

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to special districts; abolishing
3 certain soil and water conservation districts in this
4 state; transferring the assets and liabilities of such
5 districts to the Department of Agriculture and
6 Consumer Services; amending s. 50.0311, F.S.; revising
7 the definitions of the terms "governmental agency" and
8 "publicly accessible website"; providing that
9 governmental agencies may use their official website
10 to publish specified information; deleting provisions
11 requiring certain special districts to publish
12 advertisements and public notices on a publicly
13 available website in each county such district spans;
14 amending s. 171.093, F.S.; prohibiting municipalities
15 from assuming certain services in annexed areas;
16 providing that a fire control district remains the
17 provider of specified services in the annexed area;
18 requiring that the district's geographical boundaries
19 continue to include the annexed area; authorizing the
20 district to continue certain levies and assessments;
21 amending s. 189.03, F.S.; revising the legislative
22 purpose and intent for independent special districts;
23 creating s. 189.0331, F.S.; defining the terms
24 "district lands or water areas" and "outdoor
25 recreational purposes"; providing that an independent

26 special district that grants the public access to
27 district lands or water areas for outdoor recreational
28 purposes owes no duty of care to perform specified
29 actions; providing that an independent special
30 district is not responsible for injury to persons or
31 property caused by an act or omission of such person
32 upon such lands or water areas; providing
33 applicability; providing that specified protections,
34 immunities, and limitations of liability apply
35 regardless of whether a person or claimant was engaged
36 in an outdoor recreational purpose at the time of an
37 accident or occurrence; providing certain protection
38 to the owner of private land if an independent special
39 district secures an easement or other access right
40 through such private land to district lands or water
41 areas that the independent special district makes
42 available to the public for outdoor recreational
43 purposes; providing that independent special districts
44 are not relieved of certain liability; amending s.
45 189.053, F.S.; providing that a special district may
46 purchase commodities and contractual services from the
47 purchasing agreements of other specified entities
48 under certain circumstances; amending s. 189.0695,
49 F.S.; deleting a provision requiring the Office of
50 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability

51 to conduct performance reviews of independent fire
52 control districts on a specified schedule; requiring
53 the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
54 Accountability to conduct a performance review of
55 certain independent special districts by a specified
56 date; deleting provisions requiring the Office of
57 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability
58 to submit the final report of performance reviews for
59 certain districts according to a specified schedule;
60 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
61 creating s. 189.0699, F.S.; providing that an
62 independent special district may require, by
63 resolution, criminal history screening for certain
64 persons; providing requirements for such resolution;
65 providing construction; amending s. 582.15, F.S.;
66 requiring the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
67 Services to monitor the soil and water conservation
68 districts; requiring the department to collaborate
69 with supervisors and district councils of independent
70 special districts to ensure efficiencies in the
71 services provided by such districts; amending s.
72 582.19, F.S.; revising the qualifications of a
73 supervisor of a soil and water conservation district;
74 amending s. 582.20, F.S.; deleting provisions
75 subjecting certain powers of a soil and water

76 conservation district to another district's approval;
 77 requiring the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
 78 Services to monitor specified soil and water
 79 conservation districts and ensure that each district
 80 is winding up administrative and fiscal matters in a
 81 timely manner and using certain practices; reenacting
 82 ss. 11.02, 45.031(2), 50.011(2), 50.021, 50.031,
 83 90.902(12), 98.075(7), 98.077(3), 100.021, 100.141(3),
 84 100.342, 101.5612(2), 101.71(2), 101.733(2),
 85 102.141(2)(b), 120.81(1)(d), 121.055(1)(b) and (h),
 86 162.12(2)(a), 190.005(1)(d), 200.065(2)(f), 849.38(5),
 87 1001.372(2)(c), and 1011.03(1), F.S., relating to
 88 notice of special or local legislation or certain
 89 relief acts; judicial sales procedure; publication of
 90 legal notices; publication when there is no newspaper
 91 in a county; newspapers in which legal notices and
 92 process may be published; self-authentication;
 93 registration records maintenance activities and
 94 ineligibility determinations; update of voter
 95 signature; notice of general election; notice of
 96 special election to fill any vacancy in office; notice
 97 of special election or referendum; testing of
 98 tabulating equipment; polling place; election
 99 emergency and contingency plan; county canvassing
 100 board and duties; exceptions and special requirements

101 and general areas; Senior Management Service Class;
 102 notices; establishment of district; method of fixing
 103 millage; proceedings for forfeiture and notice of
 104 seizure and order to show cause; district school board
 105 meetings; and public hearings and budget to be
 106 submitted to the Department of Education,
 107 respectively, to incorporate the amendment made to s.
 108 50.0311, F.S., in references thereto; reenacting s.
 109 189.074(11), F.S., relating to voluntary merger of
 110 independent special districts, to incorporate the
 111 amendment made to s. 171.093, F.S., in a reference
 112 thereto; providing effective dates.

113
 114 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 115

116 **Section 1.** Effective December 31, 2025, the following soil
 117 and water conservation districts are abolished, and all assets
 118 and liabilities of each district are transferred to the
 119 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services:

- 120 (1) Escambia Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 121 (2) Yellow River Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 122 (3) Holmes Creek Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 123 (4) Orange Hill Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 124 (5) Chipola River Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 125 (6) Tupelo Soil and Water Conservation District.

- 126 | (7) Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 127 | (8) Leon Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 128 | (9) Wakulla Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 129 | (10) Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 130 | (11) Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 131 | (12) Lafayette Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 132 | (13) Dixie Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 133 | (14) Santa Fe Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 134 | (15) Levy Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 135 | (16) Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 136 | (17) Alachua Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 137 | (18) Nassau Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 138 | (19) Duval Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 139 | (20) Clay Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 140 | (21) St. Johns Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 141 | (22) Volusia Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 142 | (23) Lake Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 143 | (24) Seminole Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 144 | (25) Orange Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 145 | (26) Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 146 | (27) Manatee River Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 147 | (28) Peace River Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 148 | (29) Sarasota Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 149 | (30) Charlotte Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 150 | (31) Osceola Soil and Water Conservation District.

- 151 (32) Collier Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 152 (33) St. Lucie Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 153 (34) Broward Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 154 (35) South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 155 (36) Hendry Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 156 (37) Union Soil and Water Conservation District.

157 **Section 2. Subsections (1), (2), (3), and (5) of section**
 158 **50.0311, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

159 50.0311 Publication of advertisements and public notices
 160 on a publicly accessible website and governmental access
 161 channels.—

162 (1) For purposes of this chapter, the term "governmental
 163 agency" means a county, municipality, school board, special
 164 district, or other unit of local government or political
 165 subdivision in this state. The term "special district" has the
 166 same meaning as in s. 189.012.

167 (2) For purposes of notices and advertisements required
 168 under s. 50.011, the term "publicly accessible website" means a
 169 county's official website, a governmental agency's official
 170 website, or other private website designated by the county for
 171 the publication of legal notices and advertisements that is
 172 accessible via the Internet. All advertisements and public
 173 notices published on a website as provided in this chapter must
 174 be in searchable form and indicate the date on which the
 175 advertisement or public notice was first published on the

176 website.

177 (3) A governmental agency may use the publicly accessible
178 website of the county or the governmental agency's official
179 website in which it lies to publish legally required
180 advertisements and public notices if the cost of publishing
181 advertisements and public notices on such website is less than
182 the cost of publishing advertisements and public notices in a
183 newspaper.

184 ~~(5) A special district spanning the geographic boundaries~~
185 ~~of more than one county that satisfies the criteria for~~
186 ~~publishing and chooses to publish legally required~~
187 ~~advertisements and public notices on a publicly accessible~~
188 ~~website must publish such advertisements and public notices on~~
189 ~~the publicly accessible website of each county it spans. For~~
190 ~~purposes of this subsection, the term "special district" has the~~
191 ~~same meaning as in s. 189.012.~~

192 **Section 3. Present subsection (8) of section 171.093,**
193 **Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (9), and a new**
194 **subsection (8) is added to that section, to read:**

195 171.093 Municipal annexation within independent special
196 districts.—

197 (8) Notwithstanding this chapter or any special act to the
198 contrary, a municipality may not elect to assume services of an
199 annexed area which are being provided by an independent special
200 fire control district. Following an annexation pursuant to this

201 chapter, an independent special fire control district shall
 202 remain the service provider in the annexed area, the
 203 geographical boundaries of the district must continue to include
 204 the annexed area, and the district may continue to levy ad
 205 valorem taxes, impact fees, and user fees and assessments on the
 206 real property located within the annexed area.

