

By Senator Grant

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to children's services;
amending s. 125.901, F.S.; providing for a
superintendent of schools to appoint a designee
to serve on the board of independent special
districts established to provide funding for
children's services; providing an effective
date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
125.901, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

125.901 Children's services; independent special
district; council; powers, duties, and functions.--

(1) Each county may by ordinance create an independent
special district, as defined in ss. 189.403(3) and
200.001(8)(e), to provide funding for children's services
throughout the county in accordance with this section. The
boundaries of such district shall be coterminous with the
boundaries of the county. The county governing body shall
obtain approval, by a majority vote of those electors voting
on the question, to annually levy ad valorem taxes which shall
not exceed the maximum millage rate authorized by this
section. Any district created pursuant to the provisions of
this subsection shall be required to levy and fix millage
subject to the provisions of s. 200.065. Once such millage is
approved by the electorate, the district shall not be required
to seek approval of the electorate in future years to levy the
previously approved millage.

1 (a) The governing board of the district shall be a
2 council on children's services, which may also be known as a
3 juvenile welfare board or similar name as established in the
4 ordinance by the county governing body. Such council shall
5 consist of 10 members, including: the superintendent of
6 schools or the superintendent's designee; a local school board
7 member; the district administrator from the appropriate
8 district of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative
9 Services, or his or her designee who is a member of the Senior
10 Management Service or of the Selected Exempt Service; one
11 member of the county governing body; and the judge assigned to
12 juvenile cases who shall sit as a voting member of the board,
13 except that said judge shall not vote or participate in the
14 setting of ad valorem taxes under this section. In the event
15 there is more than one judge assigned to juvenile cases in a
16 county, the chief judge shall designate one of said juvenile
17 judges to serve on the board. The remaining five members shall
18 be appointed by the Governor, and shall, to the extent
19 possible, represent the demographic diversity of the
20 population of the county. After soliciting recommendations
21 from the public, the county governing body shall submit to the
22 Governor the names of at least three persons for each vacancy
23 occurring among the five members appointed by the Governor,
24 and the Governor shall appoint members to the council from the
25 candidates nominated by the county governing body. The
26 Governor shall make a selection within a 45-day period or
27 request a new list of candidates. All members appointed by
28 the Governor shall have been residents of the county for the
29 previous 24-month period. Such members shall be appointed for
30 4-year terms, except that the length of the terms of the
31 initial appointees shall be adjusted to stagger the terms.

1 The Governor may remove a member for cause or upon the written
2 petition of the county governing body. If any of the members
3 of the council required to be appointed by the Governor under
4 the provisions of this subsection shall resign, die, or be
5 removed from office, the vacancy thereby created shall, as
6 soon as practicable, be filled by appointment by the Governor,
7 using the same method as the original appointment, and such
8 appointment to fill a vacancy shall be for the unexpired term
9 of the person who resigns, dies, or is removed from office.

10 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1998.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Provides that a superintendent of schools may appoint a designee to serve in his place on the boards of certain independent special districts created to provide funding for children's services.