

CHAPTER 2021-258

House Bill No. 1589

An act relating to the City of Key West, Monroe County; amending ch. 69-1191, Laws of Florida, as amended; revising the sum an elector shall pay to the Supervisor of Elections of Monroe County to qualify to appear on the election ballot; revising the date on which such sum must be deposited; prohibiting a candidate from using certain words or logos on specified campaign materials; clarifying the term of service for board members; removing provisions relating to printing addresses on ballots and the election of watchers and challengers; providing that a member of the board shall forfeit his office if he fails to reside within specified areas; providing that a designee of the City Commission of the City of Key West may be the judge of the election and qualification of the members of the board; revising the time period that the original contract may be exempt from the competitive procurement requirements; providing that the sale, transfer, or other disposition of any ownership interest in the electric utility, or any other utility, owned or operated by the board is effective only by resolution adopted by a specified number of affirmative votes of the board and a specified percentage of certain qualified electors of Monroe County; making technical changes; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, subsections (1) and (3) of section 11, section 12, subsection (9) of section 13, sections 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27 of chapter 69-1191, Laws of Florida, as amended by chapters 2001-297, 2007,286, and 2017-204, Laws of Florida, are amended to read:

Section 1. RIGHTS OF THE BOARD.—There is hereby created the Utility Board of the City of Key West, Florida, to be composed of five (5) members as particularly hereinafter set forth. Such Utility Board created by this act shall be and is hereby made the successor to the Utility Board of the City of Key West, Florida, heretofore created and existing by and under the provisions of chapter 65-1770, Laws of Florida, Acts of the Legislature Year 1965, and acts amendatory thereto. The full, complete and exclusive power and right to manage, operate, maintain, control, extend, and extend beyond the limits of the City of Key West, Florida, improve, finance and re-finance the electric public utility now owned by the City of Key West, Florida, and the nonexclusive right to build, construct, operate and acquire other public utilities, by purchase, gift, grant, lease, rental or otherwise, from time to time, from the United States Government, its departments, agencies, bureaus and commissions, and from the State of Florida and any of its political subdivisions, and corporations which are publicly or privately owned or operated, and by the right of eminent domain, shall be carried on by such Utility Board composed of five (5) members, all of whom shall be elected by the qualified electors of Monroe County, Florida, residing within

the Utility Board's designated service area at large, as hereinafter set forth. Furthermore, said Utility Board shall have the power and right to sell at retail or wholesale certain tangible personal property related to its utility services, including, but not limited to, generators, protection and conservation equipment, and appliances. The term "public utility," as used herein, shall include, but not be limited to, cable and telecommunication facilities. Nothing herein shall grant the right of eminent domain as to cable or telecommunication facilities. The name of the Utility Board shall be "Utility Board of the City of Key West, Florida," and said board shall function and operate as hereinafter provided. Said Utility Board shall have the right to sue and be sued, may adopt and use a seal and change it at pleasure, and may use in the conduct of its business the trade name of "Keys Energy Services," the use of which heretofore by its predecessor board is approved, confirmed and validated; further, said Utility Board may change such trade name and from time to time adopt such trade names as it deems expedient and proper in the conduct of its business, operations and activities.

Section 2. ELECTION OF UTILITY BOARD MEMBERS.—The election for the nomination or election of candidates for members of the Utility Board of said city held in 2018 shall be concurrent with the election for the office of County Commission of Monroe County, Florida. Such elections shall be non-partisan elections and every person voting in said election shall be entitled to vote for as many candidates for the Utility Board as there are members to be elected to said board. The name of any qualified elector of Monroe County, Florida, residing within the Utility Board's designated service area who meets the qualifications for member of said Utility Board, as set forth in this act, may appear upon the election ballot as a candidate for the office of member of the Utility Board, upon said elector paying to the Supervisor of Elections of Monroe County, Florida, a qualifying fee in the amount sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), plus an election assessment in the amount of one dollar (\$1.00), and said sums ~~sum~~ shall be deposited with the supervisor of elections at his or her office not later than ~~12:00 p.m.~~ 5:00 p.m. on the date set for the closing of qualification by the election officials, for the first election under the provisions of this act, and thereafter on the dates as published by the supervisor of elections biannually of the year in which subsequent elections under this act are to be held. A qualifying fee for such candidate for such office, and said elector shall submit to the supervisor of elections concurrently therewith the sworn statement of his or her name, address, ~~and occupation~~, willingness to serve if elected and shall indicate on such sworn statement his or her desire for his or her name to appear on the ballot as a candidate for such office. Provided, however, that any person who holds an elective office in the government of the City of Key West, Florida, County of Monroe, the State of Florida, or any political agency, board or commission and is compensated by wages, salaries or otherwise shall not be eligible to serve concurrently as a member of the board created by this act. Only the name or names of candidates complying with this section shall appear on the ballot as a candidate for nomination or election. No candidate having qualified and thereafter withdrawing or becoming disqualified under the provisions of this act shall be entitled to a refund of the aforesaid