207 **Section 4. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (1) of**
 208 **section 189.03, Florida Statutes, to read:**

209 189.03 Statement of legislative purpose and intent;
 210 independent special districts.—

211 (1) The Legislature finds that:

212 (c) It is in the public interest for the Legislature to
 213 encourage an independent special district to make available to
 214 the public suitable district lands and water areas for public
 215 outdoor recreational purposes and to limit certain liability of
 216 the independent special district resulting from persons
 217 accessing such lands and areas and from third persons who may
 218 incur damages by the acts or omissions of persons going thereon.

219 **Section 5. Section 189.0331, Florida Statutes, is created**
 220 **to read:**

221 189.0331 Limitation on liability of independent special
 222 district with respect to areas made available to the public for
 223 recreational purposes without charge.—

224 (1) As used in this section, the term:

225 (a) "District lands or water areas" includes, but is not

226 limited to, all district lands, rights-of-way, and water areas
227 that an independent special district controls, possesses, or
228 maintains, or in which the independent special district has a
229 property or other interest, whether in fee simple, easement,
230 leasehold, contract, memorandum of understanding, or otherwise.

231 (b) "Outdoor recreational purposes" includes activities
232 such as, but not limited to, horseback riding, hunting, fishing,
233 bicycling, swimming, boating, camping, picnicking, hiking,
234 pleasure driving, nature study, water skiing, motorcycling, and
235 visiting historical, archaeological, scenic, or scientific
236 sites.

237 (2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (5), an
238 independent special district that provides the public with
239 access to district lands or water areas for outdoor recreational
240 purposes, or allows access over or use of district lands or
241 water areas for public outdoor recreational purposes, owes no
242 duty of care to do any of the following:

243 1. Keep the district lands or water areas safe for entry
244 or use by others.

245 2. Warn persons entering or going on such district lands
246 or water areas of any hazardous conditions, structures, or
247 activities thereon.

248 3. Extend any assurance that the district lands or water
249 areas are safe for any purpose solely by allowing access to that
250 district's lands or water areas.

251 (b) An independent special district does not incur any
252 duty of care toward a person who goes on the district lands or
253 water areas. An independent special district is not responsible
254 for any injury to persons or property caused by an act or
255 omission of a person who goes on such lands or water areas.

256 (c) This section applies to any person going on the
257 district lands or water areas, or lands or water areas subject
258 to a joint use or similar agreement, irrespective of whether the
259 person goes as an invitee, licensee, or trespasser or in any
260 other capacity. However, this subsection does not apply if there
261 is any charge made or usually made for entering or using the
262 district lands or water areas, or if any commercial or other
263 activity from which profit is derived from the patronage of the
264 public, excluding the temporary sale of food, beverages, plants,
265 or T-shirts at temporary special events or nonprofit
266 organizational activities associated with temporary special
267 events, is conducted on any such district lands or water areas,
268 or any part thereof.

269 (3) The protections, immunities, and limitations of
270 liability provided in this section to independent special
271 districts apply regardless of whether any claimant or person was
272 engaged in an outdoor recreational purpose at the time of an
273 accident or occurrence and apply to district lands or water
274 areas used by the public for recreational activities regardless
275 of whether the district lands or water areas were made available

276 to the public at the time of the accident or occurrence.

277 (4) If an independent special district secures an easement
278 or other right for the purpose of providing access through
279 private land to district lands or water areas that the
280 independent special district provides or makes available to the
281 public for outdoor recreational purposes, the owner of the
282 private land is covered by the liability protection provided in
283 s. 375.251 with regard to the use of such easement by the
284 general public or by employees and agents of the independent
285 special district or other regulatory agencies.

286 (5) (a) This section does not relieve an independent
287 special district of any liability that would otherwise exist for
288 gross negligence or a deliberate, willful, or malicious injury
289 to a person or property.

290 (b) This section does not create or increase the liability
291 of an independent special district or person beyond that which
292 is authorized by s. 768.28.

293 **Section 6. Section 189.053, Florida Statutes, is amended**
294 **to read:**

295 189.053 Purchases from contracts of other entities
296 ~~purchasing agreements of special districts, municipalities, or~~
297 ~~counties.~~—Special districts may purchase commodities and
298 contractual services, other than services the acquisition of
299 which is governed by s. 287.055, from the purchasing agreements
300 of other special districts, municipalities, ~~or~~ counties, other

301 political subdivisions, educational institutions, this state,
302 other states, nonprofit entities, purchasing cooperatives, or
303 the Federal Government which have been procured pursuant to
304 competitive bid, requests for proposals, requests for
305 qualifications, competitive selection, or competitive
306 negotiations, and which are otherwise in compliance with general
307 law if the purchasing agreement of the other entity ~~special~~
308 ~~district, municipality, or county~~ was procured by a process that
309 would have met the procurement requirements of the purchasing
310 special district.

311 **Section 7. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 189.0695,**
312 **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

313 189.0695 Independent special districts; performance
314 reviews.—

315 (2) (a) ~~Each independent special district as described in~~
316 ~~subparagraph (d)1. that is not located in a rural area of~~
317 ~~opportunity as defined in s. 288.0656(2) and Each independent~~
318 ~~special district as described in paragraph (c) subparagraph~~
319 ~~(d)2.~~ must contract with an independent entity to conduct a
320 performance review of the district. The independent entity must
321 have at least 5 years of experience conducting comparable
322 reviews of organizations similar in size and function to the
323 independent special district under review, must conduct the
324 review according to applicable industry best practices, and must
325 have no affiliation with or financial involvement in the

326 reviewed district.

327 ~~(b) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government~~
328 ~~Accountability must conduct a performance review of each~~
329 ~~independent special district as described in subparagraph (d)1.~~
330 ~~that is located in a rural area of opportunity as defined in s.~~
331 ~~288.0656(2) and may contract as needed to complete this~~
332 ~~requirement.~~

333 ~~(c)~~ The final report of the performance review must be
334 filed with the governing board of the district, the Auditor
335 General, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
336 House of Representatives no later than 9 months from the
337 beginning of the district's fiscal year according to the
338 schedule provided in paragraph (c) ~~paragraph (d)~~. However, a
339 performance audit of an independent special district conducted
340 by the Auditor General during the same fiscal year in which a
341 performance review is due pursuant to paragraph (c) ~~paragraph~~
342 ~~(d)~~ qualifies as that district's scheduled performance review
343 under this section.

344 ~~(c)(d)1. Beginning October 1, 2022, and every 5 years~~
345 ~~thereafter, each independent special fire control district as~~
346 ~~defined in s. 191.003 must have a performance review conducted.~~

347 ~~2.~~ Beginning October 1, 2023, and every 5 years
348 thereafter, each hospital licensed under chapter 395 which is
349 governed by the governing body of a special district as defined
350 in s. 189.012 or by the board of trustees of a public health

351 trust created under s. 154.07 must have a performance review
352 conducted.

353 (3) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
354 Accountability must conduct a performance review of all
355 independent special districts classified as safe neighborhood
356 improvement districts as defined in s. 163.503(1), no later than
357 September 30, 2025, within the classifications described in
358 paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) and may contract as needed to
359 complete the requirements of this subsection. The Office of
360 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall
361 submit the final report of the performance review to the
362 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
363 Representatives ~~as follows:~~

364 ~~(a) For all independent mosquito control districts as~~
365 ~~defined in s. 388.011, no later than September 30, 2023.~~

366 ~~(b) For all soil and water conservation districts as~~
367 ~~defined in s. 582.01, no later than September 30, 2024.~~

368 ~~(c) For all safe neighborhood improvement districts as~~
369 ~~defined in s. 163.503(1), no later than September 30, 2025.~~

370 **Section 8. Section 189.0699, Florida Statutes, is created**
371 **to read:**

372 189.0699 Criminal history record checks for certain
373 independent special district employees and appointees.—

374 (1) Notwithstanding chapter 435, an independent special
375 district, by resolution, may require criminal history screening

376 and fingerprinting through the Department of Law Enforcement and
377 the Federal Bureau of Investigation for all of the following:

378 (a) Any position of independent special district
379 employment or appointment, whether paid, unpaid, or contractual,
380 which the governing body of the independent special district
381 finds is critical to security or public safety.

