

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to the North St. Lucie River Water  
 3           Control District, St. Lucie County; amending chapter  
 4           2013-257, Laws of Florida; revising the maintenance  
 5           tax assessments by the district and increasing the  
 6           maximum annual maintenance tax levy; limiting the  
 7           annual assessment rate increases; requiring a  
 8           referendum; providing effective dates.

9  
 10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

11  
 12           **Section 1. Subsection (10) of section 2 of section 3 of**  
 13 **chapter 2013-257, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:**

14           Section 2. Minimum charter requirements.—In accordance  
 15 with s. 189.404(3), Florida Statutes, the following are the  
 16 minimum requirements for the charter of the North St. Lucie  
 17 River Water Control District:

18           (10) The district is authorized to assess and levy a  
 19 ~~minimum~~ maintenance tax that shall be equal and uniform in an  
 20 amount upon each acre of land assessed, and upon any tract or  
 21 parcel less than 1 acre in size, and that may not ~~to~~ exceed \$50  
 22 \$25 per acre in any one year upon each tract or parcel of land  
 23 ~~within said district without regard to the net assessment of~~  
 24 ~~benefits assessed.~~ Any increase in the district's annual  
 25 assessment rate may not exceed 10 percent when compared to the

26 prior year's annual assessment rate.

27 **Section 2.** Referendum.—On or before December 31, 2026, the  
 28 Supervisor of Elections of St. Lucie County shall conduct a  
 29 referendum by mail ballot of the landowners within the district  
 30 voting in the same manner by which the district's governing  
 31 board is elected. The referendum question shall be placed on the  
 32 ballot in substantially the following form:

33  
 34 Shall the maximum annual maintenance tax that may be levied  
 35 by the North St. Lucie River Water Control District be  
 36 increased from \$25 to \$50 per acre, provided that the  
 37 amount levied may not increase by more than 10 percent in  
 38 any one year?

39 ( ) YES.

40 ( ) NO.

41 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect only upon its  
 42 approval by a majority vote of those landowners within the  
 43 district voting in a referendum held in accordance with section  
 44 2, except that this section and section 2 shall take effect upon  
 45 becoming a law.