

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to Okaloosa Gas District, Okaloosa,  
 3           Santa Rosa, and Walton Counties; amending ch. 2000-  
 4           443, Laws of Florida; revising the territorial limits  
 5           and area of service of the district to include all of  
 6           Santa Rosa County and all of Walton County; providing  
 7           exceptions; revising the membership of the Board of  
 8           Directors to include one member appointed by each of  
 9           the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Rosa and  
 10          Walton Counties; revising the director's fee for each  
 11          meeting attended by a member of the Board of  
 12          Directors; providing an effective date.

13  
 14   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15  
 16           Section 1. Sections 3 and 8 of section 2 of chapter 2000-  
 17           443, Laws of Florida, are amended to read:

18           Section 3. Area of service.—The territorial limits and  
 19           area of service of the District shall be Okaloosa County,  
 20           Florida, and the following described areas in Santa Rosa County,  
 21           Florida, and Walton County, Florida, to-wit:

22           (1) In Santa Rosa County, all of Santa Rosa County ~~an area~~  
 23           ~~20 miles wide, extending from the eastern boundary of Santa Rosa~~  
 24           ~~County, to the western boundary of said county, the center line~~  
 25           ~~of which shall be the presently existing transmission line of~~

26 | ~~the District, excepting, however, from the above described area~~  
 27 | ~~of Santa Rosa County:~~

28 |       (a) The area within the corporate limits of the City Town  
 29 | of Milton and the surrounding territory presently served by the  
 30 | gas distribution system of said city town; however, nothing in  
 31 | this act shall be construed to restrict or limit the City of  
 32 | Milton's right to serve gas customers within its territorial  
 33 | grants and in all areas where the district territories overlap  
 34 | with territories of the City of Milton authorized by chapter 61-  
 35 | 2489 and chapter 71-773, Laws of Florida;

36 |       (b) The area adjacent to State Highway 87 (Brewton  
 37 | Highway) from the intersection of said highway and the  
 38 | transmission line of the District northerly along said highway  
 39 | for a distance of 2 miles;

40 |       (c) The area adjacent to the New Chumuckla Highway from  
 41 | the intersection of said highway and State Highway 87 (Brewton  
 42 | Highway) westerly along said New Chumuckla Highway for a  
 43 | distance of 2 miles; ~~and~~

44 |       (d) The area adjacent to said Highway and the transmission  
 45 | line of the District east of Milton, in a westerly direction  
 46 | along said Highway 90 to the corporate limits of the City Town  
 47 | of Milton; ~~;~~

48 |       (e) The area within the corporate limits of the City of  
 49 | Gulf Breeze and the area from the eastern boundary of the  
 50 | corporate limits of the City of Gulf Breeze extending easterly

51 approximately 11 miles to the line defined as the eastern  
52 boundary of Sections 4, 9, 16, 21 and 28 of Township 2 South,  
53 Range 27 West, which extends north and south from Santa Rosa  
54 Sound to East Bay;

55 (f) The area from the line defined as the eastern boundary  
56 of Sections 4, 9, 16, 21 and 28 of Township 2 South, Range 27  
57 West, which extends north and south from Santa Rosa Sound to  
58 East Bay, and extending easterly to the line starting at the  
59 intersection US Highway 98 and Shannon Drive, going due south to  
60 Santa Rosa Sound, thence turning due north continuing to Manatee  
61 Road; thence turning west until the intersection of Basswood  
62 Drive; thence turning north until intersecting the Tom King  
63 Bayou tributary south of Cove Road; thence following this branch  
64 northwest to Tom King Bayou, thence north to East Bay is  
65 presently claimed as a service area by the District and by the  
66 City of Gulf Breeze and shall not be deemed to be included or  
67 excluded as a service area for the District. The service rights  
68 for this area shall be determined by a final nonappealable order  
69 of the Florida Public Service Commission or any successor  
70 agency; and

71 (g) The area within the corporate limits of the Town of  
72 Jay and the existing customers presently served by the gas  
73 distribution system of said town.

