

House Bill No. 1543

An act relating to Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority; providing for codification of special laws relating to Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority; providing a short title; providing definitions; creating the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority; providing for membership and terms of office; providing purpose and powers; providing boundaries; providing for exemption from regulation and taxation; providing for special district taxation; providing for future expansion; providing for severability; repealing chapters 70-907, 82-368, 82-416, 90-449, 94-433, 94-438, and 99-440, Laws of Florida; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Chapters 70-907, 82-368, 82-416, 90-449, 91-338, 94-433, 94-438, and 99-440, Laws of Florida, are codified, reenacted, amended, and repealed as herein provided.

Section 2. The Pinellas County Suncoast Transit Authority is re-created and reenacted to read:

Section 1. Short title.—This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority Act.”

Section 2. Definitions.—As used in this act, unless the content clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

(1) “Authority” means the body politic and corporate, an independent special district, created by this part.

(2) “Members” means the governing body of the authority and “member” means one of the individuals constituting such governing body.

(3) “Pinellas Suncoast Transit Area” means the municipalities of Clearwater, Dunedin, Largo, Safety Harbor, Belleair, Belleair Bluffs, Indian Rocks Beach, St. Petersburg, Tarpon Springs, Oldsmar, Pinellas Park, Gulfport, Seminole, South Pasadena, Indian Shores, Madeira Beach, North Redington Beach, Redington Beach, Redington Shores, and the unincorporated areas of Pinellas County located directly between the aforesaid municipalities as determined by an extension of a municipal boundary directly to the next neighboring municipal boundary and such other areas as provided by this law.

(4) “Municipality” means any city, village, borough, or town.

(5) “County” means the County of Pinellas.

(6) “Public transit” means transportation of passengers for hire by means, without limitation, of a street railway, elevated railway, subway,

motor vehicle, bus, or other means of conveyance operating as a common carrier within the public transit area as provided, and charter service originating therein.

(7) “Public transit system” means, without limitation, a combination of property, structures, improvements, equipment, plants, parking or other facilities, and rights, or any thereof, used or useful for the purposes of public transit.

(8) “Mass transit system” means a public transit system to provide rapid public transit for large numbers of passengers.

(9) “Operator” means any person engaged in or seeking to engage in the business of providing public transit, but does not include persons engaged primarily in the transportation of children to or from school, in operating taxicabs, buses, limousines, or other means for the transportation of passengers between a common carrier terminal station and a hotel or motel, in operating a common carrier railroad, or a person furnishing transportation solely for his or her or its employees or customers.

Words importing singular number shall include the plural number in each case and vice versa, and the words importing persons shall include firms and corporations.

Section 3. Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority; status and governing body.—

(1) There is hereby created and established a body politic and corporate, an independent special district, to be known as the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, hereinafter referred to as “authority.”

(2)(a) The governing body of the authority shall consist of 11 members, serving and selected as provided in this paragraph.

1. One member shall be appointed by the City Commission of the City of Clearwater from its membership.

2. One member shall be appointed by the City Commission of the City of Dunedin from its membership.

3. One member shall be appointed by the City Commission of the City of Largo from its membership.

4. One member shall be appointed by the City Council of the City of Pinellas Park from its membership.

5. One member shall be appointed by the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg from its membership.

6. One member shall be appointed by the combined municipal governing bodies of the Cities of Oldsmar, Safety Harbor, and Tarpon Springs from their membership.

7. One member shall be appointed by the combined municipal governing bodies of the Cities of Belleair, Belleair Bluffs, Gulfport, Kenneth City, Seminole, and South Pasadena from their membership.

8. One member shall be appointed by the combined municipal governing bodies of the Cities of Belleair Beach, Belleair Shores, Indian Rocks Beach, Indian Shores, Madeira Beach, North Redington Beach, Redington Beach, Redington Shores, St. Petersburg Beach, and Treasure Island from their membership.

9. One member shall be appointed by the Pinellas County Commission from its membership.

10. One member shall be appointed by the Pinellas County Commission, and this member may not be an elected official.

11. One member shall be appointed by the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg, and this member may not be an elected official.

