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## Florida School Boards Association 2021 Legislative Session Report

### **LEGISLATIVE SESSION WEEK TWO**

March 8, 2021 – March 12, 2021

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee

Monday, March 8, 2021

Meeting packet can be found [here](#).

#### **HB 3401 – Northwest Florida 21st Century Workforce Development Project (Stevenson – presented by Chair Fine)**

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This bill is requesting \$975,000 to continue the efforts to increase access to educational programs to build interest and prerequisite skills for high demand stem careers in Northeast Florida in collaboration with school districts and other after-school programs. Efforts will focus on those underrepresented in stem careers and there is one amendment.

#### **Amendment #289269 (Fine)**

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This amendment changes the title of the project from the “Northwest Florida 21st Century Workforce Development Project” to the “Northeast Florida 21st Century Workforce Development Project”.

#### **Q&A**

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None.

#### **Public Testimony**

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None.

#### **Debate**

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None.

#### **Outcome**

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The amendment was adopted.

#### **Q&A on the Bill as Amended**

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None.

#### **Public Testimony on the Bill as Amended**

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None.

#### **Debate on the Bill as Amended**

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None.

## Closing

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Waived close.

## Outcome

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The bill (as amended) was reported favorably.

## Consideration of a Consent Agenda that Includes the Following Appropriation Project Bills

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- HB 2205 Teen Safe Driving Education Program by Bartleman
- HB 2739 Big Brothers Big Sisters: Bigs Inspiring Scholastic Success (BISS) by Buchanan
- HB 3525 Magic of Orange County Conservation and STEM Environmental Outdoor Learning for K-12 and Beyond by Morales
- HB 3685 Manatee Schools STEM Career Pathways Pilot by Robinson, W.
- HB 3783 Supporting Military Students and Families in Hillsborough County Public Schools by Learned
- HB 3811 St. Pete Urban Youth Farm by Rayner
- HB 3877 Florida Youth Leadership, Mentoring and Character Education Pilot Program by Alexander

## Q&A

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None.

## Public Testimony

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**Sam Wagoner, Manatee County School District on HB 3685:** Waives in support.

**Dannie McMillon, Florida PTA on HB 2205:** Waives in support.

**Jessica Lewis, The Sierra Club on HB 3811:** Waives in support.

## Debate

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None.

## Outcome

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All of the bills on the consent agenda were reported favorably.

## Presentation: Overview of State and Federally Funded Reading Initiatives (Chair Fine)

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- Current law requires school districts to submit a K-12 comprehensive reading plan for the specific use of the Reading Instruction Allocation funded in the FEFP.
- Plans are submitted for review and approval by DOE's Just Read, Florida! Office.
- \$130 million is appropriated in the Reading Instruction Allocation categorical.
- Each school district receives a minimum of \$115,000 with balance allocated based on school district's proportionate share of the base FEFP funding.

## **STATE-FUNDED READING INITIATIVES**

### **Reading Instruction Categorical**

- Eligible Uses: 300 lowest performing elementary schools based on 3-year average of the state reading assessment must use their portion of the allocation to provide an additional hour of intensive reading instruction.
- All other schools must use allocation to implement the district's K-12 comprehensive reading plan.
  - FY 2019-2020 Total FTE = \$149,979
  - 300 Lowest Performing Elementary Schools' Portion of Allocation = \$6,838,006
  - Total Allocation = \$130,000,000

### **Supplemental Academic Instruction Allocation (SAI)**

- Provides supplemental academic instruction to students in kindergarten through grade 12.
- \$716.6 M\* is appropriated in the SAI categorical.
- Second largest state- and local-funded categorical in the FEFP.
- Each school district receives a "base amount" annually adjusted for workload.
- Eligible Uses: Identical to Reading Instruction Allocation, 300 lowest performing elementary schools must use their portion of the allocation to provide an additional hour of intensive reading instruction.
  - "D" or "F" schools must use their portion of the allocation to implement intervention and support strategies.
  - All other schools must use their portion of the allocation on eligible uses authorized in statute to include reading instruction and after-school instruction and tutoring.
  - FY 2019-2020 Total FTE = \$149,979
  - 300 Lowest Performing Elementary Schools' Portion of Allocation = \$38,190,998
  - Total Allocation = \$716,622,889

### **Reading Scholarship Accounts**

- Established in FY 2018-19
- Students in grades 3 through 5 who are enrolled in a public school and scored below a Level 3 on the grade 3 or grade 4 statewide standardized English Language Arts assessment in the prior year.
- \$500 per student
- Eligible Uses:
  - Instructional materials
  - Curriculum
  - Tutoring
  - Summer reading programs
  - After-school reading programs

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Total # of Scholarships</b>	<b>Total Funding Scholarships</b>	<b>Total Appropriation</b>
2018-19	5,639	\$2,819,500	\$10,000,000
2019-20	6,792	\$3,396,000	\$7,600,000
2020-21	2,783	\$1,391,500	\$7,600,000

## **FEDERALLY FUNDED READING INITIATIVES**

### **Upskill Highly Effective Reading Coaches**

- Build capacity and upskill literacy coaches in the field throughout development of a literacy coach certification for up to 2,000 coaches.
- Engage a university or other entity with capacity and proven track record to deliver the type of training to leading the certification.
- \$5 million allocated
- No disbursements as of 3/5/21.

### **Capacity Building for Reading**

- DOE will contract with the Lastinger Center at the University of Florida for a literacy matrix.
- Provide more high-quality reading endorsement pathways by increasing educator knowledge for teachers to earn a reading endorsement, implement B.E.S.T. Standards, science of reading, and provide literacy coaching through regional training by statewide regional literacy directors.
- \$5 million allocated.
- No disbursements as of 3/5/21.

### **Ensuring High Quality Regional Reading Supports**

- Hire 21 Regional Literacy Directors Regional Reading Consultants to serve 16 regions.
- Serve for two years with no other district level duties during this period.
- Directors support and reinforce professional development and coaching models deployed statewide and monitor data from progress monitoring tool.
- \$5 million allocated
- \$585,488 disbursed as of 3/5/21.

### **Ensuring the B.E.S.T. Curriculum for Reading and Civics**

- DOE will engage all districts and schools in the identification and adoption of Florida's new B.E.S.T. Standards-aligned curriculum and supplemental instructional materials to drive teaching and learning in reading for grades K-3.
- Support districts with high-quality reading curriculum that is evidence-based, targeted to elementary schools with the greatest achievement gap, and implemented for K-3 students who have been identified with a reading deficiency or a substantial deficiency in reading and therefore receive Tier 2 or Tier 3 instructional supports. • \$24 million allocated.
- \$18,267 disbursed as of 3/5/21

### **Final Takeaways**

- Significant state and federal funds appropriated and/or allocated to different reading initiatives.
- Two categoricals in the FEEP require the same 300 lowest performing elementary schools to use their categorical funds for the same purpose.
- Parents' participation rate in the Reading Scholarship Accounts is approximately one percent of the estimated grade 3 through 5 students scoring below a Level 3 on the statewide assessment.

## Q&A

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### **Representative Valdés**

Q: You mentioned that—and I understand that parents choose not to participate—and I wonder: is it because they really choose not to participate, or they're not made aware of these programs made for parents. What kind of marketing have we done to share with the parents that these options are available? Is it the responsibility of the school districts to disseminate that information or does it fall on the responsibility of the Department of Education?

A: Step Up for Students administers the program and obviously should be marketing it (and they do). Obviously, the local districts have that opportunity to share that with their students as well. Whatever is going on, we are 3-4 years into it and at least in this case, there aren't many people taking advantage of the programs. I'm not saying they do it, but you can understand why a school district might not want to promote a school choice scholarship that took students out of the school system. This doesn't take away any funding from them, so there is no structural incentive for them to hide it. It doesn't come out of their state budget. Frankly, there is every incentive for schools to share this with their students/parents because they benefit from high achieving students.

Q: In conversation, considering that school districts don't really have money set aside in their budgets to market, it's difficult. I wish that we could help promote this information outside of the Step Up. I think it is a very well-intended opportunity for our families to take advantage of and I wish that we could just market a little better for them at the state level.

A: I don't know that I agree with the presumption of the question. I only know my school district and I see everything through the lens of my child being in the public school. From my side of the public school, I get emails, robocalls, Facebook information, letters in the mail, etc. They have no shortage of ways to reach parents. My children wouldn't qualify for this, but they have no shortage of ways to reach out. I would assume that the other districts have the same.

### **Representative Williams**

Q: On the same line, the \$500 scholarship for the students mentions that they are able to use the money for a reading program. Would the parents have the choice of where they would like to take their child for that reading course/afterschool/summer school?

A: Yes. It is like an account and they have wide discretion on how they spend that money.

Q: Outside of them choosing where they would like to go to school, would this be broken down or all together? Can it be broken up into different courses?

A: Yes, it's like an account.

### **Representative Aloupis**

Q: As you were going through the numbers, I was just thinking of all the local initiatives happening for reading. My concern is not so much around the amount of money being spent, because I think it is a priority, but I do think there is a serious question for all of us surrounding coordination for all of these programs. As you can tell, there are so many entrance points whether it be federal, state, county, or philanthropic.

A: I agree with you. It is part of the reason for this presentation. I remember when I sat on this committee four years ago as a freshman, and it feels like we had a lot more projects. Then, we actually heard them one at a time and it felt like we would hear a lot of projects surrounding literacy. I think the purpose here is that motivation and desire does not equal competence and efficiency. Reading is, I think, the most important thing you learn in school. I'm not saying we shouldn't make it a priority to read, I just want to make sure we aren't throwing money at it and having the umpteenth program to focus on it. Caring does not equal results.



**Representative Bartleman**

Q: I know that one good use is the lowest 300. It's an issue for school boards across the state, because when they do get that money, you can actually collect the data and see the turnaround for how they are successful with that. Once they're turned around that money is taken away and a lot of them fall back because that money does provide tremendous support for the tier 2 and tier 3 kids, because that money is definitely well spent if you look at the scores.

A: We can look into that. I think it would be important to know that out of the \$716,000,000 in this example, they spent \$38,000,000 on this. The local politicians certainly could take some of what is left to make sure that once those 300 schools are out, they stay out. Again, we have mandated that the \$38,000,000 be spent on that, but maybe we need to put more mandates on local government to make sure they keep those schools out.

**Ranking Member Willhite**

Q: Just this last year I applied for my son. It took quite a while and it was quite a process to get the funding. We were reimbursed through the reading scholarship account. My son is now getting A's through home schooling. We took advantage of it for tutoring and we were reimbursed the money, but with me knowing and as engaged as I am, I would tell you when I looked at the Palm Beach County schools, a lot of the majority D schools are in our socioeconomically challenged areas. So, I would say if there is a student that has a 3 or below, and lives in an especially socioeconomically challenged area, there may not be as much parent involvement. If we have that, who is the burden falling short on? Is it the parent, the school board, or us allocating the money to make sure it is used in the right places? If that is the case, then I think your idea today is kind of streamlining. That aspect should come to how we target those parents or those students that are in those areas that need it most. The money that isn't being used should be used to pinpoint and allocate to those kids that need it, because those kids that are failing are falling even farther behind, and we are allowing that to happen. I think the burden should be on us.

A: Those are great points and I think we want to hear more about this. I think the point is our motives can get lost in bureaucracy. So, for example, there is research that shows that when it comes to programs that target those in need, those that need it the most get it the least. It's those that need it the least that take advantage of it the most. I think that is a big part of what you are talking about here. There are other programs that are parent-driven that are nice to have. I think your point is well taken, but the purpose of this is to say that motive and desire does not equate to results. I just want to make sure we are being efficient and making it easy.

**Representative Williams**

Q: In response to Ranking Member Willhite: If it takes me 10 months to receive this \$500 scholarship, I am going to be an additional year behind if I'm already struggling. Is there something that we could do or put in place to make sure that they can receive immediate funding?

A: I think it is something we will look into. Some of the scholarships offered by Step Up are not hard to obtain. I have had to look into one and there wasn't a lot of bureaucracy. My point is just to look at all the programs we have, and every program is going to have its own set of rules to implement it. I always found if you do a few things really well, it better than trying to do fifty things and scattering your efforts around. So, it's not about trying to do so many things. It's really about making it as streamlined and efficient as possible.

**Representative Bartleman**

Q: Is there any data collection to follow up to see if the \$500 is effective? On a lot of these reading programs, we are able to follow up on the children's' progress. Is there any way to follow up or to see if it's degraded teachers providing it?

A: I'm not aware of it. The point of this is just to show that there is a lot more opportunity for people to take advantage of it, but maybe it's because it is too hard for people to get. I will look into that, but I don't know if anyone is tracking those



students. To be perfectly honest, I don't even know if the school districts know which students are using this since it is managed by Step Up directly. We will look into that.

Q: I think also, when I was discussing the readings programs that I know have had a really great impact, I think you have done a really great job presenting us with everything. I think when you had the superintendents in to let us know what they are doing, I think it would be nice to know which programs work best for each school system. I think that would help so we don't have any unintended consequences at the district level. I would love to have more discussion on that as we progress.

A: I agree. By that argument, if we care about what superintendents say, we should get rid of categoricals and just put the money in base student funding where the superintendents decide on the allocation of what is effective.

#### Public Testimony

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None.

#### Debate

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None.

#### Closing

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None.

#### Outcome

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None.

## Senate Committee on Education

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Meeting packet can be found [here](#).

### Representatives from the Following Organizations Were Present

- Florida PTA
- Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida
- Western Governor's University
- Foundation for Florida's Future
- Hillsborough County Public Schools
- Tallahassee Veterans Legal Collaborative

### Summary

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The Senate Committee on Education held a meeting this week that covered the following bills: SB 86 (postponed), SB 532: Workforce Education, SB 1450: Civic Education Curriculum, SB 726: Individual Education Plan Requirements for Students with Disabilities, SB 938 Purple Star Campuses, and SB 1484: Florida Private Student Assistance Grant Program.

### SB 1450 – Civic Education Curriculum (Senator Rodriguez)

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SB 1450 requires the Florida Department of Education (DOE) to develop or approve an integrated civic education curriculum for public school students in kindergarten through grade 12. The bill provides requirements for the civic education curriculum to aid in students' development of civic responsibility and knowledge.

The bill also establishes the "Portraits in Patriotism Act," which integrates into the civics education curriculum personal stories of diverse individuals who demonstrate civic-minded qualities, including first-person accounts of victims of other nations' governing philosophies who can compare those philosophies with the philosophies of the United States.

The bill provides that the United States Government course that is required to earn a standard high school diploma include a comparative discussion of political ideologies that conflict with the principles of freedom and democracy in the nation's founding principles.

### Q&A

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#### Senator Broxson

Q: This does not add to? It simply says that when they are teaching civics, they will have to follow this path?

A: Yes, that is correct.

### Appearance Forms on the Bill

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**Nancy Lothar, Florida PTA:** I will begin my commentary by quoting from the national PTA position statement on citizenship and equity. "National PTA supports educational programs designed to increase understanding of the US constitution and civil rights, civil liberties, and appreciation for those individuals who fought for them." If I am here today, it is in large measure due to my own preparation in high school in civic education. My 11th grade US history teacher insisted that we read original

materials and we learned that these materials embraced a wide variety of perspectives and philosophies. Our founders did not speak with a single voice, and our constitution reflects these divergent voices that our students need to hear and understand how and why our paradigm-shattering system of government empowers them to speak for their truths. Why it embraces their experiences and why it requires their lifelong active participation for its robust continuation. After Ken Burns' groundbreaking series on the Civil War, we are all acutely aware that history is not simply the recounting of acts of leaders, but a narrative compiling the individual experiences of the many. That is why PTA embraces the creation of an archive of lived testimonies and its expansion beyond the language of this bill to include not simply those who have suffered from repression, but those who have sought to establish roots here in the interest of economic opportunity. PTA applauds the efforts of all those interested in boosting civic education and who recognize that our best path to accomplish this is through effective thought-provoking instruction rather than through indoctrination.

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#### Debate on the Bill

None.

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#### Closing on the Bill (Senator Rodriguez)

Waived close.

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#### Outcome

The bill was reported favorably.

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#### SB 726 – Individual Education Plan Requirements for Students with Disabilities (Senator Taddeo)

SB 726 modifies communication and timeline provisions for developing an Individual Education Plan (IEP) in order to ensure quality planning for a successful transition of a student with a disability to postsecondary education and career opportunities. Specifically, the bill requires:

- An IEP team to start the transition process during the student's seventh grade year rather than at age 14, and have an operational plan in place that is implemented on the first day of the student's first year in high school or when he or she attains the age of 16, whichever comes first.
- School districts to provide:
  - Information to parents and students on the school district's high school-level transition courses and vocational, career, and collegiate programs available to such students and how to access such programs.
  - Applications for Division of Vocational Rehabilitation services and Agency Persons with Disabilities services to students and parents at IEP meetings.
- Parents to attest in writing that they understand the process for deferment of a high school diploma and whether the student will defer the receipt of such diploma to no later than May 15 of the year the student will graduate.
- The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) to conduct a review of existing transition services and programs to establish uniform best practices for such programs to deliver appropriate employment, pre-employment, and independent living skills education to enrolled students. The FDOE must publish best practices by July 1, 2022.

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#### Amendment #946720

This amendment is needed to add the inclusion of statutory citations for guardianship programs and guardianship alternatives.

#### Q&A

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None.

#### Appearance Forms on the Amendment

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None.

#### Debate on the Amendment

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None.

#### Closing on the Amendment

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Waived close.

#### Outcome

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The amendment was adopted.

#### Q&A on the Bill as Amended

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None.

#### Appearance Forms on the Bill as Amended

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**Dr. Nancy Lothar, Florida PTA:** Waiving in support.

#### Debate on the Bill as Amended

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None.

#### Closing on the Bill as Amended (Senator Taddeo)

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We always need to be able to answer the question: What is your bill trying to fix? Well, currently parents are not being told about the school transition programs or the post-secondary workforce or collegiate continuing options for our kids with disabilities. They don't know to defer the diploma for their disabled kid to get continuing education. This bill literally transforms lives of the disabled.

#### Outcome

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The bill (as amended) was reported favorably.

#### SB 1484 – Florida Private Student Assistance Grant Program (Gruters)

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SB 1484 alters eligibility for students to receive a Florida private student assistance grant. The bill specifies that recipients of a grant, as an alternative to the requirement to have been accepted at an appropriate independent nonprofit college or

university, have the option of having been accepted at a competency-based nonprofit virtual postsecondary institution in order to receive a grant, provided the institution:

- Is accredited by a member of the Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions;
- Is created by the governors of several states;
- Has established and continually maintains a location of operation in this state; and
- Maintains a governing body or advisory board in this state.

## Q&A

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### Senator Thurston

Q: Is there anticipated additional allocation for the expenses?

A: That would be decided in a different way—not in this bill. This would just make it so they are eligible.

Q: The potential of how many other students might be made?

A: There are 7,000 students and out of that, not all of them have demonstrated significant financial need. So, the number is undetermined at this time.

### Senator Berman

Q: How many students take advantage of the program now?

A: There were 16,139 students who were dispersed almost \$25 million at an average of \$1549 per student.

## Appearance Forms on the Bill

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**Bruster Brown, Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida:** Speaking against the bill. I believe about 16,000 students took advantage of the private student assistance grant in the most recent year, with a maximum grant of \$3260.00. So, we just want to make 4 quick points on behalf of these students. First, with just the one institution that we believe meets the criteria, our estimate is that the funds would be diluted such that the funds per student would decline by about 15%. Second, by the precedent of the change we're just concerned that more out-of-state providers would be eligible and that would lead to a greater dilution of funding. The third is it does raise the question if the other side of this needs-based grant (the public side) would be diluted by other out-of-state private institutions qualify, because several already have online offerings reaching Florida students. Finally, we believe that we need to focus the financial aid in Florida, to Florida students who are at Florida-based institutions. Thirty of them are often economic anchors in the community. This is especially true in the smaller and more rural areas. Our institutions employ approximately 40,000 Floridians statewide. So, these are the reasons for the concerns with the bill. We greatly appreciate the time you spent with our CEO and we look forward to working with you in hopes of finding a creative solution that everybody can support.

**Dr. Kim Estup, Western Governor's University:** Speaking for the bill. I want to tell you a little bit about Western Governor's University and about our students. We are a different type of university than any other college or university in the state of Florida. We were created by 19 western governors in 1997 as a workforce engine for their states in reaching out to educate students who were not otherwise being served by existing institutions in those states. We are competency-based, which means that students can take as many courses in any six-month term as they can complete. They pay one flat rate. Our average tuition even without assistance is only \$6670 per year, making us one of the most affordable Baccalaureate institutions in the country. WG students are different, our students all live in Florida. 100% of them. They're all taxpayers in the state of Florida and we believe it is only fair that they get to share in the ability to help fund their education, because in many cases these are place-bound adult students who do not have the option to go somewhere else for their education. Sixty-six percent of these students in Florida are women. Their average age is 37. It's a different generation and a different

type of student than those other institutions are now serving. Two-thirds of our students in Florida are considered underrepresented. They are students of color. They are rural students. They are low-income students and they are first generation college students. Two-thirds of our students meet that criteria. We would love to provide this opportunity for our students to have equal access to the state funds to help them be able to afford higher education. Many of them are Pell eligible. Approximately 1,100 of them have zero EFC contribution on their FAFSA and of those students, this grant would allow them to narrow the gap between what Pell Grant covers for their education without them having to take on student loans. Thank you very much.

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### Debate on the Bill

#### Senator Berman

I'm going to be up on the bill today, but I'm going to watch it and I am concerned about what the first speaker talked about. I've been a big supporter of the ICUF loans in the past and he talked about dilution. So, I'd like you in your closing if you can talk a little bit about if you think it's going to have a negative impact on our ICUF loans. I'm going to vote for it today and I am happy to see how it progresses.

#### Senator Thurston

I too have some concerns, but I have yet to talk to the sponsor about those concerns, so I'm going to support the bill today and watch it as it goes along.

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### Closing on the Bill

**Senator Berman and Senator Thurston:** What this is really about is 7,000 potential students. We tried to narrow the focus on this institution that was providing a need for our citizens to go through postsecondary education in degrees like nursing, where there are instances where it's rule-based and it's affordable. It's an older clientele, like the speaker mentioned, and the goal is (in terms of dilution) that of course when you add more people to it it's going to get diluted, but we don't know what the final number will be from year to year. I support ICUF and I support the 35 universities that support all their students. I want them all to be successful, but sometimes we're picking winners and losers and just because you're headquartered here your headquarters is not here if you're accredited by a regionally-based accreditation service. It's my feeling that as a student of Florida you should still be eligible for some of these need-based grants and so that's why I asked you all for your favorable consideration.

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### Outcome

The bill was reported favorably.

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### SB 938 – Purple Star Campuses (Senator Wright)

SB 938 establishes the Purple Star Campus Program to recognize exemplary schools that support military-connected children, including public schools, charter schools, and schools participating in the Florida educational choice scholarship program. The bill requires the Department of Education to establish the Purple Star Campus Program that requires a participating school to:

- Designate a staff member as a military liaison.
- Maintain a webpage on a school's website, which include resources for military students and families.
- Maintain a student-led transition program that assists military students in transitioning into the school.
- Offer professional development training opportunities for staff members on issues relating to military students.

The bill also authorizes a school to partner with a school district to procure digital, professional development, or other assistance necessary to implement the criteria of the Purple Star Campus program.

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#### Amendment #748890

This clarifies that the school board of education shall adopt rules to implement this section, not the department.

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#### Q&A

None.

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#### Appearance Forms on the Amendment

None.

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#### Debate on the Amendment

None.

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#### Closing on the Amendment

Waived close.

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#### Outcome

The amendment was adopted.

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#### Q&A on the Bill as Amended

None.

