence South 01°01'09" West 900 feet, more or less, to
141 the mean high water mark of Gasparilla Sound, said
142 point being the point of beginning of the easement
143 herein granted; From P.O.B. continue South 01°01'09"
144 West 593.95 feet to a point in Gasparilla Sound, said
145 point being 930 feet from, as measured at right angles
146 to, the center line of said S.A.L. R.R.;

147 Thence South 16°28'24" West parallel to and 930 feet
148 from said center line 8,743 feet to the mean high
149 water mark of Gasparilla Sound on Gasparilla Island,
150 said high water mark being the terminus of this center
151 line.

152 AND

153 An area on the Northwesterly side of the causeway
154 center line beginning 100 feet off shore from the
155 Placida side of Gasparilla Sound and extending
156 Southwesterly parallel to the center line of said
157 causeway for a distance of 4,000 feet. The
158 Northwesterly limits of said area shall be not more
159 than 1,500 feet from said center line and the
160 Southeasterly limits shall be not less than 1,000 feet
161 from said causeway center line.

162 AND

163 An area on the Southeasterly side of the causeway
164 center line beginning 100 feet off shore from the
165 Placida side of Gasparilla Sound and extending
166 Southwesterly parallel with center line of causeway
167 for a distance of 9,000 feet. The Southeasterly limits

168 of said area shall be not more than 600 feet from said
 169 center line and the Northwesterly limits shall be the
 170 right-of-way for causeway.

171 LESS AND EXCEPT FROM PARCEL B THE FOLLOWING:

172 The lands conveyed by Robert L. King and Carroll C.
 173 Cozart, as personal representative of the estate of
 174 Robert T. Cozart, deceased, to Gasparilla Pass, Inc.
 175 by deed dated July 16, 1981, recorded July 16, 1981 in
 176 O.R. Book 672 at Page 1045 et. seq. of the Public
 177 Records of Charlotte County, Florida, more
 178 particularly described as follows:

179 A tract of parcel of land lying in Section 26,
 180 Township 42 South, Range 20 East, Charlotte County,
 181 Florida which tract or parcel is described as follows:
 182 From the Southwest corner of said Section 26 on
 183 Gasparilla Island as shown on the plat of Gulf Shores
 184 North recorded in Plat Book 13 beginning at Page 9A,
 185 Charlotte County Records run North 89°45'15" West
 186 along the South line of Section 27 as shown on said
 187 plat for 82.13 feet to an intersection with the
 188 centerline of Gasparilla Road (50 feet wide); thence
 189 run Northerly along said centerline as shown on said
 190 plat along the arc of a curve to the right of radius
 191 2,864.79 feet (chord bearing North 05°14'34" East) for
 192 1,123.99 feet to a point of tangency; thence continue
 193 along said centerline North 16°28'45" East, parallel
 194 with and 930 feet Westerly from (as measured on a
 195 perpendicular) the centerline of the Seaboard Coast

196 | Line Railroad, for 527.77 feet to the Northerly end of
 197 | the South Relief Bridge on the Boca Grande Causeway;
 198 | thence continue North 16°28'45" East along said
 199 | centerline as described in instruments recorded in
 200 | Official Records Book 1 at Page 145, Official Records
 201 | Book 7 at Page 177, and Official Records Book 479 at
 202 | Page 817 of said public records for 2,549.58 feet to
 203 | the southerly end of the Center Relief Bridge and the
 204 | Point of Beginning of lands described in said
 205 | instrument recorded in Official Record Book 479 at
 206 | Page 817 and the Point of Beginning of the herein
 207 | described parcel.
 208 | From said Point of Beginning run South 79°31'15" East
 209 | for 37 feet more or less to the approximate mean high
 210 | tide line of Charlotte Harbor, thence run
 211 | Southeasterly, Southerly, Southwesterly, Southerly,
 212 | Southeasterly, Southerly, Southwesterly, Southerly,
 213 | Southeasterly, Southerly, Southwesterly, Southerly,
 214 | Southeasterly, Southerly, Southwesterly, Southerly,
 215 | Southeasterly, Southerly, Southwesterly and Westerly
 216 | along said approximate mean high tide line for 3,000
 217 | feet more or less to a concrete seawall on the
 218 | easterly line of the Florida Bridge company right-of-
 219 | way (120 feet wide); thence run Southerly and
 220 | Southwesterly along said seawall to an intersection
 221 | with an easterly prolongation of the Northerly end of
 222 | said South Relief Bridge; thence run North 73°31'15"
 223 | West along said prolongation, said North line and a

224 Westerly prolongation of said North line for 85 feet
 225 more or less to the approximate mean high tide line of
 226 Gasparilla Pass; thence run-along said approximate
 227 mean high tide line Northwesterly, Northerly,
 228 Northeasterly and Northerly for 2,650 feet more or
 229 less to an intersection with the Westerly prolongation
 230 of said South line of said Center Relief Bridge;
 231 thence run South 73°31'15" East along said
 232 prolongation and said South line for 45 feet more or
 233 less to the Point of Beginning.

234 Bearing hereinafter mentioned are Plan Coordinate for
 235 the Florida West Zone.

236 ALSO LESS AND EXCEPT FROM PARCEL B THE FOLLOWING:

237 The lands conveyed to A.E. Blackburn and his wife,
 238 Mary M. Blackburn, Robert S. Maynard and Mildred M.
 239 Maynard and Samuel Schuckman and Lucile Schuckman by
 240 deeds recorded in O.R. Book 13, Page 360, O.R. Book
 241 42, Page 502 and O.R. Book 43, Page 353 of the Public
 242 Records of Charlotte County Florida:

243 From the meander corner between Section 22 and 27,
 244 Township 42 South, Range 20 East, on Little Gasparilla
 245 Island, as established in 1908 by Charles M. Pidgeon,
 246 run East 618 feet to a point for point of beginning.

