



Florida School Boards Association

The voice of education in Florida.

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

May 5, 2017

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Late this afternoon, Senate President Negrón and House Speaker Corcoran met to resolve the remaining differences in several House and Senate budget conforming bills, including HB 7069. The House [proposed an amendment to HB 7069](#) that adds more than 260 pages and vastly expands the topics covered in the bill. The Senate accepted the [House Offer](#) on the outstanding differences between the House and Senate positions on the key issues. As it stands now, if passed by the Legislature, this conforming bill would require:

- School districts to share capital outlay millage with charter schools
- Establishment of "Schools of Hope"
- Distribution of Title I funds directly to eligible schools
- Extension of the option for LEA status to charter schools

Legislators are promoting this legislation using carefully prepared talking points that highlight the few positive elements of the 277-page bill, including eligibility for public schools to qualify for "Schools of Hope" funding, bonuses for personnel, creation of a Schools of Excellence Program, the repeal of Algebra II EOC, making the use of VAM optional, and certain other reforms to the state assessment and accountability system. It is important to note that most of these positive elements are also included in other legislation that has, or is expected to, pass.

We urge you to review the House Offer linked above, consider the harmful impacts this bill may have on your district, and share your thoughts and concerns with your legislators. Please be aware that this conforming bill may be voted on at any time between now and Monday evening.

We will provide a more complete report on this, and other, legislative action in our Session Spotlight. In the meantime, please let me know if you have any questions.

Ruth

Ruth Haseman Melton
Director of Advocacy Services
Florida School Boards Association
Office: 850 / 414-2578
Cell: 850 / 509-6411
Email: melton@fsba.org