

CHAPTER 2022-240

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 995

An act relating to Sumter County; creating The Villages Independent Fire Control and Rescue District; providing a short title; creating the district and providing boundaries; providing purposes; providing for a district board of commissioners and membership, officers, and meetings thereof; providing powers and duties of the district and board; providing for appointment and terms of office for the board members; providing for modification of district boundaries; providing for amendment of the charter by special act of the Legislature; providing severability; requiring a referendum; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. Short title.—This act may be cited as “The Villages Independent Fire Control and Rescue District Act,” hereinafter referred to as the “charter.”

Section 2. Formation; boundaries.—For the purpose of providing fire control; fire prevention; and emergency medical, rescue response, and public safety services pursuant to chapter 191, Florida Statutes, an independent special district is hereby created, incorporated, and established pursuant to chapters 189 and 191, Florida Statutes, to be known as The Villages Independent Fire Control and Rescue District, hereinafter referred to as the “district,” in Sumter County and shall embrace and include the territory described as:

Beginning at a point on the US 301 Easterly Right of Way Corner, where it intersects the North line of Sumter County, Florida, whose Northing is 1681826.752 and whose Easting is 643297.059; thence South 89° 52' 32.6" East for a distance of 27519.0165 feet to a point on a line; thence South 00° 33' 31.9" East for a distance of 18630.7369 feet to a point on a line; thence South 00° 09' 09.7" East for a distance of 16544.3470 feet to a point on a line; thence South 00° 32' 33.7" West for a distance of 15508.7003 feet to a point on a line; thence South 00° 09' 09.2" West for a distance of 18330.6308 feet to a point on a line; thence South 00° 20' 07.6" East for a distance of 5377.5793 feet to a point on a line; thence South 00° 40' 19.1" West for a distance of 24498.6822 feet to a point on a line; thence North 82° 44' 50.5" West for a distance of 447.5572 feet to a point on a line; thence North 87° 08' 34.3" West for a distance of 329.2624 feet to a point on a line; thence North 07° 51' 19.5" West for a distance of 1717.3849 feet to a point on a line; thence South 61° 02' 28.6" West for a distance of 597.3910 feet to a point on a line; thence South 67° 00' 43.2" West for a distance of 184.4110 feet to a point on a line; thence South 78° 49' 38.8" West for a distance of 135.2689 feet to a point on a line; thence North 35° 13' 56.4" West for a distance of 558.4654 feet to a point on a line; thence North 02° 11' 21.4" West for a distance of

