A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to the North Brevard County Hospital 3 District, Brevard County; amending chapter 2003-362, 4 Laws of Florida; revising the appointment and 5 membership of the district board; requiring the board 6 to determine the operating budget and estimated 7 revenues of the district; removing provisions relating 8 to ad valorem taxation; revising disposition of assets 9 and liabilities in the event of dissolution of the district; requiring the district to conduct a 10 11 valuation; requiring the district to solicit bids for 12 the sale of district assets; providing for transfer; 13 providing for dissolution of the district; providing that offices and terms of members of the board shall 14 end on a certain date; providing an exception; 15 16 prohibiting certain actions relating to district 17 assets; providing an effective date.

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

2021

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Section 1. Sections 2, 6, and 17 of section 3 of chapter 2003-362, Laws of Florida, are amended, and section 24 is added to that section, to read:

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Section 2. The governing body authority of the district shall be known as the North Brevard County Hospital District

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Board. The board shall constitute a body politic and a body corporate; it may adopt and use a common seal; it may contract and be contracted with; and it may sue and be sued in its corporate name or in the corporate name of the district.

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The board shall be composed of five nine members appointed by the Governor. All members shall be qualified electors of the district. The Governor shall issue a public notice soliciting citizen nominations for board members within 120 days after the effective date of this act. The nomination solicitation period shall remain open for at least 30 days after the date of the public notice. The Governor shall appoint initial members to the board from among the nominees within 60 days after the close of the nomination solicitation period. The initial terms of office for the five members shall commence at upon their appointment, with terms designated as follows: three members shall serve until October 1, 2026, and two members shall serve until October 1, 2028. The Governor shall have a citizen nomination solicitation period for at least 30 days and appoint members for subsequent terms from among the nominees. Members appointed for subsequent terms shall be appointed for 4-year terms commencing on October 1 of the year in which they are appointed. If a member is appointed to complete an unexpired term, the member's term shall commence at the time of appointment and shall continue through the remainder of the unexpired term. The

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Governor shall fill any vacancy for the unexpired portion of a term within 60 days after the vacancy occurs if the remainder of the term exceeds 90 days. The office of each member shall be designated specifically by number as member one through nine. The office of each member shall be for a term of 4 years beginning on the first day of January. Each member shall serve until his or her successor is appointed by the appropriate governing body as hereinafter provided. Any vacancy occurring in any office of a member shall be filled by the appropriate governing body in the manner provided herein for regular appointments for the remainder of the unexpired term of office. All board members shall reside within the boundaries of the district. Board members one, two, and three shall be appointed by the City Council of the City of Titusville. Board members four, five, and seven shall be appointed by County Commissioners of Brevard County. Board members six, eight, and nine shall be appointed by

In the event any board member ceases to reside within the

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the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County subject to

confirmation by the City Council of the City of Titusville.

boundaries of the district, the office of such member shall be deemed vacant as of the date of such change in residence.

Any board member may be removed from office in the event a request for removal for violation of policies and procedures established by the board is approved by two-thirds of the membership of the board and in the event the majority of the governing body responsible for appointing such member approves of such removal without the necessity of any requirement of advice and consent as provided herein for an appointment.

Section 6. It shall be the duty of the board, no not later than July 15, to determine the operating budget and estimated revenues for amount required during the ensuing fiscal year for the purpose of establishing, constructing, equipping, operating, maintaining, repairing, or leasing of the hospital or hospitals, or for the payment of debt service and reserves on bonds, notes, or other obligations issued by the district, or reserves therefor, or for any one or more of the above purposes. Such determination shall be by resolution of the board and it shall be the duty of the chair and the secretary of the board to certify to the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County the amount required, which shall be provided by an ad valorem tax levied by the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County on all taxable real and personal property in the district for the ensuing fiscal year for the hospital fund. The Board of

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County Commissioners of Brevard County, upon being furnished a certified copy of the resolution of the board regarding the amount required for its stated purposes, shall levy the necessary ad valorem taxes on all the taxable real and personal property within the district to raise the required amount, provided such millage shall not exceed 5 mills on the dollar of the assessed valuation of the taxable real and personal property situated in the district in Brevard County, less all such property exempt from taxation by the Florida Constitution; and further provided that the board, in issuing any bonds, notes, or other obligations as hereinafter provided, may covenant with the holders of such bonds, notes, or other obligations that such holders shall have a first lien on all such ad valorem taxes levied for the payment of such bonds, notes, or other obligations. The resolution of the board above shall be adopted and a certified copy thereof shall be filed with the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County no later not less than 10 days from the adoption of the resolution prior to the time fixed by law for the levy of general county taxes.