382 (b) Any private contractor, employee of a private
383 contractor, vendor, repair person, or delivery person who is
384 subject to licensing or regulation by the independent special
385 district.

386 (c) Any private contractor, employee of a private
387 contractor, vendor, repair person, for-hire chauffeur, or
388 delivery person who has direct contact with individual members
389 of the public or access to any public facility or publicly
390 operated facility in such a manner or to such an extent that the
391 governing body of the independent special district finds that
392 preventing unsuitable persons from having such contact or access
393 is critical to security or public safety.

394 (2) The information obtained from the criminal history
395 record checks conducted pursuant to the resolution may be used
396 by the independent special district to determine a person's
397 eligibility for such employment or appointment or to determine a
398 person's eligibility for continued employment or appointment.
399 This section is not intended to preempt or prevent any other
400 background screening, including, but not limited to, criminal

401 history background checks, which an independent special district
402 may lawfully undertake.

403 **Section 9. Subsection (5) is added to section 582.15,**
404 **Florida Statutes, to read:**

405 582.15 Organization of district, etc.—

406 (5) The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
407 shall monitor the districts to ensure continued compliance with
408 statutory requirements. To ensure efficiencies in the services
409 that are provided by the districts, the department shall
410 coordinate with all supervisors of active independent special
411 districts and the districts' councils.

412 **Section 10. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section**
413 **582.19, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraphs (c) and (d)**
414 **are added to that subsection, to read:**

415 582.19 Qualifications and tenure of supervisors.—

416 (1) The governing body of the district shall consist of
417 five supervisors, elected as provided in s. 582.18.

418 (a) To qualify to serve on the governing body of a
419 district, a supervisor must be a registered ~~an eligible voter in~~
420 this state ~~who resides in the district and who meets all of the~~
421 following criteria:

422 1. A person who resides within the boundaries of the
423 district.

424 2.a. Is a landowner of land zoned as agricultural or
425 classified as agricultural lands by the applicable property

426 appraiser;

427 b. Is actively engaged in commercial agriculture
428 production, which for purposes of this section means an
429 individual that produces an agricultural commodity through
430 participation in the day-to-day labor, management, and field
431 operations or that has the legal right to harvest an
432 agricultural commodity;

433 c. Is an actively engaged operator of a farm;

434 d. Is an owner of or employed by an agriculture business
435 or farm;

436 e. Is an actively engaged agriculture or natural resources
437 professional in a field that is directly related to commercial
438 agriculture or natural resources;

439 f. Is an actively engaged college or university staff
440 member or professor who has expertise in agriculture as defined
441 in s. 570.02;

442 g. Is an actively engaged direct agriculture-related
443 vendor; or

444 h. Has retired from such work or previously owned land as
445 described in sub-subparagraphs a.-g., provided the person
446 performed such work or owned such land for a minimum of 5 years.

447 (c) Any person serving as a supervisor pursuant to this
448 section must provide supporting documentation to verify his or
449 her eligibility to serve pursuant to the criteria listed in
450 paragraph (a). Such proof may include, but need not be limited

451 to, a copy of a property tax bill; a copy of an Internal Revenue
452 Service Schedule F, Profit or Loss From Farming form; proof of
453 employment as a professional in the field of agriculture or
454 natural resources; or a curriculum vitae demonstrating expertise
455 in such topics.

456 (d) The Commission on Ethics may remove a supervisor if
457 the commission receives a written complaint and determines,
458 subsequent to an investigation conducted in accordance with
459 chapter 112, that such supervisor does not meet the eligibility
460 criteria provided for in this section

461 ~~1. Is actively engaged in, or retired after 10 years of~~
462 ~~being engaged in, agriculture as defined in s. 570.02;~~

463 ~~2. Is employed by an agricultural producer; or~~

464 ~~3. Owns, leases, or is actively employed on land~~
465 ~~classified as agricultural under s. 193.461.~~

466 **Section 11. Section 582.20, Florida Statutes, is amended**
467 **to read:**

468 582.20 Powers of districts and supervisors.—A soil and
469 water conservation district organized under the provisions of
470 this chapter shall constitute a governmental subdivision of this
471 state, and a public body corporate and politic, exercising
472 public powers, and such district and the supervisors thereof
473 shall have the following powers, in addition to others granted
474 in other sections of this chapter:

475 (1) To conduct surveys, studies, and research relating to

476 soil and water resources and to publish and disseminate the
 477 results of such surveys, studies, research, and related
 478 information;

479 (2) To conduct agricultural best management practices
 480 demonstration projects and projects for the conservation,
 481 protection, and restoration of soil and water resources:

482 (a) Within the district's boundaries;

483 (b) Within another district's boundaries, ~~subject to the~~
 484 ~~other district's approval;~~

485 (c) In areas not contained within any district's
 486 boundaries on lands owned or controlled by this state or any of
 487 its agencies, with the cooperation of the agency administering
 488 and having jurisdiction thereof; or

489 (d) On any other lands within the district's boundaries,
 490 within another district's boundaries subject to the other
 491 district's approval, or not contained within any district's
 492 boundaries upon obtaining the consent of the owner or occupier
 493 of the lands or the necessary rights or interests in such lands;

494 (3) To cooperate, or enter into agreements with, any
 495 special district, municipality, county, water management
 496 district, state or federal agency, governmental or otherwise, or
 497 owner or occupier of lands within the district's boundaries,
 498 within another district's boundaries ~~subject to the other~~
 499 ~~district's approval,~~ or not contained within any district's
 500 boundaries in furtherance of the purposes and provisions of this

501 chapter;

502 (4) To obtain options upon and to acquire, by purchase,
503 exchange, lease, gift, grant, bequest, devise or otherwise, any
504 property, real or personal, or rights or interests therein; to
505 maintain, administer, and improve any properties acquired, to
506 receive income from such properties and to expend such income in
507 carrying out the purposes and provisions of this chapter; and to
508 sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of any of its property or
509 interests therein in furtherance of the purposes and provisions
510 of this chapter;

511 (5) To make available, on such terms as it shall
512 prescribe, to any owner or occupier of lands within the
513 district's boundaries, within another district's boundaries
514 ~~subject to the other district's approval~~, or not contained
515 within any district's boundaries agricultural and engineering
516 machinery and equipment, and such other material or equipment,
517 that will assist such landowners and occupiers to carry on
518 operations upon their lands for the conservation and protection
519 of soil and water resources;

520 (6) To construct, improve, operate, and maintain such
521 structures as may be necessary or convenient for the performance
522 of any of the operations authorized in this chapter;

523 (7) To provide, or assist in providing, training and
524 education programs that further the purposes and provisions of
525 this chapter;

526 (8) To sue and be sued in the name of the district; to
527 have a seal, which seal shall be judicially noticed; to have
528 perpetual succession unless terminated as provided in this
529 chapter; to make and execute contracts and other instruments
530 necessary or convenient to the exercise of its powers; upon a
531 majority vote of the supervisors of the district, to borrow
532 money and to execute promissory notes and other evidences of
533 indebtedness in connection therewith, and to pledge, mortgage,
534 and assign the income of the district and its personal property
535 as security therefor, the notes and other evidences of
536 indebtedness to be general obligations only of the district and
537 in no event to constitute an indebtedness for which the faith
538 and credit of the state or any of its revenues are pledged;

539 (9) To use, in coordination with the applicable county or
540 counties, the services of the county agricultural agents and the
541 facilities of their offices, if practicable and feasible. The
542 supervisors may also employ additional permanent and temporary
543 staff, as needed, and determine their qualifications, duties,
544 and compensation. The supervisors may delegate to the chair, to
545 one or more supervisors, or to employees such powers and duties
546 as they may deem proper, consistent with the provisions of this
547 chapter. The supervisors shall furnish to the department, upon
548 request, copies of rules, orders, contracts, forms, and other
549 documents that the district has adopted or used, and any other
550 information concerning the district's activities, that the

551 department may require in the performance of its duties under
552 this chapter;

553 (10) To adopt rules to implement the provisions of this
554 chapter; and

555 (11) To request that the Governor remove a supervisor for
556 neglect of duty or malfeasance in office by adoption of a
557 resolution at a public meeting. If the district believes there
558 is a need for a review of the request, the district may request
559 that the council, by resolution, review its request to the
560 Governor and provide the Governor with a recommendation.