1489.0852 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 42' 33.2" West for a distance of 3417.2765 feet to a point on a line; thence South 00° 00' 37.6" West for a distance of 3940.9162 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 59' 01.6" West for a distance of 3992.1937 feet to a point on a line; thence South 00° 10' 12.6" West for a distance of 2627.8255 feet to a point on a line; thence South 89° 31' 18.4" East for a distance of 1322.2356 feet to a point on a line; thence South 00° 15' 49.3" West for a distance of 1314.7505 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 59' 11.9" West for a distance of 1322.1059 feet to a point on a line; thence South 00° 06' 47.6" West for a distance of 1310.8219 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 38' 38.1" West for a distance of 1327.4399 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 16' 59.4" East for a distance of 1251.9433 feet to a point on a line; thence North 86° 50' 56.5" West for a distance of 1314.4825 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 08' 33.4" East for a distance of 1319.2463 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 43' 18.3" West for a distance of 9050.8174 feet to a point on a line; thence South 21° 31' 39.9" East for a distance of 2132.4319 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 51' 43.5" West for a distance of 961.2700 feet to a point on a line; thence South 00° 45' 00.1" West for a distance of 1959.0111 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 21' 40.7" West for a distance of 10663.5514 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 05' 40.4" East for a distance of 29.4494 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 27' 59.6" East for a distance of 15872.3852 feet to a point on a line; thence South 89° 11' 42.7" East for a distance of 10733.7783 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 10' 36.0" East for a distance of 7995.9332 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 26' 39.5" West for a distance of 1339.5001 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 06' 32.2" East for a distance of 2658.0087 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 49' 55.2" West for a distance of 1343.8449 feet to a point on a line; thence North 01° 34' 23.1" East for a distance of 1327.3298 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 37' 12.7" East for a distance of 1326.0825 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 20' 23.2" East for a distance of 3982.4401 feet to a point on a line; thence South 89° 19' 48.9" East for a distance of 1321.3590 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 30' 49.7" East for a distance of 5289.0165 feet to a point on a line; thence South 89° 41' 38.1" East for a distance of 1339.0202 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 26' 47.1" West for a distance of 5308.9568 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 21' 12.0" East for a distance of 998.1185 feet to a point on a line; thence South 88° 50' 56.9" West for a distance of 1323.1087 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 22' 40.0" East for a distance of 371.7644 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 33' 48.3" West for a distance of 5247.0564 feet to a point on a line; thence South 01° 22' 40.1" West for a distance of 1330.6491 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 34' 43.1" West for a distance of 3655.9207 feet to a point on a line; thence South 32° 13' 10.5" West for a distance of 993.5915 feet to a point on a line; thence South 63° 15' 04.9" West for a distance of 108.6704 feet to a point on a line; thence South 77° 02' 20.0" West for a distance of 98.7904 feet to a point on a line; thence South 87° 07' 10.9" West for a distance of 99.1821 feet to a point on a line; thence

South 63° 56' 46.5" West for a distance of 420.5064 feet to a point on a line; thence South 54° 26' 07.1" West for a distance of 177.9783 feet to a point on a line; thence South 37° 06' 12.7" West for a distance of 104.1211 feet to a point on a line; thence South 64° 11' 35.9" West for a distance of 91.3723 feet to a point on a line; thence South 79° 10' 58.7" West for a distance of 48.4118 feet to a point on a line; thence South 79° 11' 00.2" West for a distance of 72.7991 feet to a point on a line; thence South 39° 37' 35.1" West for a distance of 71.0600 feet to a point on a line; thence South 59° 23' 09.6" West for a distance of 174.8441 feet to a point on a line; thence South 30° 58' 00.8" West for a distance of 144.1140 feet to a point on a line; thence North 87° 19' 39.7" West for a distance of 58.5647 feet to a point on a line; thence South 85° 48' 38.1" West for a distance of 48.8902 feet to a point on a line; thence South 18° 34' 26.4" East for a distance of 63.6160 feet to a point on a line; thence South 14° 39' 29.8" West for a distance of 130.3158 feet to a point on a line; thence North 83° 30' 07.6" West for a distance of 420.6221 feet to a point on a line; thence South 83° 07' 58.8" West for a distance of 361.8048 feet to a point on a line; thence North 32° 24' 10.4" West for a distance of 827.3376 feet to a point on a line; thence North 54° 29' 54.3" East for a distance of 318.4112 feet to a point on a line; thence North 36° 14' 31.0" East for a distance of 337.8597 feet to a point on a line; thence South 89° 51' 25.6" East for a distance of 1113.1742 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 33' 39.9" East for a distance of 659.5825 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 32' 35.6" East for a distance of 2657.4161 feet to a point on a line; thence South 89° 31' 18.3" East for a distance of 665.7366 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 32' 51.2" East for a distance of 663.6765 feet to a point on a line; thence South 89° 41' 13.1" East for a distance of 663.7515 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 31' 08.3" East for a distance of 675.6586 feet to a point on a line; thence South 88° 27' 02.1" East for a distance of 662.7587 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 20' 21.7" East for a distance of 829.0670 feet to a point on a line; thence North 01° 28' 42.1" East for a distance of 501.3093 feet to a point on a line; thence South 89° 32' 26.7" East for a distance of 6601.4582 feet to a point on a line; thence North 86° 04' 20.4" East for a distance of 654.4062 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 23' 55.2" East for a distance of 1441.7446 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 16' 16.6" West for a distance of 658.2714 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 30' 03.4" East for a distance of 3828.1189 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 30' 13.0" East for a distance of 634.1602 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 40' 27.1" East for a distance of 673.8420 feet to a point on a line; thence South 89° 22' 42.4" East for a distance of 664.8639 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 07' 45.9" West for a distance of 660.8119 feet to a point on a line; thence North 88° 47' 31.4" West for a distance of 341.4034 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 27' 54.7" East for a distance of 658.0740 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 31' 34.0" West for a distance of 688.8287 feet to a point on a line; thence South 00° 30' 20.3" West for a distance of 604.5900 feet to a point on a line; thence South 89° 15' 19.2" West for a distance of 309.7729 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 30' 33.2"

