

By the Committee on Community Colleges & Career Prep and  
Representative Morse

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to Miami-Dade Community  
3           College, Dade County; designating the district  
4           board of trustees of the college as a special  
5           district for a specified period; authorizing  
6           the board to levy up to 1 mill ad valorem tax  
7           per year for 10 years; providing for assessment  
8           and collection; providing legislative intent  
9           with respect to state funding for Miami-Dade  
10          Community College; prohibiting establishment of  
11          certain differentiated fees; providing for a  
12          referendum; providing an effective date.

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14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16           Section 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to  
17 authorize the District Board of Trustees of Miami-Dade  
18 Community College, a community college district consisting of  
19 Dade County, to levy a special ad valorem tax upon approval by  
20 vote of the qualified electors of Dade County for the purpose  
21 of raising revenue to be used for the enhancement of academic  
22 excellence programs, completion of technology infrastructure,  
23 renovation and upgrade of facilities, deferred maintenance,  
24 programs serving students with disabilities, and the  
25 enhancement of services and programs at all its sites in Dade  
26 County. Such funds may not be used for new construction or  
27 employee salaries, and the ad valorem taxes collected must be  
28 set aside and invested as permitted by law, with the principal  
29 and income to be used for the purposes listed in this section  
30 as the district board of trustees directs.

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1           Section 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of s.  
2 189.403(1), Florida Statutes, and for the purpose of this act,  
3 the District Board of Trustees of Miami-Dade Community College  
4 shall be a special district within the geographic boundaries  
5 of Dade County, for the purposes set forth in s. 9, Art. VII  
6 of the State Constitution, and shall remain as such for a  
7 period of up to 12 years. The District Board of Trustees of  
8 Miami-Dade Community College may levy an ad valorem tax on the  
9 taxable property in Dade County of up to 1 mill per year for  
10 10 years. Property taxes determined and levied under this  
11 section shall be certified by the District Board of Trustees  
12 of Miami-Dade Community College to the county property  
13 appraiser and extended, assessed, and collected in the same  
14 manner as the other ad valorem taxes in the county. The levy  
15 may be made for 10 years only, pursuant to resolution of the  
16 district board of trustees duly entered upon its minutes.

17           Section 3. The annual apportionment of state funds for  
18 the support of Miami-Dade Community College under ss. 240.345,  
19 240.347, and 240.359, Florida Statutes, or any other provision  
20 of general law, may not be reduced because the college has  
21 received funds pursuant to an ad valorem levy under section 2.

22           Section 4. The Miami-Dade Community College Board of  
23 Trustees shall not establish differentiated fees as a result  
24 of this act for the purpose of charging higher fees for those  
25 Florida residents living beyond the boundaries of Dade County.

26           Section 5. This act, except for this section, which  
27 shall take effect upon this act becoming a law, shall take  
28 effect only upon approval by a vote of the electors of Dade  
29 County voting in a referendum election that is called and held  
30 by the District Board of Trustees of Miami-Dade Community  
31 College. If the District Board of Trustees of Miami-Dade

1 Community College chooses to call a special election, the  
2 expense of the election may not be paid with student fees or  
3 moneys the college receives from distribution of state tax  
4 revenues, but the expense may be paid with funds received from  
5 private sources or with college auxiliary funds. There shall  
6 be at least 30 days' notice of the election as provided by s.  
7 100.342, Florida Statutes. The board's authority to call a  
8 referendum election expires November 4, 1999. The board may  
9 cancel the referendum election after it has been called, but  
10 any expense resulting from the cancellation must be borne by  
11 the board.

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