561

562 Any provision with respect to the acquisition, operation, or
563 disposition of property by public bodies of this state does not
564 apply to a district organized under this chapter unless
565 specifically so stated by the Legislature. The property and
566 property rights of every kind and nature acquired by any
567 district organized under the provisions of this chapter are
568 exempt from state, county, and other taxation.

569 **Section 12.** Effective upon this act becoming a law, the
570 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall monitor
571 all soil and water conservation districts being abolished in
572 accordance with this act for statutory compliance through the
573 repeal on December 31, 2025, and to ensure that the district is
574 winding up administrative and fiscal matters related to the
575 district in a timely manner while using best practices through

576 the dissolution of the district.

577 **Section 13. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
 578 **made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, in a**
 579 **reference thereto, section 11.02, Florida Statutes, is reenacted**
 580 **to read:**

581 11.02 Notice of special or local legislation or certain
 582 relief acts.—The notice required to obtain special or local
 583 legislation or any relief act specified in s. 11.065 shall be by
 584 publishing the identical notice as provided in chapter 50 or
 585 circulated throughout the county or counties where the matter or
 586 thing to be affected by such legislation shall be situated one
 587 time at least 30 days before introduction of the proposed law
 588 into the Legislature or, if the notice is not published on a
 589 publicly accessible website as provided in s. 50.0311 and there
 590 is no newspaper circulated throughout or published in the
 591 county, by posting for at least 30 days at not fewer than three
 592 public places in the county or each of the counties, one of
 593 which places shall be at the courthouse in the county or
 594 counties where the matter or thing to be affected by such
 595 legislation shall be situated. Notice of special or local
 596 legislation shall state the substance of the contemplated law,
 597 as required by s. 10, Art. III of the State Constitution. Notice
 598 of any relief act specified in s. 11.065 shall state the name of
 599 the claimant, the nature of the injury or loss for which the
 600 claim is made, and the amount of the claim against the affected

601 municipality's revenue-sharing trust fund.

602 **Section 14. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
603 **made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, in a**
604 **reference thereto, subsection (2) of section 45.031, Florida**
605 **Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

606 45.031 Judicial sales procedure.—In any sale of real or
607 personal property under an order or judgment, the procedures
608 provided in this section and ss. 45.0315-45.035 may be followed
609 as an alternative to any other sale procedure if so ordered by
610 the court.

611 (2) PUBLICATION OF SALE.—Notice of sale shall be published
612 on a publicly accessible website as provided in s. 50.0311 for
613 at least 2 consecutive weeks before the sale or once a week for
614 2 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation, as
615 provided in chapter 50, published in the county where the sale
616 is to be held. The second publication by newspaper shall be at
617 least 5 days before the sale. The notice shall contain:

618 (a) A description of the property to be sold.

619 (b) The time and place of sale.

620 (c) A statement that the sale will be made pursuant to the
621 order or final judgment.

622 (d) The caption of the action.

623 (e) The name of the clerk making the sale.

624 (f) A statement that any person claiming an interest in
625 the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner

626 as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim before the
627 clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed.

628

629 The court, in its discretion, may enlarge the time of the sale.
630 Notice of the changed time of sale shall be published as
631 provided herein.

632 **Section 15. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
633 **made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, in a**
634 **reference thereto, subsection (2) of section 50.011, Florida**
635 **Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

636 50.011 Publication of legal notices.—Whenever by statute
637 an official or legal advertisement or a publication or notice in
638 a newspaper or on a governmental agency website has been or is
639 directed or permitted in the nature of or in lieu of process, or
640 for constructive service, or in initiating, assuming, reviewing,
641 exercising, or enforcing jurisdiction or power, or for any
642 purpose, including all legal notices and advertisements of
643 sheriffs and tax collectors, such legislation, whether existing
644 or repealed, means either of the following:

645 (2) A publication on a publicly accessible website under
646 s. 50.0311.

647 **Section 16. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
648 **made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, in a**
649 **reference thereto, section 50.021, Florida Statutes, is**
650 **reenacted to read:**

651 50.021 Publication when no newspaper in county.—When any
 652 law, or order or decree of court, directs advertisements to be
 653 made in a county and there is no newspaper published in the
 654 county, the advertisement may be published on a publicly
 655 accessible website as provided in s. 50.0311 or made by posting
 656 three copies thereof in three different places in the county,
 657 one of which shall be at the front door of the courthouse, and
 658 by publication in the nearest county in which a newspaper
 659 qualified under this chapter is published.

660 **Section 17. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
 661 **made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, in a**
 662 **reference thereto, section 50.031, Florida Statutes, is**
 663 **reenacted to read:**

664 50.031 Newspapers in which legal notices and process may
 665 be published.—If a governmental agency publishes a legal notice
 666 in a newspaper, no notice or publication required to be
 667 published in the nature of or in lieu of process of any kind,
 668 nature, character, or description provided for under any law of
 669 the state, whether heretofore or hereafter enacted, and whether
 670 pertaining to constructive service, or the initiating, assuming,
 671 reviewing, exercising, or enforcing jurisdiction or power, by
 672 any court in this state, or any notice of sale of property, real
 673 or personal, for taxes, state, county, or municipal, or
 674 sheriff's, guardian's, or administrator's or any sale made
 675 pursuant to any judicial order, decree, or statute or any other

676 publication or notice pertaining to any affairs of the state, or
677 any county, municipality, or other political subdivision
678 thereof, shall be deemed to have been published in accordance
679 with the statutes providing for such publication, unless the
680 same shall have been published for the prescribed period of time
681 required for such publication, in a newspaper which at the time
682 of such publication shall have been in existence for 2 years and
683 meets the requirements set forth in s. 50.011, or in a newspaper
684 which is a direct successor of a newspaper which has been so
685 published; provided, however, that nothing herein contained
686 shall apply where in any county there shall be no newspaper in
687 existence which shall have been published for the length of time
688 above prescribed. No legal publication of any kind, nature, or
689 description, as herein defined, shall be valid or binding or
690 held to be in compliance with the statutes providing for such
691 publication unless the same shall have been published in
692 accordance with this section or s. 50.0311. Proof of such
693 publication shall be made by uniform affidavit.

694 **Section 18. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
695 **made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, in a**
696 **reference thereto, subsection (12) of section 90.902, Florida**
697 **Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

698 90.902 Self-authentication.—Extrinsic evidence of
699 authenticity as a condition precedent to admissibility is not
700 required for:

701 (12) A legal notice published in accordance with the
702 requirements of chapter 50 in the print edition of a qualified
703 newspaper or on a publicly accessible website as provided in s.
704 50.0311.

705 **Section 19. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
706 **made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, in a**
707 **reference thereto, subsection (7) of section 98.075, Florida**
708 **Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

709 98.075 Registration records maintenance activities;
710 ineligibility determinations.—

711 (7) PROCEDURES FOR REMOVAL.—

712 (a) If the supervisor receives notice or information
713 pursuant to subsections (4)-(6), the supervisor of the county in
714 which the voter is registered must:

715 1. Notify the registered voter of his or her potential
716 ineligibility by mail within 7 days after receipt of notice or
717 information. The notice must include:

718 a. A statement of the basis for the registered voter's
719 potential ineligibility and a copy of any documentation upon
720 which the potential ineligibility is based. Such documentation
721 must include any conviction from another jurisdiction determined
722 to be a similar offense to murder or a felony sexual offense, as
723 those terms are defined in s. 98.0751.

