

# GRAY ROBINSON

ATTORNEYS | LOBBYISTS | CONSULTANTS



## Florida School Boards Association 2021 Legislative Session Report



**SESSION WEEK ONE**  
March 2, 2021 – March 5, 2021

[www.gray-robinson.com](http://www.gray-robinson.com)

Boca Raton | Fort Lauderdale | Fort Myers | Gainesville | Jacksonville | Key West | Lakeland  
Melbourne | Miami | Naples | Orlando | Tallahassee | Tampa | Washington, DC | West Palm Beach

TABLE OF CONTENTS

**COMMITTEE REPORTS ..... 3**

    Senate Education Committee .....3

    House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee ..... 15

    House Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee .....21

    House Post-Secondary Education & Lifelong Learning Subcommittee .....30

    House Secondary Education and Career Development Subcommittee.....36

**LEGISLATION OF INTEREST ..... 49**

**YOUR GRAYROBINSON TEAM ..... 74**

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Senate Education Committee

**Bill Discussion and Debate.**

**Tuesday, March 2, 2021**

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

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

---

Temporarily postponed.

#### **CS/SB 170 – Podiatric Medicine (Hooper, Gruters)**

---

This bill makes 3 changes to the practice of podiatry:

1. It creates a section of law in Florida Statute 461 that deals with the acts and duties of podiatric assistants. It follows the same rules and regulations that MDs currently use.
2. It includes the practice of podiatry to direct healthcare agreements. It does not change any of those agreements, it just adds podiatrists to that category.
3. It modifies the requirement for instructional control substances prescribing. It gives podiatrists more option to receive their 2-hour controlled substance requirements.

#### **Q&A**

---

None.

#### **Public Testimony**

---

##### **Chris Hansen, Florida Podiatric Medical Association**

Supports the bill. If this bill passes, we would be a better trained and more efficient practice group in delivering healthcare services to the lower extremities in the state of Florida. I am especially excited about the section of the bill relating to podiatric assistants.

#### **Debate**

---

None.

#### **Outcome**

---

This bill was reported favorably.

#### **SB 188 – Solar Energy Systems (Berman)**

---

This bill exempts all costs associated with solar energy from what is known as the “Cost-per-Student limitation,” which is imposed on our school districts through new construction. The CPSS calculation normally includes things like architectural and engineering fees, but we would exempt the cost of solar energy from this limitation.

## Q&A

---

### Senator Diaz

Q: The cost measurements that have been put in place have been amended over the last few years for the purpose of making sure that there are no extravagancies being built. Do you have any information on how much these systems cost on an average? Additionally, do we know any savings the solar energy might provide (as to offset these costs)?

A: Like you said, it is difficult to determine the average cost, because it is based on installation and operation, and entirely dependent on how large of a system. The return on investments of these is exceedingly high, and I can give you an example from the state of Florida. Osceola's county NEO Academy, Florida's first net zero energy school, just went solar. They projected a 9-year return on investment, but the updates numbers look like it will be in 7.5 years. Annually, they are saving \$115,000 in energy expenses. In over 20 years, they are expected to save \$3.2 million. It really is a good commercial decision to put solar on the schools.

Q: In the bill, do you have specific parameters as to the criteria for these solar systems being installed? Are we just leaving it to the discretion of the district, or are we just asking the department to set up a criteria to make sure they remain within those boundaries when installing these systems?

A: Right now, we have left it in the bill, at the discretion of the school boards. I think that is how it is being done right now. For instance, we made an exemption as a legislature in 2019 on the cost-per-student station for things cameras, fencing, bullet proof glass, etc. At that time, we allowed the school boards decide.

### Senator Hutson

Q: In terms of how the solar is regulated, is it through the building codes? Are we making sure that all those regulations are in place as it comes to health safety for the students?

A: Definitely, they will be regulated through the building codes of whatever is local.

## Public Testimony

---

### CLEO Institute

Waiving in support.

### Jessica Lewis, The Sierra Club

Waiving in support.

### Johnathan Weber, Florida Conservation Voters

Waiving in support.

## Debate

---

**Senator Diaz:** You mentioned the criteria change as a result of the unfortunate incident in Parkland. I think you can continue to work on this bill, and I will support it today and I will have a conversation with you on some ideas I have to make sure that you put some safe guards in to maintain the cost. I will gladly work with you.

