

By Senator Miller

18-722-03

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Pinellas County School
3 District; providing procedures for the
4 conversion from districtwide elections of all
5 school board members to a system that combines
6 single-member districts and districtwide
7 representation; providing for the school board
8 to draw the single-member district lines;
9 providing an effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. Notwithstanding any provisions to the
14 contrary in chapter 2001-294, Laws of Florida, the following
15 procedures apply to the conversion from districtwide election
16 of five Pinellas County school board members to the election
17 of four school board members from single-member districts and
18 three additional members from the entire school board
19 district, which transition was mandated through a referendum
20 passed on November 5, 2002:

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22 (1) DESIGNATION OF AT-LARGE AND SINGLE-MEMBER
23 DISTRICTS.--In calendar year 2003, the three seats to be
24 filled from the county at large shall be designated District
25 5, District 6, and District 7, respectively. The four seats to
26 be filled from single-member districts shall be designated
27 District 1, District 2, District 3, and District 4,
28 respectively. During calendar year 2003, the school board
29 shall determine the geographic boundaries for the four
30 single-member districts, which together must cover the entire
31 county and must be as nearly equal in population as is
practicable. The newly designated boundaries of Districts 1

1 and 3 shall be effective for the first primary election in
2 calendar year 2004 and thereafter, and the newly designated
3 boundaries of Districts 2 and 4 shall be effective for the
4 first primary election in calendar year 2006 and thereafter;
5 however, residence within the newly designated boundaries does
6 not disqualify a school board member before the end of his or
7 her current term.

8 (2) BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION.--The first election in which
9 the transition to single-member representation on the district
10 school board shall be implemented is the election of district
11 school board members held in conjunction with the first
12 primary election in calendar year 2004 and the runoff, if any,
13 during the general election of that year. In calendar year
14 2004, school board members shall be elected from the newly
15 created single-member Districts 1 and 3 and the at-large seat
16 for which the election is to be held in 2004, hereafter
17 designated as District 7. An incumbent school board member
18 from the previously existing school board member residence
19 area 1 or residence area 3 and the incumbent in the at-large
20 seat elected in calendar year 2000 may seek reelection from
21 one of the newly created single-member Districts 1 or 3 if he
22 or she resides within such district, or may seek reelection
23 from at-large District 7.

24 (3) COMPLETE IMPLEMENTATION.--

25 (a) The change to single-member representation shall
26 be fully implemented with the elections for district school
27 board members held in conjunction with the first primary and
28 general elections in calendar year 2006. In calendar year
29 2006, school board members shall be elected from the newly
30 created single-member Districts 2 and 4 and the newly created
31 at-large Districts 5 and 6. An incumbent school board member

1 from the previously existing school board member residence
2 areas 2, 4, or 5 and the incumbent in the at-large seat
3 elected in 2002 may seek reelection from the newly created
4 single-member District 2 or District 4 if he or she resides
5 within such district, or may seek reelection from at-large
6 District 5 or District 6.

7 (b) Thereafter, the school board shall consist of
8 seven members, including four members from single-member
9 districts and three members from the county at large, as
10 provided in this act. An election of a district school board
11 member must be nonpartisan and must be held at the same time
12 as the first primary and general elections, as provided by
13 law, and school board members shall be elected to
14 appropriately staggered terms of 4 years. Each candidate for
15 election to the district school board must be a qualified
16 elector of the county and, if he or she is seeking election to
17 a single-member residence area, a registered voter of that
18 residence area at the time of qualifying. Each person elected
19 to the district school board from a single-member residence
20 area shall be elected only by the electors who reside in the
21 single-member district in which he or she qualifies to run.
22 Each person elected to the district school board shall take
23 office on the third Tuesday after the first Monday in November
24 of the year in which he or she was elected. If certification
25 of the election is delayed, the elected person shall take
26 office at the next regular meeting of the school board after
27 the final certification takes place.

28 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
29 law.
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