After the expiration of each term of each member of the governing body of the authority, that member's successor shall be chosen by the same appointing authority as the member and must possess the same qualifications. Each term of office shall be 3 years, and a member may not serve more than 3 consecutive terms as a member of the governing body of the authority.

(b) Each appointed member shall hold office until his or her successor has been appointed and qualified. A vacancy occurring during a term shall be filled only for the balance of the unexpired term. A selection to fill a vacancy or select a successor shall be made within 60 days after the occurrence of the vacancy or before expiration of the term, whichever is applicable. If any selection is not made as provided in this subsection, the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County shall appoint an eligible person to the authority with like effect as if the selection were made by a municipality or group of municipalities. Any member of the authority is eligible for reappointment, except that the member may not serve more than 3 consecutive terms.

(3) Each appointed member of the authority shall be a person who is a qualified elector of the county with an outstanding reputation for civic pride, interest, integrity, responsibility, and business ability. No person who is an officer or employee of any city or of the county in any capacity, except elected officials, shall be an appointed member of the authority. Further, no member shall have any private financial interest, directly or indirectly, in any contract, work, or business of the authority or any public transit system subject to regulation by the authority or be in the employ of or hold any stock, bond, investment, or other financial interest or private business relationship to any operator of a public transit system in the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Area.

(4) The authority shall elect one of its members as chair of the authority and one as a vice chair to serve for 1 year in that capacity or until their secretary/treasurer successors are elected. At the same time, a secretary/treasurer shall be elected who may or may not be a member of the authority,

and he or she shall serve at the will of the authority. A majority of the appointed board shall constitute a quorum, and the vote of a quorum shall be necessary for any action taken by the authority. No vacancy in the authority shall impair the right of a quorum of the authority to exercise all of the rights and perform all of the duties of the authority. Upon the effective date of his or her appointment, or as soon thereafter as practicable, each appointed member of the authority shall enter upon his or her duties.

(5) The authority may employ an executive director who shall be a person of recognized ability and experience to serve at the pleasure of the authority. The executive director may employ such employees as may be necessary for the proper administration of the duties and functions of the authority, and may determine the qualifications of such persons; however, the board must approve such positions and fix the compensation for employees. Also, the authority may contract for the services of attorneys, engineers, consultants, and agents for any purpose of the authority, including engineering, management, feasibility, and other studies concerning the acquisition, construction, extension, operation, maintenance, regulation, consolidation, and financing of transit systems in the area.

(6) Members of the authority shall be entitled to receive from the authority their traveling and other necessary expenses incurred in connection with the business of the authority, as provided in section 112.061, Florida Statutes, but they shall receive no salaries or other compensation. Members of the authority may be removed from office by four-fifths vote of the members of the board of county commissioners for misconduct, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office.

(7) The authority shall provide a report to the Pinellas County legislative delegation each July.

Section 4. Purposes and powers.—

(1) The authority created and established by the provisions of this act is hereby granted and shall have the right and power to purchase, own, and/or operate transit facilities, to contract for transit services, to exercise power of eminent domain, to conduct studies, and to contract with other governmental agencies, private companies, and individuals.

(2) The authority is hereby granted, and shall have and may exercise all powers necessary, appurtenant, convenient, or incidental to the carrying out of the aforesaid purposes, including, but not limited to, the following rights and powers:

(a) To sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, and complain and defend in all courts.

(b) To adopt, use, and alter at will a corporate seal.

(c) To acquire, purchase, hold, lease as a lessee, and use any franchise, property, real, personal, or mixed, tangible or intangible, or any interest therein, necessary or desirable for carrying out the purposes of the authority, and to sell, lease as lessor, transfer, and dispose of any property or

interest therein at any time acquired by it. Any sale, lease, or transfer of any property or interest shall be upon competitive bid.

(d) To fix, alter, charge, and establish rates, fares, and other charges for the services and facilities of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit System, which rates, fees, and charges shall be equitable and just and sufficient to meet the operating requirements of the system along with other revenue that may be available.

(e) To regulate other operators of public transit in the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Area as to franchises, permits, fares, and other charges to establish rules and regulations pertaining to these matters for distribution to the operators and public transit facilities in said area.

