

CHAPTER 2023-347

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1643

An act relating to the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority, Okaloosa County; amending chapter 2000-411, Laws of Florida; providing that the authority is an independent special district; revising provisions relating to the budget; deleting a requirement that the authority's fiscal year be the same as the county fiscal year; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Sections 1 and 6 of section 3 of chapter 2000-411, Laws of Florida, are amended to read:

Section 1. Purpose.—There is hereby created in Okaloosa County an independent ~~a dependent~~ special district for the purpose of planning, constructing, operating, and maintaining a bridge transversing Choctawhatchee Bay. The governmental body shall be known as the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority, hereinafter referred to as “authority.”

Section 6. Budget.—

(1)(a) Prior to preparation of the annual budget as provided in paragraph (b), the authority shall develop an annual proposed budget according to the provisions set forth in this section by May of each year, for a public hearing before the citizens of Okaloosa County.

(b) The authority, in each fiscal year, shall prepare an annual budget for operating revenue accounts and operating expense accounts and such other accounts as ~~it the board of county commissioners~~ shall prescribe, for its operations in the ensuing fiscal year and, on or before the first day of June of each year, ~~the chair of the authority shall submit such budget to the board of county commissioners. The fiscal year for the authority shall be concurrent with the fiscal year of Okaloosa County.~~ At the time the authority prepares its annual budget, it shall adopt a resolution determining and finding the estimated amounts to be expended by the authority in the ensuing year, exclusive of any bonds or other obligations of the authority, for acquiring, establishing, constructing, enlarging, operating, and maintaining the system, including the bridge and bridge facilities and other facilities related thereto, or for any other corporate purpose of the authority. ~~A certified copy of the resolution shall be submitted to the board of county commissioners at the same time that it submits its annual budget referred to above.~~

(c) ~~The board of county commissioners shall examine the budget and the certified copy of the resolution, and may increase or reduce the total amount requested under the provisions in the budget and resolution for the expenditures in such an amount as the board of county commissioners deems advisable in its sole discretion. Thereafter, the board of county~~

~~commissioners shall approve the budget of the authority, either as submitted or as increased or reduced, as aforesaid.~~

~~(d) Any budget amendment adopted by the authority that increases the total budget shall be approved by the board of county commissioners prior to becoming effective.~~

~~(e) All anticipated revenues to be derived from the operation of the system, including the bridge and bridge facilities shall be included in the budget of the authority. However, any amounts of money, including funds in the authority’s budget for the preceding fiscal year, that remain unexpended from the revenue derived under the budget for the preceding fiscal year may, by resolution duly adopted by the authority and approved by the board of county commissioners, be set aside in a separate fund, to be known and described as a “Renewal and Replacement Fund,” and accumulated in said fund from year to year for the purpose of purchasing real and personal property, and building and constructing permanent improvements, replacements, alterations, buildings, and other structures, and such funds may be disbursed from time to time out of the renewal and replacement fund, upon proper resolution of the authority and approval by the board of county commissioners, and solely for the payment of the cost of purchasing real and tangible personal property, and building and constructing permanent improvements, replacements, alterations, buildings, and other structures.~~

~~(f) The authority shall adopt budget procedures to establish the direct and indirect costs of operating and maintaining the bridge authority and the system, as well as the direct income derived therefrom.~~

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

Approved by the Governor June 21, 2023.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 21, 2023.