74 (2) In Walton County, all of Walton County extending from  
75 the eastern boundary of Walton County to the western boundary of

76 | said county, excepting, however, from the above described area  
 77 | of Walton County, that area lying south of the section lines  
 78 | commencing at the Western Boundary of Walton County at the  
 79 | Northwest corner of Section 31, Township 4 North, Range 21 West  
 80 | and running easterly along the northern section lines of  
 81 | Sections 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 of Township 4 North, Range  
 82 | 21 West, Sections 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 of Township 4  
 83 | North, Range 20 West, Sections 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 of  
 84 | Township 4 North, Range 19 West, and Section 31, 32, and 33 of  
 85 | Township 4 North, Range 18 West, ending at the Eastern Boundary  
 86 | of Walton County located at the Northeast corner of Section 33,  
 87 | Township 4 North, Range 18, south to the current gas  
 88 | distribution system of the City of DeFuniak Springs, the area  
 89 | within the corporate limits of the City of DeFuniak Springs and  
 90 | the customers served by the gas distribution system of said  
 91 | city. However, should the District request in writing to the  
 92 | city and the city agrees through written agreement, the District  
 93 | is authorized to serve any mutually agreed portion of the  
 94 | excepted area above ~~the area shall be all of that portion of~~  
 95 | ~~Walton County lying south of Highway 20 and 10 miles north of~~  
 96 | ~~Highway 20.~~

97 |  
 98 | The District may acquire a supply of gas either within or  
 99 | without the District's territorial limits and area of service  
 100 | and may transport and transmit gas from the point of such

101 acquisition to the system or systems of the District. The  
 102 District may also sell and transport gas for delivery beyond the  
 103 territorial limits and area of service of the District and  
 104 acquire, finance, operate, maintain, extend, and improve gas  
 105 transmission lines, laterals, and facilities beyond the  
 106 territorial limits and area of service of the District for such  
 107 purposes and also for the purpose of making direct sales to  
 108 industrial and institutional users and to line tap commercial  
 109 and residential users, but the District shall not acquire,  
 110 construct, own, or operate any gas distribution system in any  
 111 area other than within Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, or Walton Counties  
 112 ~~the territorial limits and area of service of the District as~~  
 113 provided in this section, unless authorized by special act of  
 114 the Legislature to do so.

115 Section 8. The Board of Directors.—The District shall have  
 116 a Board of Directors, consisting of one member of each member  
 117 municipality and one member appointed by the Board of County  
 118 Commissioners of Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton Counties  
 119 ~~County~~, to represent the interest of the unincorporated areas  
 120 and the interest of the nonmember cities. The member for each  
 121 member municipality shall be appointed by the governing body of  
 122 such member municipality and the Board of County Commissioners  
 123 of the respective counties ~~Okaloosa County~~ shall appoint one  
 124 member from each county. The member shall serve for a term of 4  
 125 years and until his or her successor is appointed in like manner

126 and qualified. Appointments to fill a vacancy shall be for the  
 127 unexpired term. The representative of each municipality may, but  
 128 need not be, the mayor or chief executive officer of such  
 129 municipality and the member appointed by the Board of County  
 130 Commissioners ~~of Okaloosa County~~ may, but need not be, an  
 131 elected official, except and provided that no member of the  
 132 Board of County Commissioners ~~of Okaloosa County~~ shall serve in  
 133 such capacity. The members of the Board of Directors shall serve  
 134 without compensation, except that they shall be reimbursed for  
 135 actual expenses incurred in and about the performance of their  
 136 duties thereunder and, at the discretion of the Board of  
 137 Directors, they may be paid a director's fee of not exceeding  
 138 \$244 ~~\$25~~ for each directors' meeting attended by them, not  
 139 exceeding one meeting during each calendar month. The appointing  
 140 authority may remove any member of the Board of Directors within  
 141 the term for which such member shall have been appointed for  
 142 malfeasance or misfeasance in office or other just cause after  
 143 giving to such member a copy of the charges against him or her  
 144 and an opportunity to be heard in his or her defense.

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