724 b. A statement that failure to respond within 30 days
725 after receipt of the notice may result in a determination of

726 | ineligible and in removal of the registered voter's name from
727 | the statewide voter registration system.

728 | c. A return form that requires the registered voter to
729 | admit or deny the accuracy of the information underlying the
730 | potential ineligibility for purposes of a final determination by
731 | the supervisor.

732 | d. A statement that, if the voter is denying the accuracy
733 | of the information underlying the potential ineligibility, the
734 | voter has a right to request a hearing for the purpose of
735 | determining eligibility.

736 | e. Instructions for the registered voter to contact the
737 | supervisor of elections of the county in which the voter is
738 | registered if assistance is needed in resolving the matter.

739 | f. Instructions for seeking restoration of civil rights
740 | pursuant to s. 8, Art. IV of the State Constitution and
741 | information explaining voting rights restoration pursuant to s.
742 | 4, Art. VI of the State Constitution following a felony
743 | conviction, if applicable.

744 | g. The following statement: "If you attempt to vote at an
745 | early voting site or your normal election day polling place, you
746 | will be required to vote a provisional ballot. If you vote by
747 | mail, your ballot will be treated as a provisional ballot. In
748 | either case, your ballot may not be counted until a final
749 | determination of eligibility is made. If you wish for your
750 | ballot to be counted, you must contact the supervisor of

751 elections office within 2 days after the election and present
752 evidence that you are eligible to vote."

753 2. If the mailed notice is returned as undeliverable, the
754 supervisor must, within 14 days after receiving the returned
755 notice, either publish notice once in a newspaper of general
756 circulation in the county in which the voter was last registered
757 or publish notice on the county's website as provided in s.
758 50.0311 or on the supervisor's website, as deemed appropriate by
759 the supervisor. The notice must contain the following:

760 a. The voter's name and address.

761 b. A statement that the voter is potentially ineligible to
762 be registered to vote.

763 c. A statement that failure to respond within 30 days
764 after the notice is published may result in a determination of
765 ineligibility by the supervisor and removal of the registered
766 voter's name from the statewide voter registration system.

767 d. An instruction for the voter to contact the supervisor
768 no later than 30 days after the date of the published notice to
769 receive information regarding the basis for the potential
770 ineligibility and the procedure to resolve the matter.

771 e. An instruction to the voter that, if further assistance
772 is needed, the voter should contact the supervisor of elections
773 of the county in which the voter is registered.

774 f. A statement that, if the voter denies the accuracy of
775 the information underlying the potential ineligibility, the

776 voter has a right to request a hearing for the purpose of
777 determining eligibility.

778 g. The following statement: "If you attempt to vote at an
779 early voting site or your normal election day polling place, you
780 will be required to vote a provisional ballot. If you vote by
781 mail, your ballot will be treated as a provisional ballot. In
782 either case, your ballot may not be counted until a final
783 determination of eligibility is made. If you wish for your
784 ballot to be counted, you must contact the supervisor of
785 elections office within 2 days after the election and present
786 evidence that you are eligible to vote."

787 3. If a registered voter fails to respond to a notice
788 pursuant to subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2., the supervisor
789 must make a final determination of the voter's eligibility
790 within 7 days after expiration of the voter's timeframe to
791 respond. If the supervisor determines that the voter is
792 ineligible, the supervisor must remove the name of the
793 registered voter from the statewide voter registration system
794 within 7 days. The supervisor shall notify the registered voter
795 of the supervisor's determination and action.

796 4. If a registered voter responds to the notice pursuant
797 to subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. and admits the accuracy of
798 the information underlying the potential ineligibility, the
799 supervisor must, as soon as practicable, make a final
800 determination of ineligibility and remove the voter's name from

801 the statewide voter registration system. The supervisor shall
802 notify the registered voter of the supervisor's determination
803 and action.

804 5. If a registered voter responds to the notice issued
805 pursuant to subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. and denies the
806 accuracy of the information underlying the potential
807 ineligibility but does not request a hearing, the supervisor
808 must review the evidence and make a determination of eligibility
809 no later than 30 days after receiving the response from the
810 voter. If the supervisor determines that the registered voter is
811 ineligible, the supervisor must remove the voter's name from the
812 statewide voter registration system upon such determination and
813 notify the registered voter of the supervisor's determination
814 and action and that the removed voter has a right to appeal a
815 determination of ineligibility pursuant to s. 98.0755. If such
816 registered voter requests a hearing, the supervisor must send
817 notice to the registered voter to attend a hearing at a time and
818 place specified in the notice. The supervisor shall schedule and
819 issue notice for the hearing within 7 days after receiving the
820 voter's request for a hearing and shall hold the hearing no
821 later than 30 days after issuing the notice of the hearing. A
822 voter may request an extension upon showing good cause by
823 submitting an affidavit to the supervisor as to why he or she is
824 unable to attend the scheduled hearing. Upon hearing all
825 evidence presented at the hearing, the supervisor shall make a

826 determination of eligibility within 7 days. If the supervisor
827 determines that the registered voter is ineligible, the
828 supervisor must remove the voter's name from the statewide voter
829 registration system and notify the registered voter of the
830 supervisor's determination and action and that the removed voter
831 has a right to appeal a determination of ineligibility pursuant
832 to s. 98.0755.

833 (b) The following apply to this subsection:

834 1. All determinations of eligibility must be based on a
835 preponderance of the evidence.

836 2. All proceedings are exempt from chapter 120.

837 3. Any notice must be sent to the registered voter by
838 certified mail, return receipt requested, or other means that
839 provides a verification of receipt or must be published in a
840 newspaper of general circulation where the voter was last
841 registered, on the county's website as provided in s. 50.0311,
842 or on the supervisor's website, whichever is applicable.

843 4. The supervisor shall remove the name of any registered
844 voter from the statewide voter registration system only after
845 the supervisor makes a final determination that the voter is
846 ineligible to vote.

847 5. Any voter whose name has been removed from the
848 statewide voter registration system pursuant to a determination
849 of ineligibility may appeal that determination under s. 98.0755.

850 6. Any voter whose name was removed from the statewide

851 voter registration system on the basis of a determination of
852 ineligibility who subsequently becomes eligible to vote must
853 reregister in order to have his or her name restored to the
854 statewide voter registration system.

855 **Section 20. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
856 **made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, in a**
857 **reference thereto, subsection (3) of section 98.077, Florida**
858 **Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

859 98.077 Update of voter signature.—

860 (3) At least once during each general election year before
861 the presidential preference primary or the primary election,
862 whichever occurs first, the supervisor shall publish in a
863 newspaper of general circulation or other newspaper in the
864 county, on the county's website as provided in s. 50.0311, or on
865 the supervisor's website, as deemed appropriate by the
866 supervisor, a notice specifying when, where, or how a voter can
867 update his or her signature that is on file and how a voter can
868 obtain a voter registration application from a voter
869 registration official.

870 **Section 21. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
871 **made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, in a**
872 **reference thereto, section 100.021, Florida Statutes, is**
873 **reenacted to read:**

874 100.021 Notice of general election.—The Department of
875 State shall, in any year in which a general election is held,

876 make out a notice stating what offices and vacancies are to be
877 filled at the general election in the state, and in each county
878 and district thereof. During the 30 days before the beginning of
879 qualifying, the department shall have the notice published two
880 times in a newspaper of general circulation in each county; and,
881 in counties in which there is no newspaper of general
882 circulation, it shall send to the sheriff a notice of the
883 offices and vacancies to be filled at such general election by
884 the qualified voters of the sheriff's county or any district
885 thereof, and the sheriff shall have at least five copies of the
886 notice posted in conspicuous places in the county. Notice may be
887 provided alternatively by publishing notice on the division's
888 website, on the county's website as provided in s. 50.0311, or
889 on the supervisor's website, as deemed appropriate by the
890 supervisor.

