

**STORAGE NAME:** h0801.ca

**DATE:** February 24, 2000

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON  
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
ANALYSIS - LOCAL LEGISLATION**

**BILL #:** HB 801

**RELATING TO:** Hernando County School Board

**SPONSOR(S):** Representative Russell

**TIED BILL(S):** None

**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:**

- (1) COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (PRC)
  - (2) EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS (FRC)
  - (3)
  - (4)
  - (5)
- 

**I. SUMMARY:**

This bill amends a special act relating to Hernando County, regarding the single issue of the time frame for the School Board of Hernando County to issue certificates of indebtedness. This bill also contains a technical change regarding the accrual of interest.

This bill provides for an effective date upon becoming a law.

This bill should result in some local fiscal savings, due to lower interest payments.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- |                                   |   |                             |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>Less Government</u>         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. <u>Lower Taxes</u>             | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. <u>Individual Freedom</u>      | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 4. <u>Personal Responsibility</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. <u>Family Empowerment</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

The 1979 Florida Legislature adopted a special act (Chapter 79-471, Laws of Florida), which provides the School Board of Hernando County with authority to purchase and construct school buildings and to refund certificates of indebtedness. The monies come from race track funds.

The current special act provides that certificates of indebtedness can bear the rate of interest allowed under s. 215.685, Florida Statutes. This section is no longer in statute. This current special act also limits the aggregate principal, interest rate, and maturity dates of these certificates.

C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

This bill allows the school board greater flexibility in refinancing, so they can take advantage of lower interest rates when available.

This bill also removes a specific statutory reference and provides instead that interest accrual cannot exceed that allowed under general law.

D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

Section 1 -- Amends Section 1 of Chapter 79-471, L.O.F to revise current provision relating to certificates of indebtedness to specify that the Board may issue them at any time; amends provision relating to interest accrual by removing specific reference to statute and providing more broadly that the rate may not exceed maximum permitted under general law.

Section 2 -- Provides for an effective date upon becoming a law.

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III. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes  No

IF YES, WHEN? October 27, 1999

WHERE? Hernando Times

B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED? Yes  No

IF YES, WHEN?

C. LOCAL BILL CERTIFICATION FILED? Yes, attached  No

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FILED? Yes, attached  No

IV. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

N/A

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

N/A

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

Chs. 71-680 and 70-772, L.O.F., relate to Lake County and Hillsborough County respectively. They contain similar language ("from time to time"), regarding revenue bonds and certificates of indebtedness. Vince Benedict, Executive Director of Finance for the Hernando County School Board, directed staff to these other special acts for guidance in drafting similar language.

V. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

None

VI. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

Prepared by:

Staff Director:

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Cindy M. Brown, Esq.

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Joan Highsmith-Smith