qualifying fee or election assessment paid. A candidate for nomination or election shall not, upon or in connection with any campaign materials including, but not limited to, signage, advertisements, or apparel, print or reproduce the words “Keys Energy Services,” or the logo of the board, as adopted by the Board at its regular meeting of January 9, 2002, and on file in the Board offices and available for inspection, or any likeness of such logo.

Section 3. MEMBERSHIP OF UTILITY BOARD.—The Utility Board shall consist of five (5) members who shall be elected from the citizens of Monroe County, Florida, residing within the Utility Board’s designated service territory at large to seats identified as A, B, C, D, or E. All persons desiring to qualify as members shall file in seats identified as A, B, C, D, or E. Candidates for seats A, B, and C must reside within the City of Key West city limits. Candidates for seats D and E must reside in Monroe County, Florida, from Stock Island, excluding the portion of Stock Island within the City of Key West city limits to the northeasternmost end of the Seven Mile Bridge. The members running for seats A, B, and D shall be elected in the regular general election commencing in 2018 for a term of four (4) years and at each regular general election at large by the electors of Monroe County, Florida, residing within the Utility Board’s designated service territory every four (4) years thereafter. ~~The members running Current elected Utility Board members serving in Groups II and III shall serve their current four year terms until the 2020 general election, when candidates for seats C and E shall be elected in the regular general election at large by the electors of Monroe County, Florida, residing within the Utility Board’s designated service territory commencing in 2020 for a term of 4 years and at each regular general election four (4) years thereafter. All members shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified from 12:00 noon of the day after the date of the certification canvas of the vote and the declaration of the result results of the election. All members shall be subject to removal for good and sufficient cause by a four-fifths (4/5) vote of the city commission. If a candidate for member receives a majority of votes in the regular primary election in the candidate’s group, the candidate shall be considered elected from 12:00 noon of the day upon and after the date canvas of the certification vote and the declaration of the result of the election as hereinafter provided. In such event, notwithstanding that members are deemed to serve terms of 4 years, the term of the outgoing member whose seat will be held by the incoming member shall be deemed complete as of 12:00 noon of the day after the date of the certification of the primary election result. If there is no majority in the primary election, two (2) candidates for nomination to the office of member who receive the greatest vote in the primary election for each group shall be placed on the ballot at the next regular or special municipal general election following the primary as provided in the county charter of Monroe County, Florida. The candidate for nomination receiving the greater vote in the regular or special municipal general election following the primary election if otherwise qualified shall be elected to office from the group in which candidate is qualified, and shall be considered elected from 12:00 noon of the day after the date of certification of the result of the election, notwithstanding that members are deemed to serve terms of~~

4 years. One (1) of said members shall serve as Chairperson of the Utility Board. The Chairperson shall be selected from the five (5) members by the five (5) members during an organizational meeting at the first regular Utility Board meeting after all candidates are qualified and sworn in to office by the City Clerk and serve as such until the next organizational meeting following an election. A member may serve as Chairperson for consecutive terms.

Section 4. ELECTION AUTHORITIES.—For the purposes of this act, the election authorities shall be the same authorities conducting elections under the Charter of the City of Key West, Florida, and any amendment thereto. The Utility Board of the City of Key West is hereby directed to pay as an administrative expense to said authorities the actual expense incurred in conducting the first election to be held under the provisions of this act.

Except as otherwise provided in this act, the provisions of the general election laws of the State of Florida shall apply to elections held under this act. All elections provided for by this act shall be conducted by said election authorities.

