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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to district school boards; creating s.  
3 1001.3715, F.S.; providing a procedure for election of a  
4 district school board chair by countywide vote in a school  
5 district with an appointed district school superintendent;  
6 providing requirements for submission of the proposition  
7 to electors of the school district; providing for election  
8 of a district school board vice chair by the district  
9 school board; creating s. 1001.3717, F.S.; providing  
10 powers and duties, terms of office, and salary of a  
11 district school board chair elected by countywide vote;  
12 providing an effective date.

13  
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15  
16 Section 1. Section 1001.3715, Florida Statutes, is created  
17 to read:

18 1001.3715 Alternate procedure for election of district  
19 school board chair in school district with appointed  
20 superintendent; election of vice chair.--

21 (1) The district school board chair shall be elected in  
22 accordance with the provisions of s. 1001.371 unless, in a  
23 school district in which the office of district school  
24 superintendent is appointive pursuant to s. 1001.461, a  
25 proposition calling for the district school board chair to be  
26 elected by countywide vote is submitted to and approved by a  
27 majority of the qualified electors voting on such proposition in  
28 the manner provided in subsection (2).

29 (2) A proposition calling for the district school board  
30 chair to be elected by countywide vote shall be submitted to the



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31 electors of the school district at any primary, general, or  
32 otherwise-called special election, in either manner following:

33 (a) The district school board may adopt a formal  
34 resolution directing an election to be held to place the  
35 proposition on the ballot; or

36 (b) The electors of the school district may petition to  
37 have the proposition placed on the ballot by presenting to the  
38 district school board petitions signed by not less than 10  
39 percent of the duly qualified electors residing within the  
40 school district. The number of signatures required shall be  
41 determined by the supervisor of elections according to the  
42 number of registered electors in the school district as of the  
43 date the petitioning electors register as a political committee  
44 as provided in subsection (3).

45 (3) The electors petitioning to have the proposition  
46 placed on the ballot shall register as a political committee  
47 pursuant to s. 106.03, and a specific person shall be designated  
48 therein as chair of the committee to act for the committee.

49 (4) Each petition form circulated shall include the  
50 wording: "As a registered elector of the school district of  
51 \_\_\_\_\_ County, Florida, I am petitioning for a referendum  
52 election to determine whether the district school board chair  
53 shall be elected by countywide vote." The petition shall also  
54 include space for the signature and address of the elector. Each  
55 signature obtained shall be dated when made and is valid for a  
56 period of 4 years following that date.

57 (5) Upon the filing of the petitions with the district  
58 school board by the chair of the committee, the district school  
59 board shall submit the petitions to the supervisor of elections  
60 for verification of the signatures. Within a period of not more



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61 than 30 days, the supervisor of elections shall determine  
62 whether the petitions contain the required number of valid  
63 signatures. The supervisor of elections shall be paid by the  
64 committee seeking verification the sum of 10 cents for each name  
65 checked.

66 (6) If it is determined that the petitions have the  
67 required signatures, the supervisor of elections shall certify  
68 the petitions to the district school board, which shall adopt a  
69 resolution requesting that an election date be set to conform to  
70 the earliest primary, general, or otherwise-called special  
71 election that occurs not less than 30 days after certification  
72 of the petitions. If it is determined that the petitions do not  
73 contain the required signatures, the supervisor of elections  
74 shall so notify the district school board, which shall file the  
75 petitions without taking further action, and the matter shall be  
76 at an end. No additional names may be added to the petitions,  
77 and the petitions may not be used in any other proceeding.

78 (7) No special election may be called for the sole purpose  
79 of presenting the proposition to the vote of the electors.

80 (8) Any school district adopting the proposition set forth  
81 in this section may thereafter return to the procedure otherwise  
82 provided by law by following the same procedure outlined in  
83 subsection (2).

84 (9) The vice chair of the district school board shall be  
85 elected by the members of the district school board.

86 Section 2. Section 1001.3717, Florida Statutes, is created  
87 to read:

88 1001.3717 District school board chair elected by  
89 countywide vote; powers and duties; terms; salary.--



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90        (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a district  
91 school board chair elected by countywide vote pursuant to s.  
92 1001.3715 may exercise the following powers and duties:

93        (a) Serve as chief executive officer of the school  
94 district.

95        (b) Hire the district school superintendent, subject to  
96 district school board confirmation.

97        (c) Hire deputy district school superintendents and school  
98 district department directors, subject to district school board  
99 confirmation.

100       (d) Oversee all school district employees, with power to  
101 hire, fire, and take other personnel actions.

102       (e) Oversee all operations of the school district.

103       (f) Oversee all capital improvement projects in the school  
104 district.

105       (g) Prepare the annual budget for approval by the district  
106 school board.

107       (h) Prepare district school board meeting agendas.

108       (i) Chair all district school board meetings.

109       (j) Vote on all district school board actions.

110       (k) Prepare and propose new or amended school district  
111 policies and rules for district school board consideration.

112       (l) Prepare and propose purchases of goods, services, and  
113 realty for district school board consideration.

114       (m) Oversee the management of all district school board  
115 property and records.

116       (n) Enforce all policies of the district school board.

117       (o) Take all other actions that are executive in nature.



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118           (2) A district school board chair elected by countywide  
119 vote pursuant to s. 1001.3715 shall be limited to two 4-year  
120 terms.

121           (3) The salary of a district school board chair elected by  
122 countywide vote pursuant to s. 1001.3715 shall be set by  
123 district school board resolution, but shall not be less than  
124 four times the compensation of each district school board  
125 member.

126           Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.