

FSBA

BOARDER-LINE

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(NOTE: The Legislature was in recess this week in observance of Easter/Passover. While the Senate was in recess for the entire week, the House held committee meetings on Monday and Tuesday before beginning their recess. As a result, this issue of Boarder-Line provides only a bill action report on House bills heard prior to their recess.)

Action on Key Bills April 10-14, 2006

HB 133 – Student Voter Education by Anderson *(Similar to SB 110 by Fasano)*

Encourages district school boards and county supervisors of elections jointly to provide program of voter education for high school seniors; provides guidelines for content of educational program; requires that program of voter education be conducted during school hours.

ACTION: Passed House Education Appropriations Committee

HB 135 – Charter Schools by Greenstein

provides that sponsor of charter school shall not be liable for civil damages for certain actions; provides that duty to monitor such school shall not be basis for private cause of action; prescribes limits on immunities of charter school sponsor; expands school district's immunity from assumption of contractual debts.

ACTION: Passed House Education Council; placed on House Calendar

HB 403 – School Attendance by McInvale *(Similar to SB 772 by Constantine)*

Authorizes district school board policy to raise compulsory school attendance age; requires attendance records to include information regarding student tardiness; provides that parent is responsible for student's accumulative record of tardiness; revises provisions regarding enforcement of school attendance.

ACTION: Passed House Education Appropriations Committee

HB 513 – Career & Professional Academies by Bilirakis *(Similar to SB 1480 by Wise)*

Defines "career and professional academy" (CAP academy) as a research based program that integrates a rigorous and relevant academic curriculum with an industry-driven career curriculum offered by public schools, school districts, or the Florida Virtual School; provides program requirements; requires CAP academy applied courses combining academic content with technical skills to be submitted to the SBE for approval; requires DOE, in consultation with Workforce Florida, Inc., to establish a Career High-Skill Occupational Initiative for Career Education (CHOICE) project; provides that CHOICE academies must meet all the goals and requirements for CAP academies and include partnership with at least one postsecondary institution; authorizes one-time startup funds in GAA for school districts to develop CHOICE academies.

ACTION: Passed House Education Appropriations Committee

HB 535 – School Safety/Bullying & Harassment by Bogdanoff

Prohibits bullying and harassment of students during education programs and activities, on school buses, or through use of data or computer software; requires school districts to adopt policies and provides minimum requirements for district policies; requires DOE approval of school district's policy and compliance with reporting procedures as prerequisites to receipt of safe school funds.

ACTION: Passed the House Education Appropriations Committee

HB 679 – Schools/Health-related Education by Sobel *(Similar to SB 2602 by Constantine)*

Requires each school district to submit a copy of the wellness policy required by federal law and its physical education policy to DOE; requires DOE to post district policies and health and nutrition resources on its website; encourages school districts to provide training on first aid and CPR, and to provide 150 minutes of physical education a week for students in grades K-5 and 225 minutes each week for students in grades 6-8; requires a certified physical education instructor to review all physical education programs and curricula; requires districts to annually provide parents and guardians with information on ways to help their children be physically active and eat healthy foods; revises the membership of the school health advisory committee so that members represent the eight component areas of the coordinated school health model.

ACTION: Passed House Education Appropriations Committee as a committee substitute

HB 765 – Discounted Computers/Internet Access by Jennings *(Similar to SB 502 by Wilson)*

Creates a program to offer computers and broadband Internet access at a discounted price to students enrolled in grades 5 through 12; requires DOE to negotiate with computer manufacturers and nonprofit corporations that obtain reconditioned computer hardware on prices, hardware and software packages, warranties, and internet access packages; creates a pilot project to be implemented by the Digital Divide Council in consultation with DOE to assist low-income students in purchasing discounted computers and Internet access services as negotiated by the DOE. The pilot project is to be funded in an amount determined by the GAA; authorizes the Digital Divide Council to accept additional grants from public and private sources to implement the project.

ACTION: Passed House Education Council; placed on House Calendar

HB 801 – Ready to Work Certification Program by Patterson

Creates the Florida Ready to Work Certification Program to enhance Florida students' workplace skills to better prepare them for successful entry level employment in specific occupations; provides for AWI to identify occupations for inclusion in the program, requires identification of workplace skills for each occupation identified; provides for pre-instructional student assessments; provides for targeted instructional program that may be web based; provides for award of certificate and portfolio to students upon successful completion of the program; provides that program may be conducted at public high schools, community colleges, technical centers, one-stop career centers, vocational rehabilitation centers and DJJ educational facilities; requires DOE to establish institutional readiness criteria; provides rulemaking authority.

