

By Senator Diaz-Balart

37-564A-98

See CS for CS for HB 1503

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; providing  
 6           application of certain provisions of general  
 7           law; authorizing the board to levy up to 1 mill  
 8           ad valorem tax per year for 10 years; providing  
 9           for assessment and collection; providing  
 10          legislative intent with respect to state  
 11          funding for Miami-Dade Community College;  
 12          prohibiting establishment of certain  
 13          differentiated fees; providing for a  
 14          referendum; providing an effective date.

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

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

3       Section 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of section  
4 189.403(1), Florida Statutes, and for the purposes of this  
5 act, the Miami-Dade Community College District shall be an  
6 independent special district within the geographic boundaries  
7 of Dade County, for the purposes set forth in section 9,  
8 Article VII of the State Constitution. This act shall  
9 constitute the charter for the special district created by  
10 this act. Unless reauthorized by legislative act and  
11 referendum, the special district created by this act shall  
12 dissolve without further action 12 years after the referendum  
13 approval of this act. Upon dissolution, any remaining assets  
14 and liabilities of the special district shall be transferred  
15 to the District Board of Trustees of Miami-Dade Community  
16 College. In the interim, the Legislature may amend the charter  
17 for the special district created by this act. The District  
18 Board of Trustees of Miami-Dade Community College shall act as  
19 the governing board of the special district, in accordance  
20 with the provisions of part III of chapter 240, Florida  
21 Statutes, and rules adopted thereunder. The trustees shall  
22 serve without compensation in their role as governing board of  
23 the special district. The financial disclosure required of  
24 trustees shall also serve as the financial disclosure required  
25 of special district governing board members. The reporting and  
26 meeting notice required of Miami-Dade Community College  
27 pursuant to part III of chapter 240, Florida Statutes, and  
28 other general law, and rules of the State Board of Education  
29 shall serve to fulfill the special district reporting and  
30 notice requirements of chapter 189, Florida Statutes.

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1           Section 3. The District Board of Trustees of  
2 Miami-Dade Community College may levy an ad valorem tax on the  
3 taxable property in Dade County of up to 1 mill per year for  
4 10 years. Property taxes determined and levied under this  
5 section shall be certified by the District Board of Trustees  
6 of Miami-Dade Community College to the county property  
7 appraiser and extended, assessed, and collected in the same  
8 manner as the other ad valorem taxes in the county. The levy  
9 may be made for 10 years only, pursuant to resolution of the  
10 district board of trustees duly entered upon its minutes.

11           Section 4. The annual apportionment of state funds for  
12 the support of Miami-Dade Community College under sections  
13 240.345, 240.347, and 240.359, Florida Statutes, or any other  
14 provision of general law, may not be reduced because the  
15 college has received funds pursuant to an ad valorem levy  
16 under section 3.

17           Section 5. The Miami-Dade Community College Board of  
18 Trustees shall not establish differentiated fees as a result  
19 of this act for the purpose of charging higher fees for those  
20 Florida residents living beyond the boundaries of Dade County.

21           Section 6. This act, except for this section, which  
22 shall take effect upon this act becoming a law, shall take  
23 effect only upon approval by a vote of the electors of Dade  
24 County voting in a referendum election that is called by the  
25 District Board of Trustees of Miami-Dade Community College and  
26 held at the same time as the 1998 General Election or the 2000  
27 General Election.

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Constitutes the District Board of Trustees of Miami-Dade Community College as an independent special district for the purpose of levying a 1-mill ad valorem tax to fund certain educational expenses. The levy is limited to 10 years, and special district assets and liabilities remaining at the end of that period will be transferred to the board in its capacity as district board of trustees of the college. The district's creation must be approved by referendum, and it is dissolved 12 years after that approval.

**CODING:**Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.