(f) To make contracts of every name and nature and to execute all instruments necessary or convenient for the carrying on of its business.

(g) To enter into management contracts with any person or persons for the management of a transit system owned or controlled by the authority for such period or periods of time, and under such compensation and other terms and conditions as shall be deemed advisable by the authority.

(h) Without limitation, to borrow money and accept gifts or grants or loans of money or other property and to enter into contracts, leases, or other transactions with any federal agency, the state, any agency of the state, the County of Pinellas, or with any other public body of the state.

(i) To do all acts and things necessary or convenient for the conduct of its business and the general welfare of the authority in order to carry out the powers granted to it by this part or any other law.

(j) To prescribe and promulgate rules and regulations as it deems necessary for the purposes of this act.

Section 5. Pinellas Suncoast Transit Area.—

The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Area shall consist of the municipalities of Belleair, Belleair Bluffs, Clearwater, Dunedin, Indian Rocks Beach, Largo and Safety Harbor, St. Petersburg, Tarpon Springs, Oldsmar, Pinellas Park, Gulfport, Seminole, South Pasadena, Indian Shores, Madeira Beach, North Redington Beach, Redington Beach, and Redington Shores, along with certain contiguous unincorporated areas, all located within Pinellas County and more specifically defined as follows:

Beginning at a point where the line dividing townships twenty-six and twenty-seven south if projected in a westerly direction intersects with the western boundary of the jurisdictional waters of the State of Florida in the Gulf of Mexico; thence east on said line to the northeast corner of section one in township twenty-seven south, range sixteen east; thence south to the shore of old Tampa Bay; thence in a southerly direction through the middle waters of old Tampa Bay and Tampa Bay, to a point in Tampa Bay due east of the north shore of Mullet Key; thence due west to a point due north of a point 100 yards due east from the easternmost point of Mullet Key; thence in a line 100 yards from the shoreline around

the southern portion of Mullet Key to a point 100 yards west of the northernmost shore of Mullet Key; thence west to a point where such line intersects the western boundary of the jurisdictional waters of the State of Florida in the Gulf of Mexico and northward, including the waters of said gulf within the jurisdiction of the State of Florida, to point of beginning.

Less and except: The City of St. Petersburg Beach, the Town of Belleair Shores, the City of Treasure Island, and the Town of Kenneth City, each as more particularly described as Parcels I through IV below:

Parcel I. City of St. Petersburg Beach:

From a point of beginning at the intersection of the center line of Blind Pass and a line which is 40 feet south of the south boundary of 74th Avenue extended in St. Pete Beach; thence run northerly along the center line of Blind Pass to a point 870 feet north of [and] measured at right angles from the center of Blind Pass Bridge where it now crosses Blind Pass on the present State Road No. 699; thence run north 81 degrees, 31 minutes, and 3 second east along a line parallel to Blind Pass Bridge to the center line of the Government Channel in Boca Ciega Bay; thence run southeasterly and southerly along the center line of said Government Channel in Boca Ciega Bay to where said channel intersects what is known as Pass-a-Grille Channel lying east of what is now Vina Del Mar, formerly known as Mud Key; thence run southerly along the center line of said Pass-a-Grille Channel to a point 500 feet south of the southernmost tip of Long Key as it now exists; thence run due west into the Gulf of Mexico 10 miles; thence run due north to a point which lines south 60 degrees west from the point of beginning; thence run north 60 degrees east to the point of beginning. Together with the tracts of land described in fee simple deed from Elsie S. Allen, widow, to the Long Key Sewer District, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, dated May 3, 1956, and filed May 4, 1956, in deed book 1594, page 526, as clerk's instrument No. 274302A, Pinellas County Records, and in fee simple deed from Kenneth Eriksen and Jacquelyn M. Eriksen, his wife to the Long Key Sewer District, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, dated December 13, 1955, and filed October 16, 1956, in deed book 1625, page 261, as clerk's instrument No. 311304A, Pinellas County Records, said lands being the land on which the sewer plan of the Long Key Sewer District is to be located; and including any and all submerged lands lying between the side lines of said tracts extended in straight lines in a westerly direction to the center line of the Government Channel of Boca Ciega Bay. All of the lands described above line in Pinellas County, Florida, and said descriptions include all of the keys known as Long Key, Boca Ciega Isle (Coon Key), Vina Del Mar (Mud Key), the Long Key Sewer District lands, and land adjacent thereto in Boca Ciega Bay, together with all lands adjacent thereto.

