

By Senator Diaz de la Portilla

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to downtown development districts;  
3           amending s. 166.0497, F.S.; authorizing the governing  
4           body of a municipality that has created a downtown  
5           development district to levy an ad valorem tax on all  
6           real and personal property in the district to finance  
7           the district's operation; limiting the tax to a  
8           specified percentage; providing for limitation of the  
9           district's millage; providing an effective date.

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11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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13           Section 1. Section 166.0497, Florida Statutes, is amended  
14 to read:

15           166.0497 Alteration, amendment, or expansion of established  
16 downtown development district; procedures; authorization to levy  
17 ad valorem tax.-

18           (1) Whenever the governing body of a municipality that has  
19 created a downtown development district pursuant to chapter 65-  
20 1090, Laws of Florida, determines that it is necessary to alter,  
21 amend, or expand the boundaries of the established district by  
22 the inclusion of additional territory or the exclusion of lands  
23 from the limits of the established district, in order to  
24 revitalize and preserve property values or to prevent  
25 deterioration in the original district or its surrounding areas,  
26 it shall, by resolution, declare its intention to do so.

27           (2) In the resolution of intent, the governing body shall  
28 set a date for a public hearing on adoption of an ordinance  
29 altering, amending, or expanding the district and describing the

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30 new proposed district. Upon the adoption of the resolution, the  
31 governing body shall cause a notice of the public hearing to be  
32 published in a newspaper of general circulation published in the  
33 municipality, which notice shall be published one time not less  
34 than 30 nor more than 60 days prior to the date of the hearing.  
35 The notice shall set forth the date, time, and place of the  
36 hearing and shall describe the new proposed boundaries of the  
37 district. Any citizen, taxpayer, or property owner shall have  
38 the right to be heard in opposition to the proposed amendment or  
39 expansion of the district. After the public hearing, if the  
40 governing body intends to proceed with the amendment or  
41 expansion of the district, it shall, in the manner authorized by  
42 law, adopt an ordinance defining the new district. The governing  
43 body shall not incorporate land into the district not included  
44 in the description contained in the resolution and the notice of  
45 public hearing, but it may eliminate any lands from that  
46 description when it adopts the ordinance containing the final  
47 determination of the boundaries.

48 (3) The governing body may levy an ad valorem tax on all  
49 real and personal property in the district of up to 0.5 mill on  
50 the taxable value of the property for the purpose of financing  
51 the operation of the district. The district's millage is limited  
52 as provided under s. 200.001(8)(d).

53 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.