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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to the Pinellas County Construction  
 3           Licensing Board, Pinellas County; amending ch. 75-489,  
 4           Laws of Florida, as amended; revising the membership  
 5           of the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board;  
 6           revising requirements for selection of members of the  
 7           board; revising term requirements for such members and  
 8           the chair and vice chair; providing an application  
 9           process; requiring each board member to file a certain  
 10          annual statement of financial interests; requiring the  
 11          board to provide an annual independent financial audit  
 12          to the board of county commissioners and each  
 13          municipal government in Pinellas County; providing  
 14          that the board is subject to an audit by the Division  
 15          of Inspector General contained within the Office of  
 16          the Clerk of Circuit Court of Pinellas County at the  
 17          request of the board of county commissioners; deleting  
 18          the requirement that certain funds received by the  
 19          board from fees which remain uncommitted and  
 20          unexpended at the end of each biennium be paid into  
 21          the county general revenue fund; providing that staff  
 22          shall be employees of and compensated by the board of  
 23          county commissioners; providing an effective date.

24  
 25   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

BILL

Redraft - B

YEAR

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Section 1. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section 12 of chapter 75-489, Laws of Florida, as amended by chapters 89-504, 93-387, and 2003-319, Laws of Florida, are amended, and subsections (4) and (5) are added to that section to read:

Section 12. PINELLAS COUNTY CONSTRUCTION LICENSING BOARD: ORGANIZATION: MEETINGS AND POWERS.—

(1)(a) The Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board is created within the county of Pinellas, consisting of the following nine (9) ~~twenty-one (21)~~ members:—

1. Four (4) members licensed in any of the following professions, with a maximum of one (1) member from any one of sub-subparagraphs a.-j., each of whom must be:

a. two (2) of whom are Primarily engaged in business as a general contractor ~~contractors;~~

b. two (2) of whom are Primarily engaged in business as a building contractor; ~~contractors,~~

c. two (2) of whom are Primarily engaged in business as a residential contractor; ~~contractors,~~

d. A Florida-registered one (1) who is A Florida registered architect doing business in Pinellas County; ~~i,~~

e. one (1) who is An electrical contractor; ~~i,~~

f. one (1) who is A plumbing contractor; ~~i,~~

g. one (1) who is A mechanical contractor or a Class A air conditioning contractor; ~~i,~~

BILL

Redraft - B

YEAR

51            h. ~~one who is~~ A roofing or sheet metal contractor; i ~~;~~

52            i. ~~one (1) who is~~ A swimming pool, aluminum, or veneer

53 specialty contractor; or ~~;~~

54            j. A ~~two (2)~~ fire marshal. ~~marshals,~~

55            2. The three (3) building officials ~~directors~~ of the

56 ~~following:~~ City of St. Petersburg, the City of Clearwater, and

57 the County of Pinellas. ~~One (1) North county building director~~

58 ~~from one of the following municipalities: Tarpon Springs,~~

59 ~~Dunedin, Oldsmar, Safety Harbor, Belleair, Belleair Bluffs, or~~

60 ~~Largo, One (1) South county building director from one of the~~

61 ~~following municipalities: South Pasadena, Gulfport, Seminole,~~

62 ~~Kenneth City, or Pinellas Park, one (1) Beach Community building~~

63 ~~director from one of the following: the Town of Belleair Beach,~~

64 ~~the Town of Belleair Shores, the City of Redington Beach, the~~

65 ~~City of North Redington Beach, the City of Madeira Beach, the~~

66 ~~City of Indian Rocks Beach, the Town of Indian Shores, the Town~~

67 ~~of Redington Shores, the City of Treasure Island, and the City~~

68 ~~of St. Pete Beach,~~

69            3. Two (2) ~~and One (1)~~ consumer members ~~member~~ who are

70 residents ~~is a resident and citizen~~ of Pinellas County and who

71 are ~~is~~ not and never have ~~has~~ been members or practitioners a

72 ~~member or practitioner~~ of any of the trades or professions

73 regulated by the board or members or practitioners ~~a member or~~

74 ~~practitioner~~ of any closely related trade or profession.

75            (b) All members of the board must ~~shall~~ be residents of

BILL

Redraft - B

YEAR

76 | Pinellas County and appointed by the ~~Chairman of the~~ Board of  
 77 | County Commissioners.

78 |       (2)(a) To be eligible for membership in ~~appointment to~~ the  
 79 | first board appointed after the effective date of this act, each  
 80 | member, other than the building officials ~~buildings director~~,  
 81 | the architect, and the consumer members, ~~must member, shall~~  
 82 | personally hold an unexpired certified license issued by the  
 83 | City of St. Petersburg, ~~or~~ the City of Clearwater, ~~or~~ the County  
 84 | of Pinellas, or the State of Florida at the time of appointment;  
 85 | be actively engaged in their respective businesses and have been  
 86 | so engaged for a period of at least 5 ~~five~~ consecutive years  
 87 | before the date of appointment; and be a ~~citizen and~~ resident of  
 88 | the county.