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#### Appearance Forms on the Bill as Amended

**James Mostettler, Foundation for Florida's Future:** Waiving in support.

**Robert Stewart, Hillsborough County Public Schools:** Waiving in support.

**Dan Hendrickson, Tallahassee Veterans Legal Collaborative:** Waiving in support.

**Dr. Nancy Lothar, Florida PTA:** Waiving in support.

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#### Debate on the Bill as Amended

None.



### **Closing on the Bill (Senator Wright)**

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Waived Close

### **Outcome**

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The bill (as amended) was reported favorably.

### **SB 532 – Workforce Education (Senator Burgess)**

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SB 532 authorizes school district career centers to offer an associate in applied science or associate in science degree program in nursing, but restricts offering the degree program to graduates of a licensed practical nursing program offered at that same career center.

### **Amendment #903918**

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This amendment corrects that we forgot to include both degrees in the second sentence. We mentioned both degrees in the first sentence, but not the second.

### **Q&A**

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None.

### **Appearance Forms on the Amendment**

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None.

### **Debate on the Amendment**

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None.

### **Closing on the Amendment**

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Waived close.

### **Outcome**

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The amendment was adopted.

### **Q&A on the Bill as Amended**

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None.

### **Appearance Forms on the Bill as Amended**

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None.

### Debate on the Bill as Amended

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#### Senator Berman

I'm supporting the bill, but I do want to make sure... I know our state colleges want to have more nursing programs too, and I want to make sure that is considered when we move forward with this. Thank you.

### Closing on the Bill as Amended (Senator Burgess)

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We had some great conversations (as recently as Friday) with our state college systems and were really encouraged by their feedback and how we can collaborate together to make this work and to expand the goals that we all share, which is making sure we have more nurses in this field in Florida. Thank you so much for your favorable support.

### Outcome

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The bill (as amended) was reported favorably.

## House Early Learning and Elementary Education Subcommittee

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Meeting packet can be found [here](#).

### Representatives from the Following Organizations Were Present

- Pinellas Education Foundation

### Summary

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The House Early Learning and Elementary Education Subcommittee held a meeting this week to discuss and debate HB 559 and HB 793. They also considered the proposed committee substitute of PCS for HB 383 (Involuntary Examinations of Minors). There was also a presentation of instructional strategies for boys.

### HB 793 – Measurement of Student Performance (Representative Bell)

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Teacher performance evaluation ratings, including ratings based on the Value-Added Model (VAM), are used in part to determine teacher assignments at low-performing schools with a turnaround plan. However, VAM data is often released immediately before or after the start of the school year, making it difficult for school districts to make these instructional assignments in compliance with State Board of Education rule. To assist school districts in timely assigning instructional personnel before the start of the school year, the bill requires the Commissioner of Education to release VAM data to school districts annually by July 31, rather than in August.

### Q&A

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None.

### Appearance Forms on the Bill

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**Danny Macmillan, Florida PTA:** Waiving in support.

**Wendy Dodge, Polk County Public Schools:** Waiving in support.

**Jessica Gennasewits, Florida Association of School Administrators:** Waiving in support.

### Debate on the Bill

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#### Ranking Member Davis

I just wanted to say thank you for bringing this bill. I have had the same issue happen in Duval County and I'm sure many of us have had this happened in our school districts at home as well. It is a disruption when a child has gotten comfortable with their teacher and they've gotten used to the routine with that particular teacher. So, having that disruption happen actually disrupts learning too. Thank you again for bringing this bill to us.

### Closing on the Bill (Representative Bell)

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Waived close.

## Outcome

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The bill was reported favorably.

## PCS for HB 383 – Involuntary Examinations of Minors (Representative Plasencia)

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The bill requires a public school principal or designee to attempt notification to a student's parent before the student is transported to a receiving facility for an involuntary examination (Baker Act). The notification applies to a student's removal from school grounds, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity. The bill does not change the allowable delay in parental notification when suspected child abuse has been reported.

## Q&A

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### Ranking Member Davis

Q: If there is no contact with the parent—your bill is the notification to a parent, but what if the parent isn't available to receive that notification? What happens then?

A: The bill requires an attempt of notification. If there is no contact made, then the school district and law enforcement are to proceed as normal.

Q: Just for clarification: you said if a parent/guardian is not there, they proceed as normal. Would that be to proceed as normal with the procedures that the school district has in place already?

A: That is correct.

### Representative Chaney

Q: The bill states that the parent must be notified. Does that also include whoever is acting as the parent?

A: That is correct.

### Representative Williams

Q: You said this will go on with normal procedure. Can you walk us through the normal procedure as a child is in the process of being Baker Acted?

A: It's simple. It doesn't matter whether it is a child being Baker Acted or an adult. The only difference is that there has to be (according to law) certain attempts of de-escalation. Other than that procedure, if the law enforcement officer or psychologist deems that a child needs to be Baker Acted, and the parent does not receive notification, then they would proceed with the Baker Act.

## Appearance Forms on the Bill

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**Karen Woodall, Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy:** I support the language in this PCS, and I think it's important and needed, but I'm concerned about the language that was removed from the original underlying bill. It's critical to notify parents, but the goal here following many stories and reports of children being taken from school in handcuffs in the back of a police car to a facility where they don't know anyone because they had a mental health or behavioral health episode (which is a healthcare issue—not a law enforcement issue, by the way) is very concerning. What is missing from this PCS that you're not seeing in front of you, is training for the SRO's or school safety personal on mental health and de-escalation in instances like this. Some places do it; it's not a requirement. Procedures to assist a mental health services provider in attempting to verbally deescalate a student's crisis situation before initiating an involuntary examination. This was in the underlying bill: a memo of understanding with our local mobile crisis response service policies at the district level

that would require that in a student crisis situation, a local mobile crisis response service be contacted before initiating an involuntary examination. That contact could be in-person where those units are available or by using Telehealth. We are all using Tele communications now. Kids are going to school via zoom; we testify to the Senate via virtual communications, so Telehealth is a very viable thing and it's critical particularly in rural communities where they don't have a lot of these crisis mobile units. Also, that was a requirement in there. The bottom line, members is: the goal is to prevent children from being removed from the campus for a mental health or behavioral health outbreak—to have the issue dealt with there so that you don't re-traumatize a child by removing them in the back of a law enforcement vehicle, hand-cuffed to a receiving facility where they get there they don't know anybody and it also traumatizes the other people in the school. That has become a very serious practice, and while parental notification is critical for this, the goal is to not have to notify the parents at all. The child shouldn't be removed. So, we look forward to that language being re-inserted into the bill.

**Danny Macmillan, Florida PTA:** Waiving in support.

**Russell Myer, Florida Council of Churches:** I can tell you that wherever we have a school that is pluralistic in its demographic, the use of the Baker Act has sometimes been at the cost of great injustice. We need to measure that very closely so we can improve our trauma-based care in the state of Florida. There are several departments in our government that are heavily focused on helping to introduce trauma-based care in churches and schools. Yet, the primary way in which a young person gets Baker Acted is not through those many points of entry, but it is through the local school. We lack the data to truly understand what is happening on the ground where we especially have highly pluralist demographics. I can tell you that the way Black and Brown students have often been Baker Acted (with parents unavailable) they're being serviced not by an SRO in the school, but by the local sheriff's department. We simply don't have a full understanding of what that picture looks like and how we best create a healthy situation for everybody involved. We need to have mobile units, telehealth, etc. Our concern is related to helping parents adjust to the trauma of learning that their child has been institutionalized without their notice. What the kids really need is a caring, loving adult who can help them through their moment of crisis. While we strongly support parent notification, we are trying to address the concern with law enforcement proceeding as normal.

**Nancy Daniels, Florida Public Defender Association:** Waiving in support.

## Debate on the Bill

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### Vice Chair Fetterhoff

This is a very important bill. It's something that needs to be addressed. Mental health is not addressed well. I have heard some horrible stories about what has happened with parents not being able to see their children for 48 hours. 48 hours of the parent not being able to be with her child to come for their child; the child is continuing to be traumatized. We need to notify their parents. Yes, what they said in the crowd today is true; we need to add some more things for this bill, but that is why we have a committee process and we will continue to address some of those issues. I thank you so much for this.

### Representative Hunschofsky

Just to echo what Vice Chair Fetterhoff just said, thank you very much for bringing this forward. I really appreciated hearing the comments from the public. In a state where our mental health system and support is lacking and inefficient, anything we can do to not add to trauma—especially with children who will be effected for the rest of their lives because of an experience that could've been prevented—is really important. So, I just want to thank you very much for bringing this bill forward. Also, this bill highlighting a lot of the work that still needs to be done with our children and helping them through crisis.

### Ranking Member Davis

As we all know, I think we are all in support of this. The only thing is, listening to the comments from my colleagues and the members that came here with us today, it sounds like there is more of a need for uniform procedures across the board. In Duval County we have those mobile crisis teams, but I'm not sure other counties have those mobile crisis teams. In some other pieces that we heard, training would be a great addition to your bill. I'm not trying to change it, but I know you will listen to the stakeholders to add some of the good things back in the bill to go along with the bill that is already great. So, thank you for bringing this to us today, but I would really see some of the other things added back to it.

### Closing (Representative Plasencia)

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Waived close.

### Outcome

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The bill was reported favorably.

### Focusing on Engaging Boys in Literacy to Close Gender Achievement Gaps (Pinellas Education Foundation)

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Since 2013, the Foundation identified that there were significant disparities between boys and girls performing in school. These disparities were not just limited to Pinellas County or the state of Florida, but they were across the United States and across every demographic.

Our vision is that every student will be prepared for life after high school, whether the choice is to attend college, to enter the workforce, or to obtain technical training. Our mission is to accelerate educational achievement for ALL students through the effective mobilization of innovation, relationships, and resources.

Why this work exists:

- Boys outnumber girls in remedial math and English classes
- Nearly two boys are held back in a grade for every girl held back
- Boys receive 70% of the Ds and Fs on report cards
- Almost 74% of children diagnosed with learning disabilities are boys

Classroom Strategies:

- Gamification- use of competition
- Robust classroom libraries with high-interest books
- Flexible seating options
- Use of graphic organizers
- Use of movement- brain breaks, gallery walks, etc.

Moving Forward:

- Increase the number of schools and teachers directly impacted
- Expand professional development opportunities for all district staff
- Create a competency-based gender-differentiated instructional micro-credential for teachers at all levels
- Continued district support for all stakeholders (students, teachers, parents, and community)
- Build a model for replication in other districts

## Q&A

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### **Representative Hunschofsky**

Q: When you talk about competency-based gender-differentiated instructional micro-credential for teachers at all levels, is it as much about the differentiated instruction which actually should be taking place in the classroom anyway, or is it also having an understanding of the ways boys might interact or something like that?

A: It is definitely more about interacting with boys and understanding how they react. As you know, the majority of kindergarten teachers are female, and the way they interact with boys and girls can often already differ. Differentiation already occurs, but it should be done from a brain-based perspective and looking at ways in which boys look at text and how they respond, how they love to move, and how hydration is really important for boys. So, it definitely focuses on those areas more so than just differentiation strategies.

### **Ranking Member Davis**

Q: About the teacher training: what does that look like? The timeline, how is the training for the teachers? I'm not really sure.

A: We typically do a lot of training in the summer, so we have almost a full of an institute and that is something we continue to grow and make. After the trainings, we follow up with imbedded support. So, we have members of the teaching and learning division that will go out and support teachers to try and implement some of these strategies.

### **Representative Mooney**

Q: A question on your robust classroom libraries with high-interest books: how did that transpire? What is considered high-interest books? As a former teacher, I used to let my students read whatever they wanted to bring to class, because I found that most of them (boys) did not want to read Shakespeare in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

A: We focus, initially in elementary grades and we work with our library media departments to identify books that might appeal more to boys. It's also important to recognize that a lot of our students don't have books at home that they could bring to class.

### **Chair Aloupis**

Q: You referenced gains from the 2019-2020 school year. What were the data points you were using to show those gains?

A: At Woodline Elementary, it was the FSA score and it was also the FSA score at Belcher Elementary. We saw an elimination of FSA gains.

Q: What is the impact on gender-differentiated teaching for female students? Do you see any change in the proficiency of the collective?

A: The closing of the gap was not because females went backwards. It was actually an overall 9-point increase. The girls increased a couple of points, but the boys increased over 10 points.

### **Representative McCurdy**

Q: I think this is very good to try and close that gap. For the pilot program, how did you identify the schools to participate? The demographics throughout the state range greatly.

A: Initially, with the 6 schools, we made sure that the principals were fully ready to participate. They were spread all throughout Pinellas County, so there was a lot of differentiation between socioeconomic status. That remains today with our 10 schools.

Q: Do we have a measure of where we look at reintegrating boys and girls? Is there a number we want to see them at or a percentage increase?

A: I think we would want to get to no gap between boys and girls. We are a long way away from that.



## HB 559 – Computer Science Instruction in Elementary Schools (Representative Hawkins)

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Florida law requires that public school students receive opportunities for computer science instruction. Implementation of specific computer science instruction content, such as coding in elementary and middle schools, is currently discretionary for school districts.

The bill revises requirements for computer science instruction to include computational thinking and foundational computer science skills in elementary schools and instruction to develop students' computer usage and digital literacy skills in middle school.

### Q&A

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#### Ranking Member Davis

Q: There are costs for the districts to implement this, yet the bill identifies an indeterminate fiscal impact. What are the resources for the school districts to decide to use? What are the costs associated with those resources?

A: There are a lot of tutorials online available through the computer companies that will meet the qualifications of what we are trying to put in for the Computer Science Elementary Education. If the district would like to expand further beyond that, that would be at their cost. This can be done with no cost to what is available to them currently.

Q: With your legislation, this can be implemented by a school district at no cost?

A: Yes.

### Appearance Forms on the Bill

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**Danny Macmillan, Florida PTA:** Waiving in support.

**Stephanie Steele, Project Lead the Way:** Waiving in support.

**Debby Mortham, Foundation of Florida's Future:** Waiving in support.

### Debate on the Bill

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#### Representative Trabulsy

Thank you for this great bill. This is going to further strengthen our STEM and STEAM programs and I appreciate that specifically. I recently had a discussion with the president of FAU and he told me that they are having such a difficult time getting scientists in the field. They are having to recruit from outside the country. I appreciate this proactive approach.

#### Representative Learned

As someone who learned to code trying to make my personalized Myspace page back in the 1990's, I really do want to thank you for this bill. I have twin 8-year-olds and the earlier we start teaching these concepts, the better it will be for an entire generation of kids. This is a fantastic bill and I look forward to supporting it.

#### Representative Chaney

We are hoping to have our science center in Pinellas County back up and running just for all of the reasons you said, and all of those statistics about the jobs and the need to expand our STEM programs. I thank you for bringing this forward.

### Closing on the Bill (Representative Hawkins)

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I am going to read a letter from Charlie, a fourth grader at Daytona Beach.

*"Dear policy makers,*

*Thank you for caring about me and helping me learn about computer science. I will have more opportunities than my parents.*

*Please pass this bill for me and I will not forget you, and I will rule the world because I will be so smart."*

### Outcome

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The bill was reported favorably.

## House Post-Secondary Education and Lifelong Learning Subcommittee

### Consideration of Bills

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Meeting packet can be found [here](#).

#### Summary

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The House Post-Secondary Education and Lifelong Learning Subcommittee held a meeting to discuss HB 311, HB 435, HB 847, HB 1505, and HB 1507.

#### HB 1505 Workforce Programs and Services (Melo)

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HB 1505 outlines a consumer centered workforce system where we can meet Florida's students, workers, and job seekers where they are. The bill integrates service delivery systems by requiring collaboration between CareerSource Florida, DEO, DOE, and DCF to create a single workforce information system so that consumers can access services from multiple agencies through one site and register for workforce training and benefits at one location. The bill establishes specific outcome and performance measures for apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs. The bill improves career planning by requiring integration of state career planning resources. Finally, the bill establishes a digital credentials program to help post-secondary students attain skill badges that are recognized by employers as they complete education courses that demonstrate employability.

#### Amendment 449089 (Melo)

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This amendment clarifies that career planning courses provided at our public colleges and universities may use state career planning resources. We recognize that many institutions are using career-planning resources with students and the intent is to enhance the tools, not replace what is already being provided.

#### Outcome

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The amendment is adopted.

#### Amendment 107445 (Melo)

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This amendment clarifies for the DOE the wage progression data to be collected for the annual apprenticeship and preapprenticeship report. Post-apprenticeship wages shall be collected at one and five years after the participants exit the program. The technical change to the definition of work-based learning to align the interaction a student experiences in a workplace setting to those in the career field and with the curriculum and instruction provided in partnership with an education institution.

#### Outcome

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The amendment is adopted.

#### Outcome of the Bill as Amended

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The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 15-0.

## HB 435 Veterans Employment and Training (Sirois)

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HB 435 directs Veterans Florida, through its veteran's employment and training services program, to serve as the state's principle assistance organization under the U.S. Department of Defense's Skill Bridge program. Skill Bridge will match transitioning service members with training and employment opportunities in the state of Florida.

## Public Testimony

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**Bob Asztalos, Florida Veterans Foundation:** Waiving in support.

**Joseph Marino, Florida is for Veterans, Inc.:** Waiving in support.

**James Mosteller, Foundation for Florida's Future:** Waiving in support.

**Taylor Biehl, National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA):** Waiving in support.

**Matthew Choy, Florida Chamber of Commerce:** Waiving in support.

## Closing

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The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 15-0.

## HB 1507 Workforce Related Programs and Services (Yarborough)

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HB 1507 refocuses the state's workforce system on the consumer, improving his or her access to services, measuring the success of job training and placement, and replacing what is now a fragmented interface, with an efficient, integrated user experience. Ultimately, the bill provides coordination among agencies and systems that are needed to support job seekers in finding a job and building a career.

Specifically, the bill would authorize the Governor to seek federal waivers to increase flexibility and spending while reducing duplication of services and administrative functions. It also modernizes Florida's workforce delivery system by building a statewide ecosystem that promotes continuous lifelong learning and promotes investment in an agile and resilient workforce and provides comprehensive support to enable every Floridian to find a job and build a career. It also would align functions of Florida's workforce system to improve collaboration and accountability while reforming the delivery system. It would integrate services for a consumer-centered approach and provide current and future workers with access to the information, education, training, and resources they need to develop, maintain, and renew skills as they advance in their career paths. It also integrates delivery to provide seamless and comprehensive services to customers. It also addresses the need for more healthcare workers because for years now Florida has experienced a nursing shortage, which is one of Florida's chronic occupational shortages. The bill requires the Talent Development Council, which has representatives from both public and private partners throughout the state, to conduct a study on capacity and utilization and to identify career pathways to nursing programs. That is the thrust of the bill.

I did want to mention one or two other things quickly. With regard to performance funding, which is a big part of the bill, and some new approaches that we are trying, we have what is in here the return value funding model and that would change the way the state allocates performance funds to school districts, technical colleges, and the Florida College System

institutions for certifications earned by our workforce education students. Currently the state awards districts with institutions \$1,000 for each industry certification earned by a student regardless of what benefit it actually provides to the student. The new return value-funding model would reward student job placements and student earnings. One-third of the performance funds would be allocated based on student job placements and the remaining two-thirds would be based on aggregate student wages. As for the money back guarantee program, which is new, it is sustainable. The student has to have good attendance and strong performance. They must participate with career services and attend career days. They also have to participate in internships, job search documentation is required, and they must have a student career plan with the institution. So it's not just an, "I went through the program and I get my money back" type of situation. If they don't stick with the plan, they are not eligible to get the dollars back.

## Q&A

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### Representative Bell

Q: Thank you for bringing this great bill forward. We need to revamp our workforce development boards. My question is, how is this going to affect our local boards? My concern is line 993. Is the goal of this legislation to remove local boards because I'm certainly about home rule?

A: As far as the federal waiver in particular, if this were granted it would allow the flexibility to remove administrative layers and bring more accountability to a system that helps people find a job. The reason this is in front of us today is because back in 2017 there was a local area that had some accountability issues which triggered a statewide audit. That audit was released and it revealed 50 findings of areas in Florida where we needed to be better in our delivery of these services to our citizenry and students in others. We have touched on about 46 of those areas and this bill takes care of the rest. The goal is not to eliminate the local boards but its giving us the ability to ensure the resources are being spent widely, because its hundreds of millions of dollars at the federal level and we need to make sure we are accountable with those dollars. We are simply trying to solve that need.

### Ranking Member Thompson

Q: Would you clarify for me the requirement related to job placement, you mentioned six months in assessing whether or not that individual has attained a job. Is it just that one time or is it longitudinal? How long must the person retain the job?

A: For purposes of the money back guarantee, it is six months from the time that they complete the program. So at the moment, that is what we have embodied in this bill.

Q: What I was asking is that let's say I get a job, do I have to retain the job or is it just that one time that you make that assessment?

A: Something that we have lacked is accountability. The workforce board should be able to tell us and report to the state board how many individuals that they are helping to get into jobs and what the long term placement is, or any amount of placement that they have had or not so we can truly see where these dollars are going. I'll get a specific answer to your question but what I can tell you now is that it has to be within the first six months, something after that I don't know off the top of my head but I will get it for you and circle back.

### Vice Chair Plasencia

Q: This is an excellent bill, I do have some concerns with it but I think it is overall needed in our state. One of my concerns has to deal with the ability to eliminate local boards based on population. How will that impact our rural communities who, many could argue, are at a much higher disadvantage when trying to bring jobs to their locations?

A: This is a holistic approach to this problem thus far. We are trying to get the initial framework in place to begin with the accountability measures, but again the intent of this bill is not to go in and try to undo anything where services are needed.

It is to try to bring accountability for what we are doing and what we have seen in this audit. I am happy to work with you on this so we can continue to do that.

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#### **Amendment 809459 (Yarborough)**

This amendment clarifies the membership of the CareerSource state board and adds the Division of Blind Services at the Department of Education. It clarifies the membership of the credentials review committee and also clarifies the components that make up the master credentials list for use beginning in the 22-23 school year.

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#### **Outcome**

The amendment is adopted.

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#### **Amendment 421323 (Yarborough)**

This amendment streamlines the criteria for the annual review of K-12 and post-secondary career and technical education offerings.

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#### **Outcome**

The amendment is adopted.

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#### **Amendment 689249 (Yarborough)**

This amendment aligns the new workforce education review and approval to the credentials of value designated on the master credential list. It's an expansion of apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs through workforce program funds and also to support apprenticeship expansion it would allow funds from the Florida Pathways to Career Opportunities grant to be used for instructional personnel. It also authorizes the Department of Education to use up to \$2,000 of allocated funds to administer that grant.

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#### **Outcome**

The amendment is adopted.

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#### **Amendment 128357 (Yarborough)**

This would make changes to some of the definitions in the bill, which would align with current program offerings.

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#### **Outcome**

The amendment is adopted.

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#### **Public Testimony on the Bill as Amended**

**Carol Bowen, Associated Builders and Contractors of Florida, Inc.:** Waiving in support.

**Marti Coley, Florida Workforce Development Association:** We are fully supportive of accountability, transparency, and collaboration. The collaboration part of this bill will help the workforce development boards serve Floridians better. There are a couple of areas of concern, specifically about the local design. It is important. The master credentialing list is great but local businesses need our support to so we ask that you consider that component for those local businesses, if they have a need they may need help and will need a response very quickly. With that, we hope that the federal reporting requirements, because they are very tedious, will also be considered.

#### Debate on the Bill as Amended

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##### **Representative Alexander**

I look forward to supporting this very good bill today. I think the conversation was very health and the bill sponsor is a very open-minded, thoughtful person and will take all concerns into consideration. As we spoke about, I think there is an opportunity for Representative Yarborough to improve the performance-based component and I would love for you to consider one-third for job placement, one-third for student earning, and then add an additional component based off of a student social mobility index. I think that this would give more equity in regards to the review process in performance based funding.

