

**STORAGE NAME:** h0421.ca  
**DATE:** February 25, 1997

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON  
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
BILL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT - LOCAL LEGISLATION**

**BILL #:** HB 421

**RELATING TO:** North Fort Myers Fire Control and Rescue Service District, Lee County

**SPONSOR(S):** Representative Livingston

**COMPANION BILL(S):** None

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

- (1) COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
  - (2)
  - (3)
  - (4)
  - (5)
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**I. SUMMARY:**

This bill authorizes the North Fort Myers Fire and Rescue District (District) of Lee County, Florida, to provide advanced life support (ALS) services to residents of the District subject to the statutory provisions governing medical telecommunications and transportation.

The Economic Impact Statement reflects that the cost for ALS equipment and supplies for all four stations is approximately \$103,000 for fiscal year 1997-98. Current ad valorem taxes and impact fees will fund equipment and supplies necessary to provide ALS services.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

The North Fort Myers Fire Control and Rescue Service District was created by the Legislature in 1953 by special act as the North Fort Myers Fire Control District. It is one of 17 independent fire control districts in Lee County, Florida. The District encompasses approximately 81 square miles and serves between 45,000 and 47,000 residents. There are 48 salaried employees and last year the District answered 5,625 calls with an average response time of 5 minutes. The District is currently at its cap of 2 mills of assessed valuation.

The Chief of the District reports currently there are 4 stations with no plans to expand.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

This bill authorizes the North Fort Myers Fire and Rescue District (District) of Lee County, Florida, to provide advanced life support services (ALS) to residents of the District subject to the provisions of chapter 401, Florida Statutes.

C. LAWS OF FLORIDA/FLORIDA STATUTES AFFECTED:

Chapter 29240, 1953; as amended by subsequent special acts.

D. APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES:

1. Less Government:

Not applicable.

a. Does the bill create, increase or reduce, either directly or indirectly:

(1) any authority to make rules or adjudicate disputes?

(2) any new responsibilities, obligations or work for other governmental or private organizations or individuals?

(3) any entitlement to a government service or benefit?

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?

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

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

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?

No.

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

Indirectly, through the ad valorem tax the District is authorized to levy and impact fees.

4. Individual Freedom:

Not applicable.

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

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

5. Family Empowerment:

Not applicable.

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

- (1) Who evaluates the family's needs?

- (2) Who makes the decisions?

- (3) Are private alternatives permitted?

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

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

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

- 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?

- (2) service providers?

- (3) government employees/agencies?

E. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

Section 1 -- Amends chapter 30925, Laws of Florida, as amended, to authorize District to provide advanced life support to residents of the District pursuant to chapter 401, F.S..

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Section 2 -- Provides for an effective date of upon becoming law.

III. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes  No

IF YES, WHEN? January 13, 1997

WHERE? Ft. Myers, Lee County, FL

B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED? Yes  No

IF YES, WHEN?

C. LOCAL BILL CERTIFICATION FILED? Yes, attached  No

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FILED? Yes, attached  No

IV. COMMENTS:

None.

V. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

None.

VI. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

Prepared by:

Legislative Research Director:

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