Parcel II. Town of Belleair Shores:

The Town of Belleair Shore is bound on the south by the Town of Indian Rocks Beach; on the East by the West Right-of-Way line of Gulf Boulevard; on the north by the City of Belleair Beach and on the West by the

waters of the Gulf of Mexico to the limit of the jurisdiction of the State of Florida, and is more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the SW corner of Section 31, Township 29 South, Range 15 East, thence Northerly along the Range line 4.11 ft., thence N. 10°15'40" East, 205.47 ft., thence N. 11°52'02" East, 5219.96 ft. to a point on the North boundary of Section 31, Township 29 South, Range 15 East, thence N. 89°03'13" West along said North boundary 285 feet more or less to the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, then extending along the same line into the waters of the Gulf of Mexico to the limit of the jurisdiction of the State of Florida, thence South 11°41'44" West along the jurisdictional limit line of the State of Florida in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico to the intersection of the jurisdictional limit line of the State of Florida in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, with the Township line between Township 30 South, Range 14 East, and Township 29 South, Range 14 East, and including the waters of the Gulf of Mexico within the jurisdiction of the State of Florida, thence in an easterly direction along said Township line to the point of beginning, being otherwise known and described as Lots 1 to 67 inclusive, Belleair Beach Unit No. 1, which is an unrecorded Plat; a map of said Plat, however being contained in a Deed recorded in Deed Book 963, page 473, of the Public Records of Pinellas County, Florida; and Lots 1 to 20 inclusive of Tinny's Subdivision; a Plat of said subdivision being recorded in Plat Book 5, page 2, of the Public Records of Pinellas County, Florida; and the waters of the Gulf of Mexico within the jurisdiction of the State of Florida adjacent thereto.

Parcel III. City of Treasure Island:

From the southeast corner of Section 15, Township 31 South, Range 15 East, run north along the east boundary of said Section 15, 1950 feet more or less to the centerline of John's Pass Channel for a point of beginning; then run north 46 degrees east to the centerline of Government Channel in Boca Ciega Bay; thence southerly along said centerline of Government Channel to a point 870 feet northerly of and measured at right angles to the centerline of the bridge across Blind Pass as established by the right-of-way of State Road No. 699 (Gulf Boulevard); thence run southwesterly parallel to said bridge centerline to the center of Blind Pass Channel to a point 40 feet south of the south boundary of 74th Avenue, extended; thence south 60 degrees west, 10 miles along a line parallel to said extension of 74th Avenue; thence north to a point south 46 degrees west from the point of beginning; thence north 46 degrees east to the point of beginning.

And

Parcel IV. Town of Kenneth City:

Beginning at the north ¼ corner of Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East, said point also being the south ¼ corner of Section 32, Township 30 South, Range 16 East, Pinellas County, Florida; thence north 50 feet along the north and south ¼ line of said Section 32, Township 30 South, Range 16 East, thence east 50.0 feet north and parallel to south line of Section 32, Township 30 South, Range 16 East, to the west line of Lot 1, Block 1, Plat of Lealman Highlands Subdivision as recorded in Plat

