

By Senator Gruters

22-00662A-26

20261122

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to activities of special districts; providing legislative findings; amending s. 189.081, F.S.; authorizing certain special districts meeting particular criteria to jointly enter into, participate in, establish, and control specified joint relationships or collaborations anywhere within the boundaries of either or all such special districts; establishing state action immunity; authorizing such districts to exercise such powers regardless of certain consequences; providing construction; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares that the provision of quality and cost-efficient medical care is a public necessity and that this act serves a public purpose. The Legislature further finds and declares that collaborations of special districts that operate as hospital districts under this act benefit the residents of this state by improving access to health care services, strengthening the integration of health care service providers, and promoting the continuity of care provided to the residents of the state, and that such relationships and collaborations are vitally important to and necessary for the preservation of the public health and welfare of such districts, the inhabitants thereof, and the residents of this state.

Section 2. Subsection (7) is added to section 189.081,

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30 Florida Statutes, to read:

31 189.081 Activities of special districts; local government
32 comprehensive planning.—

33 (7) (a) Two or more special districts that operate as
34 hospital districts may jointly enter into, participate in,
35 establish, and control any venture, partnership, corporation,
36 business entity, organization, joint operating network, service
37 line, facility, or any other joint relationship or
38 collaboration, public or private, for-profit or not-for-profit,
39 anywhere within the boundaries of either or all such special
40 districts.

41 (b) Parties that jointly enter into or participate in joint
42 relationships or collaborations with special districts pursuant
43 to paragraph (a) have state action immunity under the laws of
44 this state and the State Constitution and may exercise the
45 powers granted in paragraph (a), regardless of the purposes or
46 effect of such relationships or collaborations, or that the
47 exercise thereof may otherwise be deemed or considered to be in
48 violation of state or federal antitrust laws.

49 (c) This subsection shall supersede and control over any
50 general or special law that is inconsistent or in conflict with
51 this subsection.

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