

HB 0627

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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to Lee County; amending the Lee County Home Rule Charter to provide for the election of commissioners from single districts; providing for the creation of districts; providing an exception; providing for a referendum; providing a ballot statement; providing for the staggering of commissioner terms; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 2.2 A. of Article II of the Lee County Home Rule Charter is amended to read:

Section 2.2: Legislative Branch

A. The County Commission. The governing body of the County shall be a board of County Commissioners composed of five (5) members serving staggered terms of four (4) years. There shall be one Commissioner for each of the (5) County Commission districts established pursuant to general law and they shall be elected in a partisan election by the electors of their districts ~~on a county-wide basis by the electors of the County~~. Each County Commissioner during the term of office shall reside in the district from which such County Commissioner ran for office, provided that any County Commissioner who is removed from a district by redistricting may continue to serve during the balance of the term. Districts must be contiguous, separate, and equal by population at the time of redistricting.

Section 2. In accordance with the requirements of section 101.161, Florida Statutes, and section 3, the Supervisor of Elections of Lee County shall place the title and substance of

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31 the referendum on the ballot as follows:

32 ELECTION OF LEE COUNTY COMMISSION

33 MEMBERS TO PROVIDE FOR SINGLE-MEMBER REPRESENTATION

34 Shall the election of Lee County Commission members be changed
 35 so that commissioners are elected by the people who live in
 36 their districts, rather than countywide?

37 Yes

38 No

39 Section 3. If for any reason there is a countywide
 40 election prior to the 2004 general election and 2004 primaries,
 41 the vote for this act will occur on this earlier date. If it is
 42 prior to the qualifying period for the 2004 general election,
 43 all county commission seats will be up for election in the year
 44 2004 and staggered from that point on. If the next countywide
 45 election is in 2004, all county commission seats will be up for
 46 election in the year 2006 and staggered from that point on.

47 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law,
 48 except that section 1 shall take effect only upon its approval
 49 by a majority vote of those qualified electors of Lee County
 50 voting in a referendum to be held by the Lee County Board of
 51 County Commissioners in conjunction with the next regular
 52 general, special, or other election, exclusive of primaries, in
 53 accordance with the provisions of law relating to elections
 54 currently in force and this act.

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