

CHAPTER 2023-329

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 815

An act relating to the Ocean City-Wright Fire Control District, Okaloosa County; amending ch. 99-478, Laws of Florida, as amended; providing for future annexation of certain unincorporated territory; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 14 is added to section 2 of chapter 99-478, Laws of Florida, as amended by chapter 2001-315, Laws of Florida, to read:

Section 14. Annexation of territories by municipalities.—

(1) For the purposes and requirements of this act, after the annexation by a municipality of any unincorporated area within the district, the annexed area shall be treated as lying within the corporate boundaries of the annexing municipality and shall not be subject to a levy of the ad valorem tax that is authorized by this act.

(2) Notwithstanding s. 171.093, Florida Statutes, if a municipality annexes any unincorporated territory situated within the defined boundaries of the district after the effective date of this act, the municipality may levy any applicable taxes, assessments, or fees on the annexed territory but must, by May 1 of each subsequent year after such annexation, pay the district for its services in an amount equal to the amount of taxes, assessments, or fees which would have been collected by the district from the annexed territory during that year had the territory not been annexed, using the millage rate in effect on the effective date of this act, or any lower rate that may be levied by the district. Such payments shall continue for 10 years. If litigation is required to enforce the provisions of this act, the prevailing party shall be entitled to an award of attorney fees and costs.

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

Approved by the Governor June 9, 2023.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 9, 2023.