

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Ocean City-Wright Fire Control
 3 District, Okaloosa County; amending ch. 99-478, Laws
 4 of Florida, as amended; providing for future
 5 annexation of certain unincorporated territory;
 6 providing an effective date.

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

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 10 Section 1. Section 14 is added to section 2 of chapter 99-
 11 478, Laws of Florida, as amended by chapter 2001-315, Laws of
 12 Florida, to read:

13 Section 14. Annexation of territories by municipalities.-

14 (1) For the purposes and requirements of this act, after
 15 the annexation by a municipality of any unincorporated area
 16 within the district, the annexed area shall be treated as lying
 17 within the corporate boundaries of the annexing municipality and
 18 shall not be subject to a levy of the ad valorem tax that is
 19 authorized by this act.

20 (2) Notwithstanding s. 171.093, Florida Statutes, if a
 21 municipality annexes any unincorporated territory situated
 22 within the defined boundaries of the district after the
 23 effective date of this act, the district shall continue as the
 24 primary provider of fire, rescue, and emergency medical services
 25 for the annexed territory. Any municipality that annexes such

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26 | territory may levy any applicable taxes, assessments, or fees on
27 | the annexed territory but must, by May 1 of each subsequent year
28 | after such annexation, pay the district for its services in an
29 | amount equal to the amount of taxes, assessments, or fees which
30 | would have been collected by the district from the annexed
31 | territory during that year had the territory not been annexed,
32 | using the millage rate in effect on the effective date of this
33 | act, or any lower rate that may be levied by the district. Such
34 | payments shall continue 15 years unless the district is relieved
35 | of all fire, rescue, or emergency medical service responsibility
36 | in the annexed territory, with the exception of an isolated
37 | response to a local or areawide disaster, such as a hazardous
38 | material incident, tornado, hurricane, or major fire. If
39 | litigation is required to enforce the provisions of this act,
40 | the prevailing party shall be entitled to an award of attorney
41 | fees and costs.

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