##### **Chair Mariano**

Thank you for this great bill. I think this bill is the epitome of uniting employment and education into one silo. We want to make sure our students are getting educated and getting jobs.

#### Closing

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I couldn't agree with you more, Chair. Thank you, Representative Alexander, for your comments and all the members who asked questions. I made notes on everything and I will follow up with you with information that was not available today. Florida is saying we want to help you get prepared for the workforce, but if we aren't being held accountable and the resources are not being used in the manner and the degree to which they should be, then we are failing those who we are saying we want to help. I appreciate your consideration of the bill.

#### Outcome

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The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 15-0.

#### HB 847 Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network (Byrd)

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HB 847 streamlines essential learning services offered by the college and university system under the Florida Academic Library Services Network. Essential services are defined as a statewide-automated library system, electronic resources, student transient applications, online student advising services and support, student transcript audits, and a complete catalog for distance learning courses and programs offered by the college and university systems. This legislation will increase innovation and efficiencies by offering a single point of access to support student's education goals and will have a significant cost-savings to our state by passing costs onto students. Part of the reason this bill is important is that the 40 higher education institutions, if this bill were not to pass, each of them will have to go out and get their own licenses, which would be a tremendous cost.



## Public Testimony

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**Jessica Kummerle, College of Central Florida:** Waiving in support.

**Jack Hall, St. John's River State College:** Waiving in support.

**Sam Wagoner, Pasco Hernando State College Foundation:** Waiving in support.

## Debate

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### Representative Alexander

This passes my Mom test. I showed this bill to her and she believes this is a phenomenal bill and that it is a step in the right direction. So I want to commend you for bringing this forward.

## Closing

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I will adopt Representative Alexander's statements as our close.

## Outcome

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The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 14-0.

## HB 311 Public Records and Assessment Instruments (Silvers)

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This bill protects Florida's Education System student records by ensuring the law protects and exempts the following assessments and education records from public records disclosure for the benefit of student learning outcomes. The assessments that will be protected under this bill are the Florida Kindergarten Reading Screener, the Department of Juvenile Justice assessment, Florida's English Language Proficiency Assessment, Florida's Civic Literacy Assessment, the Florida Teacher Certification Examination, and the Florida Education Leadership Examination.

## Q&A

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### Representative Andrade

Q: I was curious what the practical effect of requests for these types of assessments would be if the bill didn't pass?

A: If this bill doesn't pass, someone could get access to any of these assessments with a public record request and post that information online.

### Ranking Member Thompson

Q: I want to make sure that nothing here prohibits a parent, individual, or organization from giving a practice exam to prepare the test-taker to perform as well as he or she possibly can.

A: I have spoken with the DOE and BOG and they have made it clear that practice exams would still be available.

## Amendment

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The amendment is technical in nature to align some of the language with the Senate bill. Section 1 is revised to include part of the Florida statutes to ensure that the preliminary SAT, NMSQT, and the Pre-ACT are also protected assessments.

Section 2 is revised to incorporate the assessment used for the purpose of measuring minority and underrepresented student achievement in a direct reference to Section 1007.35.

#### Outcome

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The amendment is adopted.

#### Closing

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I appreciate your support on this very good bill that I think would prevent cheating in the future. Thank you.

#### Outcome

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The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 14-0.

## House Education and Employment Committee

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Meeting Packet with Bill Analysis can be found [here](#).

### CS/HB 233 – PostSecondary Education (Roach)

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The committee substitute for HB 233 keeps in place the bill's main requirement, which is that it will require the Board of Governors (which oversees our 12 state universities in Florida and serves about 340,000 students) and the State Board of Education (which oversees Florida 28 state colleges and serves 64% of Florida high school graduates) to select or create a survey to assess the status of intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity on University and college campuses in the state of Florida. This survey will need to be administered, compiled, and published by all institutions annually, beginning in September of 2022. The only statutory requirements in this bill regarding this survey are that the survey be objective, that it be nonpartisan, and that it be statistically valid. This bill also authorizes recordings in classrooms for educational purposes only and it puts in place due process protections for student government officers.

### Amendment #105121 (Roach)

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This amendment is technical in nature, adding a comma and four words on lines 150, to make it clear that the amount specified in the bill (\$200,000) applies to costs and reasonable attorney fees added together, not just to the attorney fees.

### Q&A

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None.

### Debate

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None.

### Closing

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Waived close.

### Outcome

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The amendment passed without objection and was reported favorably.

### Q&A on the Bill as Amended

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#### Ranking Member Williams

Q: Can you elaborate a little more on the recording in the in the classroom?

A: Right now, 38 states follow the federal one-party consent regime for recordings, 11 other states including Florida currently require the consent of all reported parties. What this bill will do is it will authorize the recording of classroom lectures to be used only for the following purposes: personal educational use in connection with a complaint to the University or college as evidence in a criminal or civil proceeding and it can only be published with the lecturer's consent; if someone does publish a classroom recording in violation of this bill's express intent, this bill creates a cause of action allowing the injured

individual to seek declaratory and injunctive relief including damages. It is intended to be used for educational purposes only and is expressly prohibited in the bill to be disseminated or published without the lecturer's permission.

Q: Do you think by having the recording in the classroom it will prevent some students from actually voicing their opinion because of that?

A: I can only speculate, and I will tell you this that recording in classrooms on college campuses in Florida has been going on for decades. My classmates and I did throughout college and law school, right now various institutions have different policies on recording, so this has been going on for a long time and I haven't received reports from any of the University professors that I've spoken to that students have felt that it's discouraging them from participating in the classroom.

Q: Can you elaborate a little bit on who's allowed to come as guest speakers on the campus?

A: This bill really doesn't address or specify who is or is not allowed to come on onto a college campus. What the bill does do is prohibits the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors, and all institutions in the Florida college systems from shielding students, faculty, or staff from constitutionally protected free speech. So it doesn't get into who can or cannot come, but what the bill does seek to do is expose students to diverse ideas on campus, including those that are controversial as well as those that a majority of students and faculty may hate, but it's designed to ensure that our University campuses remain the marketplace of ideas and to teach those students to confront those ideas, think about them critically, and debate them.

### Public Testimony on the Bill as Amended

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**Randy Osborne, Florida Eagle Forum:** Waiving in Support

**Barney Bishop, Barney Bishop Consulting:** Speaking in Support. This bill will help students by allowing them to record their professors. There have been concerns about ousting of professors in other committees and this will not happen, this bill is about the freedom of speech.

### Debate on the Bill as Amended

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**Representative Fine:** Some people are concerned about the ability to record. My father was blind since 11 years old, he could not read, the only way he could learn was going to lectures, and listening to the professor. Thankfully, he had a great memory, but not everyone has that ability, so we need be looking out for students like this and give them the simple ability to learn in ways that are useful to them.

**Representative Trabulsy:** I am up on this bill. I feel like I am a student of the Florida Legislature and I am thankful for the Florida Channel that records all of these meetings, college students should have the same ability.

### Closing on the Bill as Amended

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This bill does not need to be a controversial or partisan bill. With the survey, I am not asking you to make a policy decision, just ask a question so we can decide at a later date if policy decisions need to be made.

### Outcome on the Bill as Amended

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The bill as amended was passed 14-6 and was reported favorably by the committee.

The bill was filed on January 13, 2021. This bill was also referred to Post-Secondary Education and Lifelong Learning Subcommittee, where it was reported favorably 12-6 on February 17, 2021. This bill was placed on Special Order Calendar for March 18, 2021.

## HB 529 – Moments of SILENCE in Public Schools (Fine)

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This bill is a very simple bill, it would create a mandatory one to two minute moment of silence for students to engage in some silent reflection at the beginning of every school day, in our public government run as well as charter schools.

### Q&A

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#### **Representative Hunschofsky**

Q: My concern is that this could be used as a tool to kind of discipline students or teachers if there was a struggle in keeping a student quiet, you said you would look into it so I just wanted to follow up on that?

A: It would be no different than students causing disruption in any other part of the day, it's not sort of anything specific, this isn't a cudgel to be used with students.

### Public Testimony

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**Barbara DeVane, Florida National Organization for Women:** Waives in opposition

**Kara Gross, ACLU:** Waives in opposition

**Devon Graham, American Atheists:** Speaking in opposition. Any child in the United States has the opportunity to pray or have a moment of silence if they so choose as long as it's not disruptive or infringes upon the rights of others. This bill is not needed. This bill states a problem, and then fails to address it.

**Schneur Oirechman, Rabbi:** Speaking in support. This bill does not impose thoughts or beliefs on students, it is a moment of reflection and silence that they can do whatever they want to. This bill does not allow teachers to tell the students what to reflect on. This is a good bill.

### Debate

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**Chair Latvala:** Last year this bill had bipartisan support, this is a good bill.

### Closing

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There is a systemic problem with our children. While this bill won't solve that, no bill probably can, this is one small bite at the issue. Every child, no matter your beliefs, can benefit from this time at the beginning of the day.

### Outcome

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The bill was passed 20-0 and was reported favorably by the committee.

The bill was filed on January 28, 2021. This bill was also referred to Early Learning and Elementary Education Subcommittee, where it was reported favorably 12-6 on February 16, 2021; and Secondary Education and Career Development Subcommittee, where it was reported favorably 17-1 on March 4, 2021. This bill was placed on Special Order Calendar for March 18, 2021.

## HB 259 – Safety of Religious Institutions (Williamson)

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This bill will allow religious institutions to authorize a person or persons with a concealed weapon carry license to carry a firearm on property owned, rented, leased, or used by the church, synagogue, or religious institution. Right now if a church is located on the same property as a school, a permit holder is prohibited from carrying at church; even if the religious institution had a PreK that met Monday through Friday, if a concealed carry permit holder showed up in church on Sunday they would be inadvertently breaking the law when they carried on Sunday. Honestly, this bill is more of a glitch bill than anything and it will always be painted as a gun bill, but I consider this mostly a private property rights issue. I'm running this bill to restore the rights of religious institutions, while also giving concealed carry permit holders the same liberties whether they're shopping, going about their everyday lives, or if they are in their house of worship.

## Q&A

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### Representative Hunschofsky

Q: We have a lot of public schools in our community that rent out their facility to churches, are the public schools allowed to set a policy or it's only the church that's allowed to set the policy?

A: We're not getting into contract law so that would be between the school board, the property owner would be the school board in this case and the religious institution.

Q: I guess what I'm asking is it says here in lines 54 through 62, that it's whether or not the church or religious institution has the policy but it doesn't mention whether or not the property owner has the policy.

A: Again, we're not getting into contract law, so that would be between the school board and the religious institution, but the school board would be able to prohibit it.

Q: So, the school board is able to prohibit the religious institution, it's not just the religious institutions policy?

A: Again, we're not getting into contract law, but that would be between the contract between the school board and the religious institution, but they would be able to prohibit it in that contract.

### Representative LaMarca

Q: Would the church be able to work with their own school to set down policy that would keep weapons out of schools but allow them in the church?

A: This gives the religious institution the ability to put whatever policy they feel fit in place.

## Amendment #756723 (Williamson)

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This amendment strikes out the word "posted" on line 60, which was a concern brought to me from proponents and opponents of this bill. The word "posted" is a bit ambiguous, does posted policy mean a placard in the front lawn, does it mean assign an atrium, does it mean posted in the church bulletin, again is very ambiguous. So, we removed that because we felt that the religious institutions across the state are very diverse and very different, whether due to geography or to their affiliation, and we feel that leaving the decision on how they go forth with their policy and how they put in place they can make that decision best themselves.

## Debate

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None.

## Closing

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Waived close.

## Outcome

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The amendment passed without objection and was reported favorably.

## Public Testimony on the Bill as Amended

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**Barbara DeVane, Florida National Organization for Woman:** Waives in opposition.

**Randy Osborne, Florida Eagle Forum:** Speaking in support. We have an opportunity to fix an issue, let not allow history to repeat itself, support this bill.

**Michael Sheedy, Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops:** Speaking in opposition. We have a concern that this nullifies the current laws that are meant to restrict conveying a firearm onto a school campus as it pertains to religious schools. We do believe that you could craft a narrower exemption to those churches, synagogues, and others who wish to allow people to establish volunteer teams and provide security during a service. We feel we are well served by the current law.

**Nancy Lawther, Florida PTA:** Waives in opposition.

**Marion Hammer, National Rifle Association, and Unified Sportsmen of Florida:** Speaking in support. This bill restores the private property rights of religious institutions and it also restores the self-defense rights of people who go to church.

## Debate on the Bill as Amended

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**Representative Andrade:** A lot of small congregations cannot afford to hire security teams, so this will help out these congregations that would like to still defend themselves.

**Representative Harding:** We need to make sure people in church can go about their service without fear.

**Ranking Member Williams:** I have received a ton of calls to oppose this bill. I will be following my constituents.

## Closing on the Bill as Amended

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Waived close.

## Outcome on the Bill as Amended

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The bill as amended was passed 16-5 and was reported favorably by the committee.

The bill was filed on January 14, 2021. This bill was also referred to Criminal Justice and Public Safety Subcommittee and Judiciary Committee. This bill was passed 14-3 and reported favorable by Criminal Justice and Public Safety Subcommittee on February 10, 2021. This bill is now in its last stop, Judiciary Committee.



## House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Meeting packet can be found [here](#).

### Representatives from the Following Organizations Were Present

- Florida Charter School Alliance
- Foundation for Florida's Future
- Americans for Prosperity

### Summary

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The House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee held a meeting that considered the following two bills: HB 5 (Civic Education Curriculum) and HB 51 (Charter Schools). The subcommittee also took into consideration a Consent Agenda that included 12 Appropriation Project Bills.

### Consideration of a Consent Agenda that includes the following Appropriation Project Bills:

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HB 3081 Hurricane Michael - Calhoun County Schools Portables by Shoaf  
HB 3201 The Motivational Edge by Fernandez-Barquin  
HB 3245 Kid's C.O.D.E. (Creative Online Developmental Education) by Maney  
HB 3305 HSU Educational Foundation - Proposal for Non-public CTE Certification Pilot Program by Maney  
HB 3321 Liberty County High School New Vocational Program by Shoaf  
HB 3357 Building Hope for People with Autism on the Treasure Coast by Overdorf  
HB 3533 Closing the COVID Learning Gap by Plasencia  
HB 3675 Wayne Barton Study Center by Caruso  
HB 3823 The Greatest Save Teen PSA Program by Tuck  
HB 4065 Bay District Schools - Continuation of Student Mental Health Support Systems by Drake  
HB 4071 Bay District Schools Multi-Tiered System of Supports After Hours and Summer Programs by Drake  
HB 4105 Youth at Risk by Borrero

### Q&A

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None.

### Appearance Forms on the Consent Agenda

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None.

### Debate on the Consent Agenda

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None.

### Outcome

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The consent agenda was reported favorably.

## HB 51 – Charter Schools (Representative McClain)

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To address the needs of educational capacity, workforce qualifications, and career education opportunities that may extend beyond a school district's boundaries, the bill:

- Authorizes state universities and Florida College System (FCS) institutions to solicit applications and sponsor charter schools upon approval by the Department of Education (DOE).
- Provides that a state university sponsored charter school may serve students from multiple school districts to meet regional education or workforce demands and a FCS sponsored charter school may serve students from any county within the colleges' service area to meet workforce demands.
- Authorizes a FCS institution that operates an approved teacher preparation program to operate additional charter schools.
- Provides that the board of trustees of a sponsoring state university or FCS institution charter school is a local educational agency for the purpose of receiving federal funds and accepting responsibility for all requirements in that role.
- Provides that students attending a state university or FCS institution sponsored charter school are not included in the school district's grade calculation.
- Establishes operational funding and capital outlay funding formulas for charter schools sponsored by a state university or FCS institution.
- Provides accountability for all charter school operators by requiring the DOE, in collaboration with charter school sponsors and operators, to develop a sponsor evaluation framework and report results in its annual charter school application report.
- Revises charter school application reporting requirements and submission dates for both sponsors and the DOE.
- Authorizes charter schools to provide career and professional academies and revises charter school enrollment limitations.

## Q&A

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### Vice Chair Bell

Q: In Polk County, we have a collegiate high school that is operated by Polk State College. Would this affect that college at all? Could a university or college set up a charter school in another city?

A: The answer to the first question is no, nothing would change how that school is currently. Secondly, I think this is more set up regionally, so it would be each region surrounding the college. So, no, they wouldn't just be able to set up a school outside of their region.

### Representative Bartleman

Q: Right now, colleges have the ability to create charter schools. Why do you think this is necessary and why do you have to change the process to do this?

A: Again, this is going to be a regional approach. Currently, that's not something that is allowed, because they have to go through the local school board. This would just allow the university/college to set up the charter school without getting approval from each school district in the given region.

Q: So, they have the ability to do that now? Because many students from Broward County attend a charter school sponsored by FAU in Palm Beach County. So, this bill wouldn't stop students from having the ability to cross a district to attend the charter school?

A: This will just allow them to meet the needs of our educational workforce. Currently, it is a little more difficult to do when you are trying to go through the school boards.

Q: Have you thought about the unintended consequences and what is going to happen with the FTE? You are basically making the college the LEA, so many colleges already have the appropriate relationship with these charters in order to meet certain needs. I am just concerned about taking it away from the school district as the elected body.

A: The same requirements would have to be met as with any other charter school. We are not removing any of the requirements of the current charter schools.

Q: Your bill talks about them being the sponsor, to approve and deny stand-alone charter schools that may or may not be affiliated with workforce effort. That is what a sponsor does. So, I don't know how you are going to limit it. Is it your goal for them to create charter schools in locations that have no affiliation with the colleges?

A: That possibility may exist. Again, there are existing (more stringent) bills relating to workforce development. I just don't anticipate that anyone would want to run a charter school just to have it affiliated with them.

### **Representative Valdés**

Q: How would the university be able to provide services (such as ESE services) that are normally provided through the school district?

A: Again, the requirements of the charter schools are not going to change. With ESE, they would still have to meet those requirements. I think that is where the board of trustees of that college would need to take it into account.

### **Ranking Member Willhite**

Q: Right now, our local school boards provide school resource officers and security to our charter schools. Would this create another police force now?

A: No. Currently, most universities and colleges have their security already.

Q: So, I'm guessing they would just increase their security instead of creating a new police force. They would just extend their current security down to the charter school?

A: Yes.

Q: I'm a little concerned, because I don't see that board of trustees being accountable in the same way that school board officials are, given that they would be unelected.

A: Not to be contentious, but currently universities and colleges are run by boards of trustees, and they certainly are doing well (they are award winning colleges). It's important to remember that charter schools would be paid strictly out of state funds. The approval would eventually be through DOE.

Q: Do you foresee a process where current charter schools are going to petition to colleges or universities and be merged into their system? If so, will there be any kind of geographical area they should be in proximity to?

A: No. What we are really trying to focus on is creating workforce development opportunities. I don't anticipate that a college would try to set up a charter school outside of their region.

### **Representative Bush**

Q: When you talk about charter schools, it's just so controversial. It's like you are anti-public education. I want to ask you just one question about accountability. Your summary analysis speaks on moving accountability from the school board to the college. Is there not an accountability measure that you could put in to ensure to the public that there is a form of accountability?

A: We would be directing DOE to collaborate with the sponsors. At the end of the day, the DOE is who is going to approve everything.

Q: You said it is going to be done by regions with three counties?

A: That was just for me personally. My region covers three counties. Some may be five or six counties. It just depends.

### Chair Fine

Q: Is any child ever compelled by their parents to attend a charter school?

A: Not to my knowledge.

Q: Therefore, the ultimate point of accountability is on the parents. If they don't like it, then they don't have to send their kids to that charter school.

A: That has been the case in the past.

### Appearance Forms on the Bill

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**Christian Kumara, Florida Charter School Alliance:** Waives in support.

**James Mosteller, Foundation for Florida's Future:** Waives in support.

**Diego Echiveri, Americans for Prosperity:** Thank you for bringing forth this important bill advocating for educational freedom. I am representing 160,000 activists across the state to talk to you in support of HB 51. Educational freedom is important because every child is unique in the way they learn and grow. Greater educational freedom means more options to nurture our children and ensure they are put on the path to success. With offering new chances of learning. With new ways to reach students and engage parents, HB 51 continues Florida's proud tradition of advancing educational freedom. We believe strongly in expanding educational program for all children and HB 51 helps move us along that path. Thank you very much and we ask for your favorable support.

### Debate on the Bill

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#### Representative Bartleman

I just want to be clear that I am very cognizant of the fact that charter schools play by the same rules as all public schools in the state of Florida, including having to have licensed and degreed teachers. It has nothing to do with not liking charter schools, because we have some great charter schools out there. My issue here is that this is creating an unintended consequence as you said that you don't think that universities are going to go ahead and sponsor a whole bunch of charter schools, thus creating university school districts. That could potentially happen under this bill. I think there are huge unintended consequences. So, for me, I love the idea of the workforce and the regional approach, but it's that opening of the door that gives me apprehension on this bill. There are just so many things that could happen. This could've been done where it was just a regional workforce, but under this bill it just has a lot of unintended consequences.

#### Representative Andrade

A lot of times, when we are discussing charter schools, the complaint is about accountability. There is nothing more accountable than a parent who is going for their child's education. I think Chair Fine made that very clear. No one is forced to go to these schools. If they aren't high performing schools, then the parents can choose to send their kids to public schools in their district. Providing these opportunities empowers parents and kids. I'm excited to see the results of this statute.

### Chair Fine

I believe that competition is good. That is one of the fundamental success stories behind Florida education. Right now, we don't have competition in the creation of charter schools. I have a (non-public) university in my district and I've always thought about the positive impact if they could have a charter school. One thing I want to disagree with that Representative Bartleman said, is she said that charter schools play by the same rules as public schools. They do not. Bad public schools never close, but bad charter schools do. They are far more accountable than our government-run public schools. There

was also discussion that we would allow unelected bodies to make these decisions under this bill. Unfortunately, even in public schools, unelected individuals are the ones that make the decisions.

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### **Closing on the Bill (Representative McClain)**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. With your remarks, I will close.

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### **Outcome**

The bill was reported favorably 12-3.

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### **HB 5 – Civic Education Curriculum (Representative Zika)**

The bill revises the social studies credit requirement for high school graduation. The bill requires that the United States Government course include a comparative discussion of political ideologies that conflict with the principles of freedom and democracy in the nation's founding principles.

To help students understand their roles, rights, and responsibilities as residents of the state, the bill requires the Florida Department of Education (DOE) to develop or approve an integrated civic education curriculum for public school students in kindergarten through grade 12. The bill provides requirements for the civic education curriculum to aid in students' development of civic responsibility and knowledge. As part of the curriculum requirements, the State Board of Education is required to develop civic-minded expectations for an upright citizenry.

The bill also requires the DOE to curate oral history resources for use alongside the civic education curriculum.

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### **Q&A**

#### **Representative Bush**

Q: Could you clear up whether or not this is a civic bill or a history bill? That was an issue the first time you presented this.

A: This is purely a civics bill. This is not a history bill.

Q: Could you address whether or not it is a bill that specifically puts emphasis on comparative government ideologies, or whether or not it's an anti-communist bill? I think that is a part of this bill that you really need to make clear.

A: The subject legislation specifies that it is a civics bill. Furthermore, in the legislation, you get three credits in social studies: one credit in US history, one credit in world history, half a credit in economics, and half a credit in US government. In the US government course, we are incorporating comparative discussion of political ideologies, such as communism.

#### **Representative Valdes**

Q: If the bill is intended to talk about political ideologies, why is it that on line 27 and 28 we are specifically talking about two systems (communism and totalitarianism)? Why single those out and not also talk about anarchism and label all of these other ideologies?

A: The proposed legislation in the US government course specifies that it must include political ideologies "such as communism and totalitarianism." You can add as many as you want to in that education, because anything that conflicts with American democracy must be taught.

