

## House Bill No. 823

An act relating to the Pinellas County School Board; revising procedures for the election of school board members; providing guidelines for implementation; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. The following procedures shall apply to the conversion of the election of Pinellas County School Board members from the districtwide election of all members to the election of four school board members from single-member districts and the election of three school board members districtwide:

(1) Year 2003; designation of at-large and single-member districts.—The three seats to be filled from the county at large shall be designated District 1, District 2, and District 3, respectively. The four seats to be filled from single-member districts shall be designated District 4, District 5, District 6, and District 7, respectively. During the year 2003, the school board shall determine the geographic boundaries for the four single-member districts, which shall together cover the entire county and be as nearly equal in population as practicable. The newly designated boundaries of Districts 4 and 5 shall be effective for the first primary election in the year 2004 and thereafter, and the newly designated boundaries of Districts 6 and 7 shall be effective for the first primary election in the year 2006 and thereafter. However, the newly designated boundaries shall not have the effect of disqualifying a school board member before the end of his or her current term.

(2) Year 2004; begin implementation.—Implementation of the conversion to single-member representation on the district school board shall begin with the election of district school board members held in conjunction with the first primary election in the year 2004 and with the runoff, if any, during the general election of that year. In the year 2004, school board members from the newly created single-member Districts 4 and 5 and the at-large seat for which election is to be held in that year, hereafter designated as District 1, shall be elected. An incumbent school board member from the previously existing school board member residence area 1 or area 3 and the incumbent in the at-large seat elected in the year 2000 may seek reelection from one of the newly created single-member Districts 4 and 5 if he or she resides within such district, or may seek reelection from at-large District 1.

(3) Year 2006; complete implementation.—The conversion to single-member representation on the district school board shall be fully implemented with the election of district school board members held in conjunction with the first primary and general elections in the year 2006. In the year 2006, school board members from the newly created single-member Districts 6 and 7 and the newly created at-large Districts 2 and 3 shall be elected. An incumbent school board member from the previously existing school board member residence area 2, area 4, or area 5 and the incumbent in the at-large seat elected in the year 2002 may seek reelection from one of the newly

created single-member Districts 6 and 7 if he or she resides within such district, or may seek reelection from at-large District 2 or 3.

(4) Subsequent years.—Thereafter, the governing body of the district school board shall consist of seven members, with four members from single-member districts and three members from the county at large as provided in this act. All elections for district school board members shall be nonpartisan and held at the same time as the first primary and general elections as provided by law, and district school board members shall be elected to appropriately staggered terms of 4 years. Each candidate for election to the district school board must be a qualified elector of the county and, if seeking election to a single-member residence area, a registered voter of that residence area at the time of qualifying. Each person elected to the district school board from a single-member residence area shall be elected only by the electors residing in the single-member district for which he or she qualified. Each person elected to the district school board shall take office on the third Tuesday after the first Monday in November of the year in which he or she was elected. If certification of the election is delayed, the person elected shall take office at the next regular meeting of the district school board after final certification.

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

Approved by the Governor June 23, 2003.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 23, 2003.