West for a distance of 618.0527 feet to a point on a line; thence South 89° 00' 48.4" East for a distance of 156.4370 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 18' 41.7" East for a distance of 149.3464 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 18' 41.6" East for a distance of 510.1113 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 18' 50.9" West for a distance of 515.7908 feet to a point on a line; thence South 00° 26' 20.5" West for a distance of 172.0835 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 20' 50.5" West for a distance of 435.3223 feet to a point on a line; thence South 89° 16' 29.1" West for a distance of 143.1603 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 03' 06.0" West for a distance of 177.4126 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 50' 37.6" West for a distance of 353.2621 feet to a point on a line; thence South 00° 02' 12.8" East for a distance of 675.6809 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 51' 22.9" West for a distance of 1314.3823 feet to a point on a line; thence South 00° 27' 40.6" West for a distance of 1322.8679 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 23' 00.0" West for a distance of 2575.3355 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 19' 45.2" West for a distance of 7354.8037 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 27' 28.0" East for a distance of 623.4833 feet to a point on a line; thence South 89° 22' 02.5" East for a distance of 2637.3293 feet to a point on a line; thence North 01° 28' 02.3" East for a distance of 1321.4155 feet to a point on a line; thence North 01° 41' 55.4" West for a distance of 939.0160 feet to a point on a line; thence North 67° 08' 11.9" West for a distance of 566.0001 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 05' 19.4" West for a distance of 159.4123 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 00' 32.4" East for a distance of 1089.9217 feet to a point on a line; thence South 89° 10' 26.1" East for a distance of 736.2721 feet to a point on a line; thence South 71° 04' 10.4" East for a distance of 765.9397 feet to a point on a line; thence North 23° 31' 29.3" East for a distance of 1765.1464 feet to a point on a line; thence South 67° 22' 01.2" East for a distance of 1966.5077 feet to a point on a line; thence North 24° 00' 27.4" East for a distance of 732.2976 feet to a point on a line; thence North 11° 08' 51.2" East for a distance of 681.5145 feet to a point on a line; thence North 22° 00' 38.2" East for a distance of 300.9393 feet to a point on a line; thence North 24° 49' 42.9" East for a distance of 485.6142 feet to a point on a line; thence North 05° 43' 52.6" East for a distance of 630.7488 feet to a point on a line; thence North 80° 50' 16.9" East for a distance of 28.2268 feet to a point on a line; thence South 89° 41' 01.5" East for a distance of 1281.0390 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 15' 57.7" West for a distance of 671.7895 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 24' 38.1" West for a distance of 1552.3357 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 21' 43.6" West for a distance of 503.7371 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 33' 40.2" West for a distance of 687.1325 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 06' 53.2" West for a distance of 792.6811 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 09' 47.2" West for a distance of 360.9492 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 31' 17.4" East for a distance of 6602.0023 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 41' 24.0" West for a distance of 1282.2437 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 41' 02.9" West for a distance of 1964.7978 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 12' 02.4" East for a distance of

