

By Representatives Miller, Crist, Littlefield, Bradley,  
Tamargo, Byrd, Wallace and Murman

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           providing for implementation at specified  
8           elections; providing that school board members  
9           shall continue to be elected on a nonpartisan  
10          basis and shall be elected in conjunction with  
11          the first primary and general elections;  
12          providing qualifying and other applicable  
13          election procedures; providing for future  
14          reapportionment of the single-member residence  
15          areas; repealing ss. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of  
16          chapter 65-945, Laws of Florida, as amended,  
17          relating to the district school board;  
18          providing for a referendum; providing an  
19          effective date.

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

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23           Section 1. The supervisor of elections for  
24 Hillsborough County shall place a referendum on the ballot at  
25 the general election to be held on November 3, 1998, which  
26 poses the question of whether the District School Board of  
27 Hillsborough County shall consist of seven nonpartisan  
28 members, five of whom are to be elected each from a  
29 single-member residence area by electors residing in the  
30 single-member residence area only and two of whom are to be  
31 elected from the county at large.

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

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

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

1 write-in candidate shall file his or her qualifying papers  
2 during the qualifying period, and space shall be made  
3 available on the general election ballot to write in the name  
4 of the write-in candidate who has so qualified.

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

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

14 Section 4. In accordance with the requirements of s.  
15 101.161, Florida Statutes, and of section 1 of this act, the  
16 supervisor of elections of Hillsborough County shall place the  
17 title and substance of the referendum on the ballot as  
18 follows:

19  
20 ELECTION OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

21 DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

22 TO PROVIDE FOR SINGLE-MEMBER REPRESENTATION

23  
24 Shall the membership of the Hillsborough County  
25 School Board be changed to consist of seven  
26 members, with five members elected from  
27 single-member residence areas, rather than  
28 countywide, and two members elected from the  
29 county at large, all elected in nonpartisan  
30 elections held in conjunction with the first  
31 primary and general elections, beginning with

1           those elections held in the year 2000 and being  
2           fully implemented with those elections held in  
3           the year 2002?

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5           Yes

6           No

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8           Section 5. Sections 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of chapter  
9           67-945, Laws of Florida, and section 3 of said chapter and any  
10           amendments to that section, are repealed on November 17, 1998.

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

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