Section 5. BALLOT FORM.—~~(1) The full names of all candidates nominated for membership in the Utility Board, except those who have withdrawn, died, or become ineligible, shall be printed on the official ballots of Monroe County, Florida, without party designation or symbol. If two (2) or more candidates have the same surname, or surnames so similar as to be likely to cause confusion, each candidate may submit an identifying name by which he or she is commonly known. If no such selection shall be made by the candidate, their residence addresses shall be printed with their names on the ballot.~~

~~(2) A regularly nominated candidate shall be entitled, upon written application to the election authorities at least five (5) days before the election, to appoint two (2) persons to represent him as watchers and challengers at each polling place where voters may cast their ballots for him. A person so appointed shall have all the rights and privileges prescribed for watchers and challengers by or under the general election laws of the State of Florida. The watchers and challengers may exercise their rights throughout the voting and until the ballots have been counted.~~

Section 6. UTILITY BOARD VACANCY.—(1) The office of members of the Utility Board shall become vacant upon his or her death, resignation, removal from office in any manner authorized by law, or forfeiture of his office, or as otherwise provided herein.

(2) A member of the Utility Board shall forfeit his office if he (1) lacks at any time during his term of office any qualification for the office prescribed by law; (2) violates any express prohibition of this law; (3) is convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude; (4) fails to reside within either the City of Key West or the portion of Monroe County Southwest of the

northeasternmost end of the Seven Mile Bridge; or (5) (4) fails to attend three (3) consecutive regular meetings ~~meeting~~ of the Utility Board without being excused by the board.

(3) A vacancy in the board shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term, if any, at the next regular election, but a quorum of the remaining members of said board shall by majority vote appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy until the person elected to serve the remainder of the unexpired term takes office. If the board fails to do so within thirty days following the occurrence of the vacancy, the City Commission of the City of Key West, Florida, shall appoint a member to fill the said vacancy for the unexpired term. Notwithstanding the requirement that a quorum of the board consists of three (3) members, if at any time the membership of the board is reduced to less than three (3), the City Commission of said city shall fill the vacancies for the unexpired term.

(4) The City Commission of the City of Key West, Florida, or its designee, shall be the judge of the election and qualification of the members of the Utility Board and of the grounds for forfeiture of their office and for that purpose shall have power to subpoena witnesses, take testimony and require the production of records. A member charged with conduct constituting grounds for forfeiture of his office shall be entitled to a public hearing on demand; and notice of such hearing shall be published in one (1) or more newspapers of general circulation in said city at least one (1) week in advance of the hearing. Removal from said office should be by a four-fifths (4/5) vote of the City Commission. Decisions made by the City Commission of the City of Key West, Florida, under this section shall be subject to review by the courts.

Section 7. RECALL OF UTILITY BOARD MEMBER.—Any member of the Utility Board of the City of Key West, Florida, may be subject to recall by the electors of the City of Key West, Florida, by the same laws, methods, rules, and regulations prescribed by State law of City Charter for the removal of a member of the City Commission of the City of Key West, Florida. Any vacancies which occur as a result of said recall process shall be filled in the manner heretofore prescribed for filling vacancies on said Utility Board.

Section 8. UTILITY BOARD COMPENSATION.—The Chairman of the Utility Board shall receive a monthly salary as compensation for his services in an amount set by majority vote of the board, pursuant to resolution not to exceed \$700 per month. The other members of the board shall receive a monthly salary as compensation for their services in an amount set by majority vote of the board, pursuant to resolution not to exceed \$600 per month. All compensations set forth herein shall be payable as an operating expense of the electric public utility.

Section 9. UTILITY BOARD BUSINESS.—A majority of the members of the Utility Board at any meeting shall constitute a quorum, and the Utility Board may adopt rules and by-laws for time, place and conduct of its

meetings. Provided, however, that in the event of a catastrophe or disaster whereby one (1) or more members of the Utility Board is physically incapacitated from any cause and temporarily unable to serve, then the remaining member or members are hereby vested with the power and right to conduct all of the business of the Utility Board until such time as such member or members temporarily incapacitated are able to resume their duties. Provided further, that in the event of the death of one (1) or more members of the Utility Board from any cause, the remaining member or members are hereby vested with the power and right to conduct all of the business of the Utility Board until such time as appointments to fill the vacancies created by death can be made in due course, pursuant to the terms and conditions of this act.

