

By Commissioner Martinez

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1 A proposal to amend
2 Section 4 of Article IX of the State Constitution to
3 authorize high-performing school districts to become
4 charter districts.

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6 Be It Proposed by the Constitution Revision Commission of
7 Florida:

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

11 ARTICLE IX

12 EDUCATION

13 SECTION 4. School districts; school boards; charter
14 districts.—

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

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

27 (c) Any high-performing school district may choose, by
28 resolution of a majority of the school board or a vote of the
29 electors of the county, to become a charter district. The school
30 board shall remain the governing board of the charter district
31 and the charter district is exempt from all provisions of the
32 Florida K-20 Education Code in the same manner, and is subject

martinezr-00095A-17

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33 to the same exemptions, as a charter school designated by
34 Florida law. After the school district's initial designation as
35 a charter district, the district must maintain its status as a
36 high-performing school district so long as the district
37 maintains a performance grade of "B" or better for at least two
38 years within a three-year period; the district does not fall
39 below a performance grade of "C"; and the district's financial
40 reserves do not fall below the state-required minimum. For
41 purposes of this subsection, the term "high-performing school
42 district" means a school district that has received a
43 performance grade of "B" or better for each of the last three
44 years before the district's initial designation as a charter
45 district and has not had its financial reserves fall below the
46 state-required minimum for the previous three years before the
47 district's initial designation as a charter district.