247 Thence as follows:

248 North 3°30' East, 420 feet,
 249 North 42°00' East, 290 feet,
 250 North 70°30' East, 660 feet,
 251 South 62°00' East, 930 feet,

252 South 45°30' East, 380 feet,
 253 South 66°30' East, 660 feet,
 254 South 5°00' East, 515 feet,
 255 South 76°00' West, 575 feet,
 256 South 62°00' West, 910 feet,
 257 North 76°30' West, 1180 feet,
 258 North 4°30' West, 935 feet,
 259 to a Point of Beginning containing 82.20 acres more or
 260 less;
 261 ALSO LESS AND EXCEPT FROM PARCEL B THE FOLLOWING:
 262 A portion of the lands described in warranty deed from
 263 Bert L. Cole and Helen Cole, husband and wife, to
 264 Brunswick Corporation dated January 2, 1973, recorded
 265 January 2, 1973 in O.R. Book 407, Page 766 and fee
 266 simple deed dated September 1, 1972 in O.R. Book 401,
 267 Page 882 of the Public Records of Charlotte County,
 268 Florida, more particularly described as follows:
 269 Commence at the N.W. corner of Section 12, Township 42
 270 South, Range 20 East, Charlotte County, Florida;
 271 thence South 0°11'00" West along the West line of said
 272 Section 12, 2073.74' to a point on the Southeasterly
 273 right-of-way (100' right-of-way) of State Road No.
 274 775; thence South 48°03'00" East along said right-of-
 275 way 941.68' for a point of beginning; thence continue
 276 South 48°03'00" East, 209.58' to the Point of
 277 Curvature of a curve to the left, said curve having a
 278 central angle of 10°56'00" and a radius of 1,960.08';
 279 thence along the arc of said curve a distance of

280 374.09' to the Point of Tangency; thence South
 281 0°11'00" West, 979.29' thence North 80°34'09" West,
 282 948.20'; thence North 0°41'48" West, 699.41'; thence
 283 North 45°16'45" East, 690.82' to the Point of
 284 Beginning.

285 Less all that part of the above described lands lying
 286 East of the West boundary of the right-of-way of the
 287 Boca Grande Causeway.

288 All lying and being in Section 12, Township 42 South,
 289 Range 20 East, Charlotte County, Florida.

290 ALSO LESS AND EXCEPT FROM PARCEL B THE FOLLOWING:

291 A portion of the lands described in warranty deeds
 292 from Placida Sound Corporation to James O. Dixon, Jay
 293 D. Moser and Janice D. Parrish dated January 19, 1979,
 294 recorded January 22, 1979, in O.R. Book 593, Page 1713
 295 and deeds recorded in O.R. Book 671, Page 1915 and
 296 O.R. Book 671, Page 1914, Public Records of Charlotte
 297 County, Florida, more particularly described as
 298 follows: Commence at the Northwest corner of Section
 299 12, Township 42 South, Range 20 East, Charlotte
 300 County, Florida; thence South 0°11'00" West, along
 301 West boundary of said Section 12, 2,952.87 feet;
 302 thence South 41°59'07" East 317.87 feet; then South
 303 0°41'48" East, 699.41 feet for a P.O.B.; thence
 304 continue South 0°41'48" East, 602.98 feet; thence
 305 South 76°03'07" East 730.00 feet to a point on the
 306 Westerly R/W of Boca Grande Causeway (66'R/W) thence
 307 Northerly along said R/W 651.18 feet to a point that

308 bears North 8°14'06" East from the previous course;
 309 thence North 80°34'09" West 820.17 feet to the Point
 310 of Beginning. All lying and being in Section 12,
 311 Township 42 South, Range 20 East, Charlotte County,
 312 Florida.

313 Parcel C. Those lands described in Right-of-Way from
 314 A. E. Blackburn and Mary M. Blackburn, husband and
 315 wife, to Florida Bridge Company dated July 5, 1956,
 316 recorded in O.R. book 118, Page 675 of the Public
 317 Records of Charlotte County, Florida, more
 318 particularly described as follows:

319 A strip of land 33 feet on each side of the center
 320 line of Florida Bridge Company causeway across the
 321 Easterly part of the following described property:
 322 From the meander corner between Section 22 and 27,
 323 Township 42 South, Range 20 East, on Little Gasparilla
 324 Island, as established in 1908 by Charles M. Pidgeon,
 325 run East 618 feet to a point for point of beginning,
 326 Thence as follows:

327 North 3°30' East, 420 feet,
 328 North 42°00' East, 290 feet,
 329 North 70°30' East, 660 feet,
 330 South 62°00' East, 930 feet,
 331 South 45°30' East, 380 feet,
 332 South 66°30' East, 660 feet,
 333 South 5°00' East, 515 feet,
 334 South 76°00' West, 575 feet,
 335 South 62°00' West, 910 feet,

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336 North 76°30' West, 1,180 feet,
 337 North 4°30' West, 935 feet,
 338 to Point of Beginning containing 82.20 acres more or
 339 less;
 340 Parcel D. Those lands described in instrument between
 341 G. M. Cole, joined by his wife, Addie Cole, and
 342 Florida Bridge Company, Inc. dated September 12, 1952,
 343 recorded December 1, 1955, in O.R. Book 7, Page 177
 344 et. seq. of the Public Records of Charlotte County,
 345 Florida, more particularly described as follows:
 346 A strip of land across Cole Island, extending from the
 347 Northerly to the Southerly end thereof and being 120
 348 feet in width (60 feet on each side of the center line
 349 of Florida Bridge Company causeway), such center line
 350 of said easement begin parallel to and 930 feet
 351 Westerly from the center line of the Seaboard Airline
 352 Railroad Company track.

