

CHAPTER 2024-290

House Bill No. 1025

An act relating to the Municipal Service District of Ponte Vedra Beach, St. Johns County; amending ch. 82-375, Laws of Florida, as amended; revising provisions relating to terms of office of District Trustees; revising the capital expenditure amount required to be approved by the voters of the district; revising the authority of the district to approve such expenditure; revising a limitation on the amount of the district's contingency reserves; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2), paragraph (h) of subsection (4), and subsection (5) of section 2 of chapter 82-375, Laws of Florida, as amended by chapters 90-463 and 2002-373, Laws of Florida, are amended to read:

Section 2. The following is the charter of the Municipal Service District of Ponte Vedra Beach:

(2)

(b) At the 1990 general election, seven District Trustees shall be elected by the qualified voters of the district, with three for 2-year terms and four for 4-year terms, and they shall be elected to serve until their successors are elected and qualified. The seats shall be numbered consecutively one through seven. In the 1990 general election, the odd numbered seats shall be elected for terms of 4 years, the even numbered seats for terms of 2 years. The term of office of the District Trustees elected at each succeeding election shall be 4 years, except that a person may not appear on the ballot for reelection to the office of Trustee if, by the end of his or her current term of office, the person will have served, or but for resignation would have served, in that office for a total of 12 years, provided that any Trustee currently in office and serving an unexpired term in office will be permitted to complete that term in office. To be eligible for election, a person must reside in the district and be qualified to vote in the district. ~~A trustee may not serve more than two consecutive 4-year terms.~~

(4) The district is authorized and empowered:

(h) To acquire, construct, operate, maintain, equip, improve, extend, enlarge, or improve capital projects within or without the district for the purposes of enabling the district to perform the specialized public functions or services as herein provided. However, expenditures on any individual capital project, including acquisition of real or personal property, that exceed exceeds a total cost of \$150,000 or 25 percent of the district's current annual budgeted expenses, whichever is greater, must first be approved by a voting

majority of qualified voters in the district. The Board of District Trustees shall determine the method to be used to determine whether voters approve a capital expenditure or expenditures exceeding \$150,000 or 25 percent of the district's current annual budgeted expenses, whichever is greater, and ~~approval of a majority of those voters participating in or responding to the method used by the District Trustees to decide the issue shall be sufficient to approve expenditure of funds exceeding \$150,000 for the project.~~ Whatever method is used to determine voter approval of such expenditure, the District Trustees in presenting the issue to be decided shall generally describe the project to be undertaken by the expenditure and the estimated cost thereof. In addition, the Board of District Trustees shall not expend more than \$50,000 from contingency reserves for any unbudgeted capital project in any fiscal year;

(5) "Contingency reserves," defined as the amount of funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year, less the amount required to operate the district at the beginning of the next fiscal year, shall not exceed \$200,000 or 25 percent of the district's current annual budgeted expenses, whichever is greater, in any fiscal year. Any amount of contingency reserves exceeding \$200,000 or 25 percent of the district's current annual budgeted expenses, whichever is greater, ~~at the end of any fiscal year~~ must be used to reduce the ad valorem tax levy for the entire district for the following fiscal year.

Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor May 17, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 17, 2024.