891 **Section 22. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
892 **made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, in a**
893 **reference thereto, subsection (3) of section 100.141, Florida**
894 **Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

895 100.141 Notice of special election to fill any vacancy in
896 office.—

897 (3) The department shall deliver a copy of such notice to
898 the supervisor of elections of each county in which the special
899 election is to be held. The supervisor shall have the notice
900 published two times in a newspaper of general circulation in the

901 county at least 10 days before the first day set for qualifying
 902 for office or, for at least 10 days before the first day set for
 903 qualifying for office, publish notice on the county's website as
 904 provided in s. 50.0311 or on the supervisor's website.

905 **Section 23. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
 906 **made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, in a**
 907 **reference thereto, section 100.342, Florida Statutes, is**
 908 **reenacted to read:**

909 100.342 Notice of special election or referendum.—In any
 910 special election or referendum not otherwise provided for, there
 911 must be at least 30 days' notice of the election or referendum
 912 by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the
 913 county, district, or municipality, or publication on the
 914 county's website as provided in s. 50.0311, the municipality's
 915 website, or the supervisor's website, as applicable. The
 916 publication must be made at least twice, once in the fifth week
 917 and once in the third week before the week in which the election
 918 or referendum is to be held. If the applicable website becomes
 919 unavailable or there is no newspaper of general circulation in
 920 the county, district, or municipality, the notice must be posted
 921 in no less than five places within the territorial limits of the
 922 county, district, or municipality.

923 **Section 24. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
 924 **made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, in a**
 925 **reference thereto, subsection (2) of section 101.5612, Florida**

926 **Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

927 101.5612 Testing of tabulating equipment.—

928 (2) On any day not more than 25 days before the
 929 commencement of early voting as provided in s. 101.657, the
 930 supervisor of elections shall have the automatic tabulating
 931 equipment publicly tested to ascertain that the equipment will
 932 correctly count the votes cast for all offices and on all
 933 measures. If the ballots to be used at the polling place on
 934 election day are not available at the time of the testing, the
 935 supervisor may conduct an additional test not more than 10 days
 936 before election day. Public notice of the time and place of the
 937 test shall be given at least 48 hours prior thereto by
 938 publication on the county website as provided in s. 50.0311, on
 939 the supervisor of elections' website, or once in one or more
 940 newspapers of general circulation in the county. If the
 941 applicable website becomes unavailable or if there is no
 942 newspaper of general circulation in the county, the notice must
 943 be posted in at least four conspicuous places in the county. The
 944 supervisor or the municipal elections official may, at the time
 945 of qualifying, give written notice of the time and location of
 946 the public preelection test to each candidate qualifying with
 947 that office and obtain a signed receipt that the notice has been
 948 given. The Department of State shall give written notice to each
 949 statewide candidate at the time of qualifying, or immediately at
 950 the end of qualifying, that the voting equipment will be tested

951 and advise each candidate to contact the county supervisor of
952 elections as to the time and location of the public preelection
953 test. The supervisor or the municipal elections official shall,
954 at least 30 days before the commencement of early voting as
955 provided in s. 101.657, send written notice by certified mail to
956 the county party chair of each political party and to all
957 candidates for other than statewide office whose names appear on
958 the ballot in the county and who did not receive written
959 notification from the supervisor or municipal elections official
960 at the time of qualifying, stating the time and location of the
961 public preelection test of the automatic tabulating equipment.
962 The canvassing board shall convene, and each member of the
963 canvassing board shall certify to the accuracy of the test. For
964 the test, the canvassing board may designate one member to
965 represent it. The test shall be open to representatives of the
966 political parties, the press, and the public. Each political
967 party may designate one person with expertise in the computer
968 field who shall be allowed in the central counting room when all
969 tests are being conducted and when the official votes are being
970 counted. The designee may not interfere with the normal
971 operation of the canvassing board.

972 **Section 25. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
973 **made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, in a**
974 **reference thereto, subsection (2) of section 101.71, Florida**
975 **Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

976 | 101.71 Polling place.—

977 | (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), whenever the
978 | supervisor of elections of any county determines that the
979 | accommodations for holding any election at a polling place
980 | designated for any precinct in the county are unavailable, are
981 | inadequate for the expeditious and efficient housing and
982 | handling of voting and voting paraphernalia, or do not comply
983 | with the requirements of s. 101.715, the supervisor shall, not
984 | less than 30 days before the holding of an election, provide for
985 | the voting place for such precinct to be moved to another site
986 | that is accessible to the public on election day in said
987 | precinct or, if such is not available, to another site that is
988 | accessible to the public on election day in a contiguous
989 | precinct. If such action of the supervisor results in the voting
990 | place for two or more precincts being located for the purposes
991 | of an election in one building, the supervisor of elections
992 | shall provide adequate supplies, equipment, and personnel are
993 | available to accommodate the voters for the precincts that are
994 | collocated. When any supervisor moves any polling place pursuant
995 | to this subsection, the supervisor shall, not more than 30 days
996 | or fewer than 7 days before the holding of an election, give
997 | notice of the change of the polling place for the precinct
998 | involved, with clear description of the voting place to which
999 | changed, by publication on the county's website as provided in
1000 | s. 50.0311, on the supervisor's website, or at least once in a

1001 newspaper of general circulation in the county. A notice of the
 1002 change of the polling place involved shall be mailed at least 14
 1003 days before an election to each registered elector or to each
 1004 household in which there is a registered elector.

1005 **Section 26. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
 1006 **made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, in a**
 1007 **reference thereto, subsection (2) of section 101.733, Florida**
 1008 **Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

1009 101.733 Election emergency; purpose; elections emergency
 1010 contingency plan.—Because of the existing and continuing
 1011 possibility of an emergency or common disaster occurring before
 1012 or during a regularly scheduled or special election, and in
 1013 order to ensure maximum citizen participation in the electoral
 1014 process and provide a safe and orderly procedure for persons
 1015 seeking to exercise their right to vote, generally to minimize
 1016 to whatever degree possible a person's exposure to danger during
 1017 declared states of emergency, and to protect the integrity of
 1018 the electoral process, it is hereby found and declared to be
 1019 necessary to designate a procedure for the emergency suspension
 1020 or delay and rescheduling of elections.

1021 (2) The Governor, upon consultation with the Secretary of
 1022 State, shall reschedule any election suspended or delayed due to
 1023 an emergency. The election shall be held within 10 days after
 1024 the date of the suspended or delayed election or as soon
 1025 thereafter as is practicable. Notice of the election must be

1026 published on the affected county's website as provided in s.
1027 50.0311, on the affected supervisor's website, or at least once
1028 in a newspaper of general circulation in the affected area and,
1029 where practicable, broadcast as a public service announcement on
1030 radio and television stations at least 1 week before the date
1031 the election is to be held.

1032 **Section 27. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
1033 **made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, in a**
1034 **reference thereto, paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section**
1035 **102.141, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

1036 102.141 County canvassing board; duties.—

1037 (2)

1038 (b) Public notice of the canvassing board members,
1039 alternates, time, and place at which the county canvassing board
1040 shall meet to canvass the absent electors' ballots and
1041 provisional ballots must be given at least 48 hours prior
1042 thereto by publication on the county's website as provided in s.
1043 50.0311, on the supervisor's website, or in one or more
1044 newspapers of general circulation in the county. If the
1045 applicable website becomes unavailable or there is no newspaper
1046 of general circulation in the county, the notice must be posted
1047 in at least four conspicuous places in the county. The time
1048 given in the notice as to the convening of the meeting of the
1049 county canvassing board must be specific and may not be a time
1050 period during which the board may meet.

1051 **Section 28. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
 1052 **made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, in a**
 1053 **reference thereto, paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section**
 1054 **120.81, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

1055 120.81 Exceptions and special requirements; general
 1056 areas.—

1057 (1) EDUCATIONAL UNITS.—

1058 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,
 1059 educational units shall not be required to include the full text
 1060 of the rule or rule amendment in notices relating to rules and
 1061 need not publish these or other notices in the Florida
 1062 Administrative Register, but notice shall be made:

1063 1. By publication in a newspaper qualified under chapter
 1064 50 in the affected area or on a publicly accessible website as
 1065 provided in s. 50.0311;

1066 2. By mail to all persons who have made requests of the
 1067 educational unit for advance notice of its proceedings and to
 1068 organizations representing persons affected by the proposed
 1069 rule; and

1070 3. By posting in appropriate places so that those
 1071 particular classes of persons to whom the intended action is
 1072 directed may be duly notified.