353 Section 3. PURPOSES.—

354 (1) The district ~~authority~~ is created for the purpose of
 355 acquiring, constructing, reconstructing, financing, owning,
 356 managing, providing, promoting, improving, expanding,
 357 maintaining, operating, regulating, franchising, and otherwise
 358 having complete authority, with respect to the Gasparilla Island
 359 bridge and causeway within the territorial limits of Charlotte
 360 County, and areas adjacent thereto. It is further the purpose of
 361 this act to repose in the district ~~authority~~ all powers with
 362 respect to operating, maintaining, repairing, and improving the
 363 bridge and causeway, including the power to set bridge toll

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364 rates and collect bridge tolls, and such other additional powers
365 as are hereafter designated by this act.

366 (2) The Legislature finds and declares that the creation
367 of the district ~~authority~~ and the carrying out of its purposes
368 are in all respects for the benefit of the people of this state
369 and the people of Lee and Charlotte Counties. The district
370 ~~authority~~ is performing an essential governmental function. All
371 property of said district ~~authority~~ is and shall in all respects
372 be considered to be public property, and title to such property
373 shall be held by the district ~~authority~~ for the benefit of the
374 public. The use of such property, until disposed of upon such
375 terms as the district ~~authority~~ may deem just, shall be for
376 essential public and governmental purposes.

377 (3) It is the intent of this act to create the district
378 ~~authority~~ as an independent special district that meets all the
379 requirements for independent special districts provided in
380 chapter 189, Florida Statutes.

381 Section 4. DEFINITIONS.—As used in this act, the following
382 words and terms shall have the following meanings, unless some
383 other meaning is plainly intended:

384 ~~(1) "Authority" means the Gasparilla Island Bridge~~
385 ~~Authority acting by and through its governing body as~~
386 ~~established under section 2.~~

387 (1) ~~(2)~~ "Board" means the Board of Supervisors of the
388 Gasparilla Island Bridge Agency.

389 (2) ~~(3)~~ "Charlotte County Commission" means the Charlotte
390 County Board of County Commissioners.

391 (3) "District" means the Gasparilla Island Bridge Agency
 392 acting by and through its governing body as established under
 393 section 2.

394 (4) "Lee County Commission" means the Lee ~~Charlotte~~ County
 395 Board of County Commissioners.

396 (5) "Clerk" means the clerk of the circuit court and the
 397 ex officio Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of
 398 Charlotte County or Lee County.

399 (6) "Cost" as applied to the acquisition, construction,
 400 extension, additions, or improvements to the bridge and causeway
 401 or to the establishment of the district authority includes the
 402 cost of: construction or reconstruction; acquisition or purchase
 403 of real or personal property; expenses relating to the issuance
 404 of bonds; indemnity or surety bonds; premiums for insurance on
 405 real or personal property; expenses related to the establishment
 406 of the district authority; labor, materials, machinery,
 407 supplies, and equipment; any interest in land including all
 408 property rights, easements, and franchises of any nature;
 409 finance charges; interest payments; payments for the creation of
 410 initial reserve or debt service reserve funds; bond discount;
 411 architectural and engineering services; financial and banking
 412 services; legal and accounting services; all other expenses
 413 necessary or incidental for determining the feasibility of
 414 construction, reconstruction, or acquisition; all other expenses
 415 necessary or incidental to any financing authorized herein;
 416 reimbursement of any other person, firm, or corporation for any
 417 moneys or services advanced to the district authority in
 418 connection with any of the foregoing items of cost.

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419 (7) "Elector" means any registered voter within the
420 boundaries of the district authority.

421 (8) "Executive director" shall be the chief executive
422 officer of the district authority, who shall carry out the
423 policies of the district authority.

424 (9) "Gross receipts" means any income received from all
425 tolls collected for the use of the bridge and causeway and other
426 income received from all other sources, including income
427 received from taxpayers from ad valorem tax assessments.

428 (10) "Taxpayer" means any natural or corporate person who
429 owns real property within the boundaries of the district
430 authority.

431 (11) "Revenue bonds" or "bonds" means bonds or other
432 obligations secured by and payable from the revenues derived
433 from tolls, fees, or charges collected by the district authority
434 from users or future users of the facilities of the system,
435 which may be additionally secured by a pledge of the proceeds of
436 ad valorem taxes levied against property within the boundaries
437 of the district authority, all to the extent determined by
438 resolution of the district authority.

439 (12) "Bridge and causeway system" means and includes all
440 bridges, causeways, roadways, toll facilities, or property and
441 additions, extensions, and improvements thereto at any future
442 time constructed and acquired as part thereof, useful or
443 necessary or having the present capacity for future use in
444 connection with maintaining a bridge and roadway across
445 Gasparilla Pass in Charlotte County.

446 Section 5. GOVERNING BODY.—

447 (1) The governing body of the district ~~authority~~ shall
 448 consist of nine members acting as the Board of Supervisors. Five
 449 of these members shall be voting members with full power to
 450 conduct the business of the district ~~authority~~ by majority vote
 451 of the voting members. The other four members shall serve as ex
 452 officio, nonvoting members who shall participate in board
 453 discussions as representatives of the taxpayers who are not
 454 qualified as electors of the district ~~authority~~. Each member
 455 shall serve terms of 4 years, provided that the initial members
 456 of the Board of Supervisors and their terms of office shall be
 457 as follows:

458 (a) Board Supervisor No. 1, Board Supervisor No. 3, Board
 459 Supervisor No. 5, Board Supervisor No. 7, and Board Supervisor
 460 No. 9 shall be appointed by the Lee County Commission and serve
 461 until November 15, 1996. These supervisor positions shall be
 462 first elected or appointed thereafter as herein described.

