

FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 555

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:
116 Y's 1 N's

SPONSOR: Rep. Mayfield

GOVERNOR'S ACTION: Approved

COMPANION BILLS: N/A

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

CS/HB 555 passed the House on April 27, 2011, and subsequently passed the Senate on May 2, 2011. The bill was approved by the Governor on June 2, 2011, chapter 2011-243, Laws of Florida, and took effect on July 1, 2011. The bill, which relates to the Indian River Mosquito Control District:

- Deletes obsolete language throughout the District's charter.
- Requires the District's election of its Board to occur pursuant to the election provisions in the Uniform Special District Accountability Act and consistent with the Florida Election Code.
- Permits the District's Board to elect a secretary/treasurer.
- Clarifies that commissioners and employees must be paid according to per diem compensation expense and mileage rates established for officials and employees of the state pursuant to s. 112.061, F.S.
- Requires the expense of the surety bond required for commissioners to be borne by the District.
- Provides that the goods, supplies, equipment, or material purchased for the District may be purchased without advertising or calling for bids as long as the amount of the purchase does not exceed category 2 of the purchasing category thresholds pursuant to chapter 287, F.S.
- Clarifies the provisions relating to the Board's authority to borrow by removing superfluous language.
- Revises the provisions relating to the Board's authority to borrow and those related to the requirement of the Board to provide insurance for property damage, bodily injury, or death.

According to the Economic Impact Statement, no fiscal impacts are anticipated for either fiscal year 2011-12 or 2012-2013.

This document does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill sponsor or House of Representatives.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

Present Situation

The Indian River Mosquito Control District (District) was first established in 1925,¹ with the stated purpose of controlling and eradicating mosquitoes and sand flies in designated areas of Indian River County. In 1947, the original enabling act was repealed, and a new law re-establishing the district and revising its authority was enacted. In 2006,² as required by the Uniform Special District Accountability Act,³ all prior acts of the district were codified and reenacted into a single act.

The governing board (Board) of the District is composed of 3 members, known as commissioners. Included in the Board's authority is the appointment of a chief engineer, a consulting engineer, an attorney and other agents and employees the Board may require. The commissioners are elected in a nonpartisan election for 4-year terms so that one commissioner is elected at one general election by the highest number of votes cast and two commissioners are elected by the first and second highest number of votes cast at the next ensuing general election. As soon as practicable after each general election, the commissioners must meet to organize and elect a chair, vice chair, and secretary.

The Uniform Special District Accountability Act establishes the general requirements and processes for electing the governing boards of independent and dependent special districts.⁴ Any independent special district located entirely in a single county may provide for the conduct of district elections by the supervisor of elections for that county. Any independent special district that conducts its elections through the office of the supervisor must make election procedures consistent with the Florida Election Code.⁵

Before assuming office, each commissioner is required to give the District a good and sufficient surety bond in the sum of \$5,000, conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties of his or her office. The bond must be approved by and filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Indian River County.

The commissioners must be paid for each day's service and for each mile actually traveled going to and from the District's office according to per diem compensation expense and mileage rates established from time to time for officials and employees of the state.

Among its powers is the Board's authority to:

- Do any and all things necessary for the control and complete elimination of all species of mosquitoes and sandflies and diseases transmitted by the same in the District.
- Employ engineers, scientists, helpers, and all other servants, agents, and employees necessary to control and eliminate all species of mosquitoes and sandflies in the District.

¹ Chapter 11128, L.O.F.

² Chapter 2006-344, L.O.F.

³ Chapter 189, F.S.; and s. 189.429, F.S.

⁴ Section 189.405, F.S.

⁵ Section 189.405(2)(a), F.S.

- Purchase goods, supplies, or material for the District's use without advertising or calling for bids regarding the purchase when the amount to be paid by the District does not exceed \$10,000 or when the goods, supplies, or materials to be purchased may be obtained from only one source or supplier.

The Board is authorized to borrow in any one tax year a sum not to exceed 80 percent of the estimated taxes to be collected on behalf of the District within such year and to evidence such loan made to the District by its tax anticipation note or notes bearing interest at a rate not to exceed 10 percent per annum, and which notes are required to be payable at a time not greater than 1 year from the date of borrowing said funds. The sums borrowed must be repaid out of the next taxes collected by the District to the extent necessary for the repayment, together with interest at a rate not to exceed 6 percent per annum. No sums are permitted to be borrowed as in any subsequent year unless all moneys borrowed in any preceding year have been entirely paid meaning both principal and interest.

The Board is required to secure and keep insurance covering liability for property damage or bodily injury or death.

Effect of the Bill:

The bill amends the powers of the governing board's District to employ, rather than appoint, a director for the Board and other experts and consultants required by the Board and deletes obsolete language throughout the District's charter. The provision authorizing the complete elimination of all species of mosquitoes and sandflies is deleted throughout the District's charter.

The bill modifies the election process for the commissioners of the Board to provide that the nonpartisan election must occur pursuant to the election provisions in the Uniform Special District Accountability Act and consistent with the Florida Election Code. The provision providing that one commissioner is elected at one general election by the highest number of votes cast and two commissioners are elected by the first and second highest number of votes cast at the next ensuing general election is deleted. The bill permits the Board to elect a secretary/treasurer as opposed to a secretary. The bill requires the expense of the surety bond required for commissioners to be borne by the District.

With respect to compensation, the bill clarifies that in addition to commissioners, employees must be paid according to per diem compensation expense and mileage rates established from time to time for officials and employees of the state pursuant to s. 112.061, F.S. The provision requiring pay for each day's service and for each mile actually traveled to and from the District's office is deleted.

The bill includes equipment in the list of items the District is authorized to purchase. The bill provides that these items may be purchased without advertising or calling for bids as long as the amount of the purchase does not exceed category 2 (\$35,000) of the purchasing category thresholds⁶ pursuant to state law under chapter 287, F.S.

The bill revises the provisions relating to the Board's authority to borrow and provides that in any one tax year a sum not to exceed 80 percent of the estimated taxes to be collected on behalf of the District within such year and issue negotiable promissory notes and bonds or such instruments to secure the loan to enable the Board to carry out the responsibilities in the

⁶ Section 287.017, F.S.

District's charter. The provisions stating that no sums are permitted to be borrowed as in any subsequent year unless all moneys borrowed in any preceding year have been entirely paid meaning both principal and interest is retained.

The bill also revises the provisions regarding insurance for property damage, bodily injury, or death. The bill provides that the District, acting through its Board, has the power to purchase and pay for insurance as a legitimate public expenditure without waiving its right to defend any action filed against it on the grounds of sovereign immunity while reserving all rights and defenses available. This makes the provision of insurance by the District an option, rather than a requirement as provided in the current charter.

II. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes No

IF YES, WHEN?

December 29, 2010

WHERE?

Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers, Indian River Press Journal, Vero Beach, FL

B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED? Yes No

IF YES, WHEN?

C. LOCAL BILL CERTIFICATION FILED? Yes No

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FILED? Yes No

According to the Economic Impact Statement, no fiscal impacts are anticipated for either fiscal year 2011-12 or 2012-2013.