Q: To your point: if we were to remove the mention of those specific ideologies, the bill would do the same thing?

A: It's important that we teach communism because there were 100 million that have died in 100 years under communism. Currently, in Florida, we teach communism as an economic theory instead of a governing theory, so it is paramount that

we teach what this form of governing would do. Furthermore, there are two types of governing bodies in the world today: Democracy and Totalitarianism.

Q: Is there already set curriculum to advance this? How much will that curriculum cost?

A: There is no curriculum prepared at this time. I will follow up with staff on the date.

#### **Ranking Member Willhite**

Q: Following up on Representative Valdes's point, line 63 and 64 do the same thing without mentioning those specific forms of ideologies. So, if you have it broadly in these two lines, you don't need to specifically state them in lines 27 and 28. So, maybe in the next stop you could consider withdrawing the specific mentioning of those two ideologies. Would you consider taking those out?

A: Both components that you mentioned are important to leave in there.

#### **Appearance Forms on the Bill**

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**Randy Osborn, Florida Eagle Form:** My foundation went to University of Florida and interview students and asked them if they would choose communism or Americanism as their form of government. Seven out of ten said that they would prefer communism. None of them even knew about Venezuela. I was in Venezuela when it fell. Every one of those people that voted for communism in Venezuela would today, beg for a republic like this United States of America. It's because we are not teaching our students about the dangers of communism. I would ask that you do not remove the specific mention of communism from the bill.

#### **Debate on the Bill**

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##### **Representative Valdes**

I'll be down on this until we get the information surrounding the cost of this. As a daughter of Cuban immigrants (first American born), I've been impacted by communism and I understand. Why haven't we talked about anything other than communism, though? Why haven't we talked about what happened in our nation's capital when folks used the American flag to beat cops? Those are the kinds of things we need to talk about. I love America and this is my home. I'm proud of my heritage. My parents fled Cuba before the regime took place. So, let's talk about the immigration process. We shouldn't just focus on these two very specific things. That is what I am concerned about.

##### **Representative Bartleman**

I would just offer the suggestion that there is an AP course offered by the College Board that looks at all different kinds of government. Maybe we should just recommend to the DOE that they incorporate that which already exists and touches on everything.

##### **Chair Fine**

The DOE has stated that there will be no fiscal impact.

#### **Closing on the Bill (Representative Zika)**

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Today, we are going to do the single most American thing and agree to disagree. Some of you will vote yes and some of you will vote no. At the end of the day, we are going to celebrate America, despite voting differently. I want to thank each one of you for your support.

#### **Outcome**

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The bill was reported favorably.

## House Secondary Education and Career Development Subcommittee

### Consideration of Bills

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Meeting packet can be found [here](#).

### Summary

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The House Secondary Education and Career Development Subcommittee met to consider HB. 131, HB 281, HB 507, HB. 519, HB 611, and PCS for HB 545

### HB 507 Education (Rizo)

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The bill updates the postsecondary civic literacy requirements to include both passing a civic literacy assessment and completing a course in civic literacy. These requirements may be met in high school through the administration of the civic literacy assessment in the required U.S. Government course and completion of an approved civic literacy course through an articulated accelerated mechanism, such as dual enrollment. To enable the Department of Education to protect assessments and other materials it develops, the bill provides the DOE with the authority to hold patents, trademarks, copyrights, and service marks. The bill provides additional protections for assessments by including more assessments under the protection of State Board of Education (SBE) test security rules. The bill deletes obsolete language relating to prior statewide standardized assessments and updates the assessment publication requirement in anticipation of the implementation of new state standards. The bill provides, subject to appropriation, for school districts to select either the SAT or the ACT and administer the selected assessment for all grade 11 students

### Q&A

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#### Ranking Member Bush

Q: If a student doesn't do well taking the ACT or SAT will that be held against them in the future?

A: No. The scores are only relevant that year for the student.

#### Representative Maney

Q: I would like to chat with you about including the CLT. We can speak about that offline. But I think this is a good bill, thank you.

#### Representative Andrade

Q: I'm supportive of the bill today but I want some clarification on the fiscal impact on the bill?

A: The impact would only be for the ACT/SAT administration, so the projection is that it could be up to \$8 million a year. CARES Act money will actually pay for the first administration.

#### Representative Woodson

Q: Why does this bill only apply to the public schools and not all the other schools?

A: Charter schools are public schools so they are encompassed within this bill. This is a conversation I would love to have in the future, specifically the civic literacy portion, to see if we could do this for our private schools. That could have a significant fiscal though, so we need to work with DOE to see what they recommend.



### **Representative Valdes**

Q: Moving forward I'm concerned about a word in the bill on line 319 where it says the school district shall. So, regardless of funding, the district shall. We don't want to hurt our school districts. What test do you think, from the state's perspective, we can alleviate from our ELL students, since some of them get tested twice a week and are taken out of the classroom?

A: ELL students make up a large part of both of our districts. I look forward to working with you and common-sense solutions to alleviate some of that. I don't think it is germane to this bill but I would love to work with you on this. As for shall, this paragraph speaks to the administration of it, not the funding of it. The funding is DOE and they will be funding it.

### **Public Testimony on the Bill**

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**Damian Jane, Miami-Dade County Public Schools:** Waiving in support.

**Gabe Sheheane, The College Board:** We are in favor of the bill because it breaks down barriers to college. Our goal is to make sure students that might not have access, do have access to take a college entrance exam.

**Sara Clements, ACT, Inc.:** We urge you to support this great bill.

**Robert Holladay, Tallahassee Community College:** We are very excited about this bill, it answers all of our concerns, and we enthusiastically support it. Please get this bill done this year and let's give our college and university students the education they deserve.

### **Debate**

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#### **Representative Valdes**

I think this is a great bill. I'd like to work with you to make this a much better bill and iron out some of the kinks because again I don't want to marginalize my ELL students and do things just because they are ELL students and there is opportunity to gain money on them, I had to put this on the record.

#### **Representative Robinson**

I am going to support the bill at this point but my main concern is that we are adding two additional tests on our students and that is a bit much. But we did talk about how we could maybe fix that so I look forward to discussing that with you further. My other concern is that the ACT/SAT are an either/or situation, but I would like to include a choice for them. I think it is great we are trying to get our students to do student literacy, but I am concerned about adding another test so I want to work together to make this another bill.

#### **Representative Woodson**

I echo the sentiments of Representative Valdes. My only thing that I would like to be added is that we have a lot of students, who are fantastic students, that have test panic. I want to make sure those students are not left behind, so I would like to have a further conversation with you about this.

#### **Representative Fischer**

I appreciate you for bringing this bill and it addresses something I tried to work on when I was a school board member, and that was college and career readiness. I would love to continue working with you on the process and make sure our children have access to that.



## Closing

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Representatives Woodson, Valdes, and Robinson, thank you for your comments and I am happy to work with you. Specifically, Representative Woodson, I agree, testing anxiety is a real thing. That is why super-scoring was introduced but we can continue talking with ACT and SAT about this. Representative Robinson, I agree, that our kids are over-tested but I do believe this bill is necessary. I am happy to work with you, however. To your point Representative Valdes, I hope we get to a point where we in Florida say these students are Floridians, not white, black, Hispanic. This bill is one way to get there.

## Outcome

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The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 16-0.

## HB 131 Educator Conduct (Duggan)

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The bill improves the processes, at the state and local level, by which educational personnel who commit sexual misconduct with a student would be prohibited from further contact with students. Additionally, the bill prohibits employment of such individuals in positions that have direct contact with students in public schools, charter schools, and private schools participating in the state scholarship program. This is a passion project for me and I promised a constituent that if I got elected I would make sure that this bill moved forward.

No questions, debate, or public testimony.

## Outcome

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The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 16-0.

## HB 281 Postsecondary Education Financial Matters (Duggan)

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The Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program provides, contingent on an appropriation, reimbursement to eligible postsecondary institutions for tuition and related instructional materials costs associated with students participating in dual enrollment courses. The Program would provide reimbursement, at a specified rate, for eligible private school and home education program students participating in dual enrollment courses during the fall and spring semesters as well as eligible public school, private school, and home education program students participating in dual enrollment courses during the summer semester. To ensure that all eligible individuals receive the postsecondary fee exemption provided for in law, the bill clarifies when the fee exemptions for individuals in the Road to Independence program and individuals in the custody of a relative caregiver are applicable. The bill authorizes university boards of trustees to implement certain employee bonus schemes with the approval of the State University System Board of Governors.

## Q&A

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### Representative Valdes

Q: How will this be administered, are we creating another scholarship for these students? Currently school districts have articulation agreements. How will that work?

A: Thank you for your co-sponsorship. So the processes in place now, that will not change. The funding comes through FEFP.

Q: As it pertains to private and home school students, will they be part of the articulation agreements?

A: The articulation agreements are already there but now there will be funding to cover them.

Q: Will the DOE be responsible for reimbursing the college?

A: Yes, the FEFP will take that into account with the DOE input. There is a specified rate for reimbursement.

### **Representative Robinson**

Q: Do you know how much it's going to cost for this additional amount, and I want to make sure it's not effecting the amount of money we currently have for public school students.

A: The Senate fiscal is \$28.5 million, and about \$16 million of that covers summer dual enrollment for all students. \$12.5 covers the home education and the private school students for the fall and spring terms

### **Public Testimony on the Bill**

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**Michael Barrett, Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops:** Waiving in support.

**Deborah Mortham, Foundation for Florida's Future:** Waiving in support.

**Brendan Dickinson, Florida Council of Independent Schools:** Waiving in support.

**James Herzog, Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools:** Waiving in support.

### **Outcome**

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The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 17-0.

### **HB 611 Civic Literacy Education (Diamond)**

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To help students evaluate the roles, rights, and responsibilities of United States citizens and identify methods of active participation in society, government, and the political system, the bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop minimum criteria for a civic literacy practicum that may be incorporated into a school's curriculum for the high school United States Government course beginning within the 2022-2023 school year. The bill establishes minimum requirements for a student to complete a civic literacy practicum, including the activities for student civic engagement and completion of a research paper that reflects upon the student's experience and explains the significance and role of the governmental entity. The hours a student spends outside of classroom instruction in the practicum's civic engagement activity may be counted toward the community service requirements of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. The bill encourages school districts to integrate practicum activities and hours into requirements for academic awards.

### **Q&A**

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#### **Representative Andrade**

Q: This year this bill looks familiar to HB 5 as they both open up the same subsection of the Florida Statutes. If both of these bills pass, have you thought about what that will look like?

A: I think it complements that other legislation, I think it is consistent with it and they are both trying to further the same ideas.

Q: Is there concern about redundancy and overlap of what the DOE is going to receive?

A: I don't think so, I'll spend more time looking at that issue. I will say the staff and DOE have all been vetting this work and giving me feedback. I don't think there is an inconsistency there but I will take a hard look at it and get back to you.

**Representative Maggard**

Q: On line 22 at the end there is the word "may." I really like this, why don't we change it to shall?

A: It's a great question Representative. I will tell you I drafted it as a shall but we decided through our discussions that we want to give districts the flexibility to incorporate this into their districts, and not mandate it. I think it's fair to leave it the way we have drafted it so it's not necessarily a requirement but it is strongly incentivized and again, I think the curriculum is moving in that direction.

**Representative Rizo**

Q: I think this is great. My question is – does the Department of Education support this?

A: Yes, that is my understanding, we have been working with DOE on this idea for years, and I don't think we would have made it this far without them.

**Amendment 981371 (Diamond)**

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This amendment creates in Florida Statutes the Citizen Scholar Program at USF. This program has been in existence for some time. It encourages students to apply classroom concepts to problems through interaction with community leaders and government officials. Representative Koster is carrying an appropriations bill to fund the efforts.

**Q&A**

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**Representative Maggard**

Q: This is a statewide bill, how does someone in the Panhandle get to a specific location in St. Pete?

A: This program is an opportunity for high school students all across the state. They come for a week doing this government in action type of work. It does have the geographic diversity that I think you are looking for. I don't have the specific information about last year's class but I can get that to you.

Q: Would you be open to expanding this across the state to make it easier for students to engage in it? Getting to one spot is not an easy thing. Don't get me wrong, I like the bill, I just want to make sure all students have access.

A: Absolutely, I would be delighted to brainstorm with you on that.

**Outcome on Amendment 981371**

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The amendment is adopted without objection.

**Public Testimony on the Bill as Amended**

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**Jonathan Webber, Florida Conservation Voters, Inc.:** Waiving in support.

**Dannie McMillon, Florida PTA:** Waiving in support.

## Debate

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### Representative Valdes

This is an exciting bill, Representative Diamond. I believe this bill enhances HB 5, since that bill just focuses on two systems. This bill gives the students the life experience of being able to be a part of government. I am enthusiastically supporting this bill because I see its potential. Thank you for bringing this forward.

### Representative Woodson

Thank you for bringing this great bill. What I like is the detail and hands on experience you describe in the bill. They will be able to get the theories and the practice in this bill. The community service component is great too. Thank you so much for bringing this bill and I look forward to support this.

### Representative Robinson

Thank you so much for this great bill. I can see how this will benefit students and I thank you for bringing this.

### Representative Rizo

Thank you so much for this. I think this is a very good bill. Civics seems to be the education hot button this session, and I love it. I think our bills go well together. I see how this is a great bill. As a freshman, I know you are probably working with representative Zika to see how it dovetails into it, I see how it dovetails very nicely into it and I commend you for this. I hope we all vote favorably, I know I am.

### Representative Giallombardo

Thank you for this bill. I do share Representative Maggard's concern about the one location and I would love to chat with you as this thing grows. Maybe we could look at the hub and spoke model so kids in all areas of the state that may not be able to travel can participate.

## Closing

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Thank you all for your comments today and I certainly look forward to working with you all to work on this amendment to address those issues to make sure it has the statewide reach that would be appropriate. Rep Rizo, I love your enthusiasm and I agree with you that we are on the right track here and I appreciate everyone's support.

## Outcome

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The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 16-0.

### HB 519 Required Health Education (Yarborough)

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The bill revises the required comprehensive health education curriculum for K-12 public schools to include instruction on the prevention of child sexual abuse, exploitation, and human trafficking. The bill clarifies that the comprehensive health curriculum must be age-appropriate, evidence-based, and developmentally appropriate. The bill limits the existing requirement to provide instruction to all students on abstinence and the consequences of teen pregnancy so that it is only provided to students in grades 7 through 12.

### Amendment 163603 (Yarborough)

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This amendment is making a tweak to line 23-24. We thought it would be better to have in there that it is age appropriate and developmentally appropriate. We also forgot to put K-12 in our original draft so this will address that too.

### Outcome

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The amendment is adopted without objection.

### Amendment 214787 (Yarborough)

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The language is not new language, it just moves language to a different section to make it more appropriate. Moreover, we think this subject is more appropriate for grades 6-12 when you talk specifically about getting into the benefits of abstinence and also teenage pregnancy. We want to make sure this was taught in the grades where it is most appropriate. Some of our sixth graders are about to become teenagers so we thought it good to do so.

### Outcome

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The amendment is adopted without objection.

### Closing on the Bill as Amended

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About 1 in 10 children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday. This year, there will be around 400,000 babies born in the US that will be sexually abused in their life. I ask for your favorable support to help stop this and am willing to work with any of you to make this better if you feel it needs adjustments

### Outcome

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The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 16-0.

### PCS for HB 545 (Chaney)

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The bill requires each school district or school to provide parents of public-school students the opportunity to review curriculum used to teach reproductive health or any sexually transmitted disease, including HIV/AIDS. Schools are prohibited from exposing students to such instruction without the prior written consent of a parent. Parents must be given an opportunity to review curriculum prior to providing written consent for their child's participation in the instruction. The bill establishes that a student whose parent does not give written consent for such teaching may not be penalized due to the withheld consent.

### Public Testimony

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**Ida Eskamani, Florida Rising:** Waiving in opposition.

**Annie Filkowski, Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates:** Waiving in opposition.

**Barbara DeVane, Florida National Organization for Women, Inc.:** Waiving in opposition.

**Laura Hernandez, Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates:** Waiving in opposition.

**Renee Rivers:** The opt in situation creates a barrier. This creates a problematic system that does not protect the children.

**Emily Richeson:** We urge you to oppose this bill. It should be easier, not more difficult, for children to receive education on such vital topics. There is an increased need for this education. Please oppose this bill.

**Lauren Brenzel:** Waiving in opposition.

**Kaitlyn Lily:** It is important to teach teens early on not only about safe sex, but about consent and healthy relationships so they can learn to live a normal life and to be safe and responsible.

**Chole Ilcus:** Studies have shown that access to sex ed lowers the spread of STIs and unwanted teen pregnancies. Restricting access to these resources is harmful and can lead to confusion for children. Please don't pass this bill.

**Lydia Tortorici:** This bill creates an unnecessary barrier to sex education. This will result in more sexually active teenagers and sexually abused minors not comfortable to say anything. Please keep that in mind when you vote today.

**Renee Sessions:** We need to educate Florida's students with medically accurate and age-appropriate sex education, not create a barrier. Please uphold strong education standard and reject HB 545.

**Derek Leach:** I oppose HB 545. A majority of the public wants their children to receive comprehensive sex education. How is supporting policy that makes broken people raise more broken people good for families? I want you to keep that in mind as you vote today.

**Doug Bell, Florida Academy of American Pediatrics:** Waiving in opposition.

**Heidi Daniels:** I am hearing a lot of anger from a lot of people in here. This is not an either-or situation. Just because students don't get sex education from schools, doesn't mean they are not getting it (she became very upset and had to be removed by the sergeants from the building).

## Debate

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### Representative Valdes

My heart goes out to the women who came here today. I am so sorry. We just voted on HB 519, which is to add to the curriculum the discussion of human trafficking and sexual abuse. School boards and districts have a way to opt out. I don't see the need for this bill. This bill will bring barriers to communities that I don't think you intend to affect negatively. I understand where you are coming from, I do. But if guardians are not giving education at home, that is not good. Parents already have access to the curriculum; it is in the Florida Statutes. I won't stand for more barriers on women and young men. I will be voting down.

### Representative Woodson

My heart goes out to the women who spoke here. I am a believer that information is power. We need to educate our young women and men because the more education they have, the less sexually active they will be. I understand your intent but I cannot in good conscious vote for this bill because we are removing the process in place that is working for our young

men and women. If we deviate from what we have in place, less children will benefit from sex education, which they really need in 2021. For those reasons, I will not be able to support this bill.

#### **Representative Robinson**

Being an educator, it would be difficult for me to support this bill because I have engaged with too many students that actually need this type of education in school. I do believe that it should be a parent's choice to have those conversations but we do have some communities that those parents are not there or engaged. So when we have this opt-out option, it is best at this time rather than the opt-in.

#### **Representative Yarborough**

Thank you for this bill, I know it's a difficult conversation but it is important. Members, for their protection, minors cannot do a number of things without their parent's consent such as go on a field trip or get a tattoo. Every parent can make their own decisions for how they want to raise their children. If the health curriculum is true and good, and there are no reasons to be concerned as some of the speakers indicated today, there is no reason why a parent shouldn't be able to review the material that will be put in front of their children while they are at school. It gives parents who prefer to go in a different direction. We are not removing the curriculum with this bill; we need to make that point. We are empowering parents to make that decision for their children since they are the ultimate responsible party for them.

#### **Representative Harding**

Thank you to everyone who spoke today and we appreciate your courage to show up today. Thank you to the bill sponsor for bringing up something that is not an easy topic. Educators say the biggest hurdle they face is parental involvement. The heart of this bill is parental involvement and I absolutely support that.

#### **Representative Rizo**

Nothing in here talks about changing the curriculum and even though educators do their job, the ultimate responsibility for a child is their parent. While many see this as a barrier, I see it as an opportunity to bring parents in and build upon that parental involvement. We don't want to have what a number of the speakers today talked about. I think this bill addresses that and that it is a good bill.

#### **Representative Maggard**

This does not eliminate the education choice but it gives families to be involved and that is the key here. I fully support this bill.

#### **Closing**

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I think my fellow members did my close for me but I'll add one more point – the textbook list for the continuing sexual health curriculum is not directed by the state of Florida. School districts are on their own to select the materials to develop this curriculum. So this bill gives parents the opportunity to see what that selection is since it is not mandated by the state. This allows them to make their choice. Thank you.

#### **Outcome**

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The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 13-4.

## Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

### Consideration of Bills

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Meeting packet can be found [here](#).

#### Summary

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The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education considered CS/SB 200 and SB 1436.

#### CS/SB 200 Student Retention (Berman)

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There is a strike all amendment so we will move into that first.

#### Amendment 680478

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The original bill said that we could hold children back for one year because of the pandemic and the decision would be made by the parent. We have been working with DOE and have this draft today. It is not perfect and will probably have a few more changes but what the amendment does is clarify that in addition to parents, legal guardians may also retain their K-8 students. It requires a parent or guardian provide an academic reason for the retention request. It specifies that a school principle, rather than the superintendent, will receive the retention request. It requires a collaborative discussion between students, principles, and teachers and parents. It encourages as an alternative that school leaders and parents can customize a one-year education plan to bring the student up to grade level. That plan can include supplemental supports or education. It makes clear that after all of the discussion, the parent or legal guardian's decision is controlling. The amendment specifies that middle school students retained under this act will be eligible to retake high school credits if they got a grade of C or F.

#### Outcome

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The amendment is adopted.

#### Q&A on the Bill as Amended

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##### Senator Hutson

Q: We talked about a potential FHSAA for children that have been held back, and you were working on that issue. Can you let this committee know where we are with that so that a parent does not hold a child back and potentially harm their student's sports potential?

A: We did talk about it. There will be no waivers granted so we need to make sure we let the parents know on the front end. When we get the final amendment before the floor, we will include that information.

Q: I would encourage you to work with staff to consider not just those turning 19 but maybe a disclaimer to parents who have maybe held their kid back before, that if you hold back again their child may be ineligible to play sports their senior year. Would you consider that as an amendment?

A: Yes, absolutely.



**Senator Diaz**

Q: In that same vein, have you had any conversations with the FHSAA to see if they have any ideas to make sure that there is a disclaimer that parents understand so they clearly know what that means?

A: I have had discussions with the FHSAA and I will continue that but because now that we have this procedure in the bill where the parents must consult with the principal and the teacher, I believe that will be an appropriate place for the disclaimer.

**Senator Cruz**

Q: I wonder how many students are actually affected by age and 19 as a senior because that probably already happens if a teacher decides to hold a student back. Do the parents have to sign something now that says they understand their child won't be able to play at 19?

A: That's interesting. You probably would have to be held back two times to be 19 as a senior in high school but there probably is no procedure in place for that. I do want the parents to be aware that this is a choice that they are making.

Q: I'm just trying to run the numbers in my head. If some students are held back even one year by the school, I'm just wondering how much of an issue it is.

A: I believe it is 19 years and 9 months, so that probably covers the one year of being held back. I think the two-year hold back could definitely trigger that.

**Chair Broxson**

Q: In your part of the state, we have a lot of students that didn't go back to brick and mortar. Do you anticipate that some of the 88,000 students that we know probably missed school across the state because of that, that this will give the parents the chance to reconsider their decision from last year and give these children a chance to learn that grade again?

A: Absolutely, I do believe that the children that have had the biggest COVID learning slide are those that are learning remotely. I do think we need to give this as an opportunity for parents because they know their children the best.

**Public Testimony**

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**David Serdar:** Supports the bill.

**Nancy Arthur, Florida PTA:** Waiving in support.

**David Morthon, Foundation for Florida's Future:** Waiving in support.

**Outcome**

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The bill is reported favorably by the committee.