463 (b) Board Supervisor No. 2, Board Supervisor No. 4, Board
 464 Supervisor No. 6, and Board Supervisor No. 8 shall be appointed
 465 by the Charlotte County Commission and serve until November 15,
 466 1996. These supervisor positions shall be elected or appointed
 467 thereafter as herein described.

468 (2) Board Supervisor No. 1, Board Supervisor No. 2, Board
 469 Supervisor No. 3, Board Supervisor No. 4, and Board Supervisor
 470 No. 5 shall be voting members of the Board of Supervisors who
 471 are qualified as electors within the boundaries of the district
 472 ~~authority~~. Board Supervisor No. 6, Board Supervisor No. 7, Board
 473 Supervisor No. 8, and Board Supervisor No. 9 shall be ex
 474 officio, nonvoting members who are appointed by the board at its

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475 first meeting following the general election. The ex officio,
476 nonvoting members must be either electors or taxpayers from
477 within the boundaries of the district. No board member shall be
478 elected or appointed for more than two consecutive 4-year terms
479 except the chair, who may be elected to a maximum of three 4-
480 year terms. The chair must be a voting member of the board.

481 (3) The voting members of the Board of Supervisors shall
482 be elected by a plurality ~~majority~~ of the electors of the
483 district ~~authority~~ voting in the general election in November of
484 each even numbered year. Each elector may exercise one vote.
485 Those members duly elected to serve will take office on November
486 15 following their election.

487 (a) Board Supervisor No. 1, Board Supervisor No. 3, Board
488 Supervisor No. 5, Board Supervisor No. 6, and Board Supervisor
489 No. 8 shall be first elected or appointed in the November 1996
490 election and every fourth year thereafter.

491 (b) Board Supervisor No. 2, Board Supervisor No. 4, Board
492 Supervisor No. 7, and Board Supervisor No. 9 shall be first
493 elected or appointed at the November 1996 election to a 2-year
494 term. They shall be appointed or stand for election to a full 4-
495 year term commencing at the November 1998 election and shall be
496 elected or appointed every fourth year thereafter.

497 (4) The district ~~authority~~ is authorized to conduct its
498 elections independently or through the Lee County or Charlotte
499 County Supervisor of Elections. Should the district ~~authority~~
500 elect to conduct its own elections, it shall make its election
501 procedures consistent with the Florida Election Code, chapters
502 97 through 106, Florida Statutes, for the following:

503 (a) Qualifying periods, in accordance with section 99.061,
 504 Florida Statutes;

505 (b) Petition format, in accordance with rules adopted by
 506 the Florida Division of Elections;

507 (c) Canvassing of returns, in accordance with sections
 508 101.5614 and 102.151, Florida Statutes;

509 (d) Noticing special district elections, in accordance
 510 with chapter 100, Florida Statutes;

511 (e) Polling hours, in accordance with section 100.011,
 512 Florida Statutes.

513 (5) Upon the occasion of a vacancy for any reason in the
 514 term of office of a voting member of the governing body of the
 515 district authority, a successor shall be appointed by the
 516 Governor. Any person appointed to fill a vacancy shall be
 517 appointed to serve for the balance of the unexpired term or
 518 until the next election at which a successor may be duly elected
 519 to fill the balance of the unexpired term.

520 (6) Upon the occasion of a vacancy for any reason in the
 521 term of office of an ex officio nonvoting member, a successor
 522 shall be appointed by a majority of the voting members of the
 523 governing body of the district authority.

524 (7) The Board of Supervisors shall elect a chair and vice
 525 chair from members of the district authority, each of whom shall
 526 serve for 1 year or until his or her successor is chosen. The
 527 chair, or the vice chair in the chair's absence, shall preside
 528 at all meetings of the district authority and shall perform such
 529 additional duties as prescribed by the members or contained in
 530 the bylaws of the district authority. The district authority

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531 shall hold regular meetings at least quarterly at such times and
532 places as it may designate and may hold more frequent special
533 meetings. Three voting members constitute a quorum for the
534 purpose of meeting and transacting business. Each voting member
535 of the district ~~authority~~ shall have one vote. The district
536 ~~authority~~ may adopt bylaws and may make all policies,
537 procedures, rules, and regulations not inconsistent with this
538 act which it may deem necessary respecting the conduct of its
539 affairs. Such policies, procedures, rules, and regulations shall
540 provide for notice of all public meetings in conformity with the
541 requirements of section 189.417, Florida Statutes, and shall
542 provide that an agenda shall be prepared by the district
543 ~~authority~~ in time to ensure that a copy of the agenda will be
544 available at least 3 days prior to any regular meetings of the
545 district ~~authority~~. After the agenda has been made available,
546 items may be added for good cause, as determined by the chair or
547 person designated to preside at the meeting. The reason for
548 adding an item to the agenda shall be stated in the record.
549 Special or emergency meetings may be called by the chair upon no
550 less than 48 hours' notice. The district ~~authority~~ shall publish
551 and thereafter codify and index all rules, regulations, and
552 resolutions formulated, adopted, or used by the district
553 ~~authority~~ in the discharge of its functions. Such rules,
554 regulations, and resolutions shall be made available for public
555 inspection and copying, at no more than cost. The district
556 ~~authority~~ shall not be deemed to be an agency within the meaning
557 of chapter 120, Florida Statutes. The district ~~authority~~ shall
558 be deemed to be an agency within the meaning of chapter 119,

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559 Florida Statutes, and all records of the district authority
560 shall be open to the public. The district authority shall be
561 deemed an agency or district authority of the county for
562 purposes of section 286.011, Florida Statutes, the "Government
563 in the Sunshine" law. Voting members of the Board of Supervisors
564 shall be deemed to be local officers for the purposes of section
565 112.3145(3), Florida Statutes, requiring disclosure of their
566 financial interests. These statements of financial interests
567 shall be filed with the Lee County Supervisor of Elections and
568 available for public inspection. In addition to the foregoing,
569 the district authority shall comply with the requirements of
570 section 189.417, Florida Statutes, regarding notice of meetings
571 which shall be deemed to supersede any inconsistent provisions
572 of this section in the event of conflict.