ACTION: Passed House Education Council; placed on House Calendar

HB 899 – Regional Consortium Services by Richardson *(Identical to SB 1710 by Wise)*

Requires the boards of directors of regional consortium service organizations (RCSOs) to determine which services will be purchased with the funds received from DOE; authorizes the boards of directors of RCSOs to replace individual school district bid arrangements with RCSO purchasing and bidding programs; authorizes boards of directors of RCSOs to establish educational foundations governed by educational foundation boards of directors; authorizes RCSOs to permit educational foundations to use the property, facilities and personnel services of an RCSO to raise funds for the district members; requires financial audits for certain educational foundations.

ACTION: Passed House Education Council; placed on House Calendar

HB 999 – Signs of Suicide Prevention Program by Adams

Establishes a pilot program for suicide prevention and depression screening to be conducted by the Signs of Suicide Prevention (SOS) Program for secondary schools in Brevard, Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties during the 2006-07 fiscal year; provides that pilot programs must submit proposals to DOE by September 1, 2006; requires that local school personnel in each participating county receive materials necessary for program implementation; requires that parents are provided with a copy of a screening form and program information; provides that a parent may refuse to allow his or her child to participate; requires district school board to provide a report to legislative leadership by January 1, 2007; provides that the pilot program is contingent upon funding in the 2006-2007 fiscal year General Appropriations Act; requires that funds appropriated to DOE for the pilot program shall be distributed to the Michael Buonauro Foundation to implement the pilot program and the foundation must provide matching funds to receive this appropriation.

ACTION: Passed House Education Appropriations Committee as a committee substitute

HB 1291 – Weapons Possession/Schools by Poppell *(Similar to SB 2438 by Haridopolos)*

Revises definition of "weapon"; revises and clarifies provisions regarding prohibited exhibition and possession of specified weapons and firearms at school-sponsored event or on school property; provides penalties; clarifies provisions regarding prohibited trespass on school property with firearm or other weapon; provides penalty.

ACTION: Passed House Justice Council; placed on House Calendar

HB 1573 – Education by Rubio *(Similar to SB 2170 by Judiciary)*

Proposed constitutional amendment; provides that every child deserves an equal opportunity to obtain a high quality education, regardless of his or her family's income, religion, or race; provides that funding for a high quality public K-12 education through classroom instruction is fundamental; provides that, to make adequate provision for a high quality public K-12 education, at least sixty-five percent of school funding received by school districts shall be spent on classroom instruction, rather than administration; provides that classroom instruction and administration shall be defined by law; provides that students in prekindergarten through college who have disabilities, are economically disadvantaged, or whose parents request alternatives to traditional public education programs may participate, as provided by law, in education programs that include non-public schools; provides that the legislature may enact and publicly fund prekindergarten through college education programs, without regard to the religious nature of any participant or non-public provider, notwithstanding any other provision of Article IX or Section 3 of Article I of the Florida constitution; clarifies that nothing in this proposed amendment establishes a right to an education program not provided by law.

ACTION: Passed House Education Appropriations Committee

HB 1619 – Schools/Activities/Student Transportation by Murzin

Amends supplemental powers and duties of school boards relating to authority to adopt a dress code and school uniform policies to provide that students may wear sun-protective clothing while outside during school hours; specifies that the federal Title I program allows the use of funds for the purchase of food by eligible schools for the purpose of carrying out the required activities of the program, including include parental involvement events and clarifies that it is permissible to use federal funds to purchase food when federal program guidelines permit such use; provides criteria that district school boards must follow in selecting vendors to market class rings to require that school districts that choose to contract with a class ring vendor must contract with at least two vendors, that selected vendors may not intimidate students, and that students be allowed to purchase class rings from any vendor and participate in class ring ceremonies regardless of their choice of class ring vendor; requires district school boards to provide written notification to students and parents; requires school districts that contract with a photographer for the purpose of taking student yearbook photos to contract with at least two photographers; specifies that a student's

senior photo must be allowed to appear in the school yearbook regardless of the student's choice of photographer, so long as the photo meets the specifications of the school principal and yearbook staff; specifies that school or school district-owned passenger vehicles or light trucks may be used to transport students to and from school sites or agricultural education related events or competitions; authorizes students to drive the vehicle on school or private property for limited purposes relating to the agricultural education curriculum.