1073 **Section 29. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
 1074 **made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, in**
 1075 **references thereto, paragraphs (b) and (h) of subsection (1) of**

1076 **section 121.055, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read:**

1077 121.055 Senior Management Service Class.—There is hereby
1078 established a separate class of membership within the Florida
1079 Retirement System to be known as the "Senior Management Service
1080 Class," which shall become effective February 1, 1987.

1081 (1)

1082 (b)1. Except as provided in subparagraph 2., effective
1083 January 1, 1990, participation in the Senior Management Service
1084 Class is compulsory for the president of each community college,
1085 the manager of each participating municipality or county, and
1086 all appointed district school superintendents. Effective January
1087 1, 1994, additional positions may be designated for inclusion in
1088 the Senior Management Service Class if:

1089 a. Positions to be included in the class are designated by
1090 the local agency employer. Notice of intent to designate
1091 positions for inclusion in the class must be published for at
1092 least 2 consecutive weeks if published on a publicly accessible
1093 website as provided in s. 50.0311 or, if published in print,
1094 once a week for 2 consecutive weeks in a newspaper qualified
1095 under chapter 50 that is published in the county or counties
1096 affected.

1097 b. Up to 10 nonelective full-time positions may be
1098 designated for each local agency employer reporting to the
1099 department; for local agencies with 100 or more regularly
1100 established positions, additional nonelective full-time

1101 positions may be designated, not to exceed 1 percent of the
1102 regularly established positions within the agency.

1103 c. Each position added to the class must be a managerial
1104 or policymaking position filled by an employee who is not
1105 subject to continuing contract and serves at the pleasure of the
1106 local agency employer without civil service protection, and who:

1107 (I) Heads an organizational unit; or

1108 (II) Has responsibility to effect or recommend personnel,
1109 budget, expenditure, or policy decisions in his or her areas of
1110 responsibility.

1111 2. In lieu of participation in the Senior Management
1112 Service Class, members of the Senior Management Service Class,
1113 pursuant to subparagraph 1., may withdraw from the Florida
1114 Retirement System altogether. The decision to withdraw from the
1115 system is irrevocable as long as the employee holds the
1116 position. Any service creditable under the Senior Management
1117 Service Class shall be retained after the member withdraws from
1118 the system; however, additional service credit in the Senior
1119 Management Service Class may not be earned after such
1120 withdrawal. Such members are not eligible to participate in the
1121 Senior Management Service Optional Annuity Program.

1122 3. Effective January 1, 2006, through June 30, 2006, an
1123 employee who has withdrawn from the Florida Retirement System
1124 under subparagraph 2. has one opportunity to elect to
1125 participate in the pension plan or the investment plan.

1126 a. If the employee elects to participate in the investment
1127 plan, membership shall be prospective, and the applicable
1128 provisions of s. 121.4501(4) govern the election.

1129 b. If the employee elects to participate in the pension
1130 plan, the employee shall, upon payment to the system trust fund
1131 of the amount calculated under sub-sub-subparagraph (I), receive
1132 service credit for prior service based upon the time during
1133 which the employee had withdrawn from the system.

1134 (I) The cost for such credit shall be an amount
1135 representing the actuarial accrued liability for the affected
1136 period of service. The cost shall be calculated using the
1137 discount rate and other relevant actuarial assumptions that were
1138 used to value the pension plan liabilities in the most recent
1139 actuarial valuation. The calculation must include any service
1140 already maintained under the pension plan in addition to the
1141 period of withdrawal. The actuarial accrued liability
1142 attributable to any service already maintained under the pension
1143 plan shall be applied as a credit to the total cost resulting
1144 from the calculation. The division must ensure that the transfer
1145 sum is prepared using a formula and methodology certified by an
1146 actuary.

1147 (II) The employee must transfer a sum representing the net
1148 cost owed for the actuarial accrued liability in sub-sub-
1149 subparagraph (I) immediately following the time of such
1150 movement, determined assuming that attained service equals the

1151 sum of service in the pension plan and the period of withdrawal.

1152 (h)1. Except as provided in subparagraph 3., effective
1153 January 1, 1994, participation in the Senior Management Service
1154 Class shall be compulsory for the State Courts Administrator and
1155 the Deputy State Courts Administrators, the Clerk of the Supreme
1156 Court, the Marshal of the Supreme Court, the Executive Director
1157 of the Justice Administrative Commission, the capital collateral
1158 regional counsel, the clerks of the district courts of appeals,
1159 the marshals of the district courts of appeals, and the trial
1160 court administrator and the Chief Deputy Court Administrator in
1161 each judicial circuit. Effective January 1, 1994, additional
1162 positions in the offices of the state attorney and public
1163 defender in each judicial circuit may be designated for
1164 inclusion in the Senior Management Service Class of the Florida
1165 Retirement System, provided that:

1166 a. Positions to be included in the class shall be
1167 designated by the state attorney or public defender, as
1168 appropriate. Notice of intent to designate positions for
1169 inclusion in the class shall be published for at least 2
1170 consecutive weeks on a publicly accessible website as provided
1171 in s. 50.0311 or, if published in print, once a week for 2
1172 consecutive weeks in a newspaper qualified under chapter 50 in
1173 the county or counties affected.

1174 b. One nonelective full-time position may be designated
1175 for each state attorney and public defender reporting to the

1176 Department of Management Services; for agencies with 200 or more
1177 regularly established positions under the state attorney or
1178 public defender, additional nonelective full-time positions may
1179 be designated, not to exceed 0.5 percent of the regularly
1180 established positions within the agency.

1181 c. Each position added to the class must be a managerial
1182 or policymaking position filled by an employee who serves at the
1183 pleasure of the state attorney or public defender without civil
1184 service protection, and who:

1185 (I) Heads an organizational unit; or

1186 (II) Has responsibility to effect or recommend personnel,
1187 budget, expenditure, or policy decisions in his or her areas of
1188 responsibility.

1189 2. Participation in this class shall be compulsory, except
1190 as provided in subparagraph 3., for any judicial employee who
1191 holds a position designated for coverage in the Senior
1192 Management Service Class, and such participation shall continue
1193 until the employee terminates employment in a covered position.
1194 Effective January 1, 2001, participation in this class is
1195 compulsory for assistant state attorneys, assistant statewide
1196 prosecutors, assistant public defenders, and assistant capital
1197 collateral regional counsel. Effective January 1, 2002,
1198 participation in this class is compulsory for assistant
1199 attorneys general.

1200 3. In lieu of participation in the Senior Management

1201 Service Class, such members, excluding assistant state
 1202 attorneys, assistant public defenders, assistant statewide
 1203 prosecutors, assistant attorneys general, and assistant capital
 1204 collateral regional counsel, may participate in the Senior
 1205 Management Service Optional Annuity Program as established in
 1206 subsection (6).

1207 **Section 30. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
 1208 **made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, in a**
 1209 **reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section**
 1210 **162.12, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

1211 162.12 Notices.—

1212 (2) In addition to providing notice as set forth in
 1213 subsection (1), at the option of the code enforcement board or
 1214 the local government, notice may be served by publication or
 1215 posting, as follows:

1216 (a)1. Such notice shall be published in print in a
 1217 newspaper or on a publicly accessible website as provided in s.
 1218 50.0311 for 4 consecutive weeks. If published in print, the
 1219 notice shall be published once during each week for 4
 1220 consecutive weeks (four publications being sufficient) in a
 1221 newspaper in the county where the code enforcement board is
 1222 located. The newspaper shall meet such requirements as are
 1223 prescribed under chapter 50 for legal and official
 1224 advertisements.

1225 2. Proof of publication shall be made as provided in ss.

1226 50.041 and 50.051.

