

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LOCAL BILL STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 699 Southeast Volusia Hospital District, Volusia County

SPONSOR(S): Taylor and others

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Community & Military Affairs Subcommittee	13 Y, 0 N	Duncan	Hoagland
2) Economic Affairs Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The Southeast Volusia Hospital District, an independent special district, was created in 1947 and was subsequently amended by special acts. In 2003, the Legislature codified all prior special acts relating to the Southeast Volusia Hospital District (District) into a single act and repealed all prior special acts relating to the District's charter.

Each hospital and clinic established in the District must be for the use and benefit of the indigent sick. These residents must be admitted to said hospital and clinic and are entitled to medical care and treatment without charge, subject to the rules and regulations prescribed by the District's governing body (Board). The Board is authorized to collect from patients who are financially able to pay.

The Board must consist of seven commissioners, all of whom must be qualified electors and freeholders residing in the District. Two commissioners must be residents of New Smyrna Beach, two commissioners must be residents of the City of Edgewater, one commissioner must be a resident of Oak Hill, and two commissioners must be residents of the unincorporated area of the District. Commissioners are required to have business, professional, or personal experience useful for service as a commissioner.

This bill provides that two of the seven commissioners of the District's Board must be residents of the unincorporated area of the district *or* residents of the City of Port Orange.

The bill is effective upon becoming a law.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation:

The Southeast Volusia Hospital District, an independent special district, was created in 1947¹ and was subsequently amended by special acts. In 2003,² the Legislature codified all prior special acts relating to the Southeast Volusia Hospital District (District) into a single act and repealed all prior special acts relating to the District's charter.

Each hospital and clinic established in the District must be for the use and benefit of the indigent sick. These residents must be admitted to said hospital and clinic and are entitled to medical care and treatment without charge, subject to the rules and regulations prescribed by the District's governing body (Board). However, the Board is authorized to collect from patients who are financially able to pay. The District is authorized to levy up to 4 mills ad valorem tax on taxable District property.

The Board must consist of seven commissioners, all of whom must be qualified electors and freeholders residing in the District. Two commissioners must be residents of New Smyrna Beach, two commissioners must be residents of the City of Edgewater, one commissioner must be a resident of Oak Hill, and two commissioners must be residents of the unincorporated area of the District. Commissioners are required to have business, professional, or personal experience useful for service as a commissioner. Residents of the City of Port Orange are not eligible to serve on the Board.

The taxable property of residents of the unincorporated area of the District is assessed by the District and residents of this area are represented on the District's Board. Some of the parcels originally located in the unincorporated area of the District have been annexed into the City of Port Orange and the taxable property of the citizens residing on those parcels continues to be assessed by the District. However, residents of the City of Port Orange are not eligible to serve on the District's Board. The lack of Board representation for the residents of the City of Port Orange was discovered in 2009.³

Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill provides that two of the seven commissioners of the Southeast Volusia Hospital District must be residents of the unincorporated area of the district *or* residents of the City of Port Orange.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Amends subsection (1) of section 2 of section 3 of ch. 2003-310, L.O.F., to modify the composition of the Southeast Volusia Hospital District's Board.

Section 2: Provides that the act must take effect upon becoming a law.

II. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes [X] No []

IF YES, WHEN? November 10, 2010

WHERE? The News-Journal, Daytona Beach, FL

¹ Chapter 24961, L.O.F.

² Chapter 2003-310, L.O.F.

³ Documentation provided by the Volusia County Delegation via email February 25, 2011.

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

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

N/A.