

SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON OF
REPRESENTATIVE LARRY METZ’S WORKING DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR
REPEAL OF NORTH LAKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

ISSUE	EXISTING NORTH LAKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT	PROPOSED NORTH LAKE COUNTY INDIGENT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
Voter Approval	No. Voters in the Northwest Territory (Leesburg area) approved an earlier version of the law in 1980 that authorized up to 1.0 mill for indigent care. That law was later changed <i>without</i> voter approval to remove the reference to indigent care and broaden it to hospital services, and to restrict the millage determination to either 0 mills or 1.0 mill, but nothing in-between. Voters in the Northeast Territory (Eustis area) have never voted on the issue.	Yes. Creation of the new district only occurs if a majority of voters approve it in the 2012 general election.
Public Purpose	To provide “continued hospital services” to residents of the district.	To provide a means for payment for medically necessary healthcare services provided to medically indigent persons who are qualified residents of the district and who have no insurance or means to pay.
Creates Entitlements to Specific Private Corporations	Yes. The current law names three private, tax-exempt corporations that own and operate LRMC, FL Hospital (Waterman), and LifeStream Behavioral, and entitles them to the tax funds, and no others.	No. Funds are paid only for medically necessary healthcare services provided to medically indigent persons who are qualified residents. Hospitals physically located in the district (present and future) and non-hospital providers approved by the district board are eligible to submit requests for payment. No providers are named and there is no entitlement to payment.
Business Model	A general tax subsidy is provided to the three private tax-exempt hospital corporations for use in providing any hospital services.	Funding follows the patient to pay preapproved providers for medically necessary healthcare services but only if the patients are medically indigent and qualified residents of the district.
Millage Rate	0 or 1.0 mills – nothing in between. (The board has always levied the maximum 1.0 mill). The cap is 1.0 mill.	From 0 to 1.0 mill and any number in between. The cap is 1.0 mill.
Eminent Domain Power	Yes.	No.
Cost Controls	No.	Payments capped at Medicare rate. All providers must certify requests for payment under penalty of perjury.

Auditing of Providers	No.	Yes. Mandatory for providers receiving more than 10% of revenue in a given year; others optional.
Governance Model	6 board of trustee members elected to 4 year terms in nonpartisan elections	5 members elected in partisan elections; 3 of the members are sitting county commissioners. The other two are initially appointed by the Governor and beginning in 2014 are elected to 4 year terms at large, with 1 member residing in the NE territory and 1 member residing in the NW territory.
Standards for board oversight of district purpose and use of funds	No.	Yes.
Sunset Provisions	No. District continues indefinitely.	Yes. Voters must re-authorize every 10 years or district ceases to exist.