

By Representative Peterman

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Pinellas County School  
3           District; providing for a seven-member district  
4           school board, with four members elected from  
5           single-member districts and three members  
6           elected from the county at large,  
7           notwithstanding the provisions of s. 230.061,  
8           s. 230.10, or s. 230.105, F.S.; providing for  
9           implementation at specified elections;  
10          providing that school board members shall  
11          continue to be elected on a nonpartisan basis  
12          and shall be elected in conjunction with the  
13          first primary and general election; providing  
14          qualifying and other applicable election  
15          procedures; providing for future  
16          reapportionment of the single-member districts;  
17          providing for a referendum; providing effective  
18          dates.

19  
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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22           Section 1. Notwithstanding section 230.061, section  
23 230.10, or section 230.105, Florida Statutes, the supervisor  
24 of elections of Pinellas County shall place a referendum on  
25 the ballot at the general election to be held on November 5,  
26 2002, which poses the question of whether the district school  
27 board of Pinellas County shall consist of seven nonpartisan  
28 members, four of whom are to be elected each from a  
29 single-member district by electors residing in the  
30 single-member district only and three of whom are to be  
31 elected from the county at large.

1           Section 2. (1) 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 2004 and with the runoff, if any,  
7 held during the general election of that year. 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 2006. In the year 2004, school board members from  
12 districts 1 and 3 and the at-large seat for which the election  
13 is to be held in 2004, designated as district 7, shall be  
14 elected; in the year 2006, school board members from districts  
15 2 and 4, and the at-large seats for which election was held in  
16 2002, designated as districts 5 and 6, shall be elected.  
17 Thereafter, the governing body of the district school board  
18 shall consist of seven members, with four members from  
19 single-member districts and three members from the county at  
20 large, as provided in this act. All elections for district  
21 school board members shall be nonpartisan and held at the same  
22 time as the first primary and general elections as provided by  
23 law, and all school board members shall be elected to  
24 appropriately staggered terms of 4 years each. Each candidate  
25 for election to the district school board must be a qualified  
26 elector of the county and, if seeking election to a  
27 single-member district, a registered voter of that district at  
28 the time of qualifying. Each person elected to the district  
29 school board from a single-member district shall be elected  
30 only by the electors residing in the single-member district  
31 for which he or she qualified. Each person elected to the

1 district school board shall take office 2 weeks after the  
2 general election at which he or she was elected.

3 (2) The three seats to be filled from the county at  
4 large shall be designated district 5, district 6, and district  
5 7, respectively. The four seats to be filled from  
6 single-member districts shall be designated district 1,  
7 district 2, district 3, and district 4, respectively, and  
8 shall be the same as the school board districts in effect at  
9 the time the first primary election in the year 2004 is held.

10 Thereafter, the single-member districts shall be reapportioned  
11 by the school board, in consultation with the supervisor of  
12 elections, as soon after each decennial census as practicable.

13 (3) Candidates for election to the district school  
14 board shall qualify in accordance with general law in the same  
15 manner as candidates for the nonpartisan office of county  
16 court judge qualify under chapter 105, Florida Statutes.

17 Accordingly, the amount of the qualifying fee for candidates  
18 for school board members shall be calculated using the  
19 percentages set forth in section 105.031, Florida Statutes,  
20 based upon the annual salary for the office of school board  
21 member. Candidates may qualify without paying the qualifying  
22 fee using the procedures for the alternative method of  
23 qualifying set forth in section 105.035, Florida Statutes, for  
24 the nonpartisan office of county court judge. A candidate  
25 qualifying by the alternative method for a single-member  
26 district shall obtain the signatures of a number of qualified  
27 voters equal to at least 3 percent of the total number of  
28 registered voters within the geographical boundaries of the  
29 district for which he or she intends to qualify, and a  
30 candidate qualifying by the alternative method for an at-large  
31 seat shall obtain the signatures of a number of qualified

1 voters equal to at least 1 percent of the total number of  
2 registered voters in Pinellas County. Any person who is  
3 seeking election as a write-in candidate shall file his or her  
4 qualifying papers during the qualifying period, and space  
5 shall be made available on the general election ballot to  
6 write in the name of the write-in candidate who has so  
7 qualified.

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

13 Section 3. The school board shall conduct its  
14 elections through the office of the supervisor of elections of  
15 Pinellas County consistent with the Florida Election Code and  
16 this act.

17 Section 4. In accordance with the requirements of  
18 section 101.161, Florida Statutes, and section 1 of this act,  
19 the supervisor of elections of Pinellas County shall place the  
20 title and substance of the referendum on the ballot as  
21 follows:

22 ELECTION OF PINELLAS COUNTY

23 DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

24 TO PROVIDE FOR SINGLE-MEMBER REPRESENTATION

25 Shall the membership of the Pinellas County School Board be  
26 changed to consist of seven members, with four members elected  
27 from single-member districts rather than countywide, and three  
28 members elected from the county at large, all elected in  
29 nonpartisan elections held in conjunction with the first  
30 primary and general elections beginning with those elections  
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1 held in the year 2004 and being fully implemented with those  
2 elections held in the year 2006?

3 Yes

4 No

5 Section 5. This act shall take effect only upon its  
6 approval by a majority vote of those qualified electors of  
7 Pinellas County voting in a referendum to be held in  
8 conjunction with the general election on November 5, 2002, in  
9 accordance with the provisions of law relating to elections  
10 currently in force, except that this section and section 1 of  
11 this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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