

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to Lee County; amending the Lee County
 3 Home Rule Charter to provide requirements for single-
 4 member districts; requiring a referendum; providing
 5 effective dates.

6
 7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 8

9 **Section 1. Subsection A. of section 2.2 of Article II of**
 10 **the Lee County Home Rule Charter is amended to read:**

11 Section 2.2: Legislative Branch

12 A. The County Commission Composition, Election and Terms of
 13 Members

14 (1) Composition and Election

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

26 (b) Beginning with the 2028 general election:
 27 1. The Board of County Commissioners shall be composed of
 28 five (5) members elected in single-member districts serving
 29 staggered terms of four (4) years.

30 2. The conversion of electoral method from at large to
 31 single-member districts shall not alter the preexisting
 32 staggering of terms, such that the term of office for the
 33 Commissioners serving in Districts 2 and 4 will continue until
 34 the 2030 general election.

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

40 **Section 2. Referendum election.**-

41 (1) A referendum on the adoption of section 1 of this act
 42 shall be held on November 3, 2026, the 2026 general election.

43 (2) The ballot title for the referendum question shall be
 44 in substantially the following form: "REFERENDUM PROVIDING FOR
 45 THE STRUCTURE OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BRANCH."

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

48
 49 Shall Chapter 2025- , Laws of Florida, which amends the Lee
 50 County Home Rule Charter to provide that, beginning with the

51 | 2028 general election, the Board of County Commissioners shall
 52 | be composed of five members elected in single-member districts,
 53 | become effective?

54 | () YES.

55 | () NO.

56 |
 57 | (4) The referendum shall be conducted by the Supervisor of
 58 | Elections of Lee County in accordance with the Florida Election
 59 | Code.

60 | **Section 3.** This act shall take effect only upon its
 61 | approval by a majority vote of those qualified electors of Lee
 62 | County voting in a referendum to be held in conjunction with the
 63 | 2026 general election, except that this section and section 2
 64 | shall take effect upon becoming a law.