Section 10. UTILITY BOARD MEETINGS.—The Chairman shall preside at all meetings when present, and shall call special meetings on his own motion or when requested to do so by any two (2) members of the board. A record shall be kept of the proceeding, which shall be available for inspection as other municipal records.

Section 11. (1) POWERS OF THE BOARD.—The Utility Board of the City of Key West, Florida, shall have the full, complete and exclusive power and right to manage, operate, maintain, control, extend, extend beyond the limits of the City of Key West, Florida, in Monroe County, Florida, the electric public utility owned by said city, including the maintenance, operation, extension and improvement thereof, and including all lines, poles, wires, pipes, mains and all additions to and extensions of the same, and all buildings, stations, sub-stations, machinery, appliances, land and property, real, personal and mixed, used or intended for use in or in connection with said electric public utility, and the Utility Board shall have all of the powers in connection with such other public utilities hereafter constructed or acquired by said board that are granted by this act to said board with respect to the electric public utility now owned by said city. The Board shall have the power and right to extend its utilities services beyond the limits of Monroe County, Florida. As it relates to the extension of services of the electric public utility, the power to extend services beyond the limits of Monroe County, Florida, shall become effective only if the Legislature enacts legislation permitting any person other than the Utility Board to sell electric energy to customers of the Utility Board. The said Utility Board shall have exclusive power and authority to determine what improvements shall be made to all such public utilities.

(3) REVENUE BONDS AND OTHER FINANCING MATTERS.—Revenue bonds may be issued by said Utility Board for the purpose of refunding outstanding revenue bonds as well as for any other purposes which the Utility Board of said city deems proper in the management, operation, maintenance, control, improvement, extension, betterment, financing and refinancing of the electric public utility owned by The City of Key West, Florida, as well as for purposes of acquisition, purchase, building and construction and operation of additional public utilities which are deemed proper by said Utility Board, and revenue bonds may also be issued by said

board against the income of any additional public utilities so acquired, and the granting of such authority to the Utility Board of the City of Key West, Florida, to issue revenue bonds against income of the electric public utility owned by said city, or against the income of any additional public utilities hereafter acquired by said Utility Board, is exclusive to said board, and the governing body of said city shall not have the right to issue any such bonds or otherwise incur any indebtedness or obligations whereby the income of said public utilities owned by the Utility Board of the City of Key West, or the income of any additional public utilities, hereafter acquired by said Utility Board, becomes charged for the payment thereof. The maturity dates and rate of interest of any bonds issued hereunder shall be determined and fixed by the Utility Board of the City of Key West, Florida, and said board shall have the exclusive right to sell said bonds at prices to be determined by said board. The Utility Board of the City of Key West, Florida, is authorized and empowered to adopt such resolutions as may be necessary or advisable in connection with the authorization, execution, sale, and delivery of the revenue bonds authorized hereunder. Prior to the validation and issuance of any bonds authorized hereunder, said board shall obtain the approval of the City Commission of the City of Key West, Florida, by appropriate ordinance. The Utility Board shall further have the power to issue commercial paper notes and variable rate bonds to enter into interest rate swap transactions as determined from time to time to be in the best interests of the ratepayers of the electric public utility of the City. Bonds and refunding bonds issued pursuant to this act may be sold at competitive or negotiated sale, provided any negotiated sale shall comply with section 218.385, Florida Statutes.

Section 12. MANAGER'S CONTRACT.—The Utility Board shall have the power from time to time to enter into a contract employing a manager to manage and administer to the electric public utility now owned by the City of Key West, Florida, and to manage and administer to any additional public utilities acquired by said Utility Board. The contract employing said manager shall set forth the tenure of office, not to exceed four (4) years, the compensation, terms of employment, and the procedure for termination of said contract. The Utility Board, through such manager, shall direct, employ, fix the compensation of and discharge all employees of the electric public utility and all employees of all public utilities owned or operated by said Utility Board; provided however, that terms, compensation and termination of the contract shall be governed by and conform to the provisions of any proceedings authorizing and providing for the issuance of bonds, or other obligations of said city, which by their terms are secured by or payable from the revenue of the electric public utility or other public utilities owned or operated by said Utility Board.