## Closing

---

**Senator Berman:** I do appreciate Senator Diaz's comments, and I would like to work with you on this bill. This is the first committee, so we can go from here and try to put some guidelines in place to make sure that everyone is happy with it. Over the long run, this will have a really good economic benefit. Some of the others in Arkansas, for instance, they have used

their savings and given back to their teachers through their salaries. This is a great bill, because we should really have some savings from it. I am asking for your support.

---

## Outcome

The bill was reported favorably.

---

## SB 366 – Apprenticeship and Preapprenticeship Training (Hutson)

This bill modifies Florida's career technical education program to improve and expand apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs. It provides support for students in work-based learning programs, and addresses worker's compensation funding for such programs. It specifies career education requirements for middle school promotion and high school graduation. It modifies the funding incentive for industry certifications and provides relevant mathematics pathways. The bill makes a number of changes to clarify apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship program requirements and broadens the scope of such programs to occupations, rather than just trades. The bill also clarifies that standards are uniform minimum standards, which aligns with current practice. Finally, the bill removes outdated language related to on the job trainings, and limitations to local sponsors rather than state-wide, regional, or national.

---

## Questions

None.

---

## Amendment #285652 (Hutson)

The amendment redefines workforce education so that Florida can lead the nation increase in creating an environment where all students are empowered to find a productive career. These components include workforce definition and updates, defining work-based learning, granting CTE audit authority, offering additional college course placement methods, expanding the mathematics pathways, expanding rule-making authority for fees and waivers, and updating the quality and accountability.

---

## Amendment to the Amendment, Amendment #321820 (Hutson)

This is a technical amendment to clarify that the Department of Education identifies industry certifications that are eligible for additional time equivalent student membership.

---

## Q&A

None.

---

## Public Testimony

None.

---

## Debate

None.

---

## Closing

Waived closed.

---

### Outcome

This amendment was adopted.

---

### Questions on the Bill as Amended

None.

---

### Public Testimony on the Bill as Amended

#### **Kahn Lynn, Florida PTA**

Waiving in support.

#### **George Chamezo, Opportunity Solutions Project**

Waiving in support.

#### **Bethany Swonson, Florida Department of Education**

Waiving in support.

#### **Matthew Choy, Florida Chamber of Commerce**

Waiving in support.

#### **Yale Olenick, Florida Education Association**

Waiving in support.

#### **Jeffrey Sharky, National Electrical Contractor Association**

Concerned about the coordination and articulation of the existing apprenticeship programs. As the bill moves forward, we want to make sure that these traditional trade apprenticeship programs do not get diminished. We also want to make sure that the associated funding is not diminished.

---

### Debate on the Bill as Amended

None.

---

### Closing on the Bill as Amended

**Senator Hutson:** The goal is to keep all of the programs in place and expand upon that. We are not trying to eliminate any apprenticeships out there.

---

### Outcome on the Bill as Amended

The bill (as amended) is reported favorably.

**SB 486 – Juvenile Justice Education Programs (Bradley)**

---

This bill addresses needed changes in the education statutes as it related to the juvenile justice education programs. Specifically, the bill will provide flexibility in academic instructional days, allowing providers to offer the required 250 academic days (minus teacher workdays) or the hourly equivalent of such. It will also increase the required FEFP percentage for juvenile justice education programs by 5%. The bill will also address the timely payment of school district contracts.

### Questions

---

None.

### Amendment #120818 (Bradley)

---

This amendment, with regard to the flexibility and the academic instructional days, specifies that that would only apply to nonresidential juvenile justice educational providers. With regard to the timely payment of school district contracts, it removes the April 1 date, to ensure that the timeline for the execution and payment of those contracts work for all the different providers. It increases the number of days allowed for the payment of invoices from 10 to 15.

### Questions

---

None.

### Public Testimony

---

None.

### Debate

---

None.

### Outcome

---

The amendment was adopted.

### Public Testimony on the Bill as Amended

---

#### Kahn Lynn Bankov, Florida PTA

Waiving in support.

### Debate on the Bill as Amended

---

None.

### Closing on the Bill as Amended

---

**Senator Bradley:** Appreciates favorable support.

### Outcome of the Bill as Amended

---



The bill (as amended) was reported favorably.