Section 17. In the event of dissolution of the district, the residual assets and liabilities of the district shall may only be transferred to one or more organizations which are exempt organizations as described in Section 501(c)(3) or Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or any other corresponding provisions of any future Internal Revenue

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Law) and which shall have as their primary purpose those same health care responsibilities as then performed by the district, together with other public needs of the district, and shall be required to provide the same annual percentage of charity care, indigent care, and Medicaid care, based on gross revenues, that was provided by the public hospital and reported to the Health Care Cost Containment Board in its most recent reporting cycle, and which shall be jointly approved by the district One (1) Commissioner of the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners and four-fifths vote of the City Council of the City of Titusville.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in no event shall the board sell the hospital facilities without first receiving the approval by a majority vote of the duly qualified electors who reside within the district and who vote in the election. Prior to any such sale, such qualified electors shall, by affirmative vote, consent to such sale of the hospital facilities, which consent must also approve the terms and conditions of the sale, and the disposition of the sale proceeds. The vote on this issue may be received at a general or special election to be held within the district, which shall not be called until notice thereof has been published in a newspaper of general circulation within the district once a week for 4 consecutive weeks next prior to the week during which the general or special election

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will be held. If a majority of the electors who vote in the general or special election vote in favor of the sale of the hospital facilities and if they approve the terms and conditions of the sale, then in that event, the board shall have the authority to consummate the sale upon the terms and conditions thus approved by the electors. In the event that the duly qualified electors do not ratify and approve the sale along with its terms and conditions, the board shall not have the authority to consummate the sale of the hospital facilities. Section 24. (a) On or after October 1, 2024, the board shall adopt a resolution to commence a valuation of the district's assets. The board shall contract with an independent entity that has at least 5 years of experience conducting comparable evaluations of hospital organizations similar in size and function to conduct the valuation according to applicable industry best practices. The independent entity may not have any current affiliation with or financial involvement in the district, any support corporation of the district, the Jess Parrish Medical Foundation, Inc., or any member of the board. The valuation must be completed and a final report presented to the board no later than 180 days after the date on which the valuation is commenced. The final report shall be published on the district's website. The final report must include a statement signed by the chair of the board and the chief

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executive officer of the independent entity conducting the

valuation that, based on each person's reasonable knowledge and belief, the contents and conclusions of the valuation are true and correct.

- (b) No later than 30 days after the date on which the board receives the final report, the board must adopt a resolution commencing the process of soliciting bids for the district's assets. The resolution must be made available simultaneously to all potential bidders, must include the time and date for the receipt of bids and of the public opening, and must include all applicable contractual terms and conditions, including the criteria to be used in determining acceptability and relative merit of the bid. The resolution shall establish a minimum acceptable bid for the district's assets based on a commercially reasonable value and require bidders to enter into an enforceable commitment that programs and services provided by the district for indigent care must be continued in perpetuity, unless otherwise agreed to by the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County.
- (c) Upon completion of the sale of the district's assets, all liabilities and any proceeds from the sale shall be transferred to the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County. Proceeds received by the board of county commissioners pursuant to this section shall first be used to satisfy all liabilities of the former district.
  - (d) No later than 30 days after the complete transfer of

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assets and liabilities as provided in paragraph (c), the district Memorial Health System shall notify the Florida Department of Commerce. The district shall be dissolved automatically upon receipt of the notice by the department. The offices and terms of all members of the Section 2. North Brevard County Hospital District Board existing as of the effective date of this act shall end as of the effective date of this act, but such members may continue to serve until a successor in office is appointed and qualified. Until successors are appointed and qualified to replace all of the members of the board existing as of the effective date of this act, board members, officers, and employees of the district may not sell, dispose of, encumber, transfer, or expend the assets of the district as such assets existed as of October 1, 2023, other than in the ordinary course of business. Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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