

HB 899

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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to the Ranger Drainage District,
 Orange County; amending chapter 99-453, Laws of
 Florida; providing additional authority for limited
 fire control and prevention; providing for maintenance
 of passive recreation areas and facilities,
 environmental mitigation, security services, signage,
 and maintenance of common areas; providing authority
 for enforcement of covenants and deed restrictions;
 increasing the membership of the governing board;
 providing for staggered terms of members; providing an
 effective date.

WHEREAS, the Ranger Drainage District is the primary local
 public agency that provides for maintenance of infrastructure,
 including drainage, flood protection facilities, and
 environmental features within the district, and

WHEREAS, residential development within the district is
 occurring at an extremely rapid rate and requires increased
 maintenance to public infrastructure such as common areas,
 passive recreational areas, and district rights of way, and

WHEREAS, there is a need for better security and fire
 protection to ensure safety of persons and property within the
 district, and

WHEREAS, all neighborhood associations within the district
 have urged the Legislature to grant the district additional
 authority to maintain and restore public infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature to provide the
 district with the powers necessary to maintain public

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30 infrastructure and protect public and private property within
 31 the district, NOW, THEREFORE,

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33 Be it Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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35 Section 1. Subsection (4) is added to section 5 of chapter
 36 99-453, Laws of Florida, to read:

37 Section 5. Additional district powers.--

38 (4) The Ranger Drainage District shall have the following
 39 additional powers and authorities:

40 (a) To construct and maintain firebreaks and related
 41 facilities for fire prevention and control within district
 42 easements, rights-of-way, and property in cooperation with the
 43 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Division of
 44 Forestry, or other fire prevention agencies.

45 (b) To own, acquire, construct, operate, and maintain
 46 passive recreation areas and facilities within the district,
 47 including, but not limited to, parks, walking or hiking trails,
 48 and related facilities.

49 (c) To acquire property for construction of projects
 50 within and adjacent to the district for environmental
 51 protection, restoration, or mitigation purposes. The district is
 52 also authorized to cooperate with public agencies and landowners
 53 in such projects.

54 (d) To provide security services within the district for
 55 the purpose of protecting district property and facilities.

56 (e) To construct and maintain signage and facilities
 57 identifying district ingress and egress locations.

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58 (f) To maintain all district common areas, including, but
 59 not limited to, easements, road shoulders, and medians.

60 (g) To enforce landowner covenants and restrictions within
 61 district communities, provided a community property owners'
 62 association approves such action by majority vote of its board.

63 Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 7 of chapter 99-453,
 64 Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

65 Section 7. Minimum charter requirements.--In accordance
 66 with s. 189.404(3), Florida Statutes, the following subsections
 67 shall constitute the charter of the Ranger Drainage District:

68 (5) In accordance with chapter 189, Florida Statutes, this
 69 act, and s. 298.11, Florida Statutes, the district is governed
 70 by a five-member ~~three-member~~ board, elected on a one-acre, one-
 71 vote basis by the landowners in the district; however,
 72 landowners owning less than one acre shall be entitled to one
 73 vote. Landowners with more than one acre shall be entitled to
 74 one additional vote for any fraction of an acre greater than ½
 75 acre owned, when all of the landowner's acreage has been
 76 aggregated for purposes of voting. The current board position
 77 which term expires in 2005 shall be denominated seat 1 and shall
 78 be elected for a term of 3 years or until a successor is
 79 elected. The current board position which term expires in 2006
 80 shall be denominated seat 2 and shall be elected for a term of 3
 81 years or until a successor is elected. The current board
 82 position which term expires in 2007 shall be denominated seat 3
 83 and shall be elected for a term of 3 years or until a successor
 84 is elected. The newly created seats to be elected in 2005 shall
 85 be denominated seat 4 and seat 5. Seat 4 shall be elected for a
 86 term of 3 years. Seat 5 shall be elected for a term of 2 years.

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87 After the election in 2005, all terms of board members shall be
88 3 years or until a successor is elected. The ~~membership and~~
89 organization of the board shall be as set forth in this act and
90 chapter 298, Florida Statutes, as they may be amended from time
91 to time, provided, however, that the annual landowners' meeting
92 held for the purpose of electing board members and other
93 purposes shall be held in September at a time and place to be
94 determined by the board.

95 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.