---

### **SB 934 – Education (Wright)**

---

This bill is intended to make sure that teachers are fully prepared for the realities of today's classrooms with improved mental health and technological strategies. The bill also allows postsecondary institutions to seek approval to create educational preparation institutes for instruction in professional development for part-time and full-time non-degreed teachers of career programs. This is intended to reduce the current shortage of CTE teachers across the varying subject areas in our state. This proposal will additionally expand teacher requirement opportunities, reducing Florida's teacher shortage, and provide more pathways for students exploring their future. The bill also includes provisions to obtain a summative evaluation rating of highly effective to waive the professional educational test requirement. This removes redundancy in some of our testing standards, so it also aims to improve the quality of leadership professional development offered, which is currently outdated and does not reflect contemporary best practices in professional learning research. We incorporate updated critical areas for leadership professional development such as civics, literacy, mental health coaching, mentoring technologically, and education in distant learning and in school safety. We will solve this problem in part by allowing a master's degree or higher to code as a means to demonstrate mastery of the general knowledge instead of forcing the candidate to pay for another test. It would also update old language to ensure that teacher programs are holding those accountable for producing high quality learning opportunities.

---

### **Amendment #741120 (Wright)**

---

This amendment would require education/training for identifying and referring students for mental health support in partnership with local school districts. It would provide training in technology and education in distance learning to the uniform core curriculum. The amendment is specific to education preparedness.

---

### **Q&A**

---

None.

---

### **Public Testimony**

---

None.

---

### **Debate**

---

None.

---

### **Outcome**

---

The amendment was adopted.

---

### **Amendment #961124 (Wright)**

---

This amendment allows Department of Education certified non-public schoolteachers to obtain additional certification coverage through private professional development programs. Currently, these teachers will not be issued add-on endorsements by the department (i.e., ESOL, Reading, Gifted content).

---

### **Questions**

---



None.

### Public Testimony

---

**Brenda Dickinson, Florida Council of Independent Schools**

Waiving in support.

**Michael Barret, Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops**

Waiving in support.

**James Herzog, Florida Academic Association of Non-Public Schools**

Waiving in support.

### Closing

---

Waived closing.

### Outcome

---

The amendment was adopted.

### Questions on the Bill as Amended

---

**Senator Jones**

Q: For clarification: for the individuals that choose to not take the general knowledge test, if they have their master's degree, they do not have to take the exam?

A: This is an agency bill, and I will get back with you on the answer.

**Senator Diaz**

Q: Would you be open to me having a discussion with you to add one more thing? Currently, our teachers can re-certified in two ways: either by taking 6 college credits or 120 master plan points of professional development. Our colleges and universities are only allowed to do college credits. I would like to talk about allowing those same institutions to also be able to offer those master plan points.

A: Certainly. I would be happy to do that.

### Public Testimony on the Bill as Amended

---

**Kahn Lynn Bankov, Florida PTA**

Waiving in support.

**Bethany Swonson, Florida Department of Education**

Waiving in support.

**Debby Mortham, Foundation for Florida's Future**

Waiving in support.

## Debate on the Bill as Amended

---

**Senator Jones:** Senator Diaz made a good point about our efforts to retain teachers. Teachers often find themselves battling with the exam and trying to stay in the classroom. I think this moves us in the right direction to retain teachers.

## Closing on the Bill as Amended

---

Waived close.

## Outcome of the Bill as Amended

---

The bill (as amended) was reported favorably.

## SB 886 – covid-19 impact on school accountability (Thurston)

---

This bill mitigates inequity in our schools resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The bill will pause the penalties and sanctions associated with the accountability system. Students will still be required to take statewide assessments, however, testing data yielded from the 2020-2021 academic year would not be used for decisions regarding student retention, graduation, teacher effectiveness, school turnaround, or school grades. Instead, statewide standardized assessment data will be collected to provide learning support for students who have regressed due to the impacts of the pandemic.

## Q&A

---

### Senator Diaz

Q: I think this bill is a worthwhile conversation. Have you had conversations with the DOE about whether or not they have secured a waiver from the United States Department of Education on the federal requirements and accountability?

A: I have not had those conversations, but I think several individuals from the school boards across the districts (who are here to testify) have had those conversations, and I'm sure they will address it.

Q: Keeping in mind that this proposal would basically freeze all of our accountability measures. From what I see in the bill, it does not prevent testing from occurring. Is that correct?

A: That is absolutely correct.

Q: Have you had conversations with multiple districts? I know they are all in different situations, but there are some schools that would not be able to escape their current turnaround situations. Have you received any feedback from schools in that situation?

