

CHAPTER 2010-267

House Bill No. 1519

An act relating to the Sarasota County Tourist Development Council; providing legislative findings; providing for appointment of additional members to the membership of the Sarasota County Tourist Development Council; specifying requirements for the council members; providing for duties, responsibilities, and procedures of the council; providing for superseding certain provisions of general law; providing construction; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.—The Legislature finds that, in November 1988, Sarasota County first levied its tourist development tax and created the Sarasota County Tourist Development Council as authorized in section 125.0104, Florida Statutes. The Legislature also finds that the population of Sarasota County has grown from 257,667 persons in 1988 to 389,320 in 2009, and that the City of North Port, an inland municipality within Sarasota County, has experienced a surge in growth that has resulted in it becoming more populous than the coastal municipalities which generate the highest percentage of tourist tax revenues. Moreover, section 125.0104, Florida Statutes, requires that the tourist development council be comprised of two municipal officials, one from the most populous municipality, resulting in a lack of representation from two of the three coastal municipalities. The Legislature further finds that increasing municipal representation on the tourist development council necessitates increasing tourist industry membership such that all sectors are proportionately represented. Given Sarasota County's growth in population and the important role all municipalities play in the county's tourist development, the Legislature declares it to be appropriate to authorize the governing board of Sarasota County to expand the membership of its tourist development council from nine to 13 members in order that all municipalities within Sarasota County may be represented with a proportionate representation from the tourist industry.

(2) SARASOTA COUNTY TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.—

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 125.0104(4)(e), Florida Statutes, limiting the composition of a tourist development council to nine members, the governing board of Sarasota County shall increase the composition of the Sarasota County Tourist Development Council from nine to 13 members. The county's governing board shall amend its current ordinance within 90 days after the effective date of this section to reflect the increased number of council members and must appoint the four additional members no later than October 1, 2010. The Chair of the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners or any other member designated by the Chair shall serve on the council. Notwithstanding section 125.0104(4)(e), Florida Statutes, four members of the council shall be elected municipal

officials, one from each of the four incorporated municipalities within the county on the effective date of this section; and eight members of the council shall be persons who are involved in the tourist industry and who have demonstrated an interest in tourist development, of which members, not fewer than four nor more than five shall be owners or operators of motels, hotels, recreational vehicle parks, or other tourist-related accommodations in the county and subject to the tax.

(b) Except as provided in this subsection, the Sarasota County Tourist Development Council shall have all the duties and responsibilities as provided for tourist development councils by general law.

(3) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the terms of those members serving on the Sarasota County Tourist Development Council on the effective date of this section or any actions taken by the council prior to the appointment of any additional members authorized in subsection (2). This section supersedes the provisions of section 125.0104, Florida Statutes, to the extent of any conflict. Except as provided in this section, the provisions of section 125.0104(4)(e), Florida Statutes, shall apply to the Sarasota County Tourist Development Council.

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

Approved by the Governor May 26, 2010.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 26, 2010.