

CHAPTER 2021-257

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1587

An act relating to the East Manatee Fire Rescue District, Manatee County; providing for the merger of the Myakka City Fire Control District into the East Manatee Fire Rescue District; revising boundaries; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, in April 2019, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Myakka City Fire Control District, a dependent district of Manatee County created pursuant to Manatee County Ordinance 07-56, and the Board of Fire Commissioners of the East Manatee Fire Rescue District, an independent fire district created by special act, chapter 2005-296, Laws of Florida, began public discussions to merge the dependent district into the independent fire district, and

WHEREAS on May 2, 2019, the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners considered the merger of its dependent fire district into the East Manatee Fire Rescue District and the Manatee County Commission voted to support the merger initiative, and

WHEREAS, to comply with the Florida constitutional and statutory requirements relating to taxing and regulatory authority, the Myakka City Fire Control District requested the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections to place the following referendum on the August 2020 ballot before the qualified electors of the Myakka City Fire Control District:

Myakka City Fire Control District

Merger and Taxation Referendum

Shall the Myakka City Fire Control District, a dependent special district of Manatee County, be merged into the East Manatee Fire Rescue District, an independent special district, and become subject to the East Manatee Fire Rescue District's jurisdiction and authority, including the authority under Chapter 191, Florida Statutes, to levy an ad valorem tax in an amount no greater than 1 mil annually?

YES—For _____

NO—Against _____

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2020, a majority of the Myakka City Fire Control District's qualified electors voted in favor of the referendum to authorize the merger of the Myakka City Fire Control District into the East Manatee Fire Rescue District and the imposition of an ad valorem tax for such fire rescue services, and

WHEREAS, on August 25, 2020, following the certification of the referendum results, the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners reaffirmed the county's approval of the merger of the Myakka City Fire Control District into the East Manatee Fire Rescue District, and

WHEREAS, effective October 1, 2020, in anticipation of the merger of the two fire departments, the Myakka City Fire Control District and the East Manatee Fire Rescue District entered into an interlocal agreement to facilitate the cross-training of employees within both fire departments so that the firefighter personnel from each fire department could become acclimated with the equipment, facilities, protocols, and service areas of both the Myakka City Fire Control District and the East Manatee Fire Rescue District, and

WHEREAS, to complete the merger of the Myakka City Fire Control District into the East Manatee Fire Rescue District the East Manatee Fire Rescue District's Special Act, chapter 2005-296, Laws of Florida, must be amended to incorporate the Myakka City Fire Control District's geographical boundaries into the East Manatee Fire Rescue District's jurisdictional boundaries and Manatee County must dissolve the Myakka City Fire Control District through the adoption of an appropriate county ordinance, and

WHEREAS, the East Manatee Fire Rescue District is seeking an amendment to the East Manatee Fire Rescue District's Special Act during the 2021 Legislative Session to authorize the merger of the Myakka City Fire Control District into its jurisdictional boundaries effective October 1, 2021, and

WHEREAS, upon the passage of an amendment to the East Manatee Fire Rescue District's Special Act, the Myakka City Fire Control District and the East Manatee Fire Rescue District anticipate requesting Manatee County's authorization to dissolve the Myakka City Fire Control District through the passage of an appropriate Manatee County Ordinance effective October 1, 2021, and

WHEREAS, the merger of the Myakka City Fire Control District into the East Manatee Fire Rescue District has been supported by Manatee County, the Myakka City Fire Control District, and the East Manatee Fire Rescue District governing boards as a means of improving government efficiency, enhancing levels of service, providing additional resources, and delivering cost-effective fire rescue services in eastern Manatee County, and

WHEREAS, the merger of the Myakka City Fire Control District into the East Manatee Fire Rescue District will serve a public purpose, provide tax savings for the residents in eastern Manatee County, and has been supported and approved by the qualified voters within the Myakka City area of eastern Manatee County, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. Section 2 of section 3 of chapter 2000-404, Laws of Florida, as amended by chapter 2005-296, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

Section 2. Jurisdiction.—The lands to be incorporated within the East Manatee Fire Rescue District are described as follows:

Begin at the intersection of the centerlines of the Manatee River and the Braden River; thence easterly along the centerline of the Manatee River to the intersection of the Rye Road bridge; thence northerly along the centerline of Rye Road to a point of intersection of the North section line of Section 24 Township 34 South, Range 19 East; thence easterly to the Northeast corner of Section 24; thence southerly along the east line of said Section 24 to the centerline of Lake Manatee; thence easterly to S.R. 64; thence westerly along the centerline of S.R. 64 to old S.R. 675; thence south along the centerline of S.R. 675 and its southerly extension to the line dividing Manatee County and Sarasota County which same point being the Southeast corner of Section 33, Township 35 South, Range 20 East; thence westerly along said dividing line to point being the intersection of the line dividing Manatee and Sarasota Counties and the Southerly extension of the West right-of-way line of Interstate I-75, said point being located in Section 36 Township 35 South Range 18 East; thence northerly along said west right-of-way line to the centerline of the Braden River; thence westerly and northerly along said centerline to the centerline of the Manatee River, also being the point of beginning; specifically excluding all lands lying and situate within the corporate limits of the City of Bradenton.

ALSO

Begin at the Southeast corner of Section 36, Township 37 S., Range 22 E., being also the Southeast corner of Manatee County then Westerly along the Manatee County line to the Southwest corner of Section 31, Township 37 S., Range 21 E., then Northerly along the Manatee County line to the Southwest corner of Section 31, Township 35 S., Range 21 E., then Westerly along the Manatee County line to the Southwest corner of Section 34, Township 35 S., Range 20 E., then Northerly along the west section line to the intersection of SR 70 and CR 675 (Waterbury Road), then Northerly along CR 675 to the intersection with SR 64, then Easterly along SR 64 approximately one quarter mile to the intersection with the west section line of Section 34, Township 34 S., Range 20 E., then Northerly along the west section line to the Northwest corner of Section 34, Township 34 S., Range 20 E., then Easterly along the section lines to the Northeast corner of Section 36, Township 34 S., Range 21 E., then Northerly along the section line to the Northwest corner of Section 31, Township 34 S., Range 22 E., then Easterly along the section lines to the Northeast corner of Section 36, Township 34 S., Range 22 E., then Southerly along the Eastern Manatee County line to the Point of Beginning.

Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2021.

Approved by the Governor June 21, 2021.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 21, 2021.