A: There has been conversation with the stakeholders in regard to that. The plan is that they would continue on that path. It would simply be the next year that they fall into that category. They would not use this year to evaluate them in terms of progress.

Q: How does this bill affect the status of high performing designations for schools and school districts? Would this bill prevent a school district or particular school from receiving that rating?

A: This bill would not prevent a school from receiving high performing rates for X amount of years in a row.

Q: When you refer to stakeholders, are you speaking about school districts?

A: Absolutely.

### **Senator Passidomo**

Q: This revolves around the repeal date of July 1, 2023. Could you take me through this? It states that the assessment dates are really from 2020 through 2021, so would this also include 2022?

A: We came up with this date, because we are certainly not prepared to say when exactly this will need to extend to. However, we do not know when this pandemic will end. There has been substantial discussion about children not being in school and not having returned to school. In an abundance of caution, we figured we should have the repeal date in two years, as opposed to one. We need to look at the reality of where we are at with the students and the regression we are seeing across the board.

### **Senator Hutson**

Q: If we did get these tests back, doesn't the State Board of Education have the ability to do this already?

A: I think the State Board of Education may have the power to do whatever they want, but we are looking at this from a legislative perspective.

Q: How does this affect the funding for the school districts that may still be high performing versus those that are not?

A: This does not alter the current funding format.

### **Senator Broxson**

Q: We really need to coordinate all of this through the DOE, because it affects the teacher bonuses and many other components. I think this almost needs to be directed by DOE in order to address the complexities. Additionally, when you talk about stakeholders, are you talking about the 67 school districts, superintendents, teachers association? Who is trying to orchestrate this and how can they possibly do it without having close coordination with DOE?

A: The school districts are the ones that would be coordinating it, and I think that they are already having these discussions with them as well.

Q: Is there a member of the DOE that plans to speak on this?

A: We do have a member of the DOE here, but I don't know if they will want to chime in at this point.

## **Public Testimony**

---

### **Alexandro Gonzales, United Way of Broward County**

Waiving in support.

### **Wendy Dodge, Polk County Public Schools**

Waiving in support.

### **Jessica Genesawitz, Florida Association of School Administrators**

Waiving in support.

### **Yale Olenick, Florida Education Association**

Waiving in support.

### **Alejandro Gonzalez**

Waiving in support.

### **BillieAnn Gay, Florida School Board Association**

Waiving in support.

**Damien Jane, Miami County Public Schools**

Waiving in support.

**John Sullivan, Broward County Public Schools**

Supports the bill.

It would be unfair to penalize students and teachers this year. The data should only be used for baseline calculations and to inform interventions.

**Brita Lincoln, Florida PTA**

Supports the bill.

We must continue to offer compassion in testing students, especially due to the inconsistent school year. Florida PTA supports the suspension of school grading and holding students and educators harmless from the negative effects of test results. Parents should be able to understand where their children stands, but this year must focus on social and emotional health.

**Marie Claire Leman, Fund Education Now**

Supports the bill.

Students, teachers, and educators should be held harmless to the negative effects of COVID. So many children have suffered, and it is harmful to ignore the negative effects on their assessments. The results will not be reflective of teacher efforts. There is no reliability or validity when comparing this school year to others.

**Wayne Birch, Pasco County Schools**

Supports the bill.

Scores should be paused.

**Bethany Swonson, FDOE**

We welcome a conversation on this, given that there are a lot of possible negative results, but there are also a lot of positive potential. A lot of great questions were brought up today, we welcome a conversation to discuss how students, educators, administrators, and families feel good about how we are handling this.

---

**Debate**

**Senator Jones:** This is a huge piece of legislative. I think it is true that COVID is new for all of us, so we are trying to find the best way not to bring harm or stress to students or teachers. This legislation has the right intent of what we should be looking at. Going forward, there are questions about what will happen to federal funding and accountability (Title 1). I ask that we pass this so we can bring this to a place that is needed to assist everyone.

**Senator Polsky:** I know this committee is not afraid of big bills, and we need to pass it so that we can continue to work on it. Passing this is a temporary solution to a terrible problem. We have had to think on our feet and figure things out. This is a great attempt to deal with the difficult situation. I would like to end with a quote from a letter dated February 22 from the U.S. Department of Education. This is the quote: "The U.S. Department of Education encourages states and school districts to consider other steps within their purview to further reduce the state assessments this year, such as excluding their use from students' final grades in grade promotion decisions."

