

STORAGE NAME: h0429a.ca

DATE: March 6, 1997

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
BILL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT - LOCAL LEGISLATION**

BILL #: HB 429

RELATING TO: Estero Fire Protection and Rescue Service District, Lee County

SPONSOR(S): Representative Livingston

COMPANION BILL(S): SB 744 (i)

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:

- (1) COMMUNITY AFFAIRS YEAS 6 NAYS 0
 - (2)
 - (3)
 - (4)
 - (5)
-

I. SUMMARY:

This bill authorizes the Estero Fire and Rescue Service District to establish and maintain emergency medical and rescue response services and provide advanced life support services, subject to the provisions of general law.

According to the Economic Impact Statement filed with the bill, costs of providing advanced life support are funded through an ad valorem tax of no greater than 2 mils. The current millage rate is 1.917.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

The Estero Fire Protection and Rescue Service District (District) is an independent special district established by special act of the 1976 Florida Legislature. It is one of 17 independent fire control districts in Lee County and covers approximately 60 square miles. Its population varies from approximately 5,000 permanent residents, to 10,000 during the peak tourist season. The District responded to 627 calls in 1996; 86% of these were medical. Currently, the District is only authorized to provide basic life support services. The District has 1 fire station, and 2 additional stations are planned. The District has 3 paid staff members, and contracts out for the services of 13 additional employees.

Funding for the District is generated by an annual ad valorem tax of not more than 2 mills. The current millage rate is 1.917.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

This bill authorizes the District to establish and maintain emergency medical and rescue response services.

C. LAWS OF FLORIDA/FLORIDA STATUTES AFFECTED:

Chapter 76-408, Laws of Florida, as amended.

D. APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES:

1. Less Government:

a. Does the bill create, increase or reduce, either directly or indirectly:

(1) any authority to make rules or adjudicate disputes?

No.

(2) any new responsibilities, obligations or work for other governmental or private organizations or individuals?

No.

(3) any entitlement to a government service or benefit?

No.

b. If an agency or program is eliminated or reduced:

Not Applicable.

(1) what responsibilities, costs and powers are passed on to another program, agency, level of government, or private entity?

(2) what is the cost of such responsibility at the new level/agency?

(3) how is the new agency accountable to the people governed?

2. Lower Taxes:

a. Does the bill increase anyone's taxes?

It may. The Board of Commissioners for the District has the authority to levy millage tax against the taxable real estate within the District to provide funds for the District. Taxes may be imposed in order to purchase necessary equipment and hire qualified personnel.

b. Does the bill require or authorize an increase in any fees?

No.

c. Does the bill reduce total taxes, both rates and revenues?

No.

d. Does the bill reduce total fees, both rates and revenues?

No.

e. Does the bill authorize any fee or tax increase by any local government?

No.

3. Personal Responsibility:

a. Does the bill reduce or eliminate an entitlement to government services or subsidy?

No.

b. Do the beneficiaries of the legislation directly pay any portion of the cost of implementation and operation?

Yes.

4. Individual Freedom:

- a. Does the bill increase the allowable options of individuals or private organizations/associations to conduct their own affairs?

No.

- b. Does the bill prohibit, or create new government interference with, any presently lawful activity?

No.

5. Family Empowerment:

- a. If the bill purports to provide services to families or children:

Not Applicable.

(1) Who evaluates the family's needs?

(2) Who makes the decisions?

(3) Are private alternatives permitted?

(4) Are families required to participate in a program?

(5) Are families penalized for not participating in a program?

- b. Does the bill directly affect the legal rights and obligations between family members?

Not Applicable.

- c. If the bill creates or changes a program providing services to families or children, in which of the following does the bill vest control of the program, either through direct participation or appointment authority:

Not Applicable.

(1) parents and guardians?

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(2) service providers?

(3) government employees/agencies?

E. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

Section 1 -- Amends section 10, chapter 76-408, Laws of Florida, as amended, by adding a new subsection (3) providing for the empowerment of appropriate personnel to operate and maintain emergency medical and rescue services; providing compliance with chapter 401, Florida Statutes, particularly the certificate of public convenience and necessity.

Section 2 -- Provides for an effective date upon becoming law.

III. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes ☒ No ☐

IF YES, WHEN? January 17, 1997

WHERE? Ft. Myers, Lee County, FL

B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED? Yes ☐ No ☒

IF YES, WHEN?

C. LOCAL BILL CERTIFICATION FILED? Yes, attached ☒ No ☐

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FILED? Yes, attached ☒ No ☐

IV. COMMENTS:

None.

V. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

None.

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VI. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

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