1326.5418 feet to a point on a line; thence South 89° 37' 37.9" West for a distance of 4596.4342 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 07' 51.2" East for a distance of 665.7973 feet to a point on a line; thence North 87° 17' 16.6" East for a distance of 691.4322 feet to a point on a line; thence South 89° 11' 37.8" East for a distance of 366.3291 feet to a point on a line; thence North 81° 14' 06.0" East for a distance of 473.5924 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 15' 13.3" East for a distance of 1927.8531 feet to a point on a line; thence North 86° 11' 42.0" West for a distance of 232.8372 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 17' 38.0" East for a distance of 1277.5137 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 05' 05.8" West for a distance of 903.8509 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 41' 27.2" East for a distance of 685.7514 feet to a point on a line; thence South 89° 51' 20.1" East for a distance of 205.2068 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 18' 26.6" East for a distance of 626.7733 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 46' 09.6" West for a distance of 631.9255 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 19' 27.3" East for a distance of 1326.7942 feet to a point on a line; thence South 88° 58' 29.4" East for a distance of 352.1964 feet to a point on a line; thence South 89° 43' 10.2" East for a distance of 2447.1664 feet to a point on a line; thence North 46° 18' 39.1" East for a distance of 185.2531 feet to a point on a line; thence North 07° 59' 18.7" East for a distance of 291.4315 feet to a point on a line; thence North 11° 00' 46.9" East for a distance of 228.0008 feet to a point on a line; thence North 20° 10' 55.5" East for a distance of 94.6782 feet to a point on a line; thence North 29° 38' 04.9" East for a distance of 192.0383 feet to a point on a line; thence North 47° 57' 40.1" East for a distance of 169.8304 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 08' 21.3" East for a distance of 300.0428 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 26' 54.7" East for a distance of 697.5932 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 11' 11.1" East for a distance of 661.3386 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 52' 54.5" West for a distance of 374.9329 feet to a point on a line; thence North 37° 56' 34.5" West for a distance of 522.2437 feet to a point on a line; thence North 64° 27' 14.5" West for a distance of 653.1364 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 52' 34.0" West for a distance of 137.7267 feet to a point on a line; thence South 00° 07' 25.1" West for a distance of 99.9033 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 52' 34.6" West for a distance of 159.8450 feet to a point on a line; thence North 14° 03' 14.6" West for a distance of 207.5389 feet to a point on a line; thence North 52° 22' 15.3" West for a distance of 16.3840 feet to a point on a line; thence North 79° 21' 44.9" East for a distance of 61.2105 feet to a point on a line; thence North 05° 20' 49.4" West for a distance of 146.3382 feet to a point on a line; thence South 79° 21' 44.1" West for a distance of 19.8608 feet to a point on a line; thence North 07° 45' 47.8" West for a distance of 65.9153 feet to a point on a line; thence North 12° 18' 14.9" West for a distance of 165.2746 feet to a point on a line; thence North 87° 45' 34.6" West for a distance of 140.4808 feet to a point on a line; thence North 33° 20' 08.1" West for a distance of 411.5501 feet to a point on a line; thence North 26° 11' 15.8" West for a distance of 420.5347 feet to a point on a line; thence North 65° 20' 41.6" West for a distance of 166.4980 feet to a point on a

line; thence North 88° 46' 54.7" West for a distance of 1589.6482 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 16' 54.5" East for a distance of 602.7997 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 15' 43.9" West for a distance of 41.6377 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 11' 10.8" East for a distance of 167.6013 feet to a point on a line; thence South 88° 21' 58.6" West for a distance of 164.5393 feet to a point on a line; thence South 00° 19' 09.3" West for a distance of 108.8518 feet to a point on a line; thence North 85° 35' 58.5" West for a distance of 43.7985 feet to a point on a line; thence South 04° 52' 30.5" West for a distance of 74.0457 feet to a point on a line; thence South 89° 54' 35.6" West for a distance of 582.1348 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 36' 05.4" East for a distance of 375.0832 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 24' 33.0" West for a distance of 142.1386 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 06' 32.3" East for a distance of 127.7587 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 27' 44.8" West for a distance of 339.3812 feet to a point on a line; thence North 04° 59' 06.2" West for a distance of 329.2495 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 34' 46.6" East for a distance of 371.5103 feet to a point on a line; thence North 01° 36' 11.9" East for a distance of 535.9948 feet to a point on a line; thence South 89° 45' 41.8" East for a distance of 298.1861 feet to a point on a line; thence North 00° 51' 09.4" West for a distance of 665.3644 feet to a point on a line; thence North 89° 35' 06.7" West for a distance of 2236.5546 feet to a point on a line; thence North 12° 09' 22.9" West for a distance of 11040.7115 feet to a point on a line; thence North 07° 55' 55.7" West a distance of 7802.2042 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Containing 2,519,015,677.89 square feet, or 57,828.64 square acres, or 90.36 square miles, more or less.