Book 26, page 63; thence south along said west line of Lot 1, 17.0 feet to a point 33.0 feet north of south line of Section 32, Township 32 South, Range 16 East; thence east parallel to and 33 feet north of south line of Section 32, Township 30 South, Range 16 East, along the south line of said Lealman Highlands Subdivision, Lot 1, Block 1, Lot 1, Block 3 along south line of Lots 1 and 2, Block 1 and Lots 1 and 2, Block 3, Lealman Highlands Subdivision No. 2, as recorded in Plat Book 26, page 42, and along south line of Lealman Highlands Subdivision No. 3, recorded in Plat Book 26, page 68, to southeast corner of Lot 2, Block 2 of said Lealman Highlands Subdivision No. 3; thence north 17 feet to the southwest corner of Lot 1, Block 1, Lealman Highlands Subdivision No. 4, as recorded in Plat Book 26, page 92; thence east parallel to and 50 feet north along the south line of Lots 1 and 2, Block 1 and Lots 1 and 2, Block 3 of the last mentioned subdivision, to the southeast corner of Lot 2, Block 3 of said subdivision; thence north along the east line of said Lealman Highlands Subdivision No. 4, said line also being the west line of west $\frac{1}{2}$ of east $\frac{1}{2}$ of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 32, Township 30 South, Range 16 East; thence east along the north line of the west $\frac{1}{2}$ of the east $\frac{1}{2}$ of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 32 to east line of said west $\frac{1}{2}$ of east $\frac{1}{2}$ of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 32, Township 30 South, Range 16 East; thence south along east line of aforementioned parcel to the north line of east $\frac{1}{2}$ of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 32, Township 30 South, Range 16 East; thence east along said north line to a point 110 feet west of east line of said Section 32; thence south parallel to east line of said Section 32, 115.0 feet; thence east parallel to north line of east $\frac{1}{2}$ of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 32, Township 30 South, Range 16 East, 143 feet to a point 33.0 feet east of the west line of Section 33, Township 30 South, Range 16 East; thence south parallel to and 33 feet east of line to a point 163 feet north of south line of Section 33; thence east parallel to south line of Section 33, Township 30 South, Range 16 East 135 feet; thence south parallel to line of Section 33, 130 feet to a point 33 feet north of south line of Section 33, Township 30 South, Range 16 East; thence east and parallel to south line of Section 33, to the east line of southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33, Township 30 South, Range 16 East and the northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4, Township 31 South, Range 16 East to the North line of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of northwest $\frac{1}{4}$; thence east along north line of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4, Township 31 South, Range 16 East to the east line of west $\frac{1}{2}$ of the northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4, Township 31 South, Range 16 East; thence south along the east line of west $\frac{1}{2}$ of northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ and the west $\frac{1}{2}$ of southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4, Township 31 South, Range 16 East to the south line of the north $\frac{3}{4}$ of west $\frac{1}{2}$ southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4, Township 31 South, Range 18 East; thence west along said south line of north $\frac{3}{4}$ of west $\frac{1}{2}$ of southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ to west line of Section 4, Township 31 South, Range 16 East; thence continue west to southerly extension of west line of Lots 1 thru 7, inclusive Block 12, Sunhaven Homes Unit 2, Plat Book 37, page 78 and 79; thence north along west line of Lots 7 thru 1 inclusive, Block 12 Sunhaven Homes Unit 2, and its extension to the south line of Joe's Creek Right-of-Way; thence west along south line of Joe's Creek Right-of-Way to west line of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East; thence north

along west line of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$; thence east along the north line of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East, to a point 50 feet west of east line Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East, said point along in the west line of 58th Street North; thence north along said line and 50 feet west of east line of Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East to the east and west $\frac{1}{4}$ line of Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East; thence west along said east and west $\frac{1}{4}$ line of Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East to the east line of north $\frac{1}{2}$ of northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East; thence south along east line of north $\frac{1}{2}$ of northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East to the southeast corner of said north $\frac{1}{2}$ of northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ thence west along south line of north $\frac{1}{2}$ of northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ to the east line of southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East; thence south along east line of southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East to the north line of Joe's Creek Right-of-Way; thence west along the north line of Joe's Creek Right-of-Way to the north and south line of Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East; thence south along said north and south $\frac{1}{4}$ line of Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East, to south line of north $\frac{1}{2}$ of southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East; thence west along south line of north $\frac{1}{2}$ of southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ to the west line of Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East; thence north along the west line of said Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East to a point 50 feet west of the extension of the north line of Lot 5, Hazelcrest Subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 26, page 119, public records of Pinellas County, westerly to the intersection with west line of Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East; thence east along said extension and north line of Lot 5, Hazelcrest Subdivision to the northeast corner of said Lot 5; thence south along east line of Lot 5 and its extension to a point 30 feet north of the east and west $\frac{1}{4}$ line of said Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East; thence east on line 30 feet north and parallel to said east and west $\frac{1}{4}$ line, Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East, to the west line of the south $\frac{3}{4}$ of the east $\frac{1}{2}$ of Farm 25, Pinellas Farms, as recorded in Plat Book 7, page 4 and 5, public records of Hillsborough County, Florida, of which Pinellas County was formerly a part; thence north along the west line of the south $\frac{3}{4}$ of east $\frac{1}{2}$ of Farm 25 to the north line of said south $\frac{3}{4}$ of east $\frac{1}{2}$; thence east along north line of south $\frac{3}{4}$ of east $\frac{1}{2}$ of Farm 25 to east line of Farm 25; thence south along east line of Farm 25 to a point 30 feet north of the east and west $\frac{1}{4}$ line of Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East; thence east along a line 30 feet to north and parallel the east and west $\frac{1}{4}$ line to the west line of the southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the northwest $\frac{1}{4}$; thence south along the west line of southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ to east and west $\frac{1}{4}$ line, Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East; thence east along east and west $\frac{1}{4}$ line to its intersection with the north and south $\frac{1}{4}$ line; thence north along the north and south $\frac{1}{4}$ line of Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East, to the center line of 50th Avenue North, thence west along center line of 50th Avenue North, 50 feet; thence north 50 feet and parallel to north and south $\frac{1}{4}$ line to a point 339.94 feet south of north line of Section 5,

