

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.

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

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 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 in any one
 25 year consistent with chapters 189 and 191, Florida Statutes, the
 26 uses for which must be approved by a supermajority of six

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