

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the St. Lucie County Fire District,
3 St. Lucie County; amending chapter 2004-407, Laws of
4 Florida; revising requirements for the district's
5 board of commissioners to borrow money; providing an
6 effective date.

7
8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

9
10 Section 1. Section 6 of section 3 of chapter 2004-407,
11 Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

12 Section 6. Gifts; purchases; loans.—

13 (1) The board shall have the power and authority to hold,
14 control, and acquire, by gift or purchase, for the use of the
15 district, any real or personal property and to pay the purchase
16 price in installments or deferred payments and to condemn any
17 lands needed for the purpose of said district. Said board is
18 authorized to exercise the right of eminent domain and institute
19 and maintain condemnation proceedings in the same manner as St.
20 Lucie County, as other public municipalities under the laws of
21 the state, or both.

22 (2) The board is hereby authorized and empowered, in order
23 to carry out the purposes of this act, to borrow money not to
24 exceed 10 percent of the district's operating budget consistent
25 with chapters 189 and 191, Florida Statutes, the uses for which
26 must be approved by a supermajority of six affirmative votes of

27 the board, and the uses may not include normal operational
 28 expenses; and \$1,500,000 in any one year unless the board shall
 29 issue a resolution that declares a district emergency as defined
 30 in this section, in which case the board is authorized and
 31 empowered to borrow money not to exceed the sum of \$4 million.
 32 In no event, however, shall the total of all amounts borrowed
 33 and unpaid exceed the sum of \$5 million. The board is further
 34 authorized and empowered to issue its promissory notes therefor
 35 upon such terms and at such rates of interest as said board may
 36 deem advisable, and said notes shall be a charge upon all
 37 revenues derived from taxes in that year. If the district votes
 38 to refinance any debt based on borrowed money authorized under
 39 this subsection, its refinanced term cannot extend beyond its
 40 original term.

41 ~~(3) An emergency for the purposes of the St. Lucie County~~
 42 ~~Fire District is defined as:~~

43 ~~(a) A natural or manmade fire or medical disaster~~
 44 ~~involving significant injury, death, or destruction of~~
 45 ~~structures and requiring extensive and unforeseen use of~~
 46 ~~overtime or additional personnel.~~

47 ~~(b) A response to a declaration of a local emergency and~~
 48 ~~request by St. Lucie County that the district provide emergency~~
 49 ~~services, the cost of which exceeds the annual borrowing limit~~
 50 ~~of the district.~~

51 ~~(c) A need to replace or repair fire or emergency medical~~
 52 ~~vehicles and equipment based on unanticipated and unforeseen~~

53 ~~circumstances, rather than on ordinary wear and tear, for losses~~
54 ~~not covered by insurance.~~

55 (3)~~(4)~~ The board ~~of commissioners of the district~~ shall
56 have the power and authority to acquire by gift or purchase and
57 to pay the purchase price for such firefighting and other
58 equipment as deemed reasonably necessary for the protection of
59 property, safety of lives, or reduction of fire hazards to the
60 same, in the district; to hire firefighting, emergency medical,
61 civilian, and other personnel as needed; and to inspect all
62 property and investigate for fire hazards and prescribe rules
63 and regulations pertaining thereto, including the enforcement of
64 the Florida Fire Prevention Code as revised from time to time.

65 (4)~~(5)~~ The board ~~of commissioners of the district~~ may
66 acquire, by gift or purchase, such emergency equipment and
67 employ such personnel as may be determined reasonably necessary
68 by the board for the operation and maintenance of emergency
69 medical service within the district.

70 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.