

By Senator Hutson

6-00240-16

2016614\_\_

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to hospital districts; defining the  
3           term "hospital district"; requiring decennial  
4           reauthorization of the taxing authority of certain  
5           hospital districts by general election ballot;  
6           terminating the taxing authority of a hospital  
7           district and providing for the allocation of assets  
8           and liabilities of a dissolved hospital district if  
9           the referendum reauthorizing the district's taxing  
10          authority is not approved by majority vote of the  
11          electors; prohibiting a hospital district from levying  
12          a property tax without a referendum of electors  
13          pursuant to the act; providing an effective date.

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

16  
17           Section 1. (1) As used in this act, the term "hospital  
18 district" means a special district as defined in s. 189.012,  
19 Florida Statutes, the governing body of which is the governing  
20 body of a facility licensed under chapter 395, Florida Statutes.

21           (2) (a) On or before July 1, 2016, and every 10 years  
22 thereafter, each hospital district with taxing authority,  
23 whether organized as an independent or dependent special  
24 district or created by special act or local ordinance, shall  
25 arrange to place on the next general election ballot of the  
26 electors residing within the hospital district the following  
27 question: "Shall the taxing authority of the ...(name of  
28 hospital district)... be reauthorized, for a 10-year period, to  
29 levy a tax of ...(amount of tax not to exceed 2 mills)..., the

6-00240-16

2016614\_\_

30 proceeds of which will fund indigent care for residents of the  
31 hospital district?" and thereafter the words "Yes" and "No."

32 (b) If a majority of the electors residing within a  
33 hospital district does not approve the reauthorization ballot  
34 question described in paragraph (a), the taxing authority of the  
35 hospital district terminates effective on July 1 immediately  
36 following the general election and the governing board may  
37 maintain the hospital district without taxing authority or  
38 dissolve the hospital district. If the hospital district is  
39 dissolved, the assets and liabilities of the hospital district  
40 shall be transferred and assumed as specified in s. 189.076(2),  
41 Florida Statutes.

42 Section 2. Notwithstanding any general law, special law, or  
43 local ordinance to the contrary, a hospital district may not  
44 levy a property tax without the prior approval of a majority of  
45 the electors residing within the district voting in a referendum  
46 pursuant to this act.

47 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.