Overview

This bill allows property owners in a proposed lake improvement district (LID) to petition their county board for a referendum before the LID is actually established, no matter how the district was proposed. Currently property owners may petition for a referendum only if the LID proposal was a county board initiative. The bill also provides that after the initial appointment of LID board members by the county board, all subsequent district board members will be elected by property owners at the LID’s annual meeting. Finally, the bill requires the county board to seek other sources of funding for LID projects before imposing service charges, special assessments, or property tax levies on property owners.

A lake improvement district may be initiated by a county board, by one or more county boards acting jointly, or by a petition of 26% of the property owners in the proposed district. An order of the county board(s) must specify the district's name, boundaries, programs and services, and methods of financing, and the district board's composition and method of selection.

1 Order establishing district. Adds requirement that the county board provide a method for property owners to participate in lake improvement district (LID) board elections in absentia.

2 Petition. Provides that if 26% of property owners request it by petition, a referendum must be held before a lake improvement district is established as proposed by a petition of property owners or by order of the commissioner of natural resources.

3 Membership. Adds requirement that after the initial appointment of lake improvement district board members by the county board, all subsequent LID board members shall be elected by district property owners at the district's annual meeting.

4 Revenue. Requires a county board or joint county authority to seek other sources of funding before imposing service fees, special assessments, or property tax levies to fund LID projects.

5 Agenda. Adds requirement that expired terms on LID board be filled by election at the district's annual meeting, with provision made for participation by absent property owners.