

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LOCAL BILL STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 1335 Emergency Medical Services Authority, Pinellas County

SPONSOR(S): Local and Federal Affairs Committee; Peters

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

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Local & Federal Affairs Committee	17 Y, 0 N, As CS	Zaborske	Kiner

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Pursuant to a 1980 special act, Pinellas County has a countywide Emergency Medical Service Authority (Authority) governed by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners. The bill changes the governing body of the Authority. The bill:

- Increases the number of governing members from seven to eleven.
- Changes the composition of the governing body to a board comprised of:
 - Seven members appointed by the governing bodies of the municipalities located within Pinellas County, as provided in the bill.
 - Three members appointed by the County Commission.
 - One member appointed by the combined governing bodies of three fire control districts.
- Provides that each member will be appointed for a 2-year term.
- Provides that a vacancy will be filled in the same manner as the original appointment of the seat.
- Requires that a vacancy be filled within 60 days after the occurrence of the vacancy, and if it is not filled within that timeframe then requires the Board of County Commissioners to appoint a person to the seat with like effect as the seat normally would be filled.
- Provides that a member may serve more than one term, but may not serve more than three consecutive terms.

According to the Economic Impact Statement, the bill will have no fiscal impact.

The act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background

Pursuant to a special act, in 1980 a countywide Emergency Medical Services Authority (Authority) was created in Pinellas County.¹ The Authority oversees the countywide Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system, which includes paramedic, first response, and an ambulance system of Advanced Life Support emergency care and patient transportation.² The Authority may designate districts and assess up to a 1.5 mill ad valorem tax within special taxing districts.³ Since the creation of the Authority, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners has governed the Authority.⁴ Currently, there are seven commissioners on the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners.⁵ There also is an Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council consisting of 15 to 24 members.⁶ The council members are responsible for evaluating the County's emergency medical services systems from a qualitative point of view, reviewing the operation of EMS on a countywide basis, and making recommendations to the authority.⁷ The council Chairperson is an Authority ex officio member without voting privileges.⁸

Effect of Proposed Changes

The board shall be composed of eleven members, with three members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, and one member appointed by each of the following:

- The municipal governing body of the City of Clearwater.
- The combined municipal governing bodies of the Cities of Largo, Belleair Bluffs, Belleair, Belleair Beach, and Belleair Shores.
- The City Council of the City of St. Petersburg.
- The combined municipal governing bodies of the Cities of Oldsmar, Safety Harbor, Dunedin, and Tarpon Springs.
- The combined municipal governing bodies of the Cities of Seminole, Indian Rocks Beach, Indian Shores, North Redington Beach, Redington Shores, Redington Beach, and Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue District.
- The combined municipal governing bodies of the Cities of Gulfport, South Pasadena, Treasure Island, St. Pete Beach, and Madeira Beach.
- The combined municipal governing bodies of the City of Pinellas Park and the Town of Kenneth City.
- The combined governing bodies of the East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District, Lealman Special Fire Control District, and Palm Harbor Special Fire Control and Rescue District.

The bill provides that each member is appointed for a 2-year term and is eligible for reappointment, but may not serve more than three consecutive terms. It also requires that the members are sworn into office at the first regularly scheduled meeting after their appointment.

The bill provides that after each member's term expires, the vacancy will be filled in the same manner as the original appointment of the seat. Each member remains in office until the successor is appointed and assumes the duties of the position. If there is a vacancy during a term, the bill provides that the vacancy will be filled only for the balance of the unexpired term. The bill requires that a vacancy or a successor be appointed within 60 days after the occurrence of the vacancy or before expiration of the

¹ Ch. 80-585, s. 1, Laws of Fla.

² Pinellas County Safety & Emergency Services (EMS), available at http://www.pinellascounty.org/publicsafety/ems_overview.htm (last visited 04/06/2015).

³ Ch. 80-585, s. 2(10), Laws of Fla.

⁴ *Id.*, as amended by ch. 2001-305, Laws of Fla.

⁵ Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, available at <http://www.pinellascounty.org/commission/> (last visited 04/06/2015).

⁶ Ch. 2001-305, s. 1, Laws of Fla.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

term, whichever is applicable. Further, if no such selection is made, then the bill requires the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County to appoint an eligible person to the authority with like effect as if the selection were made by a municipality or group of municipalities, or group of governing bodies.

The bill retains the requirements that the Chairperson of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council shall be an ex officio member of the authority without voting privileges and that the authority keeps a record of its transactions, resolutions, findings, determinations, recommendations and orders, which record shall be a public record.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Amends special laws pertaining to the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority by changing the board which currently consists of the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County to an 11-member board serving 2-year terms and comprised of representatives from the municipalities located within Pinellas County, a member of the Board of County Commissioners, and a member from the governing bodies of three fire control districts within the County.

Section 2: The act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

II. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes No

IF YES, WHEN? February 28, 2015

WHERE? Tampa Bay Times

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

On April 9, 2015, the Local and Federal Affairs Committee adopted an amendment and reported the bill favorably as a committee substitute. The amendment increases the number of board members on the Emergency Medical Service Authority to eleven members by adding to the board two more members appointed by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners. The amendment also clarifies that a vacancy will be filled in the same manner as the original appointment of the seat. This analysis is drafted to the committee substitute as passed by the Local and Federal Affairs Committee.

