

Local Bill Process – Rep. Williamson

New independent special fire districts may only be created by the state legislature and must go through the Florida House local bill process. A proposed charter must be created to meet the statutory criteria as required by chapters 189¹ and 191² Florida Statutes. It is the intent of the Legislature that at minimum the requirements of subsection (3) in chapter 189.031³ be satisfied when an independent special district is created. If an existing independent special district wants to amend its charter, it must also go through the local bill process.

It is Representative Williamson's policy that any local bills giving taxing authority or creating fees or charges for users must first have approval from electors within the area affected through a non-binding referendum that is certified by the State's Division of Elections. Upon approval from the electorate, Rep. Williamson will commit to running the bill through the local bill process. Regardless of statutory requirement, it is Rep. Williamson's policy that all local bills he sponsors be written so that the act shall take effect only upon approval of voters in a binding referendum.

After the local bill has gotten approval from the electorate, the local bill must be submitted to the local delegation for approval. House Policy requires all proposed local bills be heard by the local legislative delegation at a public hearing in the area that would be subject to the legislation. Once the issue has been discussed and the intent of the bill is clear, the legislative delegation will vote on whether or not to support the proposed bill. Once the proposed bill is approved by the delegation, it is customary that one of the members of the delegation in the area affected by the proposed bill sponsor the bill.

These delegation meetings are typically held in December/January or September/October, depending on the Florida House session calendar. During an election year, session begins the following calendar year in March so the legislative delegation meeting will typically be held in December/January. During a non-election year, session begins the following calendar year in January and the delegation typically meets in September/October.

Once the local bill has been approved by the local delegation and a bill sponsor has been selected, the legislative office and the entity requesting the local bill will work together to meet the filing requirements for the Florida House. All local bills must be approved for filing with the House of Representatives Clerk no later than noon of the first day of regular session. House Policy requires the original required (1) Local Bill Certification Form⁴ and (2) Economic Impact Statement Form⁵ be submitted to the Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee⁶ as soon as possible after the bill is filed.

¹ http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0100-0199/0189/0189.html

² http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0100-0199/0191/0191.html

³ http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0100-0199/0189/Sections/0189.031.html

⁴ [https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=3025&Session=2019&DocumentType=General Publications&FileName=FINAL 2019-2020 Local Bill Certification Form.pdf](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=3025&Session=2019&DocumentType=General%20Publications&FileName=FINAL%202019-2020%20Local%20Bill%20Certification%20Form.pdf)

⁵ [https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=3025&Session=2019&DocumentType=General Publications&FileName=FINAL 2019 Final Economic Impact Statement Form.pdf](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=3025&Session=2019&DocumentType=General%20Publications&FileName=FINAL%202019%20Final%20Economic%20Impact%20Statement%20Form.pdf)

⁶ <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Committees/committeesdetail.aspx?CommitteeId=3025>