

CHAPTER 2026-196

House Bill No. 4027

An act relating to Hillsborough County Public Schools, Hillsborough County; providing legislative findings; providing for an elected superintendent of schools; requiring a referendum; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. Findings of fact.—The Legislature finds that the Superintendent of Schools for Hillsborough County Public Schools was changed from an elected position to an appointed position pursuant to a referendum held during the November 8, 1966 general election in accordance with Section 2B, Article XII of the State Constitution of 1885.

Section 2. Transition to elected superintendent.—Pursuant to Section 5, Article IX and Section 5, Article XII of the State Constitution, the Superintendent of Schools for Hillsborough County Public Schools shall be elected in a partisan election to a term of 4 years by vote of the qualified electors residing in Hillsborough County, beginning with the general election in 2028.

Section 3. Referendum election.—

(1) As required by Section 5, Article IX of the State Constitution, during the 2026 general election, there shall be held a referendum election concerning whether section 2 shall become a law.

(2) The ballot title for the referendum question shall be in substantially the following form:

PROVIDING FOR AN ELECTED, RATHER THAN AN APPOINTED, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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

Shall Chapter 2026- , Laws of Florida, which provides that the Superintendent of Schools for Hillsborough County Public Schools shall no longer be appointed by the School Board, but shall be elected in a partisan election for a term of 4 years, beginning with the 2028 general election, become effective?

() Yes.

() No.

(4) The referendum election shall be conducted by the Supervisor of Elections of Hillsborough County in accordance with the Florida Election Code.

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, except that section 2 shall take effect only upon approval by a majority vote of those qualified electors of Hillsborough County voting in a referendum to be held in conjunction with the 2026 general election.

Approved by the Governor June 8, 2026.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 8, 2026.