573 (8) The district authority shall appoint an executive
574 director who shall serve at the pleasure of the district
575 authority. In addition to the appointment of an executive
576 director, the district authority may contract for all or part of
577 such services with any third party, including the clerk.

578 (9) Each member of the Board of Supervisors shall serve
579 without compensation; however, supervisors shall receive travel
580 and per diem expenses as set forth in section 112.061, Florida
581 Statutes, when traveling on official business for the district
582 authority.

583 (10) A board member may be removed for cause by the
584 Governor.

585 Section 6. POWERS AND DUTIES OF DISTRICT AUTHORITY.—The
586 district authority shall have the following powers and duties,

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587 in addition to and supplementing other powers granted in this
588 act and powers granted to authorities by general law:

589 (1) To construct, install, erect, acquire, operate,
590 maintain, improve, extend, enlarge, or reconstruct a bridge,
591 causeway, and road system within the jurisdictional boundaries
592 of the district ~~authority~~ and the environs thereof and to have
593 the exclusive control and jurisdiction thereof, to borrow money
594 and issue bonds to pay all or part of the costs of such
595 construction, reconstruction, erection, acquisition, or
596 installation of such bridge, causeway, or road system or to
597 refund any indebtedness of the district ~~authority~~. All capital
598 improvements shall be consistent with the comprehensive plan of
599 the applicable local government within the meaning of part II of
600 chapter 163, Florida Statutes.

601 (2) To regulate traffic and the use of the bridge and
602 causeway system within the district's ~~authority's~~ boundaries.
603 This traffic power shall be exercised concurrently with any
604 power inherent in Lee County or Charlotte County. In the event
605 of a conflict, the more stringent rule shall apply.

606 (3) To fix, modify, charge, and collect toll rates and
607 user fees from persons for the use of the bridge and causeway
608 system at such levels as the district ~~authority~~ deems
609 appropriate regardless of the costs associated with the bridge
610 and causeway system; provided, however, in no event shall tolls
611 for automobiles exceed \$5 per round trip for a period of 10
612 years after the effective date of this special act. The district
613 ~~authority~~ shall be subject to the provisions of section 338.165,
614 Florida Statutes, authorizing the continuation of tolls except

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615 that the district ~~authority~~ may use any remaining toll revenue
616 after payments for debt service and the annual cost of
617 operation, maintenance, and improvement of the bridge and
618 causeway only for the purposes enumerated in this act.

619 (4) To acquire in the name of the district ~~authority~~ by
620 purchase or gift such lands and rights and interest therein,
621 including lands under water and riparian rights, and to acquire
622 such personal property as it may deem necessary in connection
623 with the construction, reconstruction, improvement, extension,
624 installation, erection, or operation and maintenance of the
625 bridge, causeway, and road system and to hold and dispose of all
626 real and personal property under its control.

627 (5) To exercise exclusive jurisdiction, control, and
628 supervision over the bridge and causeway system, or any part
629 thereof owned, operated, or maintained by the district ~~authority~~
630 and to make and enforce such rules and regulations for the
631 maintenance and operation of the system as may be, in the
632 judgment of the district ~~authority~~, necessary or desirable for
633 the efficient operation of the system or improvements in
634 accomplishing the purposes of this law.

635 (6) To restrain, enjoin, or otherwise prevent the
636 violation of this law or of any resolution, rule, or regulation
637 adopted pursuant to the powers granted by this law.

638 (7) To join with any other districts, municipalities,
639 towns, or other political subdivisions, public agencies, or
640 authorities in the exercise of common powers.

641 (8) To contract with other private or public entities or
642 persons to provide services to the district ~~authority~~ and to

643 receive and accept from any federal or state agency grants or
 644 loans for or in aid of the purposes of the district authority.

645 (9) To enter into interlocal agreements with any
 646 municipality, county, district, or political subdivision for any
 647 corporate purpose of the district authority, including, but not
 648 limited to, borrowing money for construction of improvements,
 649 additions, or extension to the system.

650 (10) To sue and be sued in the name of the district
 651 authority, and to do all acts and things necessary or convenient
 652 for the conduct of its business and the general welfare of the
 653 district authority in order to carry out the powers and duties
 654 provided in this act or provided in any other law applicable to
 655 counties.

656 (11) The executive director of the district authority
 657 shall have the responsibility for carrying out the policies of
 658 the Board of Supervisors of the district authority and keeping
 659 and maintaining the seal and the records of the district
 660 authority and for collecting, disbursing, investing, and
 661 maintaining the funds of the district authority and such other
 662 responsibilities as the board may instruct said executive
 663 director to perform, provided that the district authority may
 664 contract all or part of such services with any third party.

665 (12) The district authority shall comply with the
 666 provisions of sections 189.415, 189.4155, 189.416, 189.417, and
 667 189.418, Florida Statutes, and other applicable provisions of
 668 general law prescribed duties and responsibilities of special
 669 districts. The district authority shall not be an agency for the
 670 purposes of section 120.52(1), Florida Statutes.

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671 (13) The district authority may assess and impose upon
672 lands in the district ad valorem taxes of no greater than 2
673 mills of assessed value per year, as provided by this act and
674 chapter 197, Florida Statutes. The district authority may only
675 impose ad valorem taxes if both of the following conditions are
676 met:

677 (a) Following a referendum in which a majority of the
678 electors of the district voting in the election approve of the
679 levy of ad valorem tax.

680 (b) The district authority determines that the bridge
681 tolls being collected may be insufficient to repair, replace, or
682 maintain the bridge and causeway.