ACTION: Passed House Education Appropriations Committee as a committee substitute

HB 6001 – Travel/Reimbursement by Governmental Operations *(Similar to SB 428 by Lawson)*

Revises provisions relating to per diem and travel expenses of public officers, employees, and authorized persons; increases the rate of per diem to \$75; increases subsistence reimbursement for meals to provide \$5 for breakfast, \$11 for lunch, and \$19 for dinner; raises the mileage allowance for use of a privately owned vehicle to 44.5 cents per mile; authorizes counties, county officers, district school boards, and special districts to establish per diem and subsistence rates as long as those rates are not less than the rates currently in effect.

ACTION: Passed House State Administration Council; placed on House Calendar

HB 7039 – K-8 Virtual School Program by Choice & Innovation *(Similar to SB 1282 by Carlton)*

Establishes the K-8 Virtual School Program as an optional educational choice program within DOE; provides student and school eligibility requirements, application procedures, participating school responsibilities, funding mechanisms, assessment and accountability, and causes for nonrenewal or termination of contract; provides rulemaking authority to SBE.

ACTION: Passed House Education Council; placed on House Calendar

HB 7103 – Charter Schools by Choice & Innovation *(Similar to SB 2424 by Webster)*

Substantially amends provisions relating to charter schools; adds new fiscal accountability requirements related to the charter school's annual financial report and new academic accountability requirements for charter schools graded D or F; revises responsibilities of DOE, of charter school sponsors, and charter school governing boards; amends the application process, review and appeal process, initial term and renewal of charter agreements, and procedures for nonrenewal, termination and immediate termination of charter schools; requires DOE to offer technical assistance to charter school applicants, to develop a uniform, on-line charter school accountability report and a standard charter and renewal format, and to regularly convene a Charter School Review Panel; requires district school boards to make timely payments to charters and authorizes the Commissioner to withhold lottery funds from a school district that repeatedly fails to do so; authorizes the SBE to impose fines or withhold lottery funds for districts that violate the procedural requirements for charter school application, termination, or nonrenewal appeals; requires school districts to provide to charter schools services related to food service eligibility and reporting duties so that the school lunch services under the federal lunch program are provided by the school district to the charter school at the school's request; extends educator professional liability coverage to all full-time charter school instructional personnel; eliminates priority given to transitioning students of military families; requires each school district to annually provide to DOE as part of their five year work plan the number of existing vacant classrooms in each school that the district does not intend to use or does not project will be needed for educational purposes for the following school year; provides that DOE may recommend that the district make such space available to an appropriate charter school.

ACTION: Passed House Education Appropriations Committee as a committee substitute

HB 7119 – Athlete Recruiting/Drug Testing by PreK-12 (*Comparable to SB 1928 by Peaden*) Requires the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) to hold in abeyance certain newly adopted bylaws governing student athlete residence and transfer; creates a task force to review issues concerning student athlete recruiting and make recommendations that preserve parents' rights to school choice and protect the integrity of Florida's interscholastic athletic programs; requires OPPAGA to conduct an independent review of documented recruiting violations by FHSAA member schools; provides appropriation to OPPAGA to support the work of the Student Athlete Recruiting Task Force; establishes a one-year random anabolic steroids testing program for student athletes in grades 9 through 12 who participate in postseason football, baseball, or weightlifting; requires the FHSAA to administer the program during the 2006-2007 school year; requires public and private schools to participate in the program as a prerequisite to FHSAA membership; provides program requirements, penalties, challenge and appeal procedures; requires FHSAA to submit a report of program results to the Legislature; provides that implementation of the anabolic steroids testing program is contingent upon funding.
ACTION: Passed House Education Council as a committee substitute; placed on House Calendar

Other Bills of Interest

We have provided information above on selected bills that have seen legislative action this week. However, FSBA is also tracking hundreds of other education related bills that have been filed for consideration during this session. Please contact the FSBA office for more information on the bills included here, or any other bills of interest. In addition, the Senate and House web sites may be accessed at www.leg.state.fl.us for more information on bills, legislators, legislative meeting schedules, and other legislative information.

Important Legislative Dates

May 5, 2006	2006 Legislative Session Adjourns
May 12, 2006	FSBA Legislative Review, Daytona
May 16, 2006	FSBA Legislative Review, Lake City
May 17, 2006	FSBA Legislative Review, Chipley
June 16, 2006	FSBA Legislative Review, Tampa

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