

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

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; require the chair and vice-chair to be
 6 from a specific category of board member; providing
 7 standards for redistricting; providing an effective
 8 date.

9
 10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

11
 12 Section 1. Section 2.2A.(1) of Article II of the Lee
 13 County Home Rule Charter is amended to read:

14 Section 2.2: Legislative Branch

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

17 (1) Composition and Election

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

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

29 (b) Beginning with the 2026 general election, the Board of
 30 County Commissioners shall be composed of a minimum of five (5)
 31 members elected in a single-member district and two (2) members
 32 elected on a county-wide basis, each category of members serving
 33 staggered terms of four (4) years.

34 (c) 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 persons
 38 and greater than 200,000 persons. Upon the creation of nine (9)
 39 single-member districts, and every multiple of three beyond nine
 40 (9), there shall be the addition of one (1) member elected on a
 41 county-wide basis.

42 (d) The chair of the Board of County Commissioners must be
 43 a Commissioner elected on a county-wide basis. The vice chair of
 44 the Board of County Commissioners must be a Commissioner elected
 45 on a single-member basis.

46 (2) Terms of County Commissioners
 47 No Commissioner shall serve more than three (3) consecutive
 48 terms on the Board. No previous term in office which is in
 49 progress as of November 2014 shall be considered a term of
 50 service for purposes of the limitations contained herein.

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51 B. Redistricting

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

55 (2) No redistricting plan or district shall be drawn with
 56 the intent to either favor or disfavor a political party or an
 57 incumbent; districts shall not be drawn with the intent to
 58 diminish the ability of the people to elect representatives of
 59 their choice; and, where feasible, districts shall consist of
 60 contiguous territory, nearly equal in population as is
 61 practicable, compact, and utilize existing political and
 62 geographical boundaries.

63 Section 2. Referendum election.-

64 (1) A referendum on the adoption of Section 1 of this act
 65 shall be held on November 5, 2024, the 2024 General
 66 Election.

67 (2) The ballot title for the referendum question shall be in
 68 substantially the following form:

69 REFERENDUM PROVIDING FOR THE STRUCTURE OF THE COUNTY
 70 LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

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

73 Shall Chapter 2024- , Laws of Florida, which amends the
 74 Lee County Home Rule Charter to provide that the Board of
 75 County Commissioners shall be composed of a minimum of

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76 five members elected by single-member districts, of which
 77 category the vice-chair shall be, and two members elected
 78 countywide, of which category the chair shall be,
 79 beginning with the 2026 general election, and providing
 80 for standards of redistricting, become effective?

81 () Yes.

82 () No.

83 (4) The referendum election shall be conducted by the
 84 Supervisor of Elections of Lee County in accordance with
 85 the Florida Election Code.

86 Section 3. This section and Section 2 shall take effect upon
 87 becoming law. Section 1 shall take effect upon the approval of
 88 a majority vote of the qualified electors of Lee County in the
 89 referendum.