

By the Committee on Style and Drafting

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REVISION 8

A proposal to amend Section 4 of Article IX of the State Constitution to authorize high-performing school districts to become innovation school districts exempt from certain provisions of law applicable to school districts and requiring the legislature to implement by July 1, 2019.

Be It Proposed by the Constitution Revision Commission of Florida:

Section 4 of Article IX of the State Constitution is amended to read:

ARTICLE IX

EDUCATION

SECTION 4. School districts; school boards; innovation school districts.—

(a) Each county shall constitute a school district; provided, two or more contiguous counties, upon vote of the electors of each county pursuant to law, may be combined into one school district. In each school district there shall be a school board composed of five or more members chosen by vote of the electors in a nonpartisan election for appropriately staggered terms of four years, as provided by law.

(b) The school board shall operate, control and supervise all free public schools within the school district and determine the rate of school district taxes within the limits prescribed herein. Two or more school districts may operate and finance joint educational programs.

(c) The legislature shall provide by law the process by

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33 which a high-performing school district can qualify for the
34 designation of innovation school district. The district school
35 board may, by majority vote of the board, seek the innovation
36 school district designation. The school board shall continue to
37 operate, control, and supervise all free public schools
38 established by them and the school board shall remain the
39 governing board of the innovation school district with the
40 district school superintendent as the chief executive officer.

41 (1) In order to promote diverse and innovative educational
42 opportunities for all of Florida's students, school districts
43 granted innovation district status shall be eligible for
44 flexibility from provisions of Florida law in the same manner as
45 other public schools designated by Florida law. The district
46 school board shall indicate the provisions of Florida law for
47 which it seeks to obtain flexibility.

48 (2) The legislature shall enact legislation implementing
49 this subsection effective no later than July 1, 2019.

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51 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED that the following statement be
52 placed on the ballot:

53
54 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

55 ARTICLE IX, SECTION 4

56 INNOVATION SCHOOL DISTRICTS.—Requires legislature to create
57 process to designate high-performing school districts as
58 innovation school districts; school boards may seek designation;
59 permits flexibility from certain laws.