683

684 The district authority may conduct a special election, if
685 necessary, in order to seek voter approval of the ad valorem tax
686 levy.

687 (14) The Board of Supervisors of the district authority
688 may seek from the Legislature amendments to this act from time
689 to time as they deem necessary. In addition, the Board of
690 Supervisors of the district authority may petition the
691 Legislature for dissolution and abolition of the district
692 authority if they feel another unit of government could more
693 properly exercise the functions of the district authority at
694 that time.

695 (15) To establish reserves for debt service requirements
696 and a reserve fund for replacement and repair of the causeway
697 and other contingencies.

698 (16) To invest moneys in all investments which are lawful
 699 under the laws of the state.

700 (17) To do all acts necessary or convenient for the
 701 establishment of the district ~~authority~~, the conduct of its
 702 business, and the general welfare of the district ~~authority~~ in
 703 order to carry out the powers granted herein.

704 (18) To pledge or otherwise encumber all or any part of
 705 its gross receipts as security for its bonds.

706 (19) To exercise the right and power of eminent domain,
 707 pursuant to the provisions of chapters 73 and 74, Florida
 708 Statutes, over any property within the boundaries of the
 709 district, except municipal, county, state, federal, or other
 710 public property for the uses and purposes of the district
 711 ~~authority~~ relating to the implementation of its powers as
 712 described herein; provided such right shall only be exercised
 713 over lands contiguous to or adjacent to the lands described as
 714 Parcel I or Parcel II in section 2 or such other lands that
 715 might be needed for the replacement or reconstruction of the
 716 bridge and causeway system.

717 (20) To impose and foreclose tax liens as provided by this
 718 act and chapter 197, Florida Statutes.

719 Section 7. BONDS.—

720 (1) The district ~~authority~~ may, from time to time, issue
 721 bonds to pay the costs and expenses, other than operating
 722 expenses, incurred in carrying out the purposes of this act or
 723 to refund revenue bonds of the district ~~authority~~ issued
 724 pursuant to this act. In anticipation of the sale of such bonds,
 725 the district ~~authority~~ may issue bond anticipation notes and may

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726 renew the same from time to time. Such notes may be paid from
727 the revenues derived by the district ~~authority~~ from the proceeds
728 of sale of the bonds of the district ~~authority~~ in anticipation
729 of which they were issued or from such other source as shall be
730 determined by the district ~~authority~~. The notes shall be issued
731 in the same manner as the bonds. Bonds and notes shall be, and
732 shall be deemed to be, for all purposes, negotiable instruments,
733 subject only to the provisions of the bonds and notes for
734 registration.

735 (2) The bonds may be issued as serial bonds or as term
736 bonds or the district ~~authority~~, in its discretion, may issue
737 bonds of both types. The district ~~authority~~ may issue capital
738 appreciation bonds or variable rate bonds. The bonds shall be
739 authorized by resolution of the district ~~authority~~ and shall
740 bear such date or dates, mature at such time or times, not
741 exceeding 40 years from their respective dates, bear interest at
742 such rate or rates, be payable at such time or times, be in such
743 denomination, be in such form, carry such registration
744 privileges, be executed in such manner, be payable from such
745 sources and in such medium or payment and at such place or
746 places, and be subject to such terms of redemption, including
747 redemption prior to maturity, as such resolution or resolutions
748 may provide. If any officer whose signature, or a facsimile of
749 whose signature, appears on any bonds or coupons ceases to be
750 such officer before the delivery of such bonds, such signature
751 or facsimile shall nevertheless be valid and sufficient for all
752 purposes as if he or she had remained in office until the
753 delivery. The bonds or notes may be sold at public or private

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754 sale for such price or prices as the district authority shall
 755 determine. Pending preparation of the definitive bonds, the
 756 district authority may issue interim receipts or certificates
 757 which shall be exchanged for such definitive bonds. The bonds
 758 may be secured by such form of credit enhancement, if any, as
 759 the district authority deems appropriate. The bonds may be
 760 secured by an indenture of trust or trust agreement.

761 (3) The bonds may be validated, at the direction of the
 762 district authority, pursuant to chapter 75, Florida Statutes.
 763 Section 75.04(2), Florida Statutes, shall not apply to a
 764 complaint for validation brought by the district authority.

765 Section 8. PLEDGE OF REVENUES.—The proceeds of all bonds
 766 or other obligations issued under this law and all revenues
 767 derived from other operation of the system which have been
 768 pledged for the payment of any bonds or other obligations
 769 authorized by this law shall be applied only in accordance with
 770 the proceedings authorizing the issuance of any such bonds or
 771 other obligations. The district authority may provide that the
 772 moneys or the funds and accounts established by the proceedings
 773 authorizing issuance of any revenue bonds shall be subject to
 774 the lien of the pledge established by the proceedings without
 775 any physical delivery thereof and the lien of the pledge shall
 776 be valid and binding as against all parties bringing claims of
 777 any kind in tort, contract, or otherwise against the district
 778 authority.

779 Section 9. COVENANTS OF DISTRICT AUTHORITY WITH
 780 BONDHOLDERS.—In addition to other provisions and requirements of
 781 this law, any resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds or

782 any other obligations issued hereunder may contain provisions
 783 and the district ~~authority~~ is authorized to provide and may
 784 covenant and agree with the several holders of such bonds or
 785 other obligations as to:

786 (1) Limitations on the powers of the district ~~authority~~ to
 787 construct, acquire, or operate or permit the construction,
 788 acquisition, or operation of any structures, facilities, or
 789 properties which may compete or tend to compete with the system.

790 (2) Subject to this law, the manner and order of priority
 791 of the disposition of revenues or redemption of any bonds or
 792 other obligations.