**SB 1436 Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network (Gruters)**

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HB 847 streamlines essential learning services offered by the college and university system under the Florida Academic Library Services Network. Essential services are defined as a statewide-automated library system, electronic resources, student transient applications, online student advising services and support, student transcript audits, and a complete catalog for distance learning courses and programs offered by the college and university systems. This legislation will increase innovation and efficiencies by offering a single point of access to support student's education goals and will have a significant cost-savings to our state without passing costs onto our students.

### Amendment 50216 (Gruters)

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This amendment creates innovative pricing techniques with inclusive access to ensure students are paying the lowest market price for digital course materials and that the materials available on the first day to all students enrolled in the course. Additionally, it will continue to save students money with over 20 institutions utilizing inclusive access. This language will safeguard against potential liabilities for the institution.

### Outcome

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The amendment is adopted.

### Substitute Amendment 972736 for Amendment 756324 (Gruters)

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The only difference between the two is that we were missing a single line. This amendment adds language, which was originally created in 2011, which created a K-20 education system in the state of Florida. Currently, 2.6 million students use these three research-based assessments on career interests, skills, and work. The values program is available to all students and job seekers. The tool has been primarily used by students in the K-12 system but is available to post-secondary students and adult job seekers as well.

### Outcome

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The amendment is adopted.

### Public Testimony on the Bill as Amended

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**David Serdar:** Supports the bill.

**Christin Crawford Whitaker, Florida Board of Governors and State University System:** Waives in support.

**Alexis (missed last name), Florida Department of Education:** Waives in support.

**Robert Stuart, Florida Library Association:** Waives in support.

### Closing (Gruters)

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Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have the best university system in the country; the Board of Governors does an amazing job. This is just one example of them getting it right by creating efficiencies within the system which will help not only the university, but it will save over \$16 million dollars by doing this. They deserve a lot of credit and this will help us try to become the number one workforce education by 2030 because it helps students coordinate and plan better. Thank you for everyone's favorable support.

### Outcome

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The bill is reported favorably by the committee.

## House Post-Secondary Education and Lifelong Learning Subcommittee

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Meeting packet can be found [here](#).

### Summary

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The House Post-Secondary Education and Lifelong Learning Subcommittee met to consider the following bills: HB 861 Board of Directors of Florida Able, Inc. by Botana; and HB 997 Pub. Rec. and Meetings/Postsecondary Education Executive Search by Garrison.

### HB 861 – Board of Directors of Florida ABLE, Inc. (Representative Botana)

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The bill revises the member composition of the board of directors of the Florida ABLE program. The bill provides that the board of directors must consist of up to three individuals who possess knowledge, skill, and experience in the area of accounting, risk management, or investment management, one of whom may be a current member of the Florida Prepaid College Board.

- The bill also removes a limit on the number of terms for which certain board members may be appointed.
- The bill is not expected to have a fiscal impact.
- The bill is effective July 1, 2021.

### Q&A

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None.

### Appearance Forms on the Bill

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None.

### Debate on the Bill

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None.

### Closing on the Bill (Representative Botana)

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Waived close.

### Outcome

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The bill was reported favorably.

### HB 997 – Pub. Rec. and Meetings/Postsecondary Education Executive Search (Representative Garrison)

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State universities and Florida College System (FCS) institutions often establish search committees for filling a vacant president position. The purpose of a search committee is to locate qualified applicants who are interested in filling the

vacant position at the university or institution, vetting applicants, and selecting a candidate to fill the position. Records held by a search committee are public records, and all meetings of the search committee are open and noticed to the public.

The bill creates an exemption from public record and public meeting requirements for information associated with the applicant recruitment process and discussions associated with the applicant search for the position of president of a state university or FCS institution.

The bill provides that any personal identifying information of an applicant for president of a state university or FCS institution is confidential and exempt from public record requirements. The bill provides that the personal identifying information of applicants who comprise a final group of applicants for president is no longer confidential and exempt from public record requirements at least 21 days before the date of a meeting at which either an interview is conducted or at which final action or a vote is to be taken on the employment of applicants.

The bill also creates a public meeting exemption for any meeting held for the purpose of identifying or vetting applicants for president of a state university or FCS institution, including any portion of a meeting that would disclose the personal identifying information of applicants. However, a recording must be made of any closed portion of a meeting and the meeting cannot be held off the record. The recording is exempt from public record requirements. The public meeting exemption does not apply to a meeting held for the purpose of establishing the qualifications of potential applicants or establishing a compensation framework. Any meeting held after a final group of applicants has been selected at which an interview is to be conducted or at which final action or a vote is to be taken on the employment of applicants must be open to the public.

- The bill provides for repeal of the section on October 2, 2026, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature.
- The bill provides a statement of public necessity as required by the State Constitution.
- The bill may have a minimal fiscal impact on state universities and FCS institutions.

## Q&A

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None.

## Appearance Forms on the Bill

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**Emily McCan, United Faculty of Florida:** Speaking against the bill. Also speaking against the bill as an alumna and former instructor at UF. This great public trust placed in any university or college president calls for transparent process in hiring from start to finish. This transparency serves multiple ends. Public money should be expended for the public's good. Students, parents, and Florida citizens have a right to know how and why a candidate is selected from a field of candidates. The field view is important and matters profoundly. There is no reason to believe that a secret search will present better candidates as compared to a public search for candidates. Secrecy results in promoted, well-connected candidates and insiders, rather than candidates whose vision speaks to the community he/she will serve. Greater public scrutiny would help ensure that women and people of color are represented moreover in candidate pools. There is not an issue with quality of candidates that can be publicly pulled.

**Yael Olenick, Florida Education Association:** Waiving in opposition.

**Richard Templin, Florida AFLCIO:** There are a few things that really need to be cleared up. These searches are community events. They are collaborative functions. The reason everyone gets to participate is because everything is in

the sunshine. There is a concern about search firms/head-hunting firms. I participated in the search for President John Thrasher at FSU. The first decision that was made was which search firm they should use. There was even a public hearing on it. Another issue that has been raised is that we aren't getting the best and brightest. That is an apple to oranges comparison to the private sector community. You don't get fired for seeking employment elsewhere—you get a raise. If you are doing a good job, your institution wants to keep you there. We have had five successful searches in the last six years. The data is clear. We are already attracting the best and the brightest. There is no concern with putting your name out there. There is no compelling case of a problem here. We also know there is no problem because Florida's university system is currently rated number one. Please do not take this process out of the sunshine. Everyone should be able to participate. Knowing who applied and wasn't selected is just as important as knowing who was selected.

**Joe Pickens, St. Johns Riverstate College:** Waiving in support.

**Eric Johnson, Hillsborough Community College:** Waiving in support.

**Association of Florida Colleges, Inc.:** Waiving in support.

**Lake Sumter State College:** Waiving in support.

**Keaton Alexander, South Florida State College Foundation:** Waiving in support.

**Sam Wagoner, Pasco Hernando State College Foundation:** Waiving in support.

#### Debate on the Bill

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**Representative Alexander:** This is a piece of legislation that I championed last session and I have some very strong perspectives about it. Being a former member of a board of trustees and having served on a presidential search, I have the upmost respect for Dr. Templin. Though, I think some of the things he said are somewhat anecdotal. There is significant merit to the fact that many university presidents who have their own stakeholders and connections with other significance to the university—it will be concerning for them to apply for a presidency in the state of Florida. When you look at the talent pool, I've heard many people at universities and colleges concerned about the caliber of candidates applying. My concern surrounds some of the language in the bill. I believe it is critically important, because there is significant merit to what Dr. Templin is talking about, that we do not create some form of perception that these things are being done in secrecy. I would encourage the bill sponsor to consider inserting some language back into the bill. I must admit that the 21-day window does give me some form of heartburn. I think a 45-day window would be more reasonable. I'm not going to create an amendment for this at this time. Instead, I'm going to do something that is somewhat unorthodox and vote down on the bill today until this is placed back in the bill. This is a problem that I feel very strongly about. I think there needs to be some balance surrounding the final three. I think we have to find a way to encourage the board of governors to take a very close look at that policy. I'm going to be down today, but I look forward to working with you.

**Representative Arrington:** Thank you for bringing this forward. A family member of mine was a city manager and applied for another job, and because of the sunshine, her current employer new and they retaliated against her and fired her at the next meeting. So, I have seen this happen and I appreciate your intent on this. I will be voting for it.

### Closing on the Bill (Representative Garrison)

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Representative Alexander, thank you for your comments. I appreciated our conversations on this issue. I do just want to clear up a couple of things before we close. Some of the people that spoke in opposition spoke of things happening in secret. Our bill does not do that whatsoever. Florida law and sunshine laws makes it very clear that there are limited exceptions where the public's constitutional right to know is counterbalanced by compelling interest in efficient, productive government services. Whether that is union negotiations or whether it is involving pending litigation, our open records meetings make it clear that there are situations where public officials, in certain limited circumstances, can and should have those meetings with a certain level of protection and confidentiality. As long as there are safeguards in place, like you see here, there is ample protection. I agree with the importance of the presidential role. In fact, I couldn't agree more. Thank you and I urge you to vote in favor of the bill.

### Outcome

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The bill was reported favorably 14-3.

## Early Learning and Elementary Education Subcommittee

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Meeting Packet with Bill Analysis can be found [here](#).

### HB 575 — The Gold Seal Quality Care Program (Omphroy)

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The Gold Seal Quality Care Program provides financial incentives, in the form of certain tax exemptions and increased reimbursements, to qualifying child care providers. A qualifying provider must be accredited by an association approved by the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) as meeting certain national accrediting standards and other criteria. The DCF is responsible for administering the Gold Seal program, including through rulemaking. The bill provides a type two transfer of administrative responsibility for the Gold Seal program from the DCF to the Florida Department of Education (DOE), placing rulemaking authority with the State Board of Education (SBE). The bill revises Gold Seal program accrediting standards and the requirements for approving an accreditor under the program. The bill specifies that an accreditor is not required to be an association and rather may be an accrediting entity. The bill requires the DOE to establish a process for verifying Gold Seal accreditor compliance with the revised requirements, including an auditing program, and requires the DOE to recommend to the SBE termination of the accreditor's eligibility for 2 to 5 years if it is unable to correct deficiencies within 30 days. If an accreditor loses its approved status, the providers it accredited have 1 year to obtain accreditation from another approved accreditor. An accreditor is liable for repayment of provider payment differentials if it fraudulently grants accreditation or fails to conduct on-site verification. The bill allows the DOE to revoke an accrediting entity's approval if the entity has accredited 10 or fewer childcare providers in the previous 5 years. The bill also allows the DOE to recommend to the SBE that a Gold Seal provider maintain its status after it is cited for certain violations in specified circumstances. The bill specifies that a school readiness provider with the Gold Seal designation must receive a minimum differential payment of 20 percent, rather than up to 20 percent.

### Public Testimony

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**Dannie McMillion, Florida PTA:** Speaking in support

### Debate

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**Representative Williams:** Thank you for bringing this bill. Accountability is very important.

### Closing

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We need to hold these standards up and make sure the people working in these facilities get a raise.

### Outcome

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The bill was passed 18-0 and was reported favorably by the committee.

The bill was filed on January 29, 2021. This bill was also referred to Children, Families and Seniors Subcommittee, PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee, and Education and Employment Committee. This bill is now in its second stop: Children, Families and Seniors Subcommittee.

## PCB ELE 21-02 — Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys (Koster)

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This past Tuesday we heard some sobering facts from the Pinellas Education Foundation's presentation that our boys outnumber girls in remedial math and English classes and for every girl who is retained in a grade two boys are retained. Boys received seventy percent of D's and F's on report cards and nearly seventy-four percent of children diagnosed with learning disabilities are boys. In addition, boys are suspended and expelled from school more than twice as often as girls. Florida assessment data shows that forty-four percent of third grade boys are reading below grade level, a key indicator for failing to graduate from high school. While boys are behind girls by four percentage points on the third grade English language arts assessment, they are 11 points behind by tenth grade. This bears out on the 2019 national assessment for educational progress, in which boys in both fourth and eighth grades scored nine points less on average than girls in reading.

To help identify educational supports and strategies to improve reading performance for boys statewide, this bill establishes the Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys within the Department of Education (DOE) to examine evidence-based strategies for closing the achievement gap for boys and to make recommendations to the department, the Governor, and the Legislature. The recommendations must address:

- Professional development for instructional personnel and school administrators.
- The selection of curriculum, supplemental materials, and classroom activities in early learning programs and K-12 schools.
- Academic, behavioral, and mental health supports to help educate and raise young men who are better prepared for success in school and in life.

The bill establishes the Commissioner of Education or a designee as chair of the task force. Other members of the task force must be appointed by July 1, 2021, including stakeholders appointments by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate President, and the Governor. The bill requires the task force to convene by August 1, 2021, and upon the call of the chair thereafter. The task force must submit a report containing its recommendations to the Governor, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1, 2021. The bill requires the DOE to provide staffing, administrative support, data, and other relevant information to the task force to help it carry out its responsibilities.

## Q&A

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### Representative Nixon

Q: Are these traditional or charter schools?

A: Charter schools are public schools, and the bill references public schools. We do not want to limit the pool of potential appointees.

### Representative McCurdy

Q: Can we consider a way to have minority leadership to appoint some members to the task force?

A: We can definitely look into that.

### Representative Nixon

Q: Would you consider appointments from charter schools as well, as they have different experiences than public schools?

A: Yes, we can consider that. The idea is to have as many perspectives as possible.



## Representative Davis

Q: What would be the recommendations from this task force? Ways to ensure equity, divert boys from juvenile?

A: We do not know what they are going to recommend yet, that is the idea behind creating the task force so they can identify ideas and ways that we can bridge these gaps. This is one small piece of the puzzle.

## Public Testimony

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**Dr. Nancy Lawther, Florida PTA:** Waiving in support

**Deborah Mortham, Foundation for Florida's Future:** Waiving in support

## Debate

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**Representative Nixon:** I think it is always important to have impacted individuals and a diverse set of voices on boards and commissions. I really want to push an urge that we really strongly consider allowing someone from a charter school, as well as someone from a traditional public school, because again those experiences are so unique and I think that it's not limiting the pool it's actually helping to uplift the needs that are in both areas.

**Representative McCurdy:** This bill is a good start, and while a task force is the initial step, I ask this body to hold the task force accountable.

## Closing

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Waived close.

## Outcome

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The bill was passed 18-0 and was reported favorably by the committee.

The committee bill was filed on March 9, 2021. On March 12, 2021 this committee bill was filed as HB 7033.

## House Secondary Education and Career Development Subcommittee

Friday, March 12, 2021

Meeting packet can be found [here](#).

### Summary

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The House Secondary Education and Career Development Subcommittee met to consider the following two bills: CS/HB 149 Students with Disabilities in Public Schools by Early Learning and Elementary Education Subcommittee, DuBose, Plasencia; and HJR 1461 Prohibition on Compensation for Members of a District School Board by Garrison. The subcommittee also considered the following proposed committee substitute: PCS for HB 173 -- Individual Education Plan Requirements for Students with Disabilities.

### HJR 1461 – Prohibition of Compensation for Members of a District School Board (Representative Garrison)

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The House joint resolution proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution that would prohibit the compensation of a district school board member. The proposal would align district school boards with other state education governing boards where members serve without compensation.

The proposed prohibition would apply to any district school board member newly elected on or after November 8, 2022, and to any district school board member reelected on or after November 8, 2022, with at least eight years of consecutive service.

Article XI, Section 1 of the Florida Constitution requires a joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment be passed by three-fifths of the membership of each legislative house to be placed on the ballot.

Article XI, Section 5 of the Florida Constitution requires a proposed constitutional amendment be approved by at least sixty percent of those voting on the measure at a general election to amend the Florida Constitution.

The proposed constitutional amendment will go into effect on November 8, 2022, if approved.

### Q&A

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#### Representative Benjamin

Q: I have a question with regards to Florida and Florida's constitution. Are there any other elected members with nonpartisan positions that are highly publicized positions, for whom we don't provide compensation?

A: I don't know that I know if I am answering your question correctly. There is nothing else quite like school boards in our system of governance. To my mind, school boards are particularly unique in terms of the role they play and the function that they play. So, in answer to your question: if there is, I am not aware of it, but traditionally our constitutional officers are sheriffs, tax collectors, things of that nature. That is not what we are talking about here. We are talking about nonpartisan board members that provide the oversight function for our local schools. It is a unique situation.

Q: So, you are saying that they are uniquely more important than our property appraisers, our sheriffs, and any other nonpartisan elected position that forms the basis upon which our government functions? So, you would agree that they are part of a system of governance that is part of a collective? And all parts are important, wouldn't you say?

A: Well, there are two questions. To answer the first question: school boards are unique. They will be serving a function. They are different than a local sheriff or a property appraiser. They are a board, and boards provide oversight. Boards do not have executive authority. In Florida, the executive authority for our district schools is performed by our district superintendent on a macro level, and by our principals on a local level. School board members provide that different function. They are an oversight function. They are responsible for budgets. They are responsible for curriculums. Comparing them to sheriffs, tax collectors, or property appraisers is comparing apples to oranges.

### Appearance Forms on the Bill

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**Damien Jane, Miami Dade County Public Schools:** Waiving in opposition.

**Wendy Dodge, Polk County Public Schools:** Waiving in opposition.

**Billy-Ann Gay, Florida School Boards Association:** At this point, all committee members should have received a letter from our executive director outlining our concerns with specificity. As you know, school board members, similarly elected as their constitutional peers, are currently compensated for their time, liability, responsibility of budget oversight, the hiring and firing of district superintendents, and other responsibilities that they may encounter with this important civic role. We believe that should continue. It is true that there are many examples across the nation of school boards who are not compensated. It is also true that there are very few—if any—examples of states whose K-12 governance structure mirrors ours in Florida. We have 67 school districts. Those are drawn on county lines, resulting in much larger enrollments compared to most states. Just for context, Texas, which has a similar population to Florida, has over one thousand school districts. We do oppose this bill today. We do feel that this would narrow the focus to community members who have the ability to serve without compensation. We see that as an equity issue, and we value the diverse boards across the state that are serving their local communities. We respectfully ask that you vote down on this today.

**Chris Doolan, Small School District Council:** What is the value of school boards? What is the value of a school board member? What is the value of inclusion? What is the value of providing the opportunity for diversity? These are questions that I have pondered on. The prohibition of compensation will have the effect of limiting the ability of Floridians to consider running. The proposal would align school boards with other state education governing boards. That is the second sentence of the staff analysis. Who are these other boards and what is the need to align them? You have the state board of education, appointed by the governor. You have boards of trustees. You have the board of governors for the state university system. You have college boards and you have school boards. How many calls do you think the Florida State University board of trustees get from parents that are irritated? Probably not very many. It's just not a fair comparison to equate that. Florida school board members are the eyes and ears of the public. They oversee. They are elected by the voters. Why should this bill concern you when you could easily let the voters decide? You are the ones that set the policy for the state. What is the framework that you want to ensure for the opportunity for our boards? People with small businesses, working moms, single-income parents, people struggling with COVID and everything else—there will be a negative impact on these people. Current compensation provisions enable people to offset some of those service costs. What is the cost here? \$15 million. Is that worth a statement that says, "school board members, we understand"? I would ask you to consider all of that.

**Andy Olliper:** I am a product of Florida public schools. I am an even prouder parent of two boys in Pinellas County public schools. I am here to oppose a bill that would dramatically change our public schools. Eliminating salaries of school board

members would all but guarantee that only wealthy people would have a seat at the table to shape our local schools. Why is it that school board members are the only elected officials included? Is it simply another way for lawmakers to enforce their agenda and control over local school boards? Is this part of the controlling party's desire to dismantle public schools? In the last election, I worked hard to elect a school board member who is a member of the working class. Had this bill been in place, she would not have been able to serve. We desperately need her voice at our table. Passing this bill would ensure that our school board members would have more wealth, and given the statistics of our wealth gap, they would be more male and more white. Given the bill sponsor's rationale, perhaps a modest proposal would be to eliminate House Representatives' salaries before we target the school board. Please vote no.

## Debate on the Bill

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### Representative Valdes

I am a little confused. In your testimony you compared us to national school boards association, and we take pride in Florida by saying that we lead the way on how things should operate in government. First of all, comparing our system to others is a little bit disingenuous in the sense that, in so many different states, you have thousands of school boards. In the state of Florida, we lead the way in many different ways. We have 67 counties with school districts of varying sizes, of which their compensations are determined by formula based on student population. Representative, I have shared my story with you, and I'll share it again for the benefit of the committee. When I was elected to the school board in 2004, I had two jobs and I only had a high school diploma, of which I'm very proud. Degrees don't necessarily make you who you are. They just show that you went to school and spent money. Since I've been elected, I proudly wear this lanyard from my high school alma mater. When I was elected to the schoolboard, I did have D's and F's in my district. This particular school had a 64% graduation rate. Under no circumstances would I continue to allow that happening in my community. I worked hard, kept my two jobs, and it wasn't that I was so physically tired as I was mentally exhausted. As a school board member, I was busting my chops in my district to be able to provide equity in my district. To provide opportunities for students that look like me and others in this committee that otherwise, prior to that, were completely ignored. When I tell you completely ignored, I mean it. Facilities were rundown. When we went to baseball games for the kids, these boys would come back with tears in their eyes, because they didn't understand why other schools were so taken care of while theirs was ignored. If not for a school board member like myself, that stuck her neck out and spoke truth to power, I wouldn't be able to tell you today that when I left my high school, it had a 90.3% graduation rate. I didn't have the means to be able to say that I could've done that without any compensation, because I also have a family to support. While supporting the students in that district was important, it took a lot of investment. For that work I am extremely proud. I agree with the speakers. Diversity in the electoral process is extremely important. If we elect to do this, it will just be white males on that school board. I am truly concerned as to where we are headed with these types of policies. We often talk about the importance of our kids and the next generation, but I urge you to look at the facts of how this would negatively impact them. This bill is dangerous. We would be going backwards. I cannot support this bill.

### Representative Giallombardo

Thank you for this bill. I just have two things I'm going to point out. So, earlier the comment was that Florida spends about \$15 million on school board members. Well, that would equate to about \$9356 to educate each student. That's 1603 students more that we can educate. That's a lot of students. The second point is: we have a great charter school in my city and their entire board is made up of volunteers. They are just as passionate, and in my opinion, more passionate than other school district members. I think that this is a great bill and you have my support.

### **Representative Andrade**

I have just a few statements about what some other speakers have said about how special Florida is. We are one of only three states in the country that still have the option to elect our Superintendents. So, what we have is a breakdown between 10 or 15 school districts in the state that have partisan elected Superintendents. Those school boards play no role in hiring or firing of that executive. What I found in Escambia County, after I was initially elected, is with that structure in place, the school board was not empowered to make decisions or engaged. Not a single school board member in Escambia County does what they do for a paycheck. We lead initiative to change our Superintendent model from an elected to an appointed position, empowering that school district and that school board. Not a single school board member in Escambia County made their decision on who they were going to hire based on their compensation. We have elected boards that engaged and helped and assisted in that entire process. Our PTA got more engaged. Those members don't do it for a paycheck. They don't get a paycheck. The vast majority of people advocating and showing care for our education system in Florida are volunteers. They parents and they have other jobs. In fact, I would venture to guess that the vast majority of school board members in Florida have the opportunity to continue to work and many of them do have second jobs. I think many of us have second jobs. What we have is the opportunity to empower school board members in a different way. They can't be questioned about whether or not they're going for a third or fourth term on their school board to stick it out for retirement. They're there for the right reasons if they're doing it solely because of the passion and care that they have for students. So, the financial arguments... You know \$15 million is a drop in the bucket compared to our vast education budget, but we want to make sure our school board and every single county in this state is only showing care and concern for the students and is relieved of any accusation or impropriety accusation impropriety about the reasons why they might be there otherwise. I appreciate the bill and I'm looking forward to supporting it.

