

CHAPTER 2016-89

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 773

An act relating to special assessments on agricultural lands; amending ss. 125.01 and 170.01, F.S.; prohibiting counties and municipalities from levying special assessments on certain agricultural lands for the provision of fire protection services; providing specified exceptions; defining the term “agricultural pole barn” for purposes of the exceptions; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (r) of subsection (1) of section 125.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

125.01 Powers and duties.—

(1) The legislative and governing body of a county shall have the power to carry on county government. To the extent not inconsistent with general or special law, this power includes, but is not restricted to, the power to:

(r) Levy and collect taxes, both for county purposes and for the providing of municipal services within any municipal service taxing unit, and special assessments; borrow and expend money; and issue bonds, revenue certificates, and other obligations of indebtedness, which power shall be exercised in such manner, and subject to such limitations, as may be provided by general law. There shall be no referendum required for the levy by a county of ad valorem taxes, both for county purposes and for the providing of municipal services within any municipal service taxing unit. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a county may not levy special assessments for the provision of fire protection services on lands classified as agricultural lands under s. 193.461 unless the land contains a residential dwelling or nonresidential farm building, with the exception of an agricultural pole barn, provided the nonresidential farm building exceeds a just value of \$10,000. Such special assessments must be based solely on the special benefit accruing to that portion of the land consisting of the residential dwelling and curtilage, and qualifying nonresidential farm buildings. As used in this paragraph, the term “agricultural pole barn” means a nonresidential farm building in which 70 percent or more of the perimeter walls are permanently open and allow free ingress and egress.

Section 2. Subsection (4) is added to section 170.01, Florida Statutes, to read:

170.01 Authority for providing improvements and levying and collecting special assessments against property benefited.—

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a municipality may not levy special assessments for the provision of fire protection services on lands

classified as agricultural lands under s. 193.461 unless the land contains a residential dwelling or nonresidential farm building, with the exception of an agricultural pole barn, provided the nonresidential farm building exceeds a just value of \$10,000. Such special assessments must be based solely on the special benefit accruing to that portion of the land consisting of the residential dwelling and curtilage, and qualifying nonresidential farm buildings. As used in this subsection, the term “agricultural pole barn” means a nonresidential farm building in which 70 percent or more of the perimeter walls are permanently open and allow free ingress and egress.

Section 3. This act shall take effect November 1, 2017.

Approved by the Governor March 24, 2016.

Filed in Office Secretary of State March 24, 2016.