

House Bill No. 479

An act relating to research and development authorities; amending s. 159.703, F.S.; deleting requirements relating to membership of an authority affiliated with the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 159.703, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

159.703 Creation of research and development authorities.—

(3) The resolution shall designate not less than five persons who are residents and electors of, or have their principal place of employment in, the county as members of the authority created for said county. Of the members first appointed, one shall serve for 1 year, one for 2 years, one for 3 years, and the remainder for 4 years and in each case until his or her successor is appointed and has qualified. Thereafter, the board shall appoint for terms of 4 years each a member or members to succeed those whose terms expire, ~~except that with respect to an authority that owns, occupies, or maintains a research development park, as defined in s. 159.27(7), within which is located a substantial capital project that is funded in whole or in part by the state, and is a part of or directly affiliated with the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, the first two such vacancies that occur on or after July 1, 1991, shall not be filled.~~ In addition to the other members, the president of each affiliated institution of higher education, or the president's designee, shall be a member of the authority and shall serve ex officio; ~~provided, further, that with respect to an authority that owns, occupies, or maintains a research development park, as defined in s. 159.27(7), within which is located a substantial capital project that is funded in whole or in part by the state, and is a part of or directly affiliated with the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, the Chancellor of the State University System or the Chancellor's designee, the Director of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory or the director's designee, one resident of the county in which the research development park is located appointed by the President of the Senate to serve at the pleasure of the President of the Senate, and one resident of the county in which the research development park is located appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives to serve at the pleasure of the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be members of the authority and shall serve ex officio.~~ Except as to members who serve ex officio, the board shall fill any vacancy for an unexpired term. A member of the authority shall be eligible for reappointment. Any member of the authority may be removed by the board for misfeasance, malfeasance, or willful neglect of duty. Each member of the authority before entering upon his or her duties shall take and subscribe the oath or affirmation required by the State Constitution. A record of each such oath shall be filed with the Department of State and with the clerk of the circuit court.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

Approved by the Governor June 5, 2000.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 5, 2000.