### **Closing on the Bill (Representative Garrison)**

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I want to thank Representative Valdes personally for the time you spent talking with me about this issue. While we disagree on the policy, you've got a heart for the underdog and for the student that's forgotten, and I share that with you. So, while we're coming at it from a different direction, our goals are the same and that's to ensure that we have public schools in the state of Florida to model for the nation, and that every Floridian, regardless of the color of their skin, or the wealth of their zip code has access to the best possible education we can give them. I look forward to continuing to work with you on that and you know how I feel about it. My grandmother was a public-school teacher. My mother is a retired special education junior high school public school teacher. My sister is a current Florida public school teacher. My wife is a schoolteacher. Education is the great equalizer and what we're doing here today is not about political posturing. It's about ensuring that we have the appropriate framework to ensure that our students have the best we can give them. I come from this with a personal belief, to the point that was made earlier that we set the policy. We absolutely do we set the policy and I reject out of hand the notion that only rich people or white people or men would serve on school boards if there's no salary. We all know from our personal circumstances how many of us have not come from wealth. I've spent countless hours at our PTA, at our church, and our communities volunteering, oftentimes paying for the privilege of volunteering and serving. This bill comes out of a fundamental belief that there are people in our communities that would love the opportunity to serve and do it not because they want to get paid, but because they care about those kids and they want to serve. That's what this bill is about. With that I would humbly ask for your favorable consideration on this joint resolution and I look forward to talking with any member who has concerns. I know these are tough decisions. I know I've been bombarded with phone calls from friends who are currently serving on school boards. I am actually having a conversation over coffee tomorrow. Policy affects people you know, it's difficult, and requires courage, but that's why we're here. So, I ask for your favorable consideration.

### **Outcome**

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The bill was reported favorably 11-6.

## CS/HB 149 – Students with Disabilities in Public Schools (Representative DuBose)

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For students with disabilities in public schools, the bill revises requirements for the use of seclusion and restraint and creates a pilot program for the use of video cameras in certain classrooms.

### Use of Seclusion and Restraint on Students with Disabilities

The bill defines terms related to seclusion, physical restraint, and mechanical restraint, and it specifies when such techniques may be used. The bill requires school districts to prohibit placing a student in seclusion.

The bill provides that restraint may only be used to protect students or school personnel and not for discipline. A student may be restrained only for the time necessary to protect the student and others and only after all positive behavior interventions and supports are exhausted. The bill prohibits the use of restraint techniques and devices, including straightjackets, zip ties, handcuffs, and tie-downs, in a way that obstructs or restricts breathing or blood flow or places a student in a facedown position with the student's hands restrained behind the student's back. The bill prohibits the use of any restraint technique to inflict pain to induce compliance.

The bill requires school districts to adopt policies and procedures related to positive behavior interventions and supports and to identify all school personnel authorized to use restraint techniques. The bill requires school districts to develop a crisis intervention plan for a student who is restrained more than once during a semester.

The bill requires the Department of Education to publish de-identified data on reported restraint incidents on the department's public-facing website each month.

### Video Cameras in Public School Classrooms Pilot Program

The bill implements a pilot program for video cameras in certain classrooms in Broward County. At the written request of a parent, Broward County school district must install a video camera and record a classroom in which a majority of the students are provided special education services. The video camera must be capable of monitoring all areas of the classroom and entrances and exits associated with the students' restroom but may not monitor the restroom itself or any other area where students change their clothes.

The bill provides circumstances under which the video recording may be viewed and limits who may view the recording to include school employees involved with an alleged incident of abuse or neglect or the investigation of such an incident, the parent of a student who is involved in the alleged incident, and law enforcement if the incident is reported and representatives of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) as a part of a child abuse investigation. The bill requires anyone who views the video to report suspected child abuse to the DCF.

## Q&A

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### **Representative Rizo**

Q: Why this bill? We already have in Florida DOE guidelines. Every district has guidelines for safe restraint of ESE students. What purpose does this bill serve?

A: First of all, there are no clear definitions of restraints and seclusion that are laid out. This bill will put not only a definition of what that is, but also requirements in regard to training. Let me just say this: there have been over 86,000 incidents of restraint and over 20,000 incidents of seclusion. Because we don't have a framework on the books, some of these incidents have resulted in bodily harm to some of our most vulnerable students.



Q: I agree with you and I was trained in safe physical restraint techniques. As a public-school educator, I had to use it several times. Is this going to change the limitations on restraint devices? I know there are restraint devices that are allowed under IEP for students with disabilities on an individual basis. Is this bill going to limit that usage or that authority for the IEP committees to recommend what devices may be used?

A: This bill will place parameters and restrictions there. If there is bodily harm or injury to the child, then you can use certain mechanisms, but it won't just be something that can just be freely used to correct behavior or things of that nature.

Q: What about students that are ESE students that are being arrested? As far as restraints that are placed on them, will there be something in this bill that precludes those types of arrests that law enforcement must use?

A: Yes, under this bill there is a carve out for those students. I will have to get back with you on specifics, because this bill is directly related to what happens in a classroom.

### Appearance Forms on the Bill

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**Danny MacMillan, Florida PTA:** Waiving in support.

### Debate on the Bill

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#### Representative Woodson

I have actually had several parents reach out to me where they had issues with restriction measures that were used on their children. Some of those children were badly hurt. I think this is a great bill and it is very overdue. I give you my support.

#### Representative Rizo

It is important that we learn about our special needs students in the state. As trends have shown over the last 20 years, ESE students are infused with general body students during the school day. Sometimes they don't know who is who, because that is the way it should be. Thank you for bringing this because training is very important. You never know when restraint will be necessary, so it is important for all faculty to be trained.

#### Representative Maggard

I was never aware of this issue until some constituents from my district sent me the most heartfelt letter about what happened to their child. If you don't know about these things, it is hard to correct it. I thank you for bringing this up and I hope this addresses many issues. I will be up on this bill.

### Closing (Representative DuBose)

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This bill addresses and protects some of our most vulnerable students. As you have heard, many of us have received stories of these events. This is a bipartisan bill that has actually been around for a while. Each year, it gets passed out of the House. I am very hopeful that this year we can get this across the finish line. My partner on this is over in the Senate and he is still engaged. I don't have to explain this importance of the bill. I think we all get it. I ask for your support.

### Outcome

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The bill was reported favorably 16-1.

## HB 173 – Individual Education Plan Requirements for Students with Disabilities (Representative Tant)

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To facilitate quality planning for a successful transition to postsecondary education and career opportunities for students with disabilities, the bill requires a student's individual education plan (IEP) team to begin the planning process and IEP development when the student is in grade 7 or when the student attains the age of 12, whichever occurs first. The bill requires the IEP team to identify the student's need for transition services before the student enters high school or attains that age of 14, whichever occurs first. The student's IEP must be operational and in place for implementation on the first day of the student's first year of high school.

The bill establishes that the planning process and IEP development must include providing the student and parent with information about specific services and programs for students with disabilities and referral forms, links, and technical support for accessing such services and programs.

The bill revises the statements that must be included in the student's first IEP, which is in effect when the student enters high school, attains the age of 14, or when determined appropriate by the parent and IEP team, whichever occurs first. The required statements must be updated annually. The bill provides that the statement of the student's intent to pursue a standard high school diploma must document discussion of the process of deferment of a standard high school diploma for a student with a disability who meets the requirements for a standard high school diploma. The IEP in effect at the start of the student's graduation year must include a written statement by the student's parent that documents understanding of the deferment process and identifies whether the student will defer the receipt of a standard high school diploma.

The bill requires the Florida Department of Education (DOE) to conduct a review of existing transition services and programs for students with disabilities in order to establish uniform best practices. The DOE must publish the uniform best practices on its website by July 1, 2022.

### Q&A

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None.

### Appearance Forms on the Bill

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**Deborah Morthan, Foundation for Florida's Future:** Waives in support.

**Dr. Nancy Lothar, Florida PTA:** Waives in support.

### Debate on the Bill

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#### **Representative Maggard**

I just want to thank you for the work you put into this bill and the time you spent explaining it to me. I can tell it is a labor of love, so I happily support this bill.

#### **Representative Rizo**

Transition is one of those words in education that people just don't really hear about and it's vital in a child's education. Thank you for bringing the bill.



**Representative Woodson**

Great work. Great bill. We support you on the bill and are proud of your work on it.

**Representative Benjamin**

Great bill. I'm a co-sponsor. I am up on the bill. Let's get it done.

**Chair McClain**

Thank you for coming by and educating me on this. It is certainly something that wasn't in my wheelhouse, so I appreciate it and it's a great bill. Obviously, it sounds like you are going to have a good bit of support for it.

**Closing on the Bill (Representative Tant)**

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Thank you for taking up the bill. I will say that my own son, who is 22, the trajectory of his life was changed through transition teaching. This is critical to our populous and our workforce.

**Outcome**

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The bill was reported favorably 17-0.

## LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

### **HB 0003 Home Book Delivery for Elementary Students (Trabulsy)**

Establishes New Worlds Reading Initiative under DOE; provides duties & responsibilities of administrator; provides requirements & procedures for participating entities; establishes student eligibility requirements & options relating to book selection; requires books be delivered at no cost to families; authorizes DOE to contract with third-party entity. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

### **HB 0005 Civic Education Curriculum (Zika)**

Revises social studies high school graduation credit requirement; requires DOE to develop or approve integrated civic education curriculum that meets certain requirements; requires department to curate oral history resources to be used with such curriculum; requires department to approve civic education curricula submitted by school districts & charter schools. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

### **HB 0007 Civil Liability for Damages Relating to COVID-19 (McClure)**

Provides requirements for civil action based on COVID-19-related claim; provides that plaintiff has burden of proof in such action; provides statute of limitations; provides retroactive applicability. Effective Date: upon becoming a law.

### **HB 0011 Limitation on Terms of Office for Members of a District School Board (Sabatini)**

Proposing amendments to the State Constitution to limit the terms of office for a member of a district school board.

### **HB 0015 Sales and Use Tax (Clemons)**

Revises conditions for certain dealers subject to sales tax; deletes exemption for certain dealers from collecting local option surtaxes; provides certain marketplace providers are subject to registration, collection, & remittance requirements for sales taxes; requires marketplace providers to provide certification to marketplace sellers; specifies requirements for marketplace sellers; requires marketplace providers to allow DOR to audit books & records; provides that marketplace seller is liable for sales tax collection & remittance; authorizes marketplace providers & marketplace sellers to enter into agreements to recover certain taxes, interest, & penalties; grants DOR settlement & compromise authority for marketplace sales; removes authority of DOR to negotiate collection allowance with certain dealers. Effective Date: July 1, 2021

### **HB 0035 Legal Notices (Fine)**

Provides for website publication of legal notices; provides criteria for such publication; authorizes fiscally constrained county to use publicly accessible website to publish legally required advertisements and public notices; requires government agency to provide specified notice to residents concerning alternative methods of receiving legal notices. Effective Date: July 1, 2022.

### **SB 0048 Educational Scholarship Programs (Diaz)**

Requiring the Auditor General to conduct certain audits at least every 3 years instead of annually; adding certain students to those whom district school boards must provide preferential treatment in the controlled open enrollment process; establishing the McKay-Gardiner Scholarship Program; prohibiting a student from participating in the program under certain circumstances; providing that program funding for specified children constitutes their full funding under part V of ch. 1002; providing commissioner authority and obligations relating to suspending or revoking program participation, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0051 Charter Schools (McClain)**

Authorizes state universities & Florida College System institutions to sponsor charter schools; revises reporting & accountability requirements & populations for which charter school is authorized to limit enrollment process; provides for funding; authorizes career & professional academy to be offered by charter school. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0052 Postsecondary Education (Rodrigues (R))**

Clarifying fee exemptions for the Department of Children and Families; establishing the Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program; requiring students participating in dual enrollment programs to meet specified minimum eligibility requirements in order for institutions to receive reimbursements; authorizing university boards of trustees to implement a bonus scheme for state university system employees based on awards for work performance or employee recruitment and retention, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 0072 Civil Liability for Damages Relating to COVID-19 (Brandes)**

Providing requirements for a civil action based on a COVID-19-related claim; providing that the plaintiff has the burden of proof in such action; providing a statute of limitations; providing severability; providing retroactive applicability, etc. Effective Date: This act shall take effect upon becoming a law and shall apply retroactively. However, the provisions of this act shall not apply in a civil action against a particularly named defendant which is commenced before the effective date of this act.

**HB 0075 Feminine Hygiene Products in Public Schools (Grieco)**

Requires school districts to make feminine hygiene products available, at no charge, in female restroom facilities of public school buildings. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0078 Dues and Uniform Assessments (Rodrigues (R))**

Requiring that a public employee who desires to join an employee organization sign a membership authorization form; requiring an employee organization to revoke an employee's membership upon receipt of the employee's request for revocation; providing that certain deductions commence upon the employer's receipt and confirmation of the employee's signed deduction authorization form; specifying the time period that an employee's authorization to deduct dues and uniform assessments remains in effect, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law.

**SB 0084 Retirement (Rodrigues (R))**

Providing for compulsory membership in the Florida Retirement System Investment Plan for employees initially enrolled on or after a specified date; modifying provisions governing participation in the investment plan for individuals who are eligible to participate in the State University System Optional Retirement Program to conform to changes made by the act; modifying provisions governing the administration of the investment plan to reflect compulsory membership for specified employees, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0086 Student Financial Aid (Baxley)**

Requiring that eligibility for state financial aid awards and tuition assistance grants be reevaluated each term and identify students' program of study; revising the formula for calculating how Florida Public Student Assistance Grant Program funds are distributed; authorizing a Bright Futures Scholarship recipient to apply the unused portion of a Florida Academic Scholars award or Florida Medallion Scholars award toward graduate study for a specified academic year; establishing the Florida Bright Opportunities Grant Program; establishing the Florida Endeavor Scholarship Program, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 0098 Workforce Related Programs and Services (Albritton)**

Renaming the Workforce Estimating Conference as the Labor Market Estimating Conference; removing authority for a local board to review a decision by the department to deny a contract; requiring certain standards and policies established by the Department of Education to include a specified requirement for training providers; requiring that middle grades career and professional academies and career-themed courses lead to careers in occupations aligned with the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**HB 0099 Use of Epinephrine Auto-injectors on Public K-20 Campuses (Gottlieb)**

Provides that state universities & FCS institutions are considered authorized entities for specified purposes relating to emergency use of epinephrine auto-injectors; requires, rather than authorizes, public schools to purchase or acquire supply of epinephrine auto-injectors for specified purposes; requires such epinephrine auto-injectors be maintained in specified location; requires state universities & FCS institutions to purchase or acquire supply of epinephrine auto-injectors for specified purposes; provides requirements for such supplies of epinephrine auto-injectors; requires state universities & FCS institutions to develop specified protocols; provides liability for use of such epinephrine auto-injectors. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0105 Required Instruction in the History of the Holocaust and of African Americans (Thompson)**

Required Instruction in the History of the Holocaust and of African Americans: Requires DOE to prepare standards & curriculum related to history of African Americans; authorizes DOE to seek input from or contract with specified entities to develop specified training & resources relating to such instruction; provides requirements for specified entities relating to history of Holocaust & history of African Americans instruction; requires certain statewide, standardized assessments to include curricula content from history of Holocaust & history of African Americans. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0127 Teach to Lead Program (Hinson)**

Teach to Lead Program: Requires additional tax funds allocated & applied to FEFP to be used for specified purposes; creates Teach to Lead Program. Effective Date: July 1, 2021., but only if HB 129 or similar legislation takes effect.

**SB 0128 Florida Talent Development Council (Bradley)**

Florida Talent Development Council; Requiring the council, by a specified date, to submit to specified entities a report that includes recommendations on the feasibility of establishing and implementing the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program or a similar program; providing requirements for the report, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law.

**HB 0131 Educator Conduct (Duggan)**

Requiring DOE to maintain a disqualification list of individuals; revises provisions relating to employment & termination of public school & private school employees; revises duties of DOE, Commissioner of Education, & school districts relating to employee conduct & employment & termination of public school & private school employees. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0135 School District Career Center Workforce Education Programs (Robinson W)**

Revises workforce education programs that school district career centers are authorized to conduct. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0146 Civic Education (Brandes)**

Requiring the Commissioner of Education to develop minimum criteria for a nonpartisan civic literacy practicum for high school students, beginning with a specified school year; authorizing students to apply the hours they devote to practicum

activities to certain community service requirements; requiring school districts accept nonpartisan civic literacy practicum activities and hours in requirements for certain awards; requiring the State Board of Education to designate certain high schools as Freedom Schools, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0149 Students with Disabilities in Public Schools (DuBose)**

Prohibits use of seclusion on students; revises provisions relating to use of restraint on certain students; provides DOE, school district, school, & personnel requirements; provides for placement of video camera in specified classrooms; provides requirements for such placement; requires continuing education & inservice training for teaching students with emotional or behavioral disabilities. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0154 Local Government Fiscal Transparency (Diaz)**

Expanding the scope of a Legislative Auditing Committee review to include compliance with local government fiscal transparency requirements; providing procedures for the Auditor General and local governments to comply with the local government fiscal transparency requirements; revising reporting requirements for certain local government economic development incentives; creating the "Local Government Fiscal Transparency Act"; requiring local governments to post certain voting record information on their websites, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0156 Homestead Assessment Limitation (Diaz)**

Proposing amendments to the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to prohibit increases in the assessed value of homestead property, for school district levy purposes, if the legal or equitable title to the property is held by a person who is 65 years of age or older and if that person has held such title and maintained permanent residence on the property for at least 25 years, and to provide an effective date, etc.

**HB 0157 K-12 Physical Health Requirements (Hawkins)**

Requires school districts to provide training in CPR to students at high school level; provides requirements for such training; & requires medical evaluation for participation in interscholastic athletic competition to include EKG. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0158 Homestead Assessments (Diaz)**

Providing a homestead assessment limitation for the purpose of school district levies for certain persons age 65 years or older; specifying who may apply for and receive the limitation; specifying who may apply for and receive the limitation in circumstances in which title is held jointly with right of survivorship, etc. Effective Date: On the effective date of the amendment to the State Constitution proposed by SJR 156 or a joint resolution having substantially the same specific intent and purpose, if such amendment to the State Constitution is approved at the general election held in November 2022 or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose.

**HB 0171 Children With Developmental Delays (Tant)**

Revises definition of term "exceptional student" to include additional students with developmental delays. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0173 Individual Education Plan Requirements for Students with Disabilities (Tant)**

Revises timeline for development & implementation of individual education plan (IEP) for transition services for student with disabilities to postsecondary education & career opportunities; revises requirements for IEP for transitions to postsecondary education & career opportunities. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0174 School Safety Funding (Cruz)**

Revising certain allocations to school districts; specifying uses and distribution requirements for certain safe schools allocation funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year; requiring each district school superintendent to remit specified unused funds from the 2020-2021 fiscal year to the Department of Education by a specified date; authorizing the department, upon request, to redistribute such funds to certain school districts for a specified purpose, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0175 Apprenticeship and Preapprenticeship Programs (Shoaf)**

Revises requirements of DOE's annual report on apprenticeship & preapprenticeship programs; provides DOE's duties relating to apprenticeship programs; revises membership of State Apprenticeship Advisory Council; provides that parents of public school students be informed of workforce education opportunities. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0179 Prohibited Discrimination Based on Hairstyle (Brown)**

Provides that it is unlawful to discriminate against any person because of protected hairstyle in areas of housing, employment, & K-20 public education system. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0188 Solar Energy Systems Located On the Property of an Educational Facility (Berman)**

Prohibiting costs associated with such systems from being included in the calculation of total cost per student station for the purpose of a limit imposed on such costs for certain new construction, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0198 Solar Schools (Berman)**

Authorizing a public educational customer to enter into a contract for the installation, maintenance, or operation of a renewable energy source device on property owned or controlled by the public educational customer; providing that financing arrangements for such contracts are not considered retail sales of electricity; limiting the capacity of the renewable energy source device, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0199 Students With Limited English Proficiency (Valdes)**

Requires district school boards to provide certain instruction to students who have limited English proficiency; requires certain standardized assessments be waived for such students in specified circumstances. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0200 Student Retention (Berman)**

Authorizing a parent to request that his or her student be retained in a grade level for a specified school year; clarifying that specified students may qualify for midyear promotion; authorizing a parent to request such promotion or to request that his or her student continue to be retained, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law.

**HB 0201 Florida Kidcare Program Eligibility (Bartleman)**

Increases income eligibility threshold for coverage under Florida Kidcare program; authorizes AHCA to seek federal waiver approval or submit state plan amendments as necessary; requires agency to examine graduated family contribution rates for newly qualifying families under program; provides guidelines for such rates; requires agency to increase income eligibility threshold for coverage under program each fiscal year until meeting specified income threshold. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0202 Standard High School Diploma Award Requirements (Cruz)**

Adding a new requirement for the award of a standard high school diploma to Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning students; requiring certain students to submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid in order to be awarded a standard high school diploma, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0211 Students Leaving School Grounds (Slosberg)**

Authorizes district school boards to adopt programs & policies for students to leave school grounds during school lunch periods; requires parental consent for student to participate in such policy under certain circumstances. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0215 Prohibition of Public Funds for Lobbying by Local Governments (Sabatini)**

Prohibits local governments from using public funds to retain lobbyists; provides exceptions; provides sanctions for violations; authorizes people to file complaints with the Commission on Ethics; requires commission to provide a report to specified entities; specifies procedures for disciplining violators. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0225 Dyslexia (Trabulsy)**

Provides requirements for mandatory dyslexia screening for certain students & subsequent diagnosis of student; establishes Dyslexia Task Force within DOE; provides requirements for such task force; removes requirement for district school superintendents to refer parents to home education review committee; removes penalty for parents failing to provide portfolio to such committee. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0227 School Protocols During a COVID-19 State of Emergency (Hinson)**

Requires district school board to adopt specified policies during certain declared state of emergency; provides requirements for such policies; requires statewide, standardized assessments be waived during certain declared state of emergency. Effective Date: July 1, 2021

**HB 0229 Hazardous Walking Conditions for K-12 Students (Salzman)**

Requires DOT to develop & adopt standards & criteria to identify hazardous walking conditions; Revises provisions relating to the transportation of students subjected to hazardous walking conditions & funding for such students. Effective Date: July 1, 2022.

**HB 0241 Parents' Bill of Rights (Grall)**

Provides parental rights relating to a minor child's education, upbringing, & health care; provides school district, health care practitioner, hospital requirements & specified penalties. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0254 Education (Stewart)**

Requiring specified teachers to have received, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree; requiring private schools to provide specified students with a certain amount of time for recess; requiring private school students to participate in the statewide assessment program; requiring private schools to comply with the State Requirements for Educational Facilities of the Florida Building Code, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0258 Internship Tax Credit Program (Jones)**

Internship Tax Credit Program; Designating the "Florida Internship Tax Credit Program"; providing a corporate income tax credit for qualified businesses employing degree-seeking student interns if certain criteria are met; specifying the amount of the credit a qualified business may claim per student intern, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0259 Safety of Religious Institutions (Byrd)**

Authorizes, for specified purposes, concealed weapons or firearms licensee to carry firearm on certain property of church, synagogue, or any other religious institution. Effective Date: upon becoming a law.



