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Florida House Passes Port of Palm Beach Local Bill

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, the Florida House of Representatives passed **[HB 915](#)** - Port of Palm Beach, Palm Beach County.

The Port of Palm Beach is an independent special taxing district established under provisions of Florida Law 110 years ago. Since the Port's creation, it has significantly expanded in its size. This legislation will update the Port of Palm Beach's charter to make it consistent with the scope of the Port's daily operations. Located in Palm Beach County, the Port covers a land area of 971 square miles or roughly 50% of the county area. The Port of Palm Beach District has statutory authority to levy ad valorem millage tax but has not done so since 1975.

Representative Willhite issued the following statement:

“Thousands in Palm Beach County and South Florida rely on the Port for work. The Port of Palm Beach employs roughly 9,000 people. The Port contributes more than \$300 million in business revenue and raises \$12 million in state and federal taxes. The numbers don't lie. The Port of Palm Beach is an economic engine for South Florida. This is an important piece of legislation that updates the Port's charter to amend some obsolete language and give the Port Commissioners a small pay raise. The Port of Palm Beach has been an asset to Palm Beach County for decades, and we must do what we can to ensure the Port's success.”

The Senate will now take up **HB 915** before it heads to the Governor's desk for his signature to be signed into law.

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