793 (3) Terms and conditions for modification or amendment of
 794 the resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds or other
 795 obligations.

796 (4) Provisions as to the appointment of a receiver of the
 797 system on default of principal or interest on any such bonds or
 798 other obligations or the breach of any covenant or condition of
 799 the resolution authorizing such bonds or other obligations.

800 (5) Provisions as to the maintenance of the system and
 801 reasonable insurance thereof.

802 (6) Any other matters necessary to secure the bonds and
 803 the payment of the principal and interest thereof.

804 (7) All such provisions of the resolution shall constitute
 805 valid and legally binding contracts between the district
 806 ~~authority~~ and several holders of any such bonds and shall be
 807 enforceable by any such holder or holders by mandamus or other
 808 appropriate action, suit, or proceeding in law or in equity in
 809 any court of competent jurisdiction.

810 Section 10. PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF BONDS.—
 811 Prior to the issuance of bonds or other obligations, the
 812 district authority may, in its discretion, publish a notice at
 813 least once in a newspaper or newspapers published and circulated
 814 in Charlotte and Lee Counties stating the date of adoption of
 815 the resolution authorizing such obligations, and the amount,
 816 maximum rate of interest, and maturity of such obligations and
 817 the purpose in general terms for which such obligations are to
 818 be issued.

819 Section 11. BOND; QUALITIES OR NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS;
 820 RIGHTS OF HOLDERS.—All bonds issued hereunder shall not be
 821 invalid for any irregularity or defect in the proceedings for
 822 the issuance and sale thereof and shall be incontestable in the
 823 hands of a bona fide purchaser for value. No proceedings in
 824 respect to the issuance of such bonds shall be necessary except
 825 such as are required by this act, by section 189.4085, Florida
 826 Statutes, and by section 189.408, Florida Statutes. The
 827 provisions of this act shall constitute an irrevocable contract
 828 between the district authority and the holders of any such bonds
 829 or coupons thereof issued pursuant to the provisions hereof. Any
 830 holder of such bonds may either at law or in equity, by suit,
 831 action, or mandamus, enforce and compel the performance of the
 832 duties required by this act or of any of the officers or persons
 833 herein mentioned in relation to said bonds, or the levy,
 834 collection, and enforcement and application of the revenues, or
 835 other funds pledged for the payment of the principal and
 836 interest thereof.

837 Section 12. BUDGET; REPORTS AND REVIEW.—

838 (1) The district ~~authority~~ shall provide financial reports
 839 in such form and in such manner as prescribed pursuant to this
 840 act, chapter 218, and sections 189.418 and 11.45, Florida
 841 Statutes.

842 (2) The fiscal year for the district ~~authority~~ shall
 843 commence on October ~~July~~ 1 of each calendar year and shall
 844 conclude on September ~~June~~ 30 of each calendar year. On or
 845 before June 1, the executive director shall prepare a proposed
 846 budget for the ensuing fiscal year to be submitted to the board
 847 for board approval. The proposed budget shall include, at the
 848 direction of the board, an estimate of all necessary
 849 expenditures of the district ~~authority~~ for the ensuing fiscal
 850 year and an estimate of income to the district ~~authority~~ from
 851 all sources of revenue provided in this act. The board shall
 852 consider the proposed budget and may either approve the budget
 853 as proposed by the manager or modify the same in part or in
 854 whole.

855 (3) The board shall cause to be made at least once a year
 856 a comprehensive report of its system, including all matters
 857 relating to expansions, acquisitions, rates, revenues, expenses
 858 of maintenance, repair, and operation of the renewals and
 859 capital replacements, principal and interest requirements, and
 860 the status of all funds and accounts. Copies of such reports
 861 shall be filed with the clerk and shall be open to public
 862 inspection. The report shall be known as the annual audit report
 863 and shall be issued by a certified public accountant appointed
 864 by the board. The annual audit report may be included as a part
 865 of any other report required by law or may be issued separately.

866 Section 13. DISTRICT ~~AUTHORITY~~ BONDS AS INVESTMENTS FOR
 867 PUBLIC BODIES.—All bonds issued pursuant to this act shall be
 868 and constitute legal investments for state, county, municipal,
 869 and all other public funds and for banks, savings banks,
 870 insurance companies, executors, administrators, trustees, and
 871 all other fiduciaries and shall also be and constitute
 872 securities eligible as collateral security for all state,
 873 county, municipal, or other public funds, subject to the
 874 restrictions and limitations of chapters 18, 136, 237, 518, 655,
 875 657, 658, and 660 through 665, Florida Statutes.

876 Section 14. BONDS AS PAYMENT FOR SERVICES.—The district
 877 ~~authority~~ is authorized to enter into agreements for the
 878 delivery of any bonds at one time or from time to time, as full
 879 or partial payment for the services of any engineer or work done
 880 by any contractor who may have been retained or hired or been
 881 awarded a contract for the construction of all or any part of
 882 the system. However, any such bonds so delivered for payment of
 883 such services or work performed shall have been authorized and
 884 issued in the manner provided in this act and shall otherwise
 885 conform to the provisions hereof.

