

By Senators Hargrett, Grant, Lee and Crist

21-1122A-98

See HB

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Hillsborough County  
3           School District; providing for a seven-member  
4           district school board, with five members  
5           elected from single-member residence areas and  
6           two members elected from the county at large,  
7           notwithstanding the provisions of ss. 230.061,  
8           230.10, and 230.105, F.S.; providing for  
9           implementation at specified elections;  
10          providing that school board members shall  
11          continue to be elected on a nonpartisan basis  
12          and shall be elected in conjunction with the  
13          first primary and general elections; providing  
14          qualifying and other applicable election  
15          procedures; providing for future  
16          reapportionment of the single-member residence  
17          areas; repealing ss. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of  
18          chapter 67-945, Laws of Florida, as amended by  
19          chapter 75-393, Laws of Florida, relating to  
20          the district school board; providing for a  
21          referendum; providing an effective date.

22  
23 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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25           Section 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections  
26 230.061, 230.10, and 230.105, Florida Statutes, the supervisor  
27 of elections for Hillsborough County shall place a referendum  
28 on the ballot at the general election to be held on November  
29 3, 1998, which poses the question of whether the District  
30 School Board of Hillsborough County shall consist of seven  
31 nonpartisan members, five of whom are to be elected each from

1 a single-member residence area by electors residing in the  
2 single-member residence area only and two of whom are to be  
3 elected from the county at large.

4       Section 2. (a) If the electors approve the referendum  
5 required by section 1 of this act, the first election to begin  
6 implementing the transition to single-member representation on  
7 the district school board shall be the election of district  
8 school board members held in conjunction with the first  
9 primary election in the year 2000 and with the runoff, if any,  
10 during the general election of that year, and the change to  
11 single-member representation shall be fully implemented with  
12 the elections for district school board members held in  
13 conjunction with the first primary and general elections in  
14 the year 2002. In the year 2000, school board members from  
15 Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7 shall be elected; and, in the year  
16 2002, school board members from Districts 2, 4, and 6 shall be  
17 elected. Thereafter, the governing body of the district school  
18 board shall consist of seven members, with five members from  
19 single-member districts and two members from the county at  
20 large as provided in this act. All elections for district  
21 school board members shall be nonpartisan and held at the same  
22 time as the first primary and general elections as provided by  
23 law, and all school board members shall be elected to  
24 appropriately staggered terms of 4 years. Each candidate for  
25 election to the district school board must be a qualified  
26 elector of the county and, if seeking election to a  
27 single-member district, a registered voter of that district at  
28 the time of qualifying. Each person elected to the district  
29 school board from a single-member residence area shall be  
30 elected only by the electors residing in the single-member  
31 district for which he or she qualified. Each person elected to

1 the district school board shall take office 2 weeks after the  
2 general election at which he or she was elected.

3 (b) The two seats to be filled from the county at  
4 large shall be designated District 6 and District 7,  
5 respectively. The five seats to be filled from single-member  
6 residence areas shall be designated District 1, District 2,  
7 District 3, District 4, and District 5, respectively, and  
8 shall be the same as the school board districts in effect at  
9 the time the first primary election in the year 2000 is held.  
10 Thereafter, the single-member districts shall be reapportioned  
11 by the school board, in consultation with the supervisor of  
12 elections, as soon after each decennial census as practicable.

13 (c) Candidates for election to the district school  
14 board shall qualify in accordance with general law in the same  
15 manner as candidates for the nonpartisan office of county  
16 court judge qualify under chapter 105, Florida Statutes.  
17 Accordingly, the amount of the qualifying fee for candidates  
18 for school board member shall be calculated using the  
19 percentages set forth in section 105.031(3), Florida Statutes,  
20 based upon the annual salary for the office of school board  
21 member. Candidates may qualify without paying the qualifying  
22 fee using the procedures for the alternative method of  
23 qualifying set forth in section 105.035, Florida Statutes, for  
24 the nonpartisan office of county court judge. A candidate  
25 qualifying by the alternative method for a single-member seat  
26 shall obtain the signatures of a number of qualified voters  
27 equal to at least 3 percent of the total number of registered  
28 voters within the geographical boundaries of the district for  
29 which he or she intends to qualify, and a candidate qualifying  
30 by the alternative method for an at-large seat shall obtain  
31 the signatures of a number of qualified voters equal to at

1 least 3 percent of the total number of registered voters in  
2 Hillsborough County. Any person who is seeking election as a  
3 write-in candidate shall file his or her qualifying papers  
4 during the qualifying period, and space shall be made  
5 available on the general election ballot to write in the name  
6 of the write-in candidate who has so qualified.

7 (d) The appearance of the name of a candidate for the  
8 office of district school board member on a ballot and the  
9 determination of election to such office shall be in  
10 accordance with the provisions applicable to candidates for  
11 the nonpartisan office of county court judge.

12 Section 3. The school board shall conduct its  
13 elections through the office of the supervisor of elections of  
14 Hillsborough County, consistent with the Florida Election Code  
15 and this act.

16 Section 4. In accordance with the requirements of  
17 section 101.161, Florida Statutes, and of section 1 of this  
18 act, the supervisor of elections of Hillsborough County shall  
19 place the title and substance of the referendum on the ballot  
20 as follows:

21  
22 ELECTION OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

23 DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

24 TO PROVIDE FOR SINGLE-MEMBER REPRESENTATION

25  
26 Shall the membership of the Hillsborough County  
27 School Board be changed to consist of seven  
28 members, with five members elected from  
29 single-member residence areas, rather than  
30 countywide, and two members elected from the  
31 county at large, all elected in nonpartisan

1           elections held in conjunction with the first  
2           primary and general elections, beginning with  
3           those elections held in the year 2000 and being  
4           fully implemented with those elections held in  
5           the year 2002?

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7           Yes

8           No

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10           Section 5. Sections 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of chapter  
11 67-945, Laws of Florida, and section 3 of said chapter and any  
12 amendments to that section, are repealed on November 17, 1998.

13           Section 6. This act shall take effect only upon its  
14 approval by a majority vote of those qualified electors of  
15 Hillsborough County voting in a referendum to be held in  
16 conjunction with the general election on November 3, 1998, in  
17 accordance with the provisions of law relating to elections  
18 currently in force, except that this section shall take effect  
19 upon becoming a law.

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