

By the Committee on Education/K-12 and Representatives
Warner, Feeney, Ritter and Merchant

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House Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to
Section 4 of Article IX of the State
Constitution relating to school districts.

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

That the amendment to Section 4 of Article IX of the
State Constitution set forth below is agreed to and shall be
submitted to the electors of Florida for approval or rejection
at the general election to be held in November 1998:

SECTION 4. School districts; school boards.--

(a) Each county shall constitute a school district;
provided, two or more contiguous counties, upon vote of the
electors of each county pursuant to law, may be combined into
one school district; and provided further that a county with
45,000 or more students in the district schools within the
county may be divided into more than one school district, each
school district to have no less than 15,000 students, as
provided by general or special law, and subject to approval by
a vote of the electors of the county. In order to divide a
county under this provision, and notwithstanding other
provisions of this constitution, a commission may be created
by special law to draw school district boundary lines,
allocate assets, and make provisions for the contractual
obligations, debts, and bonded indebtedness of the school
district, all of which shall be subject to review and approval
by the circuit court for compliance with state and federal
law. Except for millage voted for bonded indebtedness,
funding for operation and capital outlay in school districts

1 divided pursuant to this section shall be calculated on a
2 countywide basis and allocated as provided by general law.

3 (b) In each school district there shall be a school
4 board composed of five or more members chosen by vote of the
5 electors for appropriately staggered terms of four years, as
6 provided by law.

7 ~~(b)~~ The school board shall operate, control and
8 supervise all free public schools within the school district
9 and determine the rate of school district taxes within the
10 limits prescribed herein. Two or more school districts may
11 operate and finance joint educational programs.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in accordance with the
13 requirements of section 101.161, Florida Statutes, the title
14 and substance of the amendment proposed herein shall appear on
15 the ballot as follows:

16
17 AUTHORIZING THE DIVISION OF
18 A COUNTY INTO TWO OR MORE
19 SCHOOL DISTRICTS
20

21 Provides that counties with 45,000 or more students may
22 be divided into two or more school districts pursuant to
23 general or special law, and subject to local voter approval.
24 Provides a commission to draw district boundary lines,
25 allocate assets, obligations, debts, and bonded indebtedness.
26 Provides that, except for millage voted for bonded
27 indebtedness, school district funding shall be calculated
28 countywide and allocated as provided by general law.
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