89 |       (b) Each member of the board, other than the building  
 90 | officials ~~directors~~, the architect and the consumer members  
 91 | ~~member~~, succeeding the original appointees must ~~shall~~ possess  
 92 | the qualifications prescribed in paragraph ~~(2)~~(a).

93 |       (3) ~~Members of the board shall be selected as follows:~~

94 |  
 95 |       ~~The three (3) building directors of the City of Clearwater,~~  
 96 | ~~City of St. Petersburg and the County of Pinellas; one (1) North~~  
 97 | ~~county building director and one (1) South county building~~  
 98 | ~~director selected by the Chairman of the Board of County~~  
 99 | ~~Commissioners from the municipalities listed in subsection (1);~~  
 100 | ~~one (1) Beach Community building director appointed from a list~~

BILL

Redraft - B

YEAR

101 ~~of three (3) nominees submitted by The Barrier Island~~  
 102 ~~Governmental Council; a Florida registered architect appointed~~  
 103 ~~from a list of three recommended architects submitted by the~~  
 104 ~~American Institute of Architects Florida Central Chapter, St.~~  
 105 ~~Petersburg and Clearwater Sections; two (2) of whom are~~  
 106 ~~primarily engaged in business as general contractors from a list~~  
 107 ~~of five (5) submitted by the Associated General Contractors of~~  
 108 ~~Mid Florida, Inc.; two (2) of whom are primarily engaged in~~  
 109 ~~business as Building Contractors from a list of five (5)~~  
 110 ~~submitted by the Contractors and Builders Association of~~  
 111 ~~Pinellas County; two (2) of whom are primarily engaged in the~~  
 112 ~~business as residential building contractors from a list of five~~  
 113 ~~(5) submitted by the Contractors and Builders Association of~~  
 114 ~~Pinellas County; one (1) who is An electrical contractor from a~~  
 115 ~~list of five (5) supplied by the Electrical Council of Florida,~~  
 116 ~~Pinellas County Chapter; one (1) who is a Plumbing contractor~~  
 117 ~~from a list of five (5) supplied by the Pinellas Association of~~  
 118 ~~Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors, Inc.; two (2) of whom are~~  
 119 ~~fire marshals, who shall be active members of the Tampa Bay Area~~  
 120 ~~Fire Marshals Association, from a list of five (5) supplied by~~  
 121 ~~said association, one (1) of whom shall serve an initial term of~~  
 122 ~~three (3) years, the other to serve an initial term of two (2)~~  
 123 ~~years, with successors to serve for a term of two (2) years~~  
 124 ~~thereafter; one (1) who is a mechanical or Class A air~~  
 125 ~~conditioning contractor from a list of five (5), supplied by the~~

BILL

Redraft - B

YEAR

126 ~~Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Contractors' Association~~  
 127 ~~("RACCA"); one (1) roofing or sheet metal contractor and one (1)~~  
 128 ~~swimming pool, aluminum, or veneer specialty contractor selected~~  
 129 ~~by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners; one~~  
 130 ~~consumer member to be appointed by the Chairman of the Board of~~  
 131 ~~County Commissioners in accordance with paragraph 2(a). The~~  
 132 ~~building official ~~director~~ members from the City of Clearwater,~~  
 133 ~~from the City of St. Petersburg, and Pinellas County,~~ shall be  
 134 permanent members of the board. Half of the remaining members  
 135 initially appointed after the effective date of this act shall  
 136 serve terms of 2 years and the other half shall serve terms of 4  
 137 years, with such appointments made at the discretion of the  
 138 Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County. ~~All other~~  
 139 ~~members shall serve terms of two (2) years. The following~~  
 140 ~~members shall commence their terms in even-numbered years: the~~  
 141 ~~Florida registered architect, one (1) general contractor, one~~  
 142 ~~(1) building contractor or, one (1) residential building~~  
 143 ~~contractor, one (1) electrical contractor, one (1) fire marshal,~~  
 144 ~~the North county, South county, and Beach Community building~~  
 145 ~~directors. The following members shall commence their terms in~~  
 146 ~~odd numbered years: one (1) general contractor, one (1) building~~  
 147 ~~contractor, one (1) residential building contractor, one (1)~~  
 148 ~~mechanical contractor, one (1) plumbing contractor, one (1) fire~~  
 149 ~~marshal, one (1) roofing or sheet metal contractor, one (1)~~  
 150 ~~swimming pool, aluminum or veneer specialty contractor, and one~~