**Senator Passidomo:** This is a really hard bill to wrap our arms around. We are distressed by the idea that our students have lost an entire year due to COVID. We want to preserve their future, but I am really concerned about where we are going to be in a few years. There are some problems with the bill, but I am going to support it today since Senator Thurston is so open to discussing the future changes regarding the bill.

**Senator Diaz:** I think there are some valid points in here, and that conversation has to go on. By the time this could be passed fully, it would interfere with the testing schedule (in April). I think it is very important to work with the DOE. Additionally, you will lose federal funding if you are not provided with a waiver. In that sense, I think the bill goes too far. While I agree with your premise, I hope that there are conversations directly with the department.

## Closing

---

**Senator Thurston:** I have recognized the serious commentary and concerns, and I think they are appropriate. I will take them to heart, and I look forward to addressing them with you.

## Outcome

---

The bill was reported favorably.

## SB 918 – Education (Bradley)

---

This bill would provide school districts with the opportunity to use Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) bonus FTE funding to support or add programs which expand access for rigorous courses and prepare their perspective students for Cambridge AICE courses. Specifically, the bill will continue to require school districts to allocate 80% of the additional AICE funds to the school program. Students generate their funds to allow the current base bonus FTE funding to provide teacher bonuses based on their students earning a minimum score on pre-ace subject examinations. It provides school districts with flexibility to create Cambridge program middle and elementary school pipelines by clarifying how the 80% of the additional funds can be used to support the ace program, how to address equity and opportunity gaps by increasing access to these rigorous programs that prepare perspective students for ace courses. This would decrease time required to earn a postsecondary degree and it would also encourage schools and districts to engage in activities to identify and enroll underrepresented students.

## Q&A

---

None.

## Public Testimony

---

**Sherry Reach, Cambridge Assessment International Association**

Waiving in support.

## Debate

---

**Senator Jones:** This is a very good bill and I look forward to co-sponsoring it.

## Outcome

---

This bill was reported favorably.

## SB 1436 – Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network (Gruters)

---

This bill will streamline essential services at all 40 state postsecondary institutions under the Florida Academic Library Services Network. Essential services are defined as a statewide automation library system resources, student transient applications, and online student advising services. It will support student transcript audits in a complete catalog for distance learning courses and programs offered by the Florida college system. Streamlining this network in a single point of access for students. Combining the support services and increasing innovation and efficiencies will have significant cost savings to Florida without passing costs on the students.

## Q&A

---

None.

## Public Testimony

---

### **Kristen Deten, Assistant Vice Chancellor**

Waiving in support.

### **Bethany Swonson**

Waiving in support.

## Debate

---

**Senator Berman:** I want to support this bill. It could offer significant savings. Thank you.

## Outcome

---

This bill was reported favorably.

## House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee

### Presentation of Bills | Discussion of FEFP and K-12 Virtual Instruction

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

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

#### Summary

---

The House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee held a meeting to discuss HB 3157 and PCS for HB 3. HB 3157 is an appropriations project bill that has one amendment and it therefore needed to be pulled off the consent agenda. They then went over the consent agenda for the other appropriations project bills. Chair Fine also gave the committee an overview of FEFP funding categorical and an overview of K-12 virtual instruction.

(Disclaimer about this meeting: there was a general microphone issue, making it impossible to hear much of what was going on in the beginning of the meeting)

#### HB 3157 University of South Florida Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (Koster)

---

It was impossible to understand what Representative Koster was saying but the bill text is available in the meeting packet, available at the top of this document.

#### Amendment 002117 (Chair Fine)

---

This amendment changes the fund from the General Revenue Fund to the Welfare Transition Trust Fund. This fund previously funded this project.

#### Q&A

---

##### Representative Bartleman

Q: Are there funds available in this fund for this project? (Microphone cut in and out.)

A: Yes. (Couldn't understand anything else.)

##### Ranking Member Willhite

Q: If you are taking 2.5 million out of that trust fund, does something else need to be cut? (Microphone cut in and out)

A: No. (Couldn't understand anything else.)

#### Outcome on Amendment 002117

---

The amendment is adopted.

#### HB 3157 as Amended

---

##### Representative Williams

Q: Can you give me the area this is covering?

A: It covers 20 different counties throughout Florida. I do not have a specific list of every county but I can get that to Chair Fine.



