

STORAGE NAME: h0971a.hcl

DATE: March 23, 1999

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH CARE LICENSING & REGULATION
ANALYSIS - LOCAL LEGISLATION**

BILL #: HB 971

RELATING TO: Citrus County/Hospital & Nursing Home Act

SPONSOR(S): Representative Argenziano

COMPANION BILL(S):

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

- (1) HEALTH CARE LICENSING & REGULATION YEAS 11 NAYS 0
 - (2) COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
 - (3)
 - (4)
 - (5)
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I. SUMMARY:

HB 971 amends the Citrus County Hospital and Medical Nursing and Convalescent Home Act which was created by ch. 65-1371, Laws of Florida, as amended. This legislation ratifies and confirms the creation of the Citrus County Hospital Board as an independent special district.

It amends the act to: remove references to freeholders and insert voters; deletes obsolete language; and makes technical revisions, concerning style and punctuation.

It takes effect upon becoming a law.

The bill does not have a fiscal impact on the state, local government, or the private sector.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

The Citrus County Hospital and Medical Nursing and Convalescent Home Act was passed as ch. 65-1371, Laws of Florida. It was amended by ch. 69-944 and ch. 70-1001, Laws of Florida. The current law contains references to the archaic term "freeholders", obsolete language, and other incorrect references. The term "freeholders" describes those entitled to vote upon bond issues. A "freeholder" was a person having a certain possessory interest in real property. Many years ago, only landowners were allowed to vote on bond issues. However, this has been changed and voters are now authorized to vote or approve bond issues.

The act provided for a 5-member Citrus County Hospital Board to administer this act. The members were to be known as trustees to be appointed by the Governor, and confirmed by the Senate. The board was authorized by the Legislature to issue bonds and levy a hospital tax of up to 3 mills. The total amount of indebtedness was not to exceed an amount equal to six times the annual hospital tax.

The board is authorized to fund building, maintenance, and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, and convalescent homes in Citrus County by ad valorem taxation. The board currently operates Citrus Memorial Hospital.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

This local bill amends the Citrus County Hospital and Medical Nursing and Convalescent Home Act to: remove references to freeholders and insert voters; deletes obsolete language; and makes technical revisions, concerning style and punctuation.

It takes effect upon becoming a law.

C. LAWS OF FLORIDA/FLORIDA STATUTES AFFECTED:

Chapter 65-1371, Laws of Florida, as amended, by chapters 69-944 and 70-1001, Laws of Florida.

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:

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

2. Lower Taxes:

a. Does the bill increase anyone's taxes?

No.

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?

N/A

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

N/A

4. Individual Freedom:

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

N/A

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

N/A

5. Family Empowerment:

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

(1) Who evaluates the family's needs?

N/A

(2) Who makes the decisions?

N/A

(3) Are private alternatives permitted?

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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:

(1) parents and guardians?

N/A

(2) service providers?

N/A

(3) government employees/agencies?

N/A

E. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

Section 1. Amends ch. 65-1371, Laws of Florida, as amended by chapters 69-944 and 70-1001, Laws of Florida, to: remove references to freeholders and insert voters; deletes obsolete language; and makes technical revisions.

Section 2. It provides an effective date of upon becoming a law.

III. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes [x] No []

IF YES, WHEN? January 31, 1999.

WHERE? Citrus County Chronicle, Crystal River, Citrus County, Florida.

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B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED? Yes [] No [x]

IF YES, WHEN?

C. LOCAL BILL CERTIFICATION FILED? Yes, attached [x] No []

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FILED? Yes, attached [x] No []

IV. COMMENTS:

The Agency For Health Care Administration prepared a bill analysis and they reported that it contained no fiscal impact on government or the private sector. They stated the bill deleted "freeholders" and inserted voters, and made other changes concerning obsolete language, and changes relating to style and punctuation.

V. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

None.

VI. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE LICENSING & REGULATION:

Prepared by:

Staff Director:

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