

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to district school board membership;
 3 creating s. 1001.3615, F.S.; requiring that district
 4 school boards consist of nine members in counties where
 5 the population exceeds a certain number; providing for
 6 single-member and at-large districts; requiring
 7 nonpartisan elections; providing for the election of a
 8 chair and vice chair of the school board; providing for 4-
 9 year terms of office and staggered terms of members;
 10 permitting changes in the boundaries of school board
 11 member residence areas and providing the procedure for
 12 publication of those changes; providing an effective date.

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

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 16 Section 1. Section 1001.3615, Florida Statutes, is created
 17 to read:

18 1001.3615 Election of district school board members in
 19 counties in which the population exceeds 2 million.-

20 (1) Notwithstanding ss. 1001.36, 1001.361, and 1001.362,
 21 in a county in which the population exceeds 2 million people,
 22 the district school board shall consist of nine members. Seven
 23 of the nine members shall reside one in each of seven residence
 24 areas, the areas together covering the entire district and as
 25 nearly equal in population as practicable, according to the most
 26 recent decennial census, and each shall be elected only by the
 27 qualified electors who reside in the same residence area as the
 28 member. Two of the nine members shall be elected from the county

29 at large. Members shall be elected in a nonpartisan election as
30 provided in chapter 105.

31 (2) Notwithstanding s. 1001.371, the school board members
32 elected at large shall serve as the chair and vice chair of the
33 school board. The ballot for the office of chair shall state:
34 "Chair of the School Board" followed by a list of candidates who
35 have qualified for that office. The ballot for the office of
36 vice chair shall state: "Vice Chair of the School Board"
37 followed by a list of candidates who have qualified for that
38 office. The candidate who receives the highest number of votes
39 in the general election shall be elected to the office for which
40 the candidate has qualified.

41 (3) All members shall be elected for 4-year terms, but the
42 terms shall be staggered so that, alternately, one more or one
43 less than half of the members elected from residence areas and,
44 if applicable, one of the members elected at large from the
45 entire district are elected every 2 years. Any member may be
46 elected to an initial term of less than 4 years if necessary to
47 achieve or maintain such system of staggered terms.

48 (4) In odd-numbered years, the district school board may
49 change the boundaries of the residence areas at any meeting of
50 the district school board.

51 (a) The changes in boundaries shall be shown by resolution
52 spread upon the minutes of the district school board, shall be
53 recorded in the office of the clerk of the circuit court, and
54 shall be published at least once in a newspaper published in the
55 district within 30 days after the adoption of the resolution,
56 or, if there is no newspaper published in the district, shall be

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57 posted at the county courthouse door for 4 weeks after the
58 adoption of the resolution. A certified copy of the resolution
59 shall be transmitted to the Department of State.

60 (b) A change in a residence area that affects the
61 residence qualifications of an incumbent member does not
62 disqualify the incumbent member during the term for which he or
63 she is elected.

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