

House Bill No. 1399

An act relating to the North Naples Fire Control and Rescue District, Collier County; amending chapter 99-450, Laws of Florida; providing for the applicability of s. 171.093, F.S., in the event of annexation by a municipality within the boundaries of the district; authorizing the district to provide housing or housing assistance for district employees; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 3 of Article III and section 1 of Article IV of section 3 of chapter 99-450, Laws of Florida, are amended to read:

ARTICLE III

Boundaries of the District

~~Section 3. Section 171.093, Florida Statutes, applies to annexations by a municipality within the boundaries of the district. In the event that property in the district is annexed by the City of Naples between January 1 and July 1 of any year, the property shall be regarded as removed from the North Naples Fire Control and Rescue District as of January 1 of that year for the purpose of the levy of general ad valorem taxes by the district. If annexation occurs after July 1, the property shall be assessed by the district for ad valorem taxes for that year. On and after the effective date of annexation, the district shall be relieved of providing fire service to the annexed area. The city and the district may reach an agreement to determine what portion, if any, of the existing indebtedness or property of the district shall be assumed by the municipality of which the annexed territory will become a part, the fair value of such indebtedness or property, and the manner of transfer and financing. Nothing herein shall relieve the property annexed from the payment of general obligation debt service incurred by the district before annexation.~~

ARTICLE IV

Powers of the District

Section 1. The district shall have the authority to establish, equip, operate, and maintain a fire department and rescue squad within the district and may buy, lease, sell, exchange, or otherwise acquire and dispose of firefighting and rescue equipment and other property, real, personal, or mixed, that it may from time to time deem necessary to prevent and extinguish fires or provide rescue services. This shall include, but is not limited to, the authority to hire and fire necessary firefighters and other personnel; to provide water, water supply, water stations, and other necessary buildings; to accept gifts or donations of equipment or money for the use of the district; and to do all things necessary to provide adequate water supply, fire prevention, and proper fire protection for the district. Recognizing that the

dramatically increasing housing costs in Collier County may have a detrimental impact on the ability to hire and retain personnel needed for the provision of fire protection services to district residents, the district shall also have the authority to provide housing or housing assistance for its employed personnel, with use of such funds being deemed to be in the public interest. In addition, the board shall have the authority to extend its services outside the district when provided in cooperation with another governmental entity.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor June 23, 2006.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 23, 2006.