A bill to be entitled

An act relating to North Springs Improve

An act relating to North Springs Improvement District, Broward County; amending ch. 2005-341, Laws of Florida, as amended; revising a definition; deleting certain residential and meeting requirements for members of the Board of Supervisors of the North Springs Improvement District; providing an exception to general law; requiring the board to be elected by the qualified electors of the district; requiring current board members to serve until certification of the November 2024 general election results; conforming a cross-reference; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (11) of section 4 of section 3 of chapter 2005-341, Laws of Florida, as amended by chapter 2007-285, Laws of Florida, and section 5 of that section, are amended, to read:

Section 4. Definitions.—Unless the context shall indicate otherwise, the following words as used in this act shall have the following meanings:

(11) "Qualified elector" or "elector" means any person at least 18 years of age who is a citizen of the United States, a permanent legal resident of Florida, the state and a resident of

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the district  $\frac{\text{and}}{\text{and}}$  who registers  $\frac{\text{to vote}}{\text{vote}}$  with the supervisor of elections of  $\frac{\text{the}}{\text{broward}}$  county  $\frac{\text{in which the district lands are}}{\text{located when the registration books are open.}}$ 

Section 5. Board; election; organization; terms of office; quorum; report and minutes.—

- of the district and shall exercise the powers granted to the district under this act and under chapter 298, Florida Statutes. The board shall consist of three members and, except as otherwise provided herein, each member shall hold office for a term of 4 years and until his or her successor shall be chosen and shall qualify. A majority of the members of the board shall be residents of Broward County, and all members shall be residents of the state. All members of the board shall be landowners within the district.
- (2) In the month of June of each fourth year commencing June of 1972, there shall be held a meeting of the landowners of the district at the office of the district in Broward County, for the purpose of electing three supervisors for said district. One supervisor shall be elected solely by those landowners owning property within the city limits of the City of Parkland, and this supervisor must be a landowner who owns property within the city limits of the City of Parkland. One supervisor shall be elected solely by those landowners owning property within the city limits of the City of Coral Springs, and this supervisor

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must be a landowner who owns property within the city limits of the City of Coral Springs. One supervisor shall be elected at large by all landowners of the district, regardless of where his or her property is located. Candidates for each supervisor position will be nominated during the meeting of landowners, and the nominee who receives the highest number of votes for a supervisor position shall be declared elected. Notice of said landowners' meeting shall be published once a week for 2 consecutive weeks in a newspaper in Broward County which is in general circulation within the district, the last of said publication to be not less than 14 days nor more than 28 days before the date of the election. The landowners when assembled at such meeting shall organize by electing a chair that shall conduct the meeting. At such meeting each landowner shall be entitled to cast one vote per acre of land owned by him or her and located within the district. A landowner may vote in person or by proxy in writing. Fractions of an acre shall be treated as 1 acre, entitling the landowner to one vote with respect thereto.

- $\underline{(2)}$  (3) Each supervisor, before entering upon his or her official duties, shall take and subscribe to an oath of office as prescribed in section 298.13, Florida Statutes.
- (3)(4) All supervisors shall hold office for the terms for which they are elected or appointed and until their successors shall be chosen and qualify. In case of a vacancy in the office

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of any supervisor, the remaining supervisor or supervisors (even though less than a quorum) may fill such vacancy by appointment of a new supervisor or supervisors for the unexpired term of the supervisor who vacated his or her office.

- $\underline{(4)}$  (5) As soon as practicable after each election, the board shall organize by choosing one of their number president of the board and by electing a secretary, who need not be a member of the board.
- $\underline{(5)}$  (6) A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum.
- (6) (7) The board shall keep a permanent record book entitled "Record of Proceedings of North Springs Improvement District," in which shall be recorded minutes of all meetings, resolutions, proceedings, certificates, bonds given by all employees, and any and all corporate acts, which book shall at reasonable times be opened to the inspection of any landowner, taxpayer, resident, or bondholder of the district, and such other persons as the board may determine to have a proper interest in the proceedings of the board. Such record book shall be kept at any office or other regular place of business maintained by the board in Broward County.
- (7) (8) Whenever any election shall be authorized or required by this act to be held by the landowners at any particular or stated time or day, and if for any reasons such election is not held at such time or on such day, then in such

event the power or duty to hold such election shall not cease or lapse, but such election shall be held thereafter when practicable, and in accordance with the procedures provided by this act.

- (8) (a) (9) (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the board of supervisors shall be may, upon vote of a majority of the board, determine to convert to a board of supervisors elected by the qualified electors of the district.

  Upon the call of an election for such purpose by the board as provided in paragraph (b), Election of the board by the qualified electors of the district shall thereafter be the exclusive method for the election of the members of the board of supervisors.
- (b) Upon vote of the board of supervisors pursuant to paragraph (a), The board shall call an election at which the members of the board of supervisors will be elected. Such election shall be held in conjunction with the next general election in November. Candidates may qualify for the offices of board of supervisors seat 1, seat 2, and seat 3, each elected at large within the district. A candidate qualifying for election to seat 1 must be an elector and resident of the City of Parkland. A candidate qualifying for election to seat 2 must be an elector and resident of the City of Coral Springs. A candidate qualifying for election to seat 3 must be an elector and resident of the district. Each board member shall be elected

by the qualified electors of the district for a term of 4 years, except that, at the first such election, the two members elected to seat 1 and seat 2 shall be elected for a term of 4 years, and the member elected to seat 3 shall be elected for a term of 2 years. Thereafter, there shall be an election held every 2 years for expiring terms and all members shall be elected for terms of 4 years each. The candidate receiving the most votes for each seat shall be elected. All elected board members must be qualified electors of the district.

- (b) Members of the board of supervisors as of October 1, 2018, shall serve until the certification of the November 2024 general election results.
- (c) Elections of board members by qualified electors held pursuant to this subsection shall be nonpartisan and shall be conducted in the manner prescribed by law for holding general elections. Board members shall assume the office on the second Tuesday following their election.
- (d) Candidates seeking election to office by qualified electors under this subsection shall conduct their campaigns in accordance with the provisions of chapter 106, Florida Statutes, and shall file qualifying papers and qualify for individual seats in accordance with section 99.061, Florida Statutes.

  Candidates shall pay a qualifying fee, which shall consist of a filing fee and election assessment or, as an alternative, shall file a petition signed by not less than 1 percent of the

qualified electors of the district, and take the oath required in section 99.021, Florida Statutes, with the Supervisor of Elections of Broward County. The amount of the filing fee is 3 percent of \$4,800. The amount of the election assessment is 1 percent of \$4,800. The filing fee and election assessment shall be distributed as provided in section 105.031 (3), Florida Statutes.

- (e) The Supervisor of Elections of Broward County shall appoint the inspectors and clerks of elections, prepare and furnish the ballots, designate polling places, and canvass the returns of the election of board members by qualified electors. The county canvassing board shall declare and certify the results of the election.
- (f) The provisions of Subsections (2), (3), (4), (5), and (6), and (7) shall apply to a board of supervisors elected pursuant to this subsection.
  - Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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