

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to Lee County; amending the Lee County
3 Home Rule Charter to provide for the election of
4 commissioners from single districts; providing for the
5 creation of districts; providing an exception; providing
6 for a referendum; providing a ballot statement; providing
7 for the staggering of commissioner terms; providing an
8 effective date.

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

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

14 Section 2.2: Legislative Branch

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

28 | Section 2. In accordance with the requirements of section
 29 | 101.161, Florida Statutes, and section 3, the Supervisor of
 30 | Elections of Lee County shall place the title and substance of
 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. The referendum shall be placed on the 2004
 40 | general election ballot. Upon the approval of the countywide
 41 | referendum, all county commission seats will be up for election
 42 | in the year 2006 and staggered from that point on.

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