

CHAPTER 2020-77

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1466

An act relating to government accountability; amending s. 189.031, F.S.; specifying conditions under which board members and public employees of special districts do not abuse their public positions; amending s. 189.069, F.S.; revising the list of items required to be included on the websites of special districts; amending s. 190.007, F.S.; specifying conditions under which board members and public employees of community development districts do not abuse their public positions; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. Effective January 1, 2021, subsection (6) is added to section 189.031, Florida Statutes, to read:

189.031 Legislative intent for the creation of independent special districts; special act prohibitions; model elements and other requirements; local general-purpose government/Governor and Cabinet creation authorizations.—

(6) GOVERNANCE.—For purposes of s. 8(h)(2), Art. II of the State Constitution, a board member or a public employee of a special district does not abuse his or her public position if the board member or public employee commits an act or omission that is authorized under s. 112.313(7), (12), (15), or (16) or s. 112.3143(3)(b), and an abuse of a board member’s position does not include any act or omission in connection with a vote when the board member has followed the procedures required by s. 112.3143.

Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 189.069, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

189.069 Special districts; required reporting of information; web-based public access.—

(2)(a) A special district shall post the following information, at a minimum, on the district’s official website:

1. The full legal name of the special district.
2. The public purpose of the special district.
3. The name, official address, official e-mail address, and, if applicable, term and appointing authority for each member of the governing body of the special district.
4. The fiscal year of the special district.

5. The full text of the special district's charter, the date of establishment, the establishing entity, and the statute or statutes under which the special district operates, if different from the statute or statutes under which the special district was established. Community development districts may reference chapter 190 as the uniform charter but must include information relating to any grant of special powers.

6. The mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number, and website uniform resource locator of the special district.

7. A description of the boundaries or service area of, and the services provided by, the special district.

8. A listing of all taxes, fees, assessments, or charges imposed and collected by the special district, including the rates or amounts for the fiscal year and the statutory authority for the levy of the tax, fee, assessment, or charge. For purposes of this subparagraph, charges do not include patient charges by a hospital or other health care provider.

9. The primary contact information for the special district for purposes of communication from the department.

10. A code of ethics adopted by the special district, if applicable, and a hyperlink to generally applicable ethics provisions.

11. The budget of the special district and any amendments thereto in accordance with s. 189.016.

12. The final, complete audit report for the most recent completed fiscal year and audit reports required by law or authorized by the governing body of the special district. If the special district has submitted its most recent final, complete audit report to the Auditor General, this requirement may be satisfied by providing a link to the audit report on the Auditor General's website.

13. A listing of its regularly scheduled public meetings as required by s. 189.015(1).

~~14. The public facilities report, if applicable.~~

~~15.~~ The link to the Department of Financial Services' website as set forth in s. 218.32(1)(g).

~~15.16.~~ At least 7 days before each meeting or workshop, the agenda of the event, along with any meeting materials available in an electronic format, excluding confidential and exempt information. The information must remain on the website for at least 1 year after the event.

Section 3. Effective January 1, 2021, subsection (1) of section 190.007, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

190.007 Board of supervisors; general duties.—

(1) The board shall employ, and fix the compensation of, a district manager. The district manager shall have charge and supervision of the works of the district and shall be responsible for preserving and maintaining any improvement or facility constructed or erected pursuant to the provisions of this act, for maintaining and operating the equipment owned by the district, and for performing such other duties as may be prescribed by the board. It shall not be a conflict of interest under chapter 112 for a board member or the district manager or another employee of the district to be a stockholder, officer, or employee of a landowner or of an entity affiliated with a landowner. The district manager may hire or otherwise employ and terminate the employment of such other persons, including, without limitation, professional, supervisory, and clerical employees, as may be necessary and authorized by the board. The compensation and other conditions of employment of the officers and employees of the district shall be as provided by the board. For purposes of s. 8(h)(2), Art. II of the State Constitution, a board member or a public employee of a district does not abuse his or her public position if the board member or public employee commits an act or omission that is authorized under this subsection, s. 112.313(7), (12), (15), or (16), or s. 112.3143(3)(b), and an abuse of a board member's public position does not include any act or omission in connection with a vote when the board member has followed the procedures required by s. 112.3143.

Section 4. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2020.

Approved by the Governor June 23, 2020.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 23, 2020.