Township 31 South, Range 16 East; thence east 17 feet to a point 33 feet west of north and south $\frac{1}{4}$ line; thence north parallel to and 33 feet west of the north and south $\frac{1}{4}$ line of the north $\frac{1}{4}$ corner of Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East; thence east along north line of Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East, 33 feet to the point of beginning.

Together with: The north 281.66 feet of the east 165 feet of west $\frac{1}{2}$ of the east $\frac{1}{2}$ of the southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 32, Township 30 South, Range 16 East, Pinellas County, Florida.

Pursuant to Ordinance No. 232, together with: Parcel of land in southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33, Township 30 South, Range 16 East, described as follows: Commencing at the southwest corner of Section 33, Township 30 South, Range 16 East; thence north $0^{\circ}02'28''$ west along west line of Section 33, Township 30 South, Range 16 East, 332.50 feet; thence south $89^{\circ}46'45''$ east parallel to and 325.44 feet south of south line of Whitewood Terrace, as recorded in Plat Book 47, page 39, 200.0 feet to point of beginning; thence continue south $89^{\circ}46'45''$ east, 321.10 feet, thence south $1^{\circ}47'47''$ east, 80.0; thence south $0^{\circ}15'52''$ east, 20.0 feet to a point 233.0 feet north of south line of Section 33, Township 30 South, Range 16 East; thence north $89^{\circ}30'37''$ west, 322.93 feet to a point 200.0 feet east of west line of Section 33, Township 30 South, Range 16 East; thence north $0^{\circ}02'28''$ west, 99.82 feet to point of beginning.

The west 703 feet of the south $\frac{1}{2}$ of the north 325.44 feet of the south $\frac{1}{2}$ of the southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33, Township 30 South, Range 16 East, Pinellas County, Florida, less the east 120 feet thereof.

West 703 feet of north $\frac{1}{2}$ of north 325.44 feet of the south $\frac{1}{2}$ of southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33, Township 30 South, Range 16 East, Pinellas County, less and except road right-of-way. There has been not taking or dedication of record as yet for this portion of property for street purposes.

The above-described tract of land includes the right-of-way at 58th Street North, which is the east 120 feet of said described tract.

Pursuant to Ordinance No. 241, together with: Begin at the northeast corner of Sun Haven Homes Unit Three, as recorded in Plat Book 39, page 25, public records of Pinellas County, Florida, said point also being the northeast corner of the northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East, Pinellas County, Florida; thence south $0^{\circ}24'59''$ west, along the center line of 58th St. North, a distance of 50.00 feet; thence south $89^{\circ}55'19''$ west, along the south right-of-way line of 46th Avenue North a distance of 1318.92 feet to the center line of 60th St. North; thence north $0^{\circ}24'27''$ east, along said center line a distance of 50.00 feet to the north line of the southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of said Section 5 and with the center line of 46th Ave. North, a distance of 1318.93 feet to the point of beginning.

