
RESOLUTION NO. 2013 – 09

MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Opposing a Universal Chart of Accounts System

ADOPTED: November 21, 2013

RESOLUTION 2013 – 09

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, URGING MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO OPPOSE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD MANDATE THE USE OF A UNIFORM CHART OF ACCOUNTS FOR ALL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES TO REPORT FINANCIAL INFORMATION.

WHEREAS, in 2011 the Florida Legislature passed and the Governor signed Senate Bill 1292 requiring the chief financial officer to recommend uniform chart of accounts for reporting financial information for all state agencies, local governments, educational entities, and entities of higher education; and

WHEREAS, each entity of the state and local government is different, serves a different purpose and uses a different basis of accounting; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Chart of Accounts Project is to develop a uniform chart of accounts to be used by all governmental entities for reporting assets, liabilities, equities, revenues and expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the draft uniform chart of accounts will impact over 2350 governmental entities; and

WHEREAS, each of the impacted entities are currently accountable to the electorate, citizens and users of their services; and

WHEREAS, Florida governments are required to meet many reporting requirements, both at the state and federal level, including reporting to the Florida Department of Financial Services, Florida Equal Employment Opportunity, Florida Unemployment Compensation, Florida Retirement System, Federal Affordable Care Act, and payroll taxes and W-2 information to the Internal Revenue Service.

WHEREAS, the monthly reporting may be prepared on a basis of accounting that may differ from the basis of accounting used to prepare the year-end audited financial statements and that the monthly information will not be validated; and

WHEREAS, the new level of detail required at the object level for monthly reporting is far greater than the level of detail reported either in the audited financial statements or in the Annual Financial Report required pursuant to the provisions of Section 218.32(1)(a), Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, there will be no attempt to validate any of the data before it is posted for public viewing and this results in a high risk that the data will be inaccurate, invalid or incomplete; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a uniform chart of accounts without requiring uniformity in other areas such as in the basis of accounting and in the accounting treatment of various transactions in itself will not provide users with any meaningful comparisons between organizations; and

WHEREAS, regardless of the approach taken to implement the provisions of Section 215.89, Florida Statutes, significant resources will be required to achieve the goals of the chief financial officer; and

WHEREAS, the cost of implementing the Uniform Chart of Accounts far exceeds any benefit that taxpayers may accrue; and

WHEREAS, we believe that transparency and accountability of the use of public funds to citizens and other stakeholders is paramount but that it must be done while simultaneously limiting the burden to the entities and preserving the autonomy of each entity of government.

WHEREAS, we believe that legislation be enacted that prescribes minimum desired transparency reporting by local governments, leaving it to the local governments to include such information on their web sites, and that such legislation should not impose significant financial burdens on local governments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the **Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District** of Manatee County, Florida, that:

Section 1. That the Board of Fire Commissioners of the **Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District** of Manatee County, Florida urging members of the Florida Legislature to oppose legislation that would mandate the use of a uniform chart of accounts for all governmental entities to report financial information.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to **Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District's** Florida State Legislators and the Florida Chief Financial Officer.

DULY ADOPTED at a regular meeting this 21st day of November, 2013.

SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT

ATTEST:

Melanie A. Marken
Secretary

Charles A. Durant, Chair

Dan Center, Vice Chair

Anthony C. Evans, Treasurer

Jim Cena, Commissioner