

By Senator Hutson

6-00240-16

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

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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.