**SB 0274 Juvenile Diversion Program Expunction (Perry)**

Requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to expunge the nonjudicial arrest record of certain minors who have successfully completed a diversion program for any offense, rather than only a misdemeanor offense; authorizing a minor who successfully completes a diversion program for any offense, rather than only for a first-time misdemeanor offense, to lawfully deny or fail to acknowledge certain information, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0280 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training In Public Schools (Baxley)**

Providing that school districts are encouraged to provide basic training in first aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, in specified grades; requiring school districts to provide basic training in first aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, in specified grades; revising requirements for instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0281 Postsecondary Education Financial Matters (Duggan)**

Establishes Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program; provides eligibility requirements for program; authorizes university boards of trustees to implement bonus scheme for state university system employees. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0282 Moments of Silence in Public Schools (Baxley)**

Providing legislative findings; requiring that public school principals require certain teachers to set aside time for a moment of silence at the beginning of each school day; prohibiting teachers from making suggestions as to the nature of any reflection that a student may engage in during the moment of silence; deleting a provision authorizing district school boards to provide a brief period of silent prayer or meditation; requiring certain teachers to encourage parents or guardians to discuss the moment of silence with their children and to make suggestions as to the best use of this time, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0321 Employment After Retirement of School District Personnel (McFarland)**

Establishes exception to reemployment after retirement limitations to authorize retired instructional staff to be employed as substitute teachers before meeting definition of termination; prohibits accrual of additional retirement service credit & renewed membership during such period of reemployment; requires SBA & DMS to request determination letter & private letter ruling from Internal Revenue Service. Effective Date: January 1, 2022.

**HB 0337 Impact Fees (DiCeglie)**

Specifies instances when local government or special district may collect impact fee; requires local governments & special districts to credit against collection of impact fee any contribution related to public facilities; provides annual limitations on impact fee increases; requires school districts to report specified items regarding impact fees; requires specified entities to file affidavit attesting that impact fees were appropriately collected & expended. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0355 The Florida High School Athletic Association (Beltran)**

Requires FHSAA to allow certain schools & cooperatives to maintain full membership or to join by sport; prohibits FHSAA from discouraging simultaneously membership in other athletic associations; requires FHSAA to allow public schools to join other athletic associations; prohibits FHSAA from taking actions against member schools that join other athletic associations; prohibits the FHSAA from taking certain actions against specified entities that choose not to participate in the association. Effective Date: July 1, 2021

**HB 0357 Photographic Enforcement of School Zone Speed Limit (Duran)**

Authorizes county or municipality to contract with vendor to install cameras in school speed zones to enforce speed limits; provides civil penalty for violation found through recording of photographic images; provides for disposition & use of funds;



provides for determination of liability; provides nonapplication of violation to driver license points assessment, conviction, driving record, or provision of motor vehicle insurance coverage; requires referral to DHSMV resulting in prohibition of motor vehicle registration renewal & transfer of title; provides for removal of penalties. Effective Date: July 1, 2021

**SB 0358 Water Safety (Berman)**

Citing this act as the "Edna Mae McGovern Act"; providing an exemption from certain water safety and swimming certifications for a child whose parent follows a specified procedure; requiring district school boards and the governing authorities of private schools to require certain children to present a specified certificate beginning in a certain school year; requiring the State Board of Education, subject to the concurrence of the Department of Health, to adopt certain rules by a specified date, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**HB 0359 COVID-19 Impact on School Accountability (Bartleman)**

Provides that school grades, school improvement ratings, & student performance results from statewide, standardized assessments during the 2020-2021 school year may not be used for specified purposes. Effective Date: upon becoming a law.

**SB 0366 Apprenticeship and Preapprenticeship Training (Hutson)**

Revising the general duties of the Department of Education with regard to apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs; revising the membership of the State Apprenticeship Advisory Council; providing that apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program sponsors are responsible for the selection and training of certain personnel, as approved by the department; encouraging state university boards of trustees and apprenticeship program sponsors to cooperate in developing and establishing apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs that include career instruction, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0402 Public Notice and Voting Rights Restoration Database (Rodrigues)**

Authorizing legal notifications in certain cases to be published on a website established by the Supreme Court, in lieu of newspaper publication; specifying that website publication constitutes proof of publication, unless otherwise determined by a court; authorizing a county to publish such legal notifications in a newspaper, subject to certain limitations, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0410 Materials Harmful To Minors (Rodriguez, A.)**

Prohibiting a person from selling or renting specified materials to a minor for monetary consideration; providing that a public school student may be exposed to certain teaching only in accordance with a specified procedure; requiring school districts or specified schools to notify and request the written consent of parents before the teaching of reproductive health or any sexually transmitted disease; authorizing a student's parent or a county resident to contest on specified grounds a district school board's adoption of certain instructional material, etc. Effective Date: Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2021

**HB 0419 Early Learning and Early Grade Success (Grall)**

Deletes Office of Early Learning; creates Division of Early Learning within DOE; revises provisions relating to early learning coalitions; VPK & school readiness programs; & DOE responsibilities & duties relating to early learning and Gold Seal Quality Care Program. Effective Date: upon becoming a law.

**SB 0432 Gardiner Scholarship (Perry)**

Revising the definition of “curriculum”; revising eligibility requirements for the Gardiner Scholarship program; revising authorized uses of program funds; revising the number of consecutive fiscal years an account must be inactive before the remaining funds revert to the state; revising an obligation of scholarship-funding organizations with respect to student eligibility, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0476 Prohibited Discrimination (Bracy)**

Citing this act as the “Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act,” or “CROWN Act”; providing that it is unlawful for sponsors under the Florida Housing Finance Corporation Act to discriminate against any person or family because of traits historically associated with race; defining terms; reenacting provisions relating to the State Apartment Incentive Loan Program, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0489 Student Identification Cards (Daley)**

Requires school principals to ensure that crisis prevention hotline & text line and behavioral health hotline & text line numbers are printed on back of student ID cards. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0498 Safety of Religious Institutions (Gruters)**

Authorizing, for specified purposes, a concealed weapons or firearms licensee to carry a firearm on certain property of a church, a synagogue, or any other religious institution, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law.

**HB 0507 Education (Rizo)**

Revises provisions relating to DOE powers & duties, the statewide assessment program, and postsecondary civics education. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0517 School Meals (Morales)**

Requires district school boards participating in the National School Lunch Program provide meals regardless of ability to pay or unpaid meal charges; provides students be allowed to eat such meal; requires district school boards adopt certain policies regarding unpaid meal charges. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0519 Required Health Education (Yarborough)**

Provides additional requirements for health education; revises grades when students receive certain health education instruction; requires health education instruction include prevention of specified harms. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0529 Moments of Silence in Public Schools (Fine)**

Requires principals to require teachers to set aside time for moment of silence; prohibits teachers from making suggestions to nature of any reflection during moment of silence; deletes provision authorizing district school boards to provide brief period of silent prayer or meditation; requires certain teachers encourage parents or guardians to discuss moment of silence & make suggestions as to the best use of this time. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0532 Workforce Education (Burgess)**

Revising the workforce education programs that school district career centers are authorized to conduct, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0538 Use of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors on Public K-20 Campuses (Polsky)**

Providing that state universities and Florida College System institutions are considered authorized entities for specified purposes relating to the emergency use of epinephrine auto-injectors; requiring, rather than authorizing, public schools to

purchase or acquire a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors for specified purposes; requiring state universities and Florida College System institutions to purchase or acquire a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors for specified purposes, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0545 Materials Harmful to Minors (Chaney)**

Provides that public school student may be exposed to certain teaching only after student's parents have opportunity to review curriculum; requires school districts or specified schools to notify & obtain written parental consent before teaching about reproductive health or sexually transmitted disease; prohibits schools from allowing students to be exposed to such teaching without written parental consent; prohibits penalizing student whose parent does not give written consent. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0554 Human Trafficking Education in Schools (Thurston, Jr.)**

Revising the required health education in public schools to include information regarding the dangers and signs of human trafficking; specifying the minimum requirements of the human trafficking education portion of the comprehensive health education curriculum, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0575 The Gold Seal Quality Care Program (Omphroy)**

Revises Gold Seal Quality Care program requirements; requires State Board of Education to adopt specified rules; specifies requirements for accrediting entity, rather than accrediting association, to be approved for participation in such program; requires DOE to establish verification process & provides requirements therefor; authorizes DOE to recommend maintenance of Gold Seal Quality Care designation for certain child care facilities; provides exemption from ad valorem taxation & rate differentials for certain child care facilities; provides for type two transfer of such program within DCF to DOE within specified time period; provides for continuation of certain contracts & agreements. Effective Date: upon becoming a law.

**SB 0580 Dyslexia (Harrell)**

Requiring public schools to screen all students in kindergarten through grade 3 for dyslexia within a certain timeframe; requiring public school students with a substantial deficiency in reading to be placed in an intensive remedial intervention program; requiring public schools to have at least one person on staff with specified certification in reading instruction for students with dyslexia; establishing the Dyslexia Task Force within the Department of Education; requiring the task force members to be appointed by the Commissioner of Education; requiring the task force to consist of nine members having certain backgrounds, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0582 Parental Rights (Rodrigues (R))**

Creating the "Parents' Bill of Rights"; prohibiting the state, its political subdivisions, other governmental entities, or other institutions from infringing on parental rights unless specified conditions are met; requiring each district school board to develop and adopt a policy to promote parental involvement in the public school system; prohibiting health care practitioners and their employees from providing health care services or prescribing medicinal drugs to a minor child without a parent's written consent, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0590 Involuntary Examinations of Minors (Harrell)**

Revising parent, guardian, or caregiver notification requirements that must be met before an involuntary examination of a minor; revising parent and guardian notification requirements that must be met before conducting an involuntary examination of a minor who is removed from school, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity; creating reporting requirements for schools relating to involuntary examinations of minors; requiring that certain plans include procedures to

assist certain mental and behavioral health providers in attempts to verbally deescalate certain crisis situations before initiating an involuntary examination, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0598 Back-to-school Sales Tax Holiday (Perry)**

Back-to-school Sales Tax Holiday; Providing exemptions from the sales and use tax on the retail sale of certain clothing, wallets, bags, school supplies, personal computers, and personal computer-related accessories during a specified timeframe; defining terms; specifying locations where the exemptions do not apply; authorizing certain dealers to opt out of participating in the tax holiday, subject to certain requirements, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$237,000 Effective Date: Upon becoming a law.

**SB 0600 Private School Eligibility Requirements (Rouson)**

Private School Eligibility Requirements; Revising private school eligibility requirements for the state school choice scholarship program, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law.

**SB 0610 Collective Bargaining for Instructional Personnel (Stewart)**

Removing a requirement that each school district and the certified collective bargaining unit for instructional personnel within each district negotiate a specified memorandum of understanding; removing a requirement that certain certified collective bargaining units include specified information in their applications for renewal of registration; removing a requirement that certain employee organizations petition the Public Employees Relations Commission for recertification, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0611 Civic Literacy Education (Diamond)**

Requires Commissioner of Education to develop criteria for civic literacy practicum that meets certain goals; provides purpose & requirements; authorizes time spent on specified civic engagement activities to count toward requirements for certain scholarships & academic awards. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0641 Charter and Private Schools (Goff-Marcil)**

Provides requirements for charter school websites; requires specified teachers to meet specified requirements; requires charter school facilities & private schools to comply with State Requirements for Educational Facilities of Florida Building Code; revises information required to be included in specified database relating to private schools; provides requirements for private school recess; requires private school students to participate in statewide assessment program; provides private school curricula requirements; provides for injunctive relief; authorizes attorney fees & costs; provides requirements for private school grading & assessments; requires DOE to annually develop private school report card. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0692 Medical Marijuana Public Employee Protection (Duran)**

Prohibiting an employer from taking adverse personnel action against an employee or a job applicant who is a qualified patient using medical marijuana; providing exceptions; requiring an employer to provide written notice of an employee or job applicant's right to explain a positive marijuana test result within a specified timeframe; providing procedures when an employee or job applicant tests positive for marijuana, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law.

**SB 0760 Florida High School Athletic Association (Burgess)**

Requiring the FHSAA to allow certain schools and home education cooperatives to maintain full membership in the association or to join by sport; prohibiting the FHSAA from discouraging such school or cooperative from simultaneously

maintaining membership in another athletic association; requiring, rather than authorizing, the FHSAA to allow public schools to join other athletic associations, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0772 Required Instruction on the History of the Holocaust and of African Americans (Thurston, Jr.)**

Requiring the Department of Education to prepare and offer standards and curricula related to the history of African Americans; requiring the Department of Education to annually verify that school districts, charter schools, and specified private schools implement certain instruction relating to the history of the Holocaust and the history of African Americans; requiring certain statewide, standardized assessments to include curricula content from the history of the Holocaust and the history of African Americans when appropriate, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**HB 0791 Workforce and Postsecondary Education (Harding)**

Revises and provides DOE rulemaking authority; requires uniform minimum requirements to be uniform across all occupations; revises & expands department's duties; provides requirements for State Apprenticeship Advisory Council; provides requirements for apprenticeship & preapprenticeship; removes provisions relating to on-the-job training programs; requires statewide articulation agreement to establish certain mathematics pathways for students; provides requirements for admissions counseling; revises requirements for admission to associate degree programs & dual enrollment; requires BOE to adopt certain rules; provides requirements for FCS institutions & Commissioner of Education; provides for appropriations. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0827 School District Funding (Hawkins)**

Requires school districts allocate certain amount of specified funds to programs that prepare students to enroll in AICE courses; requires such funds be spent on specified costs; requires school districts to distribute specified bonuses to certain teachers providing pre-AICE instruction; requires bonuses based on student's score on AICE examination to be paid to all AICE teachers. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0829 Senior Citizen and Teacher Property Tax Protection (Bush III)**

Prohibits tax collector from including on forms, or assessing or collecting, certain charges on property tax bills for certain identified populations; prohibits tax collector from authorizing debt collection entity to collect certain charges on property tax bills for certain identified populations; prohibits tax collector from selling tax certificate on certain properties; requires DOR to identify mechanisms for assisting certain populations pay for delinquent charges. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0835 Employee Organizations (Byrd)**

Revises registration renewal application requirements for certain employee organizations; requires employee organizations to petition PERC for recertification; authorizes PERC to conduct investigations; requires personnel & employees to submit specified form to school districts; provides acknowledgment language for such form; prohibits district school boards from deducting certain dues or assessments; requires school districts to receive confirmation before making deduction; requires school districts to adopt policies. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0849 School Absence Due to Sickness or Injury (Valdes)**

Specifies types of sickness or injury included under certain exemption to attendance policy. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0865 - School Administrator and Instructional Personnel Salaries (Plasencia)**

Revises teacher salary increase allocation; deletes definitions of the terms "grandfathered salary schedule" and "performance salary schedule"; authorizes, rather than requires, district school boards to provide salary adjustments for certain personnel related to performance. Effective Date: July 1, 2021

**SB 0880 Florida High School Athletic Association (Rodriguez (A))**

Requiring the Florida High School Athletic Association to adopt specified bylaws or policies, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0886 COVID-19 Impact on School Accountability (Thurston, Jr.)**

Prohibiting a school from being required to select and implement a turnaround option in the 2021-2022 school year based on the school's 2020-2021 school grade or improvement rating; prohibiting a school or an approved provider from being subject to sanctions or penalties as a result of its 2020-2021 school grade or improvement rating; prohibiting student performance results from the 2020-2021 statewide, standardized assessments from being used for determining grade 3 retention or high school graduation or for calculating student performance measurement and evaluating personnel, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law.

**HB 0889 Nonprofit Property Tax Exemptions (Borrero)**

Specifies conditions under which exempt property, upon receipt of specified types of revenues, retains its exemption from ad valorem taxation. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0907 Schools of Innovation (DiCeglie)**

Provides for operation of schools of innovation by district school board; provides such schools operate pursuant to performance contract; providing requirements & monitoring of such contracts; provides application process; authorizes schools to request waivers from statutes & rules; provides for support network; authorizes third-party contracts; provides protections for students; requires annual reporting; authorizes alternative grading system & instructional hours. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0918 Education (Bradley)**

Requiring school districts to allocate a certain amount of specified funds to certain programs that prepare prospective students to enroll in Advanced International Certificate of Education courses; requiring such funds to be spent on specified costs; requiring school districts to distribute specified bonuses to certain classroom teachers providing International General Certificate of Secondary Education instruction, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 0934 Education (Wright)**

Requiring additional specified strategies to be included in rules establishing uniform core curricula for each state-approved teacher preparation program; expanding the instruction that an educator preparation institute may provide to include instruction and professional development for part-time and full-time nondegreed teachers of career programs; providing that the William Cecil Golden Professional Development Program for School Leaders must consist of a network of specified entities, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0935 Youth Gender and Sexual Identity (Sabatini)**

Creates Vulnerable Child Protection Act; provides criminal penalties for health care practitioners who engage in or cause specified practices to be performed on minor under certain conditions. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 0947 Dues and Uniform Assessments (Plakon)**

Requires that public employee who desires to join employee organization sign membership authorization form; requires that form include specified acknowledgement; requires employee organization to revoke employee's membership upon receipt of request for revocation; requires employees to provide specified notice to employer to revoke deductions; provides revocation form may not require employee to state reason for revocation; provides deductions commence upon employer's



receipt & confirmation of employee's signed deduction authorization form; requires confirmation within specified time; specifies time period that employee's authorization to deduct dues & uniform assessments remains in effect. Effective Date: upon becoming a law.

**HB 0951 Reporting of School Safety Issues (Daley)**

Requires Office of Safe Schools to establish hotline & use data for specified purposes; provides requirements for reporting specified threats & incidents by threat assessment teams & school principals; establishes Safe Schools Grant Program; provides for administration, funding, & requirements for such program. Effective Date: July 1, 2021

**HB 0985 Digital Learning for Low-income Students (Shoaf)**

Provides that infrastructure includes digital devices & home-based broadband Internet access; requires district school boards to adopt digital learning plans; provides requirements for such plans; requires DOE & Office of Broadband collaborate for specified purposes; requires annual reporting; requires DOE develop state term contracts. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 1000 Part-time Public School Enrollment (Baxley)**

Authorizing certain students to take up to three courses per school year at any public school, subject to space, availability, and course prerequisites; providing construction; revising the definition of the term "part-time student"; requiring program membership surveys of each school made by each district by aggregating the full-time equivalent student membership of each program by school and by district to include part-time students, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 1014 Employee Organizations (Baxley)**

Requiring employee organizations that have been certified as the bargaining agent for educational support employees to include specified information in applications for renewal of registration; revising the information that employee organizations certified as the bargaining agent for a unit of instructional personnel or educational support employees must report in applications for renewal of registration; requiring that an employee organization whose full dues-paying membership as of a specified date is less than 50 percent of eligible employees to petition the Public Employees Relations Commission for recertification, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 1016 Digital Learning (Baxley)**

Revising legislative findings to include digital devices and home-based Internet connectivity in infrastructure as necessary for a high-quality digital learning environment; requiring each school district to adopt a digital learning plan; requiring school districts to submit plans to the Department of Education by a certain date in a format prescribed by the department; requiring the department to develop one or more state term contracts for a specified purpose, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 1023 Cost-of-living Adjustment of Retirement Benefits (Skidmore)**

Specifies minimum amount of factor used to calculate cost-of-living adjustment of benefits for certain retirees & beneficiaries of Florida Retirement System; provides declaration of important state interest. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 1025 Student Retention (Skidmore)**

Authorizes parent to request that his or her student be retained in grade level for specified school year; requires such request to be submitted in specified manner; requires school district superintendents to grant such requests if they are timely received; authorizes school district superintendents to grant requests that are not timely received; requires retained student to remain in grade in which he or she was retained in until student qualifies for promotion at end of school year; requires school districts to report certain data to DOE by specified date. Effective Date: upon becoming a law.

**HB 1027 Opening Remarks at High School Athletic Events (Barnaby)**

Requires FHSAA to provide schools participating in certain FHSAA events opportunity for opening remarks; provides requirements for such opening remarks; requires certain announcements before such opening remarks; provides that opening remarks at regular season events are at discretion of FHSAA member schools. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 1028 Charter Schools (Hutson)**

Authorizing state universities and Florida College System institutions to solicit applications and sponsor charter schools under certain circumstances; requiring the board of trustees of a state university or Florida College System institution that is sponsoring a charter school to serve as the local educational agency for such school; prohibiting certain charter school students from being included in specified school district grade calculations; authorizing a career and professional academy to be offered by a charter school, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**HB 1031 Charter Schools (Rodriguez (Ant))**

Revises provisions relating to charter school applications, use of specified assets, opening of additional high-performing charter schools, & virtual charter schools. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 1033 Certificate of Completion (Borrero)**

Specifies students who have been awarded certificates of completion are eligible to enroll in certain programs. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 1042 Vocational Pathways (Brodeur)**

Deleting a delegation of rulemaking authority to the Department of Education; revising and expanding the department's duties with respect to apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs; requiring the statewide articulation agreement to establish three mathematics pathways for students by aligning mathematics courses to programs, meta-majors, and careers; authorizing technical centers, Florida College System institutions, and state universities to enter into specified agreements; providing for calculation of full-time equivalent membership for a specified industry certification, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 1050 School Bus Safety (Berman)**

Authorizing a school district to install cameras on district school buses for certain purposes; authorizing the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, a county, or a municipality to authorize a traffic infraction enforcement officer to issue and enforce a citation for certain violations; requiring notification to be sent to the registered owner of the motor vehicle involved in the violation; prohibiting an individual from receiving a commission from any revenue collected from violations detected through the use of a camera and a manufacturer or vendor from receiving a fee or remuneration based upon the number of violations detected through the use of a camera, etc. Effective Date: October 1, 2021.

**HB 1061 Schools of Hope (Smith (D))**

Adds certain hope operators to entities required to perform annual financial audit & provide financial statements; revises definition of "persistently low-performing school"; revises student reporting for schools of hope; revises provisions related to the list of specified facilities; revises time certain funds may be carried forward; requires certain school of hope personnel undergo background screening. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 1073 Student Mental Health (Woodson)**

Requires district school boards to adopt policies relating to student mental health; Requires such policies include access to specified professionals, access to continuum of services & procedures to aid a student experiencing a mental health crisis;



requires such procedures minimize law enforcement & hospitalization, involve mobile crisis response services that meet certain criteria, include method to discreetly request assistance, & include ongoing treatment. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 1094 Required Health Education Instruction (Bean)**

Providing additional requirements for health education; revising the grade levels when students receive certain health education instruction; requiring health education instruction to include prevention of specified harms, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 1108 Education (Diaz)**

Authorizing the Department of Education to hold patents, copyrights, trademarks, and service marks; requiring certain students to take a specified assessment relating to civic literacy; requiring certain postsecondary students to complete a civic literacy course and pass a specified assessment to demonstrate competency in civic literacy; requiring school districts to provide the SAT or ACT to grade 11 students beginning in a specified school year; revising the tests that are included under test administration and security rules, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 1119 Water Safety and Swimming Certification for K-12 Students (Daley)**

Requires district school boards & governing authorities of private schools to ask if certain children have completed a water safety education course & swim lessons; provides that schools may ask for specified certification; requires schools offer document containing specified information to certain children; requires school districts to maintain certain records; provides liability exemption for specified injuries. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 1129 Sovereign Immunity (Fernandez-Barquin)**

Increases statutory limits on liability for tort claims against state & its agencies & subdivisions; requires that limitations on tort liability be adjusted every year by specified indicator after specified date. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 1158 School Attendance (Rouson)**

Providing that a parent of a student within the compulsory attendance age is not responsible for the student's nonattendance at school if attendance was impracticable or inadvisable on account of mental or physical sickness or injury, as attested to by a written statement of a licensed practicing physician, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 1159 Educator Preparation and Certification (Busatta Cabrera)**

Revises provisions relating to state-approved teacher preparation programs, career programs, educator certification, & William Cecil Golden Professional Development Program for School Leaders. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 1180 District School Board Member Salaries (Rodrigues (R))**

Requiring that the salaries of certain officials elected on or before July 1, 2021, be adjusted until the official completes his or her 8th year of total service; requiring a member of a district school board elected on or before July 1, 2021, to receive a salary until he or she completes 8 years of total service on the district school board; prohibiting a member of a district school board elected after July 1, 2021, from receiving a salary, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 1184 Schools of Innovation (Brodeur)**

Establishing Schools of Innovation; authorizing a school district to apply to the Commissioner of Education to designate a public school as a School of Innovation; authorizing a School of Innovation to request the state board to waive rules or the district school board to waive policies; authorizing a School of Innovation to use an alternative to letter grades; requiring

the department to determine and implement an equitable method of equivalent funding for Schools of Innovation, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 1214 Nonprofit Taxation (Gruters)**

Specifying conditions for retaining an ad valorem tax exemption for certain property used for certain purposes; defining the term “incidental use”, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 1218 Student Identification Cards (Jones)**

Requiring school principals to ensure that crisis prevention hotline and text line numbers and behavioral health hotline and text line numbers are printed on the back of student identification cards, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 1220 Teach to Lead Program (Jones)**

Requiring additional tax funds to be allocated and applied to the Florida Education Finance Program to be used for specified purposes; creating the Teach to Lead Program for specified purposes, etc. Effective Date: On July 1, 2021, but only if SB\_\_\_ or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.

