

House Bill No. 923

An act relating to the St. Lucie County Fire District; establishing an exemption from payment to redevelopment trust funds created by community redevelopment agencies; providing for the St. Lucie County Fire District to appropriate to the redevelopment trust fund to the extent funds are insufficient to cover debt service on any bonds authorized and issued before the effective date of the act but not after the effective date of the act; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the St. Lucie County Fire District is solely responsible for fire suppression, prevention, rescue, and emergency medical services throughout St. Lucie County, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lucie County Fire District derives a substantial portion of its revenues from ad valorem taxes and a substantial portion of its expenses are personnel costs, and

WHEREAS, the implementation of community redevelopment plans by community redevelopment agencies in St. Lucie County creates an increasing demand for fire and rescue services without providing the revenues to support such services, and

WHEREAS, the continued payments to redevelopment trust funds created by community redevelopment agencies in St. Lucie County will adversely affect the ability of the St. Lucie County Fire District to provide critical public safety services to the citizens and visitors of St. Lucie County, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. Effective October 1, 2007, and thereafter, the St. Lucie County Fire District shall be exempt from payment to redevelopment trust funds created by community redevelopment agencies in St. Lucie County.

Section 2. Notwithstanding the exemption commencing October 1, 2007, as provided in section 1, for bonds authorized and issued under section 163.385, Florida Statutes, prior to the effective date of this act and which remain outstanding, the St. Lucie County Fire District shall appropriate to the redevelopment trust fund established for such outstanding bonds an amount sufficient to pay, when due, its annual pro rata share to cover debt service, to the extent funds deposited into the redevelopment trust fund by other taxing authorities pursuant to section 163.387, Florida Statutes, are insufficient to cover debt service. The obligation of the St. Lucie County Fire District to make such appropriations to a redevelopment trust fund for any debt service deficiency shall not arise for any bonds authorized and issued subsequent to the effective date of this act, pursuant to section 163.385, Florida Statutes.

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

Approved by the Governor June 10, 2005.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 10, 2005.