1227 **Section 31. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
1228 **made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, in a**
1229 **reference thereto, paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section**
1230 **190.005, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

1231 190.005 Establishment of district.—

1232 (1) The exclusive and uniform method for the establishment
1233 of a community development district with a size of 2,500 acres
1234 or more shall be pursuant to a rule, adopted under chapter 120
1235 by the Florida Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission, granting
1236 a petition for the establishment of a community development
1237 district.

1238 (d) A local public hearing on the petition shall be
1239 conducted by a hearing officer in conformance with the
1240 applicable requirements and procedures of the Administrative
1241 Procedure Act. The hearing shall include oral and written
1242 comments on the petition pertinent to the factors specified in
1243 paragraph (e). The hearing shall be held at an accessible
1244 location in the county in which the community development
1245 district is to be located. The petitioner shall cause a notice
1246 of the hearing to be published for 4 successive weeks on a
1247 publicly accessible website as provided in s. 50.0311 or, if
1248 published in print, in a newspaper at least once a week for the
1249 4 successive weeks immediately prior to the hearing as provided
1250 in chapter 50. Such notice shall give the time and place for the

1251 hearing, a description of the area to be included in the
1252 district, which description shall include a map showing clearly
1253 the area to be covered by the district, and any other relevant
1254 information which the establishing governing bodies may require.
1255 If published in the print edition of a newspaper, the
1256 advertisement may not be placed in the portion of the newspaper
1257 where legal notices and classified advertisements appear. The
1258 advertisement must be published in a newspaper in the county and
1259 of general interest and readership in the community pursuant to
1260 chapter 50. Whenever possible, the advertisement shall appear in
1261 a newspaper that is published at least weekly, unless the only
1262 newspaper in the community is published less than weekly. If the
1263 notice is published in the print edition of the newspaper, the
1264 map must also be included in any online advertisement pursuant
1265 to s. 50.0211. All affected units of general-purpose local
1266 government and the general public shall be given an opportunity
1267 to appear at the hearing and present oral or written comments on
1268 the petition.

1269 **Section 32. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
1270 **made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, in a**
1271 **reference thereto, paragraph (f) of subsection (2) of section**
1272 **200.065, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

1273 200.065 Method of fixing millage.—

1274 (2) No millage shall be levied until a resolution or
1275 ordinance has been approved by the governing board of the taxing

1276 authority which resolution or ordinance must be approved by the
1277 taxing authority according to the following procedure:

1278 (f)1. Notwithstanding any provisions of paragraph (c) to
1279 the contrary, each school district shall advertise its intent to
1280 adopt a tentative budget on a publicly accessible website
1281 pursuant to s. 50.0311 or in a newspaper of general circulation
1282 pursuant to subsection (3) within 29 days after certification of
1283 value pursuant to subsection (1). For the purpose of this
1284 paragraph, the term "publicly accessible website" includes a
1285 district school board's official website if the school board
1286 website satisfies the remaining requirements of s. 50.0311. Not
1287 less than 2 days or more than 5 days thereafter, the district
1288 shall hold a public hearing on the tentative budget pursuant to
1289 the applicable provisions of paragraph (c). In the event of
1290 postponement or recess due to a declared state of emergency, the
1291 school district may postpone or recess the hearing for up to 7
1292 days and shall post a prominent notice at the place of the
1293 original hearing showing the date, time, and place where the
1294 hearing will be reconvened. The posted notice shall measure not
1295 less than 8.5 by 11 inches. The school district shall make every
1296 reasonable effort to provide reasonable notification of the
1297 continued hearing to the taxpayers. The information must also be
1298 posted on the school district's website if the district school
1299 board uses a different method of advertisement.

1300 2. Notwithstanding any provisions of paragraph (b) to the

1301 contrary, each school district shall advise the property
 1302 appraiser of its recomputed proposed millage rate within 35 days
 1303 of certification of value pursuant to subsection (1). The
 1304 recomputed proposed millage rate of the school district shall be
 1305 considered its proposed millage rate for the purposes of
 1306 paragraph (b).

1307 3. Notwithstanding any provisions of paragraph (d) to the
 1308 contrary, each school district shall hold a public hearing to
 1309 finalize the budget and adopt a millage rate within 80 days of
 1310 certification of value pursuant to subsection (1), but not
 1311 earlier than 65 days after certification. The hearing shall be
 1312 held in accordance with the applicable provisions of paragraph
 1313 (d), except that a newspaper advertisement need not precede the
 1314 hearing.

1315 **Section 33. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
 1316 **made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, in a**
 1317 **reference thereto, subsection (5) of section 849.38, Florida**
 1318 **Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

1319 849.38 Proceedings for forfeiture; notice of seizure and
 1320 order to show cause.—

1321 (5) If the value of the property seized is shown by the
 1322 sheriff's return to have an appraised value of \$1,000 or less,
 1323 the above citation shall be served by posting at three public
 1324 places in the county, one of which shall be the front door of
 1325 the courthouse; if the value of the property is shown by the

1326 sheriff's return to have an approximate value of more than
 1327 \$1,000, the citation shall be published by print or posted for
 1328 at least 2 consecutive weeks on a publicly accessible website as
 1329 provided in s. 50.0311. If published in print, the citation
 1330 shall appear at least once each week for 2 consecutive weeks in
 1331 a newspaper qualified to publish legal notices under chapter 50
 1332 that is published in the county, if there is such a newspaper
 1333 published in the county. If there is no such newspaper, the
 1334 notice of such publication shall be made by certificate of the
 1335 clerk if publication is made by posting, and by affidavit as
 1336 provided in chapter 50, if made by publication as provided in
 1337 chapter 50, which affidavit or certificate shall be filed and
 1338 become a part of the record in the cause. Failure of the record
 1339 to show proof of such publication shall not affect any judgment
 1340 made in the cause unless it shall affirmatively appear that no
 1341 such publication was made.

1342 **Section 34. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
 1343 **made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, in a**
 1344 **reference thereto, paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section**
 1345 **1001.372, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

1346 1001.372 District school board meetings.—

1347 (2) PLACE OF MEETINGS.—

1348 (c) For the purpose of this section, due public notice
 1349 shall consist of, at least 2 days prior to the meeting:
 1350 continuous publication on a publicly accessible website as

1351 provided in s. 50.0311 or the official district school board
 1352 website; publication in a newspaper of general circulation in
 1353 the county, or in each county where there is no newspaper of
 1354 general circulation in the county, an announcement over at least
 1355 one radio station whose signal is generally received in the
 1356 county, a reasonable number of times daily during the 48 hours
 1357 immediately preceding the date of such meeting; or posting a
 1358 notice at the courthouse door if no newspaper is published in
 1359 the county.

1360 **Section 35.. For the purpose of incorporating the**
 1361 **amendment made by this act to section 50.0311, Florida Statutes,**
 1362 **in a reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 1011.03,**
 1363 **Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

1364 1011.03 Public hearings; budget to be submitted to
 1365 Department of Education.—

1366 (1) Each district school board shall cause a summary of
 1367 its tentative budget, including the proposed millage levies as
 1368 provided for by law, to be posted on the district's official
 1369 website or on a publicly accessible website as provided in s.
 1370 50.0311.

1371 **Section 36.6. For the purpose of incorporating the**
 1372 **amendment made by this act to section 171.093, Florida Statutes,**
 1373 **in a reference thereto, subsection (11) of section 189.074,**
 1374 **Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

1375 189.074 Voluntary merger of independent special

1376 districts.—Two or more contiguous independent special districts
1377 created by special act which have similar functions and elected
1378 governing bodies may elect to merge into a single independent
1379 district through the act of merging the component independent
1380 special districts.

1381 (11) EFFECT ON ANNEXATION.—Chapter 171 continues to apply
1382 to all annexations by a city within the component independent
1383 special districts' boundaries after merger occurs. Any moneys
1384 owed to a component independent special district pursuant to s.
1385 171.093, or any interlocal service boundary agreement as a
1386 result of annexation predating the merger, shall be paid to the
1387 merged independent district after merger.

1388 **Section 37.** Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
1389 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon
1390 becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 2025.