

ENROLLED

CS/HB 651

2022 Legislature

1  
 2 An act relating to Navarre Beach Fire Rescue District,  
 3 Santa Rosa County; providing a short title; creating  
 4 an independent special district to provide fire  
 5 control, fire prevention, emergency medical, rescue  
 6 response, and public safety services; providing for  
 7 district boundaries, a governing board and the  
 8 election, organization, and operation of such board;  
 9 authorizing the district to levy non-ad valorem  
 10 assessments; providing requirements for such  
 11 assessments; providing for amendment only by special  
 12 act; providing severability; requiring a referendum;  
 13 providing an effective date.

14  
 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16  
 17 Section 1. Short title.—This act may be cited as the  
 18 "Navarre Beach Fire Rescue District Act," hereinafter referred  
 19 to as the "charter."

20 Section 2. Formation; boundaries.—For the purpose of  
 21 providing fire control, fire prevention, emergency medical,  
 22 rescue response, and public safety services pursuant to chapter  
 23 191, Florida Statutes, an independent special district is  
 24 created, incorporated, and established pursuant to chapters 189  
 25 and 191, Florida Statutes, to be known as the Navarre Beach Fire

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26 Rescue District, hereinafter referred to as the "district," in  
 27 Santa Rosa County and shall embrace and include the territory  
 28 described as follows:

29  
 30 That portion of Santa Rosa County including all of  
 31 sections 36-2S-27, 31-2S-26, 32-2S-26, 33-2S-26 and  
 32 28-2S-26, and also including the southern half of the  
 33 Navarre Beach Causeway.

34  
 35 Section 3. Intent.—The purposes of this act are to provide  
 36 the following:

37 (1) Standards, direction, and procedures concerning the  
 38 operation and governance of the district.

39 (2) A financing authority of the district without  
 40 hampering the efficiency and effectiveness of currently  
 41 authorized and implemented methods and procedures of raising  
 42 revenues.

43 (3) Improved communication and coordination between the  
 44 district and other local governments with respect to short-range  
 45 and long-range planning to meet the demands for service delivery  
 46 while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

47 (4) Uniform procedures for electing members of the Board  
 48 of Commissioners of the Navarre Beach Fire Rescue District to  
 49 ensure greater accountability to the public.

50 Section 4. Board of commissioners; membership, officers,

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51 and meetings.—The business affairs of the district shall be  
 52 conducted and administered, under chapter 191, Florida Statutes,  
 53 by the Board of Commissioners of the Navarre Beach Fire Rescue  
 54 District, which is established as a board of five commissioners,  
 55 elected, organized, and operating under chapter 191, Florida  
 56 Statutes.

57 Section 5. Boundaries.—The boundaries of the district may  
 58 be modified, extended, or enlarged upon approval or ratification  
 59 by the Legislature.

60 Section 6. Procedures for the levy and collection of non-  
 61 ad valorem assessments.—

62 (1) The district may provide for the levy of non-ad  
 63 valorem assessments under this act on the lands and real estate  
 64 benefited by the exercise of the powers authorized by this act,  
 65 or any part thereof, for all or any part of the cost thereof. In  
 66 addition to the provisions set forth under this act, the  
 67 district shall also be entitled to exercise all other rights and  
 68 powers regarding the levy and collection of additional non-ad  
 69 valorem assessments as provided for under chapter 191, Florida  
 70 Statutes.

71 (2) The initial non-ad valorem assessments may be levied  
 72 up to the following maximum amounts:

73 (a) \$500 for residential properties.

74 (b) \$63 for vacant land.

75 (c) \$0.41 per square foot for commercial properties.

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76 (3) Future assessment increases shall be limited by  
 77 chapter 191.009, Florida Statutes.

78 Section 7. Amendment of charter.—This charter may be  
 79 amended only by special act of the Legislature.

80 Section 8. Severability.—If any provision of this act or  
 81 its application to any person or circumstance is held to be  
 82 invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or  
 83 applications of this act which can be given effect without the  
 84 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions  
 85 of this act are severable.

86 Section 9. Referendum.—On or before December 31, 2022, the  
 87 Supervisor of Elections of Santa Rosa County shall conduct a  
 88 referendum of the qualified electors of the district on the  
 89 question of whether the district shall be created by special act  
 90 of the Legislature under chapter 191, Florida Statutes. The  
 91 referendum question shall be posed as follows:

92  
 93 Shall an independent special district be created to  
 94 provide fire, rescue, and emergency medical services  
 95 to the Navarre Beach community, to operate pursuant to  
 96 chapter 191, Florida Statutes, including an initial  
 97 non-ad valorem assessment not to exceed \$500 for  
 98 residential properties, \$63 for vacant land, and \$0.41  
 99 per square foot for commercial properties. Future  
 100 assessment increases shall be limited by chapter

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101 | 191.009, Florida Statutes.

102 | Section 10. This act shall take effect only upon its  
103 | approval by a majority vote of those qualified electors residing  
104 | within the district voting in a referendum no later than  
105 | December 31, 2022, except that this section and section 9 shall  
106 | take effect upon becoming a law.