

HB 651

2022

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Navarre Beach Fire Rescue District,
3 Santa Rosa County; providing a short title; creating
4 an independent special district to provide fire
5 control, fire prevention, emergency medical, rescue
6 response, and public safety services; providing for
7 district boundaries, a governing board and the
8 election, organization, and operation of such board;
9 authorizing the district to levy non-ad valorem
10 assessments; providing requirements for such
11 assessments; providing for amendment only by special
12 act; providing severability; requiring a referendum;
13 providing an effective date.

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

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

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

26 Rescue District, hereinafter referred to as the "district," in
27 Santa Rosa County and shall embrace and include the territory
28 described as follows:

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

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

37 (1) Standards, direction, and procedures concerning the
38 operation and governance of the district.

39 (2) A financing authority of the district without
40 hampering the efficiency and effectiveness of currently
41 authorized and implemented methods and procedures of raising
42 revenues.

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

47 (4) Uniform procedures for electing members of the Board
48 of Commissioners of the Navarre Beach Fire Rescue District to
49 ensure greater accountability to the public.

50 Section 4. Board of commissioners; membership, officers,

51 and meetings.—The business affairs of the district shall be
52 conducted and administered, under chapter 191, Florida Statutes,
53 by the Board of Commissioners of the Navarre Beach Fire Rescue
54 District, which is established as a board of five commissioners,
55 elected, organized, and operating under chapter 191, Florida
56 Statutes.

57 Section 5. Boundaries.—The boundaries of the district may
58 be modified, extended, or enlarged upon approval or ratification
59 by the Legislature.

60 Section 6. Procedures for the levy and collection of non-
61 ad valorem assessments.—

62 (1) The district may provide for the levy of non-ad
63 valorem assessments under this act on the lands and real estate
64 benefited by the exercise of the powers authorized by this act,
65 or any part thereof, for all or any part of the cost thereof. In
66 addition to the provisions set forth under this act, the
67 district shall also be entitled to exercise all other rights and
68 powers regarding the levy and collection of additional non-ad
69 valorem assessments as provided for under chapter 191, Florida
70 Statutes.

71 (2) The initial non-ad valorem assessments may be levied
72 up to the following maximum amounts:

73 (a) \$500 for residential properties.

74 (b) \$63 for vacant land.

75 (c) \$0.41 per square foot for commercial properties.

76 (3) Future assessment increases shall be limited by
77 chapter 191.009, Florida Statutes.

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

80 Section 8. Severability.—If any provision of this act or
81 its application to any person or circumstance is held to be
82 invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or
83 applications of this act which can be given effect without the
84 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions
85 of this act are severable.

86 Section 9. Referendum.—On or before December 31, 2022, the
87 Supervisor of Elections of Santa Rosa County shall conduct a
88 referendum of the qualified electors of the district on the
89 question of whether the district shall be created by special act
90 of the Legislature under chapter 191, Florida Statutes. The
91 referendum question shall be posed as follows:

92
93 Shall an independent special district be created to
94 provide fire, rescue, and emergency medical services
95 to the Navarre Beach community, to operate pursuant to
96 chapter 191, Florida Statutes, including an initial
97 non-ad valorem assessment not to exceed \$500 for
98 residential properties, \$63 for vacant land, and \$0.41
99 per square foot for commercial properties. Future
100 assessment increases shall be limited by chapter

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101 | 191.009, Florida Statutes.

102 | Section 10. This act shall take effect only upon its
103 | approval by a majority vote of those qualified electors residing
104 | within the district voting in a referendum no later than
105 | December 31, 2022, except that this section and section 8 shall
106 | take effect upon becoming a law.