Section 13.

(9) LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL CONTRACTS.—All purchases of commodities or contractual services under the provisions of local, state, and federal purchasing contracts shall be exempt from the competitive procurement requirements, provided that the following criteria are all satisfied:

(a) The terms and conditions of the original contract or approved renewal or extension by the federal, state or local government or electric cooperative in their original form, or a negotiated form more favorable to the Utility Board, are satisfactory to the Utility Board.

(b) The original contract or approved renewal or extension by the federal, state, or local government or electric cooperative is in effect and was are executed within an acceptable period of time, as determined by the Utility Board by resolution from time to time, twenty-four (24) months prior to the proposed purchase of commodities or services by the Utility Board.

(c) The purchasing agent has performed an informal solicitation to determine if the prices of the original contract or approved renewal or extension are fair and reasonable, and to assure local vendors have an opportunity to compete.

(d) The Utility Board authorizes such procurement when the cost of the commodities (materials) or contractual services (labor and materials) exceeds the amounts as established by resolution adopted by the Utility Board.

Section 14. PENSION PLAN.—The Utility Board created by this act is hereby authorized and empowered to establish, adopt, provide, operate, maintain, and assist in the support of a pension system or plan for the relief or social security of disabled or retired officers and employees of said Utility Board, and to delegate authority for the handling and perpetuation of such a plan or system to designated officials or employees of said Utility Board, or a special committee created for such purposes. Further, said Utility Board shall have power to make contracts of insurance with any insurance company authorized to transact business in the State of Florida, insuring its officers and employees or any class or classes thereof under a policy or policies of group insurance covering life, health, or accident insurance, or any two or more of such classes of insurance, and may contract with any company granting annuities or pensions and authorized to transact business within the State of Florida for the pensioning of such officers and employees or any class or classes thereof; and provide for any money necessary to pay premiums or charges incidental to the carrying on of such policies or contracts or for the support of a pension system, and the action of its predecessor Utility Board in connection with the pensions now in effect is hereby ratified, validated and confirmed.

Section 15. CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM.—(1) The Utility Board created by this act is hereby authorized and empowered to create, establish, provide for and adopt, maintain, operate and regulate a civil service system and plan for the security of the employees of said board, and may amend and change such system and plan from time to time. Further, said Utility Board is empowered to adopt rules and regulations for the government and operation of said civil service system and plan, and to delegate authority for the handling and management of said system and plan to designated officials or employees of said board, or a special committee or a civil service board

created by said Utility Board for such purposes. Further, said Utility Board is authorized and empowered to appropriate out of its available funds any money necessary or expedient to carry out the provisions and purposes of this act that maybe be lawfully used for such purposes.

(2) The employees of the City of Key West, Florida, may require the Utility Board to establish a civil service board for them by an affirmative vote of the majority of the employees cast in a secret election to be held under the rules prescribed by the board. Said election shall be held within (30) days of the presentation of a petition containing the signatures of no less than ten per centum (10 percent) of the employees of all at classes of said system requesting such an election.

Section 16. DISPOSITION OF ASSETS, OWNERSHIP OF UTILITY.

(1) The Utility Board of the City of Key West, Florida shall have discretion to classify as surplus any of its property that is obsolete or that which is uneconomical or inefficient, or which serves no useful function. All such items valued more than the amount as established by resolution adopted by the Utility Board shall be offered as such surplus property to other governmental units within, the County of Monroe and to the general public with an effective means of notification. The notification shall disclose the value and condition of the properties when known. Any such properties as would serve no useful function and for which no bids have been received, may be disposed of by donation, destruction or abandonment.

(2) The sale, transfer, or other disposition of any ownership interest in the electric utility owned or operated by the Utility Board or any other utility owned or operated by the Utility Board, or the sale, transfer, or other disposition of all or substantially all assets of the electric utility owned or operated by the Utility Board or any other utility owned or operated by the Utility Board, shall only be effective upon proposal of such disposition by the Utility Board by resolution adopted by the affirmative vote of not less than four (4) Utility Board members, and approval of such disposition by at least 65 percent of the qualified electors of Monroe County, Florida, who reside within the Utility Board's designated service area at large, casting ballots at a regular municipal general election.

