

## CHAPTER 2016-250

### Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 785

An act relating to the St. Lucie County Fire District, St. Lucie County; amending chapter 2004-407, Laws of Florida; revising requirements for the district's board of commissioners to borrow money; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 6 of section 3 of chapter 2004-407, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

Section 6. Gifts; purchases; loans.—

(1) The board shall have the power and authority to hold, control, and acquire, by gift or purchase, for the use of the district, any real or personal property and to pay the purchase price in installments or deferred payments and to condemn any lands needed for the purpose of said district. Said board is authorized to exercise the right of eminent domain and institute and maintain condemnation proceedings in the same manner as St. Lucie County, as other public municipalities under the laws of the state, or both.

(2) The board is hereby authorized and empowered, in order to carry out the purposes of this act, to borrow money not to exceed 10 percent of the district's operating budget in any one year consistent with chapters 189 and 191, Florida Statutes, the uses for which must be approved by a supermajority of six affirmative votes of the board, and the uses may not include normal operational expenses; and \$1,500,000 in any one year unless the board shall issue a resolution that declares a district emergency as defined in this section, in which case the board is authorized and empowered to borrow money not to exceed the sum of \$4 million. In no event, however, shall the total of all amounts borrowed and unpaid exceed the sum of \$5 million. The board is further authorized and empowered to issue its promissory notes therefor upon such terms and at such rates of interest as said board may deem advisable, and said notes shall be a charge upon all revenues derived from taxes in that year. If the district votes to refinance any debt based on borrowed money authorized under this subsection, its refinanced term cannot extend beyond its original term.

(3) ~~An emergency for the purposes of the St. Lucie County Fire District is defined as:~~

~~(a) A natural or manmade fire or medical disaster involving significant injury, death, or destruction of structures and requiring extensive and unforeseen use of overtime or additional personnel.~~

~~(b) A response to a declaration of a local emergency and request by St. Lucie County that the district provide emergency services, the cost of which exceeds the annual borrowing limit of the district.~~

~~(c) A need to replace or repair fire or emergency medical vehicles and equipment based on unanticipated and unforeseen circumstances, rather than on ordinary wear and tear, for losses not covered by insurance.~~

~~(3)(4) The board of commissioners of the district shall have the power and authority to acquire by gift or purchase and to pay the purchase price for such firefighting and other equipment as deemed reasonably necessary for the protection of property, safety of lives, or reduction of fire hazards to the same, in the district; to hire firefighting, emergency medical, civilian, and other personnel as needed; and to inspect all property and investigate for fire hazards and prescribe rules and regulations pertaining thereto, including the enforcement of the Florida Fire Prevention Code as revised from time to time.~~

~~(4)(5) The board of commissioners of the district may acquire, by gift or purchase, such emergency equipment and employ such personnel as may be determined reasonably necessary by the board for the operation and maintenance of emergency medical service within the district.~~

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

Approved by the Governor March 25, 2016.

Filed in Office Secretary of State March 25, 2016.