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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Pine Tree Water Control District, Broward County; amending ch. 2001-320, Laws of Florida; providing an exception to general law; requiring members of the board of supervisors be elected through a general election; providing for staggered terms; providing definitions; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 5 of section 3 of chapter 2001-320, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

Section 5. Board; election; organization; terms of office; vacancy; quorum.—

(1) The Board of the District shall be the governing body of the District and shall exercise the powers granted to the District under this Act and under chapters 189 and 298, Florida Statutes. The District is an independent special district as defined in section 189.403(3), Florida Statutes. The Board shall consist of five members and, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, three members of the Board of Supervisors shall be elected by the qualified electors of the District. Election of the Board by the qualified electors shall be the exclusive method for the elections of the members of the Board of Supervisors. The fourth member of the Board of Supervisors shall be appointed by the City Commission of the City of Coral Springs and shall serve as a member of the Board until replaced. The fifth member of the Board of Supervisors shall be appointed by the City Commission of the City of Parkland and shall serve as a member of the Board until replaced. ~~except as otherwise provided herein, each member shall be elected in compliance with all applicable election laws by the landowners of the District. Commencing in 1994 and every 2 years thereafter, two members of the Board shall be elected by the landowners of the District. The member receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected for a 4 year term and the member receiving the second highest number of votes shall be elected for a 2 year term. The fourth and fifth members of the Board of Supervisors shall be appointed by the City of Coral Springs City Commission and the City of Parkland City Commission, respectively, and shall~~

30 ~~serve as members of the Board until replaced. All of the members shall be residents of Broward County~~  
 31 ~~and all members shall be residents of Florida and shall be landowners within the District.~~

32 (a) The Board shall call an election at which the members of the Board of Supervisors will be  
 33 elected. Such election shall be held in conjunction with the next general election in November 2024.  
 34 Candidates may qualify for the offices of Board of Supervisors, designated as seat 1, seat 2, and seat 3,  
 35 each elected at large within the District. A candidate qualifying for election must be an elector and  
 36 resident of the District. Each Board member shall be elected by the qualified electors of the District for  
 37 a term of 4 year, except that, at the first such election, the two members elected to seat 1 and seat 2 shall  
 38 be elected for a term of 4 years each, and the member elected to seat 3 shall be elected for a term of 2  
 39 years. Thereafter, there shall be an election held every 2 years for expiring terms and all members shall  
 40 be elected for terms of 4 years each. The candidate receiving the most votes for each seat shall be  
 41 elected. All elected Board members must be qualified electors of the District. Members of the Board of  
 42 Supervisors as of October 1, 2023, shall serve until the certification of the November 2024 general  
 43 election results.

44 (b) Elections of board members by qualified electors held pursuant to this subsection shall  
 45 be nonpartisan and shall be conducted in the manner prescribed by law for holding general elections.  
 46 Board members shall assume the office on the second Tuesday following their election.

47 (c) Candidates seeking election to office by qualified electors under this subsection shall  
 48 conduct their campaigns in accordance with the provisions of chapter 106, Florida Statutes, and shall  
 49 file qualifying papers and qualify for individual seats in accordance with section 99.061, Florida  
 50 Statutes. Candidates shall pay a qualifying fee, which shall consist of a filing fee and election  
 51 assessment or, as an alternative, shall file a petition signed by not less than 1 percent of the qualified  
 52 electors for the District, and take the oath required in section 99.021, Florida Statutes, with the  
 53 Supervisor of Elections of Broward County. The amount of the filing fee is 3 percent of the annual  
 54 salary of the office. The amount of the election assessment is 1 percent of the annual salary of the  
 55 office. The filing fee and election assessment shall be distributed as provided in section 105.031(3),  
 56 Florida Statutes.

57 (d) The Supervisor of Elections of Broward County shall appoint the inspectors and clerks of  
 58 elections, prepare and furnish the ballots, designate polling places, and canvass the returns of the  
 59 election of Board members by qualified electors. The county canvassing board shall declare and certify

60 the results of the election.

61 (e) Subsections (2) and (3) shall apply to a Board of Supervisors elected pursuant to this subsection.

62 (f) The terms “qualifying elector” and “elector” shall mean any person at least 18 years of  
63 age who is a citizen of the United States, a permanent resident of Florida, and a resident of the District  
64 who registers with the supervisor of elections of the county which the District lands are locate when the  
65 registration books are open.

66 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming law.