

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to activities of special districts;
 3 amending s. 189.081, F.S.; authorizing certain special
 4 districts to jointly enter into, participate in,
 5 establish, or control specified joint relationships or
 6 collaborations if a certain determination is made by
 7 such districts; authorizing such districts to exercise
 8 such powers regardless of certain consequences as a
 9 result of exercising such power; providing
 10 construction; providing legislative findings and
 11 declarations; providing an effective date.

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

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 15 **Section 1. Subsection (7) is added to section 189.081,**
 16 **Florida Statutes to read:**

17 189.081 Activities of special districts; local government
 18 comprehensive planning.—

19 (7) To the extent authorized by the State Constitution,
 20 two or more special districts that operate as hospital districts
 21 may jointly enter into, participate in, establish, and control
 22 any venture, partnership, corporation, business entity,
 23 organization, joint operating network, service line, facility,
 24 or any other joint relationship or collaboration, public or
 25 private, for profit or not for profit, anywhere within the

26 boundaries of either or all such special districts, if the
27 governing bodies of such districts, in their discretion,
28 determine that it is consistent with, and in furtherance of, the
29 purposes and best interests of such districts. Such districts
30 may exercise such powers, regardless of the competitive
31 consequences thereof, including any actions that may be deemed
32 anticompetitive within the meaning of state and federal
33 antitrust laws. The provisions in this subsection shall control
34 over and supersede any general or special law that is
35 inconsistent or in conflict with this subsection.

36 **Section 2.** The Legislature hereby finds and declares that
37 it is a public necessity and serves a public purpose for special
38 districts that operate as hospital districts to be able to
39 jointly enter into, participate in, establish, or control any
40 ventures, partnerships, corporations, business entities,
41 organizations, joint operating networks, service lines,
42 facilities, or any other joint relationships or collaborations,
43 public or private, for profit or not for profit, regardless of
44 their anticompetitive purpose or effect, to ensure the provision
45 of quality health care to the residents of such districts, and
46 the Legislature accordingly finds and declares such
47 collaborations to be vitally important and necessary for the
48 preservation of the public health and welfare of such districts
49 and the residents thereof.

50 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.