Pursuant to Ordinance No. 257, together with: The north $\frac{1}{2}$ of the west $\frac{1}{2}$ of Pinellas Farm 26 and the south 30 feet of the southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Farm 29, all in the north $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 7, page 4 and 5,

public records of Hillsborough County, Florida, of which Pinellas County, Florida, was formerly a part.

The east $\frac{1}{2}$ of north $\frac{1}{4}$ of Farm 25, of Section 5, Township 31 South, Range 16 East, as shown by plat of Pinellas Farms as recorded in Plat Book 7, page 4 and 5, public records of Hillsborough County, Florida, of which Pinellas County was formerly a part.

Pursuant to Ordinance No. 260, together with: The north 115 feet of the east 110 feet of the east $\frac{1}{2}$ of the southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 32, Township 30 South, Range 16 East, Pinellas County, Florida.

Pursuant to Ordinance No. 269, together with: The east 55 feet of the south 263 feet of the west $\frac{1}{2}$ of the east $\frac{1}{2}$ of the southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 32, Township 30 South, Range 16 East, of the public records of Pinellas County, Florida, less road right-of-way for 54th Avenue North.

Pursuant to Ordinance No. 275, together with: The east 120.00 feet of the west 708.00 feet of the south 162.72 feet of the north 325.44 feet of the south $\frac{1}{2}$ of the southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33, Township 30 South, Range 16 East, less the north 30 feet thereof, being known as Lots 10 and 11, according to the unrecorded map of Emfinger Acres, together with an easement in perpetuity over and across the north 30.00 feet of the said west 703.00 feet of the south 162.72 feet of the north 325.44 feet of the south $\frac{1}{2}$ of the southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33, Township 30 South, Range 16 East, for ingress and egress, Pinellas County, Florida;

And together with a perpetual easement for installation and maintenance of public utilities across the south 5 feet of the west 583 feet of the south 162.72 feet of the north 325.44 feet of the south $\frac{1}{2}$ of the southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of said Section 33, Pinellas County, Florida.

Section 6. Exemption from regulation.—The public transit systems operating in and under the authority of this law and for the purposes created thereunder, shall be exempt from any of the regulatory provisions of chapter 350, Florida Statutes.

Section 7. Exemption from taxation.—Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the property, monies, and other assets of the authority and all revenues or other income of the authority, shall be exempt from all taxation, licenses, fees, or other charges of any kind imposed by the state or by the county or by any municipality, political subdivision, taxing district, or other public agency or body of the state.

Section 8. Special district taxation.—The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority shall be deemed a special district and is authorized to levy an ad valorem tax on the taxable real property in the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Area at a rate sufficient to produce an amount that may be necessary for the purposes of this act, but not to exceed three-quarters of a mill; provided such millage limit is approved by a vote of the qualified electors who are residents of the transit area. Property taxes determined and levied under this section

shall be certified by the authority to the county property appraiser, extended, assessed, and collected in like manner as provided by law for regular property taxes for the county or municipalities. The proceeds under this section shall be remitted by the tax collector to the treasurer of the authority who shall credit them to the funds of the authority for use for the purposes of this act. At any time after making a tax levy under this section and certifying the same to the county, the authority may issue tax anticipation notes of indebtedness in anticipation of the collection of such taxes.

Section 9. Expansion of area.—Upon a resolution adopted by the governing body of municipalities adjoining the present transit area or by the board of county commissioners for adjoining unincorporated areas, the authority may include such areas in the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Area subject to approval of qualified electors in the added area for tax purposes as provided herein.

Section 10. Nothing contained in this act shall in any way effect the appointment of the present members of the governing body of the authority, the terms of said members, or the number of consecutive terms that any of said members may serve.

Section 11. It is declared to be the legislative intent that if any subsection, sentence, clause, or provision of this act is held invalid, the remainder of the act shall not be affected.

Section 12. This act shall supersede any general or local law in conflict with the intent and purposes of this act.

Section 13. Repeal of prior special acts.—Chapters 70-907, 82-368, 82-416, 90-449, 91-338, 94-433, 94-438, and 99-440, Laws of Florida, are repealed.

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

Approved by the Governor June 5, 2000.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 5, 2000.