

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to Santa Rosa County; creating the
 3 Navarre Beach Fire Rescue District; providing a short
 4 title; creating the district and providing boundaries;
 5 providing purposes; providing for a district board of
 6 commissioners and membership, officers, and meetings
 7 thereof; providing powers and duties of the district
 8 and board; providing for modification of district
 9 boundaries; providing for amendment of the charter by
 10 special act of the Legislature; providing
 11 severability; requiring a referendum; providing
 12 effective dates.

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

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 16 Section 1. Short title.—This act may be cited as the
 17 "Navarre Beach Fire Rescue District Act," hereinafter referred
 18 to as the "charter."

19 Section 2. Formation; boundaries.—For the purpose of
 20 providing fire control, fire prevention, and emergency medical,
 21 rescue response, and public safety services pursuant to chapter
 22 191, Florida Statutes, an independent special district is hereby
 23 created, incorporated, and established pursuant to chapters 189
 24 and 191, Florida Statutes, to be known as the Navarre Beach Fire
 25 Rescue District, hereinafter referred to as the "district," in

26 Santa Rosa County and shall embrace and include the territory
 27 described as:

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 29 That portion of Santa Rosa County including all of
 30 sections 36-2S-27, 31-2S-26, 32-2S-26, 33-2S-26 and
 31 28-2S-26, and also including the southern half of the
 32 Navarre Beach Causeway.

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 34 Section 3. Intent.—The purposes of this act are to
 35 provide:

36 (1) Standards, direction, and procedures concerning the
 37 operation and governance of the special fire control district
 38 known as the Navarre Beach Fire Rescue District.

39 (2) A financing authority of the Navarre Beach Fire Rescue
 40 District without hampering the efficiency and effectiveness of
 41 current authorized and implemented methods and procedures of
 42 raising revenues.

43 (3) Improved communication and coordination between the
 44 Navarre Beach Fire Rescue District and other local governments
 45 with respect to short-range and long-range planning to meet the
 46 demands for service delivery while maintaining fiscal
 47 responsibility.

48 (4) Uniform procedures for electing members of the board
 49 of commissioners of the Navarre Beach Fire Rescue District to
 50 ensure greater accountability to the public.

51 Section 4. District board of commissioners; membership,
52 officers, and meetings.—The business affairs of the district
53 shall be conducted and administered, pursuant to chapter 191,
54 Florida Statutes, by the board of commissioners of the Navarre
55 Beach Fire Rescue District, which is established as a board of
56 five commissioners, elected, organized, and operating pursuant
57 to chapter 191, Florida Statutes.

58 Section 5. Powers and duties.—The district shall have, and
59 the board may exercise, all the powers and duties set forth in
60 chapters 189 and 191, Florida Statutes, and this act, as they
61 may be amended from time to time, which shall include fire
62 control, fire prevention, and emergency medical, rescue
63 response, and public safety services. Before exercising ad
64 valorem taxing authority, a majority of district electors voting
65 in a referendum conducted by the Supervisor of Elections of
66 Santa Rosa County must approve the exercise of said authority.

67 Section 6. Boundaries.—The boundaries of the district may
68 be modified, extended, or enlarged upon approval or ratification
69 by the Legislature.

70 Section 7. Amendment of charter.—This charter may be
71 amended only by special act of the Legislature.

72 Section 8. Severability.—If any provision of this act or
73 its application to any person or circumstance is held to be
74 invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or
75 applications of this act which can be given effect without the

76 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions
77 of this act are severable.

78 Section 9. Referendum.—On or before December 31, 2022, the
79 Supervisor of Elections of Santa Rosa County shall conduct a
80 referendum of the qualified electors of the district on the
81 question of whether the district shall be created by special act
82 of the Legislature pursuant to chapter 191, Florida Statutes.
83 The referendum question shall be posed as follows:

84 "Shall an independent special district be created to
85 provide fire, rescue, and emergency medical services
86 to the Navarre Beach Community, to operate pursuant to
87 chapter 191, Florida Statutes, including an initial
88 Non-Ad Valorem Assessment not to exceed five hundred
89 dollars (\$500.00) for residential properties, sixty-
90 three dollars (\$63.00) for vacant land, and forty-one
91 cents (\$0.41) per square foot for commercial
92 properties. Future assessment increases shall be
93 limited by chapter 191.009, Florida Statutes."

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95 Section 10. This act shall take effect only upon its
96 approval by a majority vote of those qualified electors residing
97 within the district voting in a referendum no later than
98 December 31, 2022, except that this section and section 9 shall
99 take effect upon this act becoming a law.