



CHAMBER ACTION

The Committee on Procedures recommends the following:

Committee Substitute

Remove the entire bill and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to school district governance; authorizing the creation of school district charter commissions in each school district; providing purpose of commissions to study and recommend changes to school district governance; providing for appointment of members; providing for submission of recommendations and for referendum approval; providing a procedure for election of a district school board chair by countywide vote in a school district with an appointed district school superintendent; providing requirements for submission of the proposition to electors of the school district; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. School district charter commissions.--

(1) Each district school board may create a school district charter commission (SDCC) to study and recommend changes to the school district governance. If the board of



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29 county commissioners or the city council for the largest city in
30 the county requests the creation of a SDCC and the district
31 school board refuses to create such body, the board of county
32 commissioners or the city council may petition the legislative
33 delegation to create a SDCC.

34 (2) Each SDCC shall be comprised of 11 members who are
35 appointed by the district school board or the legislative
36 delegation, as applicable. The members shall include the
37 following:

38 (a) One representative of school teachers.

39 (b) One representative of organized labor.

40 (c) One person owning or operating a business.

41 (d) One representative of a homeowners' association.

42 (e) Two persons nominated by the chair of the board of
43 county commissioners and approved by the district school board
44 or the legislative delegation, as applicable.

45 (f) Two persons nominated by the mayor of the largest city
46 in the county and approved by the district school board or the
47 legislative delegation, as applicable.

48 (g) If a main campus of a state university is located in
49 the county, one person nominated by the president of the
50 university and approved by the district school board or the
51 legislative delegation, as applicable.

52 (h) Two persons appointed at large by the district school
53 board or the legislative delegation, as applicable.

54 (3) A SDCC must hold at least two public hearings and must
55 submit recommendations to the district school board or the



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56 legislative delegation, as applicable. Recommendations may
57 include, but not be limited to, the following:

58 (a) The election of a school board chair by countywide
59 vote in a county in which the office of district school
60 superintendent is appointive, with the powers, duties, terms of
61 office, and salary of the chair to be established by the SDCC.

62 (b) The addition by special act proposed by the
63 legislative delegation to powers of a district school board
64 chair elected by countywide vote.

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66 A SDCC's recommendations must be submitted by the district
67 school board or the legislative delegation, as applicable, to
68 the supervisor of elections for referendum approval at the next
69 available general election.

70 (4)(a) If a SDCC recommends that the district school board
71 chair be elected by countywide vote in a school district in
72 which the office of district school superintendent is
73 appointive, a proposition shall be submitted to the electors of
74 the school district in either manner following:

75 1. The district school board may adopt a formal resolution
76 directing an election to be held to place the proposition on the
77 ballot; or

78 2. The electors of the school district may petition to
79 have the proposition placed on the ballot by presenting to the
80 district school board petitions signed by not less than 10
81 percent of the duly qualified electors residing within the
82 school district. The number of signatures required shall be
83 determined by the supervisor of elections according to the



84 | number of registered electors in the school district as of the
 85 | date the petitioning electors register as a political committee
 86 | as provided in paragraph (b).

87 | (b) The electors petitioning to have the proposition
 88 | placed on the ballot shall register as a political committee
 89 | pursuant to s. 106.03, Florida Statutes, and a specific person
 90 | shall be designated therein as chair of the committee to act for
 91 | the committee.

92 | (c) Each petition form circulated shall include the
 93 | wording: "As a registered elector of the school district of
 94 | _____ County, Florida, I am petitioning for a referendum
 95 | election to determine whether the district school board chair
 96 | shall be elected by countywide vote." The petition shall also
 97 | include space for the signature and address of the elector. Each
 98 | signature obtained shall be dated when made and is valid for a
 99 | period of 4 years following that date.

100 | (d) Upon the filing of the petitions with the district
 101 | school board by the chair of the committee, the district school
 102 | board shall submit the petitions to the supervisor of elections
 103 | for verification of the signatures. Within a period of not more
 104 | than 30 days, the supervisor of elections shall determine
 105 | whether the petitions contain the required number of valid
 106 | signatures. The supervisor of elections shall be paid by the
 107 | committee seeking verification the sum of 10 cents for each name
 108 | checked.

109 | (e) If it is determined that the petitions have the
 110 | required signatures, the supervisor of elections shall certify
 111 | the petitions to the district school board, which shall adopt a



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112 resolution requesting that an election date be set to conform to
113 the next available general election that occurs not less than 30
114 days after certification of the petitions. If it is determined
115 that the petitions do not contain the required signatures, the
116 supervisor of elections shall so notify the district school
117 board, which shall file the petitions without taking further
118 action, and the matter shall be at an end. No additional names
119 may be added to the petitions, and the petitions may not be used
120 in any other proceeding.

121 (f) A district school board may increase or decrease its
122 membership by one member through redistricting either
123 simultaneous with, or at any time after, the implementation of
124 the elected school board chair governance option pursuant to
125 this subsection.

126 (g) Any school district adopting the proposition set forth
127 in this subsection may thereafter return to the procedure
128 otherwise provided by law by following the same procedure
129 outlined in this subsection.

130 (h) If the district school board chair is elected by
131 countywide vote pursuant to this subsection, the vice chair of
132 the district school board shall be elected by the members of the
133 district school board.

134 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.

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