Section 3. Intent.—The purposes of this act are to provide:

(1) Standards, direction, and procedures concerning the operation and governance of the district.

(2) A financing authority of the district without hampering the efficiency and effectiveness of current authorized and implemented methods and procedures of raising revenues.

(3) Improved communication and coordination between the district and other local governments with respect to short-range and long-range planning to meet the demands for service delivery while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

(4) Uniform procedures for electing members of the board of commissioners of the district to ensure greater accountability to the public.

Section 4. District board of commissioners; membership, officers, and meetings.—The business affairs of the district shall be conducted and administered, pursuant to chapter 191, Florida Statutes, by the board of

commissioners of The Villages Independent Fire Control and Rescue District, which is established as a board of five commissioners, elected, organized, and operating pursuant to chapter 191, Florida Statutes.

(1) Beginning on the effective date of this act, the district shall be governed by a governing board consisting of five members initially appointed by the Governor and thereafter elected. After soliciting recommendations from the public, the Governor may appoint members to the district from the candidates.

(2) For the inaugural appointment of members, two members shall be appointed to serve an initial term of 2 years each and 3 members shall be appointed to serve an initial term of 4 years each. Thereafter, each member shall be elected for a 4-year term.

(3) The term of office for an appointed member shall begin immediately after official appointment by the Governor and shall expire upon the assumption of office by his or her successor.

Section 5. Powers and duties.—The district shall have, and the board may exercise, all the powers and duties set forth in chapters 189 and 191, Florida Statutes, and this act, as they may be amended from time to time, which shall include fire control, fire prevention, and emergency medical, rescue response, and public safety services. Before exercising ad valorem taxing authority, a majority of district electors voting in a referendum conducted by the Supervisor of Elections of Sumter County must approve the exercise of said authority.

Section 6. Boundaries.—The boundaries of the district may be modified, extended, or enlarged upon approval or ratification by the Legislature.

Section 7. Amendment of charter.—The charter may be amended only by special act of the Legislature.

Section 8. Severability.—If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are severable.

Section 9. Referendum election.—On or before December 31, 2023, the Supervisor of Elections of Sumter County shall conduct a referendum of the qualified electors of the district on the question of whether the district shall be created by special act of the Legislature pursuant to chapter 191, Florida Statutes.

The referendum question shall be in substantially the following form:

Funding The Villages Independent Fire Control and Rescue District Services, Administration, and Capital with a mix of Ad Valorem and Non-Ad Valorem Property Assessments.

Shall the district cap any ad valorem taxes at 1 mil, and levy annual non-ad valorem assessments beginning with the 2023-2024 fiscal year to fund fire protection, rescue, emergency medical services, administration, governance, and associated capital not exceeding \$124 per parcel plus \$0.75 per \$1,000 of value of improvements thereon, together with identified administrative costs, collection costs, and statutory discounts, with increases limited by growth in Florida personal income over the previous 5 years?

() YES.

() NO.

Section 10. This act shall take effect only upon its approval by a majority vote of those qualified electors residing within the district voting in a referendum to be held no later than December 31, 2023, except that this section and section 9 shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor June 24, 2022.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 24, 2022.