**SB 1228 Education (Diaz)**

Requiring school districts to provide for live remote operation of all public schools as free schools for a term of 180 days or the equivalent on an hourly basis as specified by rules of the State Board of Education; providing that the number of students attending classes through live remote attendance counts toward class size maximums as equally as the number of students attending in person; including live remote attendance pursuant to rules adopted by the state board as a manner in which students may satisfy the requirement to attend school regularly; requiring the actual or live remote attendance of all public K-12 school students to be checked by each school, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 1244 Florida Kidcare Program Eligibility (Book)**

Increasing the income eligibility limit for coverage under the Florida Kidcare program; requiring applicants to provide specified documentation if the Florida Kidcare program is unable to verify eligibility according to federal requirements; authorizing the Agency for Health Care Administration to seek federal waiver approval or submit state plan amendments as necessary; requiring the agency to examine graduated family contribution rates for newly qualifying families under the Kidcare program, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 1266 Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Memorial Day (Book)**

Recognizing February 14, 2022, and each February 14 thereafter, as “Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Memorial Day” in Florida, a day of remembrance for all of those who lost their lives, or whose lives were forever changed, as a result of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, etc.

**SB 1279 Florida Talent Development Council (Melo)**

Requires council to submit to specified entities a report that includes recommendations on feasibility of establishing and implementing Pathways in Technology Early College High School program or similar program; provides requirements for report. Effective Date: upon becoming a law.

**SB 1282 Early Learning and Early Grade Success (Harrell)**

Deleting the Office of Early Learning from within the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice of the Department of Education; establishing the Division of Early Learning within the department; revising approved child care or early

education settings for the placement of certain children; requiring each parent who enrolls his or her child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to allow his or her child to participate in a specified screening and progress monitoring program; revising the performance standards for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program; authorizing certain students who enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to receive intensive reading interventions using specified funds, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$3,865,759 Effective Date: Upon becoming a law.

**SB 1284 Reporting of School Safety Issues (Jones)**

Requiring data from a specified hotline to be included in a certain centralized integrated data repository; requiring the Office of Safe Schools to establish and operate a hotline for specified purposes; requiring threat assessment teams to report all threats and incidents to the school principal; establishing the Safe Schools Grant Program; providing for funding and administration of the program, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022.

**SB 1300 Charter Schools (Diaz)**

Revising requirements for the annual reports that charter school sponsors are required to submit to the Department of Education; requiring the Charter School Commission, formerly the Charter School Appeal Commission, to recommend denial of a charter school application if the school does not propose a certain reading curriculum; prohibiting specified individuals and entities from submitting an application to open a charter school for specified periods of time, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**HB 1303 Human Trafficking Education in Schools (Williams)**

Revises required health education in public schools to include information regarding dangers & signs of human trafficking; specifies minimum requirements of human trafficking education portion of comprehensive health education curriculum. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 1310 Retirement (Polsky)**

Specifying the minimum amount of the factor used to calculate the cost-of-living adjustment of benefits for certain retirees and beneficiaries of the Florida Retirement System; providing a declaration of important state interest, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**HB 1325 Neighborhood Pod Learning Programs (Truenow)**

Authorizes certain parents to establish & operate neighborhood pod learning program; provides program requirements; prohibits discrimination against parent or student for participation in program; provides that program does not increase regulatory authority of state. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 1327 Florida Retirement System (Alexander)**

Revises definition of "continuous service" for purposes of FRS; revises exception to employment after retirement limitation for retired law enforcement officers who are reemployed with covered employer. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 1336 Gold Seal Quality Care Program (Gibson)**

Revising the requirements of the Gold Seal Quality Care program; requiring the Department of Education to establish a verification process for accrediting entities and providing requirements therefor; providing that an accrediting entity is liable for repayment of certain rate differentials if the accrediting entity granted accreditation to specified entities under fraudulent terms or failed to conduct onsite verifications; providing an exemption from ad valorem taxation and rate differentials for certain child care facilities, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law.

**SB 1372 Literacy Improvement (Burgess)**

Establishing the New Worlds Reading Initiative under the Department of Education; requiring the administrator, in consultation with a specified entity, to develop a selection of books; requiring the administrator to coordinate monthly book distribution to certain students; requiring the administrator to assist with local implementation of the initiative; requiring that a certain notification include information about the initiative, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 1394 Certificates of Completion (Rodriguez (A))**

Specifying that students awarded a certificate of completion are eligible to enroll in career center and charter technical career center programs, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**HB 1401 Applied Behavior in Analysis Services (Plasencia)**

Revises definition of "clinic" to exempt certain groups of individuals providing applied behavior analysis services from health care clinic licensure requirements; revises definition of "private instructional personnel" to include certain registered behavior technicians. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 1403 Florida Retirement System (Willhite)**

Provides for compulsory membership in Florida Retirement System for certain governing bodies initially enrolled on or after specified date; requires certain benefits be paid to beneficiary who does not qualify as joint annuitant; authorizes eligible employees one opportunity to transfer between investment plan to pension plan within specified time; authorizes members to contribute more to Florida Retirement System for specified purpose. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 1407 Emergency Drills in Public Schools (Hart)**

Revises district school board duties relating to fire drills & emergency drills for active shooter & hostage situations; expands requirements for district school board procedures relating to drills for active shooter & hostage situations; requires district school boards to establish procedures to provide advance notification of drills for active shooter & hostage situations to parents & to provide parents with option to excuse their students from physical drills; requires such procedures to allow certain students to elect to remain on school premises during physical drills & remain excused from drills. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 1410 Student Mental Health (Jones)**

Requiring district school boards to adopt policies relating to student mental health for grades 9 through 12; requiring that such policies include access to specified professionals in the school setting, access to a continuum of services during the school day, and procedures to aid a student experiencing a mental health crisis; requiring such procedures to ensure appropriate care, minimize the use of law enforcement and hospitalization, involve the use of mobile crisis response services that meet certain criteria, include a method to request assistance discreetly, and include methods for engaging the student and his or her family in continuing treatment, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**HB 1419 Establishment of Charter Schools (Fischer)**

Establishes New Charter Application Commission; provides purpose & composition of commission; provides members serve without compensation; provides that both local school district sponsor & commission will function as charter school authorizers; revises provisions related to charter school applications & review & denial of such applications; provides duties of local school districts that did not function as charter school authorizers. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 1421 Florida Kidcare Program Eligibility (Bartleman)**

Removes requirement that AHCA establish penalties or waiting periods for reinstatement of coverage; removes provisions relating to children who are not eligible to receive premium assistance; revises limitation for eligibility for continuous coverage; requires applicant seeking coverage to provide documentation if eligibility cannot be verified using reliable data sources. Effective Date: July 1, 2021

**SB 1424 Students with Limited English Proficiency (Jones)**

Requiring district school boards to provide certain instruction to students who have limited English proficiency; requiring that certain standardized assessments be waived for such students in specified circumstances, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 1440 School Bus Safety (Jones)**

Authorizing school districts to install and operate side stop signal arm enforcement systems on school buses; authorizing school districts to contract with a private vendor or manufacturer to provide side stop signal arm enforcement systems; providing that recorded images evidencing a violation of this act shall be admissible in any judicial or administrative proceeding for a certain purpose; specifying requirements of and prohibitions on the use of recorded video and still images captured by the side stop signal arm enforcement system, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 1450 Civic Education Curriculum (Rodriguez (A))**

Revising the social studies high school graduation credit requirement; requiring the Department of Education to develop or approve an integrated civic education curriculum that meets certain requirements; requiring the department to curate oral history resources to be used along with such curriculum; designating the "Portraits in Patriotism Act", etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**HB 1461 Prohibition on Compensation for Members of a District School Board (Garrison)**

Proposing amendments to State Constitution to prohibit compensation for members of district school board.

**SB 1468 Charter Schools (Gruters)**

Revising requirements for the charter school application process; revising provisions relating to the opening of additional high-performing charter schools; authorizing a virtual charter school to provide part-time virtual instruction and be an approved provider; authorizing a virtual charter school to contract with a public or charter school, rather than enter into an agreement with a school district, for specified purposes, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**HB 1475 Sex-Specific Student Athletic Teams or Sports (Tuck)**

Requires that certain athletic teams or sports sponsored by certain educational institutions be designated on basis of students' biological sex; prohibits athletic teams or sports designated for female students to be open to male students; requires that student's school or institution, as applicable, resolve disputes regarding student's sex; requires State Board of Education to adopt certain rules; provides for civil remedies & damages; provides statute of limitation. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 1487 School Resiliency Pilot Programs (McCurdy)**

Establishes Resilient Schools Pilot Program within DOE; provides directive to DOE for approving school districts for participation; requires DOE, with specified entities, to assist participating school districts & certain schools regarding renewable energy source devices, energy storage devices, & energy efficiency devices; authorizes certain schools & local government authorities to directly solicit bids from & contract directly with specified entities to acquire such devices &

services; authorizes PSC to approve pilot programs proposed by electric utilities; prohibits PSC from approving certain pilot programs; authorizes certain schools & local government authorities to enter into contracts with third parties regarding such devices; specifies that certain financing arrangements & contracted third parties are not subject to regulation by PSC; requires DOE to provide specified report to Legislature. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 1496 Early Learning Scholarship Program (Ausley)**

Citing this act as the "Brighter Future Act"; establishing the Early Learning Scholarship program; requiring the program to be administered by the Office of Early Learning; providing that a student who receives a scholarship remains eligible to participate until the student is admitted to kindergarten or attains the age of 6 years by a specified date, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**HB 1505 Workforce Programs and Services (Melo)**

Requires DOE & DCF, in consultation with DEO, to implement automated consumer-first workforce system; requires DEO to develop training for specified partners; requires certain DOE standards & policies to include specified requirement for training providers; provides criteria for work-based learning opportunity; requires that certain resources be used in career & education planning courses & character development curriculum; provides requirements for certain student career service centers & courses for digital credential. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 1507 Workforce Related Programs and Services (Yarborough)**

Creates Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help; creates & revises provisions relating to workforce services including the Labor Market Estimating Conference, workforce opportunity portal, state board composition, Credentials Review Committee, state plan requirements, waivers, local workforce development boards, Master Credentials List, CAPE Industry Certification Funding List, industry certifications, SEAS program, workforce development metrics, Florida Talent Development Council, Open Door Grant Program, preapprenticeship & apprenticeship program grants, & Money-back Guarantee Program. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 1538 Public K-12 Educational Institution Resiliency (Rodriguez (A))**

Citing this act as the "Resilient Schools Act"; authorizing the Department of Education to provide certain technical assistance to school districts; authorizing schools or other local governmental authorities acting on behalf of a school to contract with third parties for renewable energy source devices located on property owned or controlled by a school; establishing the Resilient Schools Pilot Program within the department beginning with a specified school year, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**HB 1583 Public K-12 Educational Institution Resiliency (Rodriguez (A))**

Authorizes parent-teacher compacts to educate children; provides requirements for such compacts; provides status of students & teachers in such compacts; provides funding & payments; specifies state assumes no liability for such compacts; specifies effect of compacts on state's regulatory authority. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 1585 Government Accountability (Barnaby)**

Creates Florida Integrity Office under Auditor General; provides duties & powers of Florida Integrity Officer, Auditor General, Chief Inspector General, & agency inspectors general; provides requirements for awards given to employees who report under Whistle-blower's Act; revises requirements for public agency contracts; requires Office of Inspector General of DOE to conduct investigations relating to waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement against district school board or Florida College System institution. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.



**SB 1610 School Administrator and Instructional Personnel Salaries (Jones)**

Revising the teacher salary increase allocation to include additional specified instructional personnel; authorizing, rather than requiring, district school boards to provide salary adjustments related to performance for certain personnel, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**HB 1611 Renewable Energy Sources (Hardy)**

Authorizes public educational customers to enter into contracts for renewable energy source devices; requires electric utilities to provide meter aggregation to certain customers; authorizes net metering under specified conditions; requires electric utilities to adopt tariff; authorizes nonprofit corporations or commercial or industrial business owners, or third parties, to install, maintain, & operate renewable energy source device; authorizes sale of electricity by the devices; exempts from regulation sale of electricity produced by such devices; allows public customers to use renewable energy generating systems on specified properties; authorizes aggregation of electricity for net metering purposes; prohibits certain costs associated with such systems from being included in calculation of total cost per student station.; providing an effective date. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 1614 Neighborhood Pod Learning Programs (Rodriguez (A))**

Citing this act as the “Neighborhood Pod Learning Act”; authorizing the parents of children from at least two unrelated families to establish and operate a neighborhood pod learning program; defining terms; providing that a parent participating in operating a program is not required to hold a Florida teaching certificate; prohibiting a district from requiring additional information or verification from a program parent unless a program student chooses to participate in a school district program or service; clarifying that a program is not a child care facility, family day care home, or large family child care home, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**HB 1621 Early Learning Scholarship Programs (Rodriguez (A))**

Establishes Early Learning Scholarship Program; requires program to be administered by Office of Early Learning; provides program purpose & eligibility criteria; requires parents to use program funds for specified purpose; provides for administration of program; requires office to contract with independent contractor to evaluate program; requires office to submit written copy of evaluation to Legislature; specifies provider eligibility criteria; exempts state from liability; provides that program does not expand regulatory authority of state; requires office to adopt rules; provides appropriation. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**SB 1622 Hope Operators (Bean)**

Providing that a hope operator that has not been notified that a financial audit for a fiscal year will be performed by the Auditor General must retain an independent certified public accountant to complete, within 9 months after the end of its fiscal year, an annual financial audit of its accounts, which must be paid from its public funds; revising the definition of the term “persistently low-performing school”; authorizing, instead of requiring, a school of hope designated as a local education agency to report students in accordance with procedures and timelines adopted by the Department of Education, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 1632 Florida Retirement System (Ausley)**

Revising the definition of the term “continuous service” for purposes of the Florida Retirement System; revising an exception to the employment after retirement limitations for retired law enforcement officers who are reemployed with a covered employer, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**HB 1635 Hernando County School District, Hernando County (Ingoglia)**

Repeals resolution of School Board of Hernando County providing for appointed superintendent of schools; provides for an elected superintendent of schools & referendum. Effective Date: upon becoming a law.

**SB 1636 Florida Kidcare Program Eligibility (Ausley)**

Removing a requirement that the Agency for Health Care Administration establish certain penalties or waiting periods for reinstatement of coverage under certain circumstances; removing certain provisions relating to children who are not eligible to receive premium assistance under the program; revising a provision limiting eligibility for continuous coverage under the program to children of certain ages, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 1642 Limitation on Terms of Office for Members of a District School Board (Gruters)**

Proposing amendments to the State Constitution to limit the terms of office for members of a district school board, etc.

**SB 1654 Education (Gruters)**

Authorizing district school boards to conduct daily business in person or through the use of telecommunication networks; deleting a requirement that certain contact with parents and students be made by telephone; exempting academically high-performing school districts from complying with a specified provision relating to the operation of all schools for a term of 180 actual teaching days; authorizing academically high-performing school districts to provide up to 2 days of virtual instruction, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 1718 Renewable Energy Sources (Berman)**

Authorizing a public educational customer to enter into a contract for the installation, maintenance, or operation of a renewable energy source device located on property owned or controlled by the public educational customer; providing that financing arrangements for such contracts are not considered retail sales of electricity; requiring electric utilities to provide meter aggregation to public educational customers under certain circumstances; authorizing business entities or third parties contracted by such owners to install, maintain, and operate a renewable energy source device on or about the structure in which the business entity operates or on a property the business entity owns or leases, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 1720 School Means (Torres, Jr.)**

Revising provisions relating to school nutrition program requirements; requiring district school boards that participate in the National School Lunch Program to provide meals to a student regardless of his or her ability to pay or whether he or she has any unpaid meal charges; prohibiting certain students from being required to destroy or dispose of a meal based on any unpaid meal charges, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 1754 Parent-Teacher Compact Program (Brodeur)**

Citing this act as the "Parent-Teacher Compact Act"; requiring the State Board of Education to establish the Parent-Teacher Compact program; authorizing a parent to enter into a written compact with a teacher to oversee the education of his or her children; requiring a teacher to submit a compact to the Department of Education for review and approval; requiring a teacher who is serving students under a compact to maintain a portfolio of student records and materials, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 1780 Emergency Drills in Public Schools (Cruz)**

Revising district school board duties relating to fire drills and emergency drills for active shooter and hostage situations; expanding requirements for district school board procedures relating to drills for active shooter and hostage situations;



requiring district school boards to establish procedures to provide advance notification of drills for active shooter and hostage situations to parents and to provide parents with an option to excuse their students from physical drills, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 1794 Applied Behavior Analysis Services (Bracy)**

Revising the definition of the term “clinic” to exempt certain groups of individuals providing applied behavior analysis services from health care clinic licensure requirements; revising the definition of the term “private instructional personnel” to include certain registered behavior technicians, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 1864 Education (Perry)**

Requiring the Department of Education to maintain a disqualification list that includes the identities of certain persons; requiring district school boards to investigate certain complaints and report certain results of such investigations to the department; prohibiting an individual who is on the disqualification list from being employed by a charter school or serving as a member of a charter school governing board; requiring certain private schools to adopt policies establishing standards of ethical conduct for certain employees; expanding the list of entities that law enforcement agencies must notify of certain charges, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 1870 Florida Retirement System (Ausley)**

Providing for compulsory membership in the Florida Retirement System for certain governing bodies established on or after a specified date; requiring certain benefits be paid to a beneficiary who does not qualify as a joint annuitant; authorizing eligible employees an additional opportunity to transfer from the investment plan to the pension plan within a specified timeframe; authorizing pension plan members to contribute amounts in addition to the required member rate to the Florida Retirement System for a specified purpose, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 1898 Student Literacy (Rodriguez (A))**

Revising and providing duties for the Just Read, Florida! Office within the Department of Education; requiring the Department of Education, in consultation with the Office of Early Learning, to implement a coordinated screening and progress monitoring system for students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 8; requiring certain students to participate in a certain coordinated screening and progress monitoring system; creating the “Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Act”, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021,

**SB 1936 Exemptions from School-Entry Health Requirements (Book)**

Deleting an exemption from school-entry health examinations for religious reasons; revising provisions relating to immunization requirements for children; authorizing the Department of Health to adopt certain emergency rules; requiring the Board of Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Medicine, jointly, to create a medical exemption review panel, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 1962 Educational Instruction on African-American History (Cruz)**

Revising the required instruction relating to African-American history to include certain information on present-day racial injustices and hardships; requiring the Department of Education to contract with the Commissioner of Education’s African American History Task Force in developing a specific framework for such instruction; requiring the task force to submit its recommendations to the commissioner and the State Board of Education by a specified date; requiring each school district to annually certify, beginning on a specified date, that it has met certain requirements, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022.

**SB 1964 Persons Authorized to Visit Charter Schools (Cruz)**

Authorizing the Governor, all Cabinet members, and all members of the Legislature to visit any charter school in this state; authorizing such a visitor to visit a charter school on any day at any time; providing that no prior notice is required for the visit; prohibiting any person from limiting the scope or duration of the visit; authorizing a charter school to require a visitor to sign in and out at the charter school's main office and to wear an identification badge at all times while on the premises, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**SB 2012 Promoting Equality of Athletic Opportunity (Stargel)**

Citing this section as the "Promoting Equality of Athletic Opportunity Act"; requiring that certain athletic teams or sports sponsored by certain educational institutions be designated on the basis of students' biological sex; prohibiting athletic teams or sports designated for female students from being open to male students; specifying conditions under which persons who transition from male to female are eligible to compete in the female category; requiring a student that fails to comply with certain conditions to be suspended from female competition for 12 months; requiring the Board of Governors of the State University System to adopt regulations and the State Board of Education to adopt rules regarding the resolution of disputes, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021.

**HB 02051 English as a Second Language through Arts Integration (Morales)**

English as a Second Language through Arts Integration: Provides an appropriation for the English as a Second Language through Arts Integration. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 3685 Manatee Schools STEM Career Pathways Pilot**

Provides an appropriation for the Manatee Schools STEM Career Pathways Pilot. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 6001 Licenses to Carry Concealed Weapons or Firearms (Sabatini)**

Removes provision prohibiting concealed carry licensees from openly carrying handgun or carrying concealed weapon or firearm into college or university facility. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

**HB 7011 Student Literacy (Aloupis, Jr.)**

Provides and revises requirements relating to improvement of student literacy skills; requires DOE, in consultation with Office of Early Learning, to implement coordinated screening and progress monitoring system for VPK program through grade 8; establishes Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Program within DOE; revises requirements relating to specified reading instruction allocation; revises requirements for certain instructional personnel & professional development program. Effective Date: July 1, 2021

**SB 7052 Florida K-12 Education Tax Credit Program Trust Fund/Department of Education (Senate Appropriations)**

Creating the Florida K-12 Education Tax Credit Program Trust Fund within the Department of Education; providing the purpose of the trust fund and the source of funds; exempting the trust fund from the general revenue service charge; requiring any balance in the trust fund at the end of any fiscal year to remain in the trust fund and be available for carrying out the purpose of the trust fund; providing for future review and termination or re-creation of the trust fund, etc. Effective Date: On the same date that SB 48 or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation is enacted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.

## YOUR GRAYROBINSON TEAM



**Dean Cannon, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Chair of Government Affairs**

[dean.cannon@gray-robinson.com](mailto:dean.cannon@gray-robinson.com)

Dean served in the Florida House of Representatives from 2004 until 2012. During his eight-year tenure, he played pivotal roles in property tax reform, growth management reform, health care and Medicaid reform, and major transportation infrastructure policy initiatives, among many others. He was selected by his peers to become Speaker of the House for the 2010 to 2012 term and is credited with leading the Florida House effectively during a time of great economic and political challenge.



**Kim McDougal, Ph.D., Senior Government Affairs Consultant**

[kim.mcdougal@gray-robinson.com](mailto:kim.mcdougal@gray-robinson.com)

Kim brings almost three decades of education policy knowledge and experience to the firm's lobbying practice, having served in multiple leadership roles at the Department of Education, including governmental relations director and senior policy advisor for several commissioners of education. Most recently, Kim served as chief of staff to Florida Governor Rick Scott. In this role, she was responsible for directly serving and advising the Governor on issues pertaining to 100,000 plus executive branch employees and administered an \$83 billion state budget. She also served as Governor Scott's deputy chief of staff, legislative affairs director, education policy coordinator and as policy advisor during his successful re-election campaign.



**Carlecia Collins, Government Consultant**

[carlecia.collins@gray-robinson.com](mailto:carlecia.collins@gray-robinson.com)

Carlecia has more than a decade of experience working in Florida politics. Her experience includes serving as a special assistant to the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives and in several leadership roles within the Florida Senate President's office. In her most recent position, Carlecia served as a senior legislative assistant for Florida Senate President Bill Galvano, where she handled statewide appointments to boards, commissions, and taskforces for the Florida Senate.