Section 17. ANNUAL AUDIT.—The Utility Board of the City of Key West, Florida, shall provide for an annual audit and be subject to audit by the Legislative Auditor of the State of Florida, of all utility board accounts, and said Board is hereby authorized to pay the expenses thereof when required to do so and may provide for such more frequent audits as it deems necessary. A copy of the audit is to be delivered to the City Commission of the City of Key West, Florida, within seven (7) working days ~~twenty four (24) hours, holidays included,~~ after the Utility Board receives its copy from the audit agency. The Utility Board shall deliver to any other authorized agency, as they may be required, additional copies of the audit. The expenses of said audit shall be paid by the Utility Board of the City of Key West, Florida.

Section 18. CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—Any board officer or employee who has a substantial financial interest, direct or indirect, by reason of ownership of stock in any corporation, in any contract with the Utility Board or in the sale of any land, material, supplies or services to said board or to a contractor supplying said board, shall make known that interest and shall refrain from voting upon or otherwise participating in his capacity as a board member or employee in the making of such sale or in the making or performance of such contract. Any board member or employee who willfully conceals such a substantial financial interest or willfully violates the requirements of this section shall be guilty of malfeasance in office or position and shall forfeit his office or position. Violation of this section with the knowledge, express or implied, of the person or corporation contracting with or making a sale to the city shall render the contract or sale voidable by said Utility Board.

Section 19. EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT.—Members of said Utility Board, and agents and employees of said board traveling on official business should be reimbursed for travel and expenses in accordance with resolutions or policies adopted by the Utility Board.

Section 20. PURCHASE OF LANDS.—Purchase of all lands deemed necessary by the Utility Board of the City of Key West, Florida shall be made subject to the following conditions:

(1) Such purchases shall be made only upon recommendation of the engineers of record of said board who shall advise the board that the acquisition of such lands is necessary for the expansion of the system. The Utility Board shall obtain appraisals from at least three (3) licensed and certified appraisers in the State of Florida.

(2) Said Utility Board shall pay no more than the highest appraisal furnished by the aforesaid appraisers.

Section 21. PUBLIC RECORDS.—The operating budget and all other records of said Utility Board shall be considered public records, and available for inspection by the public at the office of said Utility Board.

Section 22. SUCCESSOR TO RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS.—The Utility Board created by this act shall be and is hereby made the successor to the Utility Board of the City of Key West, Florida heretofore created and existing by virtue of Chapter 65-1770, Laws of Florida, Acts of the Legislature Year 1965, and all acts amendatory thereto, and shall succeed to all the rights, privilege, duties and obligations, monies, credits, and choices in action, properties, real, personal and mixed, of its predecessor board, including title to all properties belonging to its predecessor board. No obligations or contracts of its predecessor board, including bonds heretofore issued by its predecessor board, shall be impaired or voided by this act, but all such contracts and obligations shall pass to and be binding upon the Utility Board created by this act.

Section 23. REFERENCES.—Whenever reference is made in this act to the governing body of the City of Key West, Florida, it shall be construed to mean the City Commission of the City of Key West, Florida, or to the successor to said City Commission of the City of Key West, Florida.

Section 24. REPEAL AND AMENDMENT.—It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Legislature that this act shall not be deemed repealed or amended by the passage of any act, whether general, special, or local, at this regular session of the Legislature, unless the act seeking to effect repeal or amend this act makes specific reference to this act for such purpose.

Section 25. SEVERABILITY.—The provisions of this act are severable, and it is the intention to confer the whole or any part of the powers herein provided for, and if any of the provisions of this act or any of the powers granted by this shall be held unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of such court shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions of this act, or any of the remaining powers granted by this act. It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent that this act would have been adopted had such unconstitutional provisions or powers not been included therein.

Section 26. CONFLICT WITH LAWS.—All laws and parts of laws, whether general, special or local, particularly Chapter 65-1770, Laws of Florida, Acts of the Legislature Year 1965, and acts amendatory thereto, in conflict with this act, are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 27. CONSTRUCTION.—This act shall be liberally construed to effect the purposes thereof.

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

Approved by the Governor June 29, 2021.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 29, 2021.