

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to Lee County; amending the Lee County
 3 Home Rule Charter to require additional members for
 4 the board of county commissioners under certain
 5 circumstances; providing for a chair and vice chair;
 6 revising circumstances under which district boundaries
 7 are changed; providing requirements for redistricting
 8 plans and districts; requiring a referendum; providing
 9 effective dates.

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

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 13 **Section 1. Subsections A. and B. of section 2.2 of Article**
 14 **II of the Lee County Home Rule Charter are amended to read:**

15 Section 2.2: Legislative Branch

16 A. The County Commission Composition, Election and Terms
 17 of Members

18 (1) Composition and Election

19 (a) The governing body of the County shall be a Board of
 20 County Commissioners composed of five (5) members serving
 21 staggered terms of four (4) years. There shall be one
 22 Commissioner for each of the five (5) County Commission
 23 districts established pursuant to general law and they shall be
 24 elected in a partisan election on a county-wide basis by the
 25 electors of the County. Each County Commissioner during the term

26 of office shall reside in the district from which such County
27 Commissioner ran for office, provided that any County
28 Commissioner who is removed from a district by redistricting may
29 continue to serve during the balance of the term of office.

30 (b) Beginning with the 2028 general election:

31 1. The Board of County Commissioners shall be composed of
32 at least five (5) members elected in single-member districts
33 serving staggered terms of four (4) years.

34 2. Upon the county exceeding a population of 1 million in
35 a decennial census, the Board of County Commissioners shall have
36 an additional member elected in a single-member district such
37 that no district shall be composed of fewer than 100,000 nor
38 more than 200,000 persons.

39 3. The Board of County Commissioners shall elect a chair
40 and vice chair from among its membership.

41 (2) Terms of County Commissioners

42 No Commissioner shall serve more than three (3) consecutive
43 terms on the Board. No previous term in office which is in
44 progress as of November 2014 shall be considered a term of
45 service for purposes of the limitations contained herein.

46 B. Redistricting

47 (1) County Commission district boundaries shall be changed
48 only after the completion of a decennial census and a notice and
49 a public hearing as provided by general law.

50 (2) No redistricting plan or district boundaries shall be

51 drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a political party or
 52 an incumbent. Districts shall not be drawn with the intent to
 53 diminish the ability of the electors to elect representatives of
 54 their choice, and, where feasible, districts shall consist of
 55 contiguous and compact territories, nearly equal in population
 56 as is practicable, and shall use existing political and
 57 geographical boundaries.

58 **Section 2.** Referendum election.-

59 (1) A referendum on the adoption of section 1 of this act
 60 shall be held on November 3, 2026, the 2026 general election.

61 (2) The ballot title for the referendum question shall be
 62 in substantially the following form: "REFERENDUM PROVIDING FOR
 63 THE STRUCTURE OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BRANCH."

64 (3) The referendum question shall be placed on the ballot
 65 in substantially the following form:

66
 67 "Shall Chapter 2025- , Laws of Florida, which amends the Lee
 68 County Home Rule Charter to provide standards of redistricting
 69 and to provide that, beginning with the 2028 general election,
 70 the Board of County Commissioners shall be composed of a minimum
 71 of five members elected in single-member districts, become
 72 effective?

73 () Yes.

74 () No."

75

76 (4) The referendum shall be conducted by the Supervisor of
77 Elections of Lee County in accordance with the Florida Election
78 Code.

79 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect only upon its
80 approval by a majority vote of those qualified electors of Lee
81 County voting in a referendum to be held in conjunction with the
82 2026 general election, except that this section and section 2
83 shall take effect upon becoming a law.