

House Bill No. 1139

An act relating to Pinellas County; amending Article VI of the Home Rule Charter for Pinellas County, as created by chapter 80-590, Laws of Florida; adding s. 6.04 to provide that any charter amendment proposed by the Pinellas County Commission pursuant to s. 6.01, by citizens' initiative under s. 6.02, or by a Charter Review Commission pursuant to s. 6.03 shall be placed on the ballot for voter approval or rejection in accordance with the requirements of the Charter and without necessity of prior reference to or approval by the Legislature; providing for a special referendum; providing a ballot question; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 6.04 is added to Article VI of the Home Rule Charter for Pinellas County as created by chapter 80-590, Laws of Florida, to read:

ARTICLE VI - CHARTER AMENDMENTS.

Section 6.04 Any other section of the Pinellas County Charter, chapter 80-590, Laws of Florida, notwithstanding, except for any proposed amendments affecting the status, duties, or responsibilities of the county officers referenced in ss. 2.06 and 4.03 of this Charter, charter amendments proposed under s. 6.01 (proposed by Pinellas County Commission), s. 6.02 (proposed by citizens' initiative), or s. 6.03 (proposed by a Charter Review Commission) shall be placed directly on the ballot for approval or rejection by the voters and it shall not be a requirement that any such proposed amendments need to be referred to or approved by the Legislature prior to any such placement on the ballot. However, any charter amendment affecting any change in function, service, power, or regulatory authority of a county, municipality, or special district may be transferred to or performed by another county, municipality, or special district only after approval by vote of the electors of each transferor and approval by vote of the electors of each transferee. Such amendments proposed by the Board of County Commissioners must be approved by ordinance passed by a majority plus one member. The power to amend, revise, or repeal this Charter by citizens' initiative shall not include amendments relating to the county budget, debt obligations, capital improvement programs, salaries of county officers and employees, the levy or collection of taxes, or the rezoning of less than 5 percent of the total land area of the county.

Section 2. In accordance with the requirements of s. 101.161, Florida Statutes, and section 1 of this act, the supervisor of elections of Pinellas County shall place the title and substance of the referendum on the ballot as follows:

CERTAIN PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS TO GO ON THE BALLOT WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE

Shall Article VI of the Pinellas County Charter be amended by adding section 6.04 to provide that charter amendments, except for amendments related to the status of constitutional officers, proposed by the Board of County Commissioners, by citizens' initiative (with limitations), or by a Charter Review Commission be placed directly on the ballot for presentation to the voters without necessity of prior referral to or approval by the Legislature?

... YES

... NO

Section 3. This act shall take effect only upon its approval by a majority vote of those qualified electors of Pinellas County voting in a special referendum election to be held before November 30, 1999.

Approved by the Governor June 4, 1999.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 4, 1999.