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2 An act relating to Pinellas County; amending  
3 chapter 80-590, Laws of Florida; amending the  
4 home rule charter of the county to delete the  
5 reference to general law as controlling the  
6 composition of the county commission;  
7 increasing the number of county commissioners  
8 from five to seven, with four of the members to  
9 be elected from single-member districts and the  
10 three remaining members to be elected at large;  
11 providing residency requirements for the  
12 at-large members; providing for redistricting  
13 in accordance with a constitutional provision,  
14 to conform; providing for transition; providing  
15 for a ballot title and question; providing  
16 legislative intent; providing for a special  
17 referendum; providing effective dates.

18  
19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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21 Section 1. Section 3.01 of Article III of the Home  
22 Rule Charter for Pinellas County, Florida, as created by  
23 section 1 of chapter 80-590, Laws of Florida, is amended to  
24 read:

25  
26 ARTICLE III - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

27  
28 Section 3.01 Board of County Commissioners

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30 The legislative body of county government shall be the  
31 Board of County Commissioners ~~in accordance with general law.~~

1 The Board of County Commissioners shall be increased from five  
2 commissioners to seven commissioners, with four of the seven  
3 commissioners residing one in each of four county commission  
4 districts, the districts together covering the entire county  
5 and as nearly equal in population as practicable, and each  
6 commissioner being nominated and elected only by the qualified  
7 electors who reside in the same county commission district as  
8 the commissioner, and with three of the seven commissioners  
9 being nominated and elected at large. Each of the three  
10 at-large commissioners shall reside one in each of three  
11 districts, the three districts together covering the entire  
12 county and as nearly equal in population as practicable.  
13 Initial redistricting shall be accomplished by the Board of  
14 County Commissioners in accordance with Section 1(e) of  
15 Article VIII of the Florida Constitution. The ~~composition,~~  
16 election, term of office, and compensation of members shall  
17 all be in accordance with general law.

18       Section 2. The county commission district seats filled  
19 in the 1998 election shall stay in effect until the normal  
20 expiration date of that term of office. All commissioners  
21 thereafter shall be elected for 4-year terms which shall be  
22 staggered so that, alternately, the commissioners elected from  
23 either the odd-numbered or even-numbered single-member  
24 districts and one or two of the commissioners elected at large  
25 from the entire county are elected every 2 years, except that  
26 any commissioner may be elected to an initial term of less  
27 than 4 years if necessary to achieve or maintain such system  
28 of staggered terms.

29       Section 3. At the special referendum called pursuant  
30 to section 5, the ballot title and question shall be  
31 substantially as follows:

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BALLOT TITLE: INCREASES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO SEVEN;  
PROVIDES FOUR SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS AND THREE AT-LARGE  
DISTRICTS

BALLOT QUESTION: Shall the Board of County  
Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida, be increased from  
five to seven members, with four of the seven members to be  
elected to office from single-member districts by electors  
residing in each of those districts only, and with the three  
remaining members being elected by all electors within the  
county at large, amending Section 3.01 of Article III of the  
Home Rule Charter for Pinellas County, Florida?

- [ ] YES FOR APPROVAL
- [ ] NO FOR REJECTION

Section 4. It is the intent of the Legislature by this  
act to propose amendments to Section 3.01 of Article III of  
the Home Rule Charter for Pinellas County, Florida, as it was  
created by section 1 of chapter 80-590, Laws of Florida. It is  
not the intent of the Legislature in any way to effectuate or  
to interfere with the effectuation of any amendment that has  
previously occurred outside the legislative process to the  
extent that such amendment is ultimately deemed effective or  
not effective.

Section 5. This act shall take effect only upon its  
approval by a majority vote of those qualified electors of  
Pinellas County voting in a referendum election to be called  
by the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County and to  
be held prior to November 30, 1999, in accordance with the

1 provisions of law relating to elections currently in force,  
2 except that this section and section 3 shall take effect upon  
3 this act becoming a law.

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