886 Section 15. CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF IMPROVEMENTS;
 887 SEALED BIDS.—All contracts let, awarded, or entered into by the
 888 district ~~authority~~ for the construction, reconstruction, or
 889 improvements to the system or any part thereof, if the amount
 890 thereof shall exceed \$20,000, except for emergency repairs,
 891 shall be awarded only after public advertisement and call for
 892 sealed bids therefor, in a newspaper published and circulated in
 893 Lee and Charlotte Counties, such advertisement to be published

894 at least once at least 3 weeks before the date set for the
 895 receipt of such bids. Such advertisements for bids, in addition
 896 to the other necessary and pertinent matters, shall state in
 897 general terms, the nature and description of the improvement or
 898 improvements to be undertaken and shall state that detailed
 899 plans and specifications for such work are on file for
 900 inspection in the office of the district ~~authority~~ and copies
 901 thereof shall be furnished to any interested party upon payment
 902 of reasonable charges to reimburse the district ~~authority~~ for
 903 its expenses in providing such copies. The award shall be made
 904 to the responsible and competent bidder or bidders who shall
 905 offer to undertake the improvements at the lowest costs to the
 906 district ~~authority~~ and such bidder or bidders shall be required
 907 to file bond for the full and faithful performance of such work
 908 and the execution of any such contract in such amount as the
 909 district ~~authority~~ shall determine, and in all other respects
 910 the letting of such construction contracts shall comply with
 911 applicable provisions of the general laws relating to the
 912 letting of public contracts. All purchases or expenditures of
 913 supplies, materials, and equipment in excess of \$10,000 shall be
 914 made from the best of bids which are timely submitted. Nothing
 915 in this section shall be deemed to prevent the district
 916 ~~authority~~ from hiring or retaining such engineers, attorneys,
 917 financial experts, or other technicians as it shall determine,
 918 in its discretion, or from undertaking any construction work
 919 with its own resources, without any such public advertisement.

920 Section 16. CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY WITHOUT CONSIDERATION.—

921 Any municipality, political subdivision, agency, or district

922 ~~authority~~ shall be authorized to sell, lease, grant, or convey
 923 any real or personal property to the district ~~authority~~ and any
 924 such sale, grant, lease, or conveyance may be made without
 925 formal consideration.

926 Section 17. PRIVILEGES, IMMUNITIES, AND EXEMPTIONS.—The
 927 district ~~authority~~ shall have all privileges, immunities, and
 928 exemptions accorded political subdivisions of this state under
 929 the provisions of the constitution and laws of the state.
 930 Neither the members of the district ~~authority~~ nor any person
 931 executing any contract or obligation on its behalf shall be
 932 personally liable or accountable thereon or by reason thereof.

933 Section 18. EXEMPTION FROM SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS.—The
 934 accomplishment of the authorized purposes of the district
 935 ~~authority~~ created hereunder is, shall, and will be in all
 936 respects for the benefit of the people of the state for the
 937 increase of their commerce and prosperity and for the
 938 improvement of their health and living conditions. Since the
 939 district ~~authority~~ will perform essential governmental functions
 940 in accomplishing such purpose, the district ~~authority~~ shall not
 941 be required to pay any taxes or assessments of any kind or
 942 nature whatsoever upon any property acquired or used by it for
 943 such purposes or upon any revenues at any time received by it.

944 Section 19. TAX DELINQUENCY, PENALTIES, AND ENFORCEMENT OF
 945 TAXES.—All taxes provided for in this act shall be and become
 946 delinquent and bear penalties on the amount of said taxes in the
 947 same manner as county taxes. Said tax shall be a lien until paid
 948 on the property against which assessed and enforceable in like
 949 manner as county taxes. The collection and enforcement of all

950 taxes levied by the district ~~authority~~ shall be at the same time
 951 and in like manner as county taxes and the provisions of the
 952 Florida Statutes relating to the sale of lands for unpaid and
 953 delinquent county taxes, the issuance, sale, and delivery of tax
 954 certificates for such unpaid and delinquent county taxes, the
 955 redemption thereof, the issuance to individuals of tax deeds
 956 based thereon, and all other procedures connected therewith,
 957 shall be applicable to the district ~~authority~~ and the delinquent
 958 and unpaid taxes of the district to the same extent as if said
 959 statutory provisions were expressly set forth in this act. All
 960 taxes shall be subject to the same discounts as county taxes.

961 Section 20. LIENS.—All taxes provided for in this act,
 962 together with all penalties for default in payment of the same
 963 and all costs in collecting the same, shall, from the date of
 964 assessment thereof until paid, constitute a lien of equal
 965 dignity with the liens for county taxes, and other taxes of
 966 equal dignity with county taxes, upon all the lands against
 967 which such assessments shall be levied, assessed, and collected.

968 Section 21. DISTRICT ~~AUTHORITY~~ DECISIONS REQUIRING
 969 MAJORITY VOTE.—Notwithstanding any other provisions of this act,
 970 decisions of the district ~~authority~~ dealing with the following
 971 matters may only be made if approved by at least three voting
 972 members of the district ~~authority~~:

- 973 (1) Changes to toll structure.
- 974 (2) Entering into financing arrangements involving a
 975 pledge of assets, toll revenues, or any ad valorem tax revenues.
- 976 (3) Utilization of eminent domain provisions.

977 (4) Approval of a plan to hold an ad valorem taxing
 978 authorization referendum.

979 (5) Approval of any plan to seek legislative changes to
 980 this act.

981 Section 22. INTERLOCAL COOPERATION.—For purposes of
 982 implementing the powers and authority of the district ~~authority~~
 983 and assuring adequate funding for the construction, maintenance,
 984 and operation of infrastructure, and to ensure the security for
 985 any bonds issued by the district ~~authority~~ remains unimpaired,
 986 said district ~~authority~~ is empowered to enter into interlocal
 987 agreements pursuant to chapter 163, Florida Statutes, to
 988 exercise jointly with any other public agency of the state or
 989 Federal Government any power, privilege, or authority which such
 990 agencies or the district might exercise jointly.

991 Section 23. PROPERTY APPRAISER, TAX COLLECTOR, FEES, OR
 992 COMMISSIONS.—The offices of the Lee County or Charlotte County
 993 Property Appraiser and Tax Collector shall be entitled to
 994 applicable fees and costs for the levy and collection of ad
 995 valorem taxes and non-ad valorem assessments pursuant to ss.
 996 197.3632 and 192.091, Florida Statutes.

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