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

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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) 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;
   e. one (1) who is An electrical contractor;
   f. one (1) who is A plumbing contractor;
   g. one (1) who is A mechanical contractor or a Class A air conditioning contractor;
h. one who is a roofing or sheet metal contractor;

i. one (1) who is a swimming pool, aluminum, or veneer specialty contractor; or

j. a two (2) fire marshal, marshals,

2. The three (3) building officials directors of the following: City of St. Petersburg, the City of Clearwater, and the County of Pinellas. One (1) North county building director from one of the following municipalities: Tarpon Springs, Dunedin, Oldsmar, Safety Harbor, Belleair, Belleair Bluffs, or Largo, One (1) South county building director from one of the following municipalities: South Pasadena, Gulfport, Seminole, Kenneth City, or Pinellas Park, one (1) Beach Community building director from one of the following: the Town of Belleair Beach, the Town of Belleair Shores, the City of Redington Beach, the City of North Redington Beach, the City of Madeira Beach, the City of Indian Rocks Beach, the Town of Indian Shores, the Town of Redington Shores, the City of Treasure Island, and the City of St. Pete Beach.

3. Two (2) and One (1) consumer members who are residents is a resident and citizen of Pinellas County and who are not and never have been members or practitioners a member or practitioner of any of the trades or professions regulated by the board or members or practitioners a member or practitioner of any closely related trade or profession.

(b) All members of the board must shall be residents of
Pinellas County and appointed by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

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

(b) Each member of the board, other than the building officials director, the architect and the consumer members, succeeding the original appointees shall possess the qualifications prescribed in paragraph (2)(a).

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

The three building directors of the City of Clearwater, City of St. Petersburg and the County of Pinellas; one (1) North county building director and one (1) South county building director selected by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners from the municipalities listed in subsection (1); one (1) Beach Community building director appointed from a list.
of three (3) nominees submitted by The Barrier Island
Governmental Council; a Florida registered architect appointed
from a list of three recommended architects submitted by the
American Institute of Architects Florida Central Chapter, St. 
Petersburg and Clearwater Sections; two (2) of whom are
primarily engaged in business as general contractors from a list
of five (5) submitted by the Associated General Contractors of
Mid-Florida, Inc.; two (2) of whom are primarily engaged in
business as Building Contractors from a list of five (5)
submitted by the Contractors and Builders Association of
Pinellas County; two (2) of whom are primarily engaged in the
business as residential building contractors from a list of five
(5) submitted by the Contractors and Builders Association of
Pinellas County; one (1) who is an electrical contractor from a
list of five (5) supplied by the Electrical Council of Florida,
Pinellas County Chapter; one (1) who is a Plumbing contractor
from a list of five (5) supplied by the Pinellas Association of
Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors, Inc.; two (2) of whom are
fire marshals, who shall be active members of the Tampa Bay Area
Fire Marshals Association, from a list of five (5) supplied by
said association, one (1) of whom shall serve an initial term of
three (3) years, the other to serve an initial term of two (2)
years, with successors to serve for a term of two (2) years
thereafter; one (1) who is a mechanical or Class A air
conditioning contractor from a list of five (5), supplied by the

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.
Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Contractors' Association ("RACCA"); one (1) roofing or sheet metal contractor and one (1) swimming pool, aluminum, or veneer specialty contractor selected by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners; one consumer member to be appointed by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners in accordance with paragraph 2(a). The building official director members from the City of Clearwater, from the City of St. Petersburg, and Pinellas County shall be permanent members of the board. Half of the remaining members initially appointed after the effective date of this act shall serve terms of 2 years and the other half shall serve terms of 4 years, with such appointments made at the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County. All other members shall serve terms of two (2) years. The following members shall commence their terms in even-numbered years: the Florida registered architect, one (1) general contractor, one (1) building contractor or (1) residential building contractor, one (1) electrical contractor, one (1) fire marshal, the North county, South county, and Beach Community building directors. The following members shall commence their terms in odd-numbered years: one (1) general contractor, one (1) building contractor, one (1) residential building contractor, one (1) mechanical contractor, one (1) plumbing contractor, one (1) fire marshal, one (1) roofing or sheet metal contractor, one (1) swimming pool, aluminum or veneer specialty contractor, and one...
(1) consumer member. As the terms of initial members appointed after the effective date of this act expire, the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County shall appoint all members to terms fill the vacancy for a term of 4 two (2) years in the same manner as the original appointment. Individuals seeking appointment to the board shall complete an application form that solicits information as to the applicant's relevant experience, areas of expertise, and potential conflicts of interest. The application shall be reviewed by the county attorney and the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County prior to consideration for appointment that membership was originally filled. An appointed member may not serve more than two consecutive terms; however, such persons may be reappointed if they have not been in office for 3 consecutive years. The architect, contractor, electrical, plumbing and mechanical members shall be selected from the county at large. The board shall elect from its members a chair and vice chair for a term of no longer than 2 years each one of its members to serve as chairman and one of its members to serve as vice-chairman, for a term to be set by the board. A chair shall serve no more than 4 consecutive years. All terms of office expire on September 30 of the last year of the term. Vacancies in the membership occurring prior to the end of a member's term for any cause shall be filled by appointment in the same manner as the original appointment that membership was originally filled.
(4) The board may regulate local licensure and handle the discipline of local contractors and is authorized to employ personnel and incur expense as necessary to perform its duties and enforce this section. Staff shall be employees of the board of county commissioners, and the board is responsible for all costs associated therewith. The board is a dependent agency of the board of county commissioners. The board of county commissioners may adopt additional rules and regulations not contained within this act. Pinellas County has the countywide authority to safeguard the life, health, property, and public welfare of Pinellas County residents through the regulation, oversight, and enforcement of construction and home improvement within Pinellas County.

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

Section 2. Section 14 of chapter 75-489, Laws of Florida, as amended by chapter 89-504, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:
Section 14. BOARD JURISDICTION AND DUTIES; FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

(7) The board has the duty to provide an annual independent financial audit to the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County and each municipal government in Pinellas County. The annual audit shall include a detailed summary of the board's efforts to monitor construction activity in Pinellas County.
County and its response and processing of administrative complaints from citizens against licensed contractors.

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

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

Section 21. FEES.—

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

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

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