BILL

Redraft - B

YEAR

151 ~~(1) consumer member.~~ As the terms of initial members appointed  
 152 after the effective date of this act expire, the ~~Chairman of the~~  
 153 Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County shall appoint  
 154 all members ~~a member~~ to terms ~~fill the vacancy for a term of 4~~  
 155 ~~two (2) years~~ in the same manner as the original appointment.  
 156 Individuals seeking appointment to the board shall complete an  
 157 application form that solicits information as to the applicant's  
 158 relevant experience, areas of expertise, and potential conflicts  
 159 of interest. The application shall be reviewed by the county  
 160 attorney and the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas  
 161 County prior to consideration for appointment ~~that membership~~  
 162 ~~was originally filled.~~ An appointed member may not serve more  
 163 than two consecutive terms; however, such persons may be  
 164 reappointed if they have not been in office for 3 consecutive  
 165 years ~~The architect, contractor, electrical, plumbing and~~  
 166 ~~mechanical members shall be selected from the county at large.~~  
 167 The board shall elect from its members a chair and vice chair  
 168 for a term of no longer than 2 years each ~~one of its members to~~  
 169 ~~serve as chairman and one of its members to serve as vice-~~  
 170 ~~chairman, for a term to be set by the board.~~ A chair shall serve  
 171 no more than 4 consecutive years. All terms of office expire on  
 172 September 30 of the last year of the term. Vacancies in the  
 173 membership occurring prior to the end of a member's term for any  
 174 cause shall be filled by appointment in the same manner as the  
 175 original appointment ~~that membership was originally filled.~~

BILL

Redraft - B

YEAR

176       (4) The board may regulate local licensure and handle the  
 177 discipline of local contractors and is authorized to employ  
 178 personnel and incur expense as necessary to perform its duties  
 179 and enforce this section. Staff shall be employees of the board  
 180 of county commissioners, and the board is responsible for all  
 181 costs associated therewith. The board is a dependent agency of  
 182 the board of county commissioners. The board of county  
 183 commissioners may adopt additional rules and regulations not  
 184 contained within this act. Pinellas County has the countywide  
 185 authority to safeguard the life, health, property, and public  
 186 welfare of Pinellas County residents through the regulation,  
 187 oversight, and enforcement of construction and home improvement  
 188 within Pinellas County.

189       (5) The county attorney or his or her designee shall  
 190 attend all board meetings to advise the board in developing,  
 191 implementing, and adhering to written policies and procedures  
 192 and internal controls to ensure that the board is fully  
 193 complying with all of its statutory duties, including, but not  
 194 limited to, its responsibility to monitor construction activity  
 195 in Pinellas County and respond to administrative complaints from  
 196 citizens against licensed contractors.

197       Section 2. Section 14 of chapter 75-489, Laws of Florida,  
 198 as amended by chapter 89-504, Laws of Florida, is amended to  
 199 read:  
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BILL

Redraft - B

YEAR

201 Section 14. BOARD JURISDICTION AND DUTIES; FINANCIAL  
 202 REQUIREMENTS.—

203 (1) Except as herein provided, the board shall have  
 204 concurrent jurisdiction with municipal examining boards.

205 (2) The board shall have the duty to promulgate rules and  
 206 regulations governing the registration and certification of  
 207 those engaging in countywide contracting and shall provide for  
 208 the examination of those so engaged.

209 (3) The board shall have the duty to promulgate rules and  
 210 regulations governing the countywide certification of journeymen  
 211 and shall provide for the examination of those so engaged.

212 (4) The board shall have the authority to employ persons  
 213 to enforce the provisions of Section 23(1) of this part.

214 (5) The board shall have the duty to promulgate rules and  
 215 regulations for the administration of a citation program and  
 216 training of investigators in accordance with s. 489.127(3)(j),  
 217 Florida Statutes.

218 (6) Each board member has the duty to file an annual  
 219 statement of financial interests pursuant to s. 112.3145,  
 220 Florida Statutes.

221 (7) The board has the duty to provide an annual  
 222 independent financial audit to the Board of County Commissioners  
 223 of Pinellas County and each municipal government in Pinellas  
 224 County. The annual audit shall include a detailed summary of the  
 225 board's efforts to monitor construction activity in Pinellas

BILL

Redraft - B

YEAR

226 County and its response and processing of administrative  
 227 complaints from citizens against licensed contractors.

228 (8) The board is subject to an audit by the Division of  
 229 Inspector General contained within the Office of the Clerk of  
 230 Circuit Court of Pinellas County at the request of the Pinellas  
 231 County Board of County Commissioners.

232 Section 3. Section 21 of chapter 75-489, Laws of Florida,  
 233 as amended by chapter 89-504, Laws of Florida, is amended to  
 234 read:

235 Section 21. FEES.—

236 ~~(1)~~ The board is authorized to establish reasonable fees  
 237 for certification, registration, examination, Board of  
 238 Adjustment and Appeals hearings, annual renewal fees, and such  
 239 other fees deemed necessary to accomplish the purpose of this  
 240 act.

241 ~~(2) Any funds received by the board from fees which remain~~  
 242 ~~uncommitted and unexpended at the end of each biennium shall be~~  
 243 ~~paid into the county general revenue fund.~~

244 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.