

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 347 Florida Inland Navigation District
SPONSOR(S): Representative Bean
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1298

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) <u>Local Government & Veterans' Affairs</u>	_____	<u>Morris</u>	<u>Cutchins</u>
2) <u>Transportation</u>	_____	_____	_____
3) <u>Finance & Tax</u>	_____	_____	_____
4) _____	_____	_____	_____
5) _____	_____	_____	_____

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The Florida Inland Navigation District is an independent special taxing district designed to manage the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway from Duval County to Miami-Dade County. This bill extends the territorial boundaries and authority of the district northward to encompass a twelfth county, Nassau County.

The addition of Nassau County to the district is subject to a referendum for the approval of the levy of ad valorem taxation by a majority vote of the qualified electors of Nassau County. Subsequently, the Governor has the authority to appoint a commissioner to the district, from Nassau County, so each of the twelve counties within the district has representation. No two commissioners reside in the same county.

The bill revises language relating to the district in regards to Dade County, in order to reflect the county's name change to Miami-Dade County.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. DOES THE BILL:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. Reduce government? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Lower taxes? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Expand individual freedom? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Increase personal responsibility? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Empower families? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a “no” above, please explain:

Upon voter approval of a referendum, property owners in Nassau County will be subject to the Board of Commissioners’ taxing authority pursuant to s. 374.986, F.S. The current millage rate across the eleven counties in the district is 0.0385.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Currently, the Florida Inland Navigation District is comprised of eleven Atlantic coast Florida counties, specifically Duval, St. Johns, Flagler, Volusia, Brevard, St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River, Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade Counties. The district is governed by eleven commissioners, one from each member county. No two commissioners can reside in the same county.

This bill amends s. 374.982, F.S., by increasing the territorial boundaries of the district to include Nassau County. Nassau County’s inclusion to the district is dependent on the approval of the levy of ad valorem taxation by a majority vote of the qualified electors of Nassau County.

This bill also amends s. 374.983, F.S., by specifying the Governor’s power to appoint a commissioner from Nassau County to an initial term that coincides with the period remaining in the current terms of the commissioners from Broward, Indian River, Martin, St. Johns, and Volusia Counties.

The bill revises language relating to the district in regards to Dade County, in order to reflect the county’s name change to Miami-Dade County.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1 amends s. 374.982, F.S., by incorporating Nassau County as part of the Florida Inland Navigation District. Furthermore, all references to Dade County are updated to reflect the county’s updated title, Miami-Dade County.

Section 2 amends s. 374.983, F.S., by increasing the membership of the Florida Inland Navigation District’s Board of Commissioners from eleven to twelve, to reflect Nassau County’s addition to the district. Section 2 of this bill also authorizes the Governor to appoint a commissioner from Nassau County for an initial term that coincides with the period remaining in the current terms of the commissioners from Broward, Indian River, Martin, St. Johns, and Volusia Counties. Subsequently, the appointed commissioner must be confirmed by the Senate.

Section 3 is amended to reflect the current name for Miami-Dade County.

Section 4 amends s. 374.984, F.S., by requiring a majority vote of the qualified electors of Nassau County in a referendum for the approval of a levy of ad valorem taxation. The referendum will be held in conjunction with any subsequent primary or general election.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

None

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

Upon voter approval of a referendum, property owners in Nassau County will be subject to the Board of Commissioners' taxing authority as specified in s. 374.986, F.S. Section 374.986(2) F.S., allows the Board to annually assess and levy ad valorem taxes, which is currently at a uniform rate of 0.0385 mill across the eleven counties in the district.

According to information gathered by the Executive Director of the Florida Inland Navigation District, the district would have collected approximately \$160,000 in 2003 had Nassau County been a member of the district.

2. Expenditures:

None

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Upon voter approval of a referendum, property owners in Nassau County will be subject to the Board of Commissioners' taxing authority.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

On July 31 of each year, the Board shall propose an annual budget, along with a millage rate, to be levied as taxes for that year within the district. The proposed budget shall be submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection for approval.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not Applicable

2. Other:

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

Not Applicable

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

According to Senator Wise, sponsor of the identical bill in the Senate chamber, this bill was requested by Nassau County. Support from the Nassau County Board of Commissioners is apparent from the passage of Resolution 2003-159, which supports Nassau County's inclusion to the district.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

None