

House Bill No. 277

An act relating to the South Trail Fire Protection and Rescue District, Lee County; amending ch. 2000-484, Laws of Florida; conforming the district charter to Florida Statutes relating to annexations within the district; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 5 of section 3 of chapter 2000-484, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

Section 5. Section 171.093, Florida Statutes, as it may be amended from time to time, is applicable to any annexation of land located within the District's boundaries. Beginning on the effective date of this act, any properties that may be annexed by the City of Fort Myers and located within the District shall remain the responsibility of the District until January 1 of the following year, at which time the City shall assume the responsibility for fire control and such property shall no longer be a part of, or subject to, the taxing authority of the fire control taxing District. The municipal governing authority shall enter into an agreement to purchase, lease, or maintain real property and equipment of the District, if it is located within the area so annexed. Such agreement shall be reached by negotiated settlement. Should the City and the fire control taxing District not be able to reach a negotiated settlement, then the City shall have eminent domain authority for all real property owned by the fire control District and annexed by the City. The presently appointed or elected commissioners of the District who reside within the areas annexed by the City of Fort Myers shall continue to serve as the commissioners of the District until the local governing authority assumes responsibility for the lands so annexed.

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

Approved by the Governor June 23, 2003.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 23, 2003.