## Debate

---

### Representative Bartleman

This is a great bill and it will change lives (microphone cut in and out).

## Outcome on HB 3157

---

The bill as amended is reported favorably.

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

---

The PSC creates the New Worlds Reading Initiative which delivers hard copies of books monthly to elementary school students who struggle with reading and provides resources for their parents to help improve reading performance. The PCS requires the Department of Education or a statewide third-party organization to administer the initiative. The administrator is tasked with various responsibilities. School districts are responsible for identifying eligible students. The students will remain eligible for the initiative until they reach 6th grade or they opt out. The books will be provided at no cost to children and families.

## Q&A

---

### Representative Valdes

Q: Thank you for this great bill. Are charter schools going to be included in this?

A: Yes, absolutely.

### Representative Bartleman

Q: How many children are impacted statewide and what is the cost?

A: We don't know what the cost will be because we still need to go through the procurement cost. But are estimated cost is around \$550,700 for children through grade 5.

### Representative Fine

Q: And that estimate is just based on eligible children, correct? Not necessarily enrolled?

A: That is correct.

### Representative Bartleman

Q: Many school districts have similar kinds of programs, can you tell me what is different about this program and why we need it?

A: This will be offering to eligible children and families who opt in one book a month for 9 months throughout the year. So it is different from the program in your area.

## Public Testimony

---

(Could not hear the actual names)

**Representatives from the Foundation for Florida's Future:** Waives in support.

**Representative from Americans for Prosperity:** Waives in support.

## Debate

---

### Ranking Member Willhite

(Cutting in and out, could not hear.) His tone seemed he was slightly worried/skeptical about the bill. However, he voted in favor of it.

### Chair Fine

Eleven years ago, my son learned about a program similar to this. It is not government funded. He has gotten one Jewish book every month since he was two. He has hundreds of books. It costs about \$40 a year for those who are curious. What I will say is this, that these books are extremely valuable to me and my family. I am excited Floridians who may not be able to support this for their children will now get the chance to. We are very lucky you are bringing this bill forward and I hope every member supports your bill.

## Closing

---

Turning a page in a book can change a child's life and I believe we owe it to the children in Florida to support HB 3.

## Outcome

---

PCS for HB 3 is reported favorably.

## Consent Agenda

---

The committee took up the consent agenda and voted on it in its entirety. They took up questions and debate only once on all bills.

## Appearance Cards

---

Could not hear.

## Outcome on Consent Agenda

---

All the bills on the consent agenda are reported favorably, with no debate or Nay votes on any single bill.

## FEFP Spending Presentation (Chair Fine)

---

Chair Fine discussed the major components of the FEFP as well as the FEFP categoricals. He discussed that over a third of the funding spent on K-12 education funding is through categoricals. He emphasized it is not correct to focus on the baseline funding alone as it is not the true measure of the FEFP. The base student allocation does not account for the categoricals and does not account for new ones created or existing ones increased.

## Q&A

---

### Representative Bartleman

Q: My concern has to do with the DCD categorical and how my county is negatively impacted. One of the issues is that there is no way to replicate the formula originally devised and then they tried to fix it a little bit but at what point in the process can I address the DCD?

A: So it's a fair question but not a subject of this. The DCD is used to calculate the base student allocation. That is not a function of categoricals. No matter how we change the DCD it would not affect the categoricals.

### **Representative Valdes**

Q: When talking about the class size categorical, considering the COVID situation and now moving forward to all students going back to school, I can't wait for that to happen. Being that the class size is a constitutional amendment, how many students have not complied with class size and have had to pay a penalty for that and moving forward what are our thoughts on class size considering that amendment and also affording the support that these school districts will need considering the spaces we need to take and how many square feet are in the classroom?

A: Most comply. The purpose of this categorical is to meet the constitutional requirement. If for whatever reason the legislature wanted to do something else to make their class size smaller we could do that. I would note though, we have 2.8 billion dollars being borrowed from those students that can be used for COVID related needs. Your idea is something that those school districts could certainly spend those dollars on. If we wanted to create a COVID classroom categorical then we could do that as we decide the budget every year.

Q: The DOE has yet to issue the second CARES Act dollars to the districts. So until those dollars come in school districts at this point don't have anything to plan with, right? I just don't want our schools to look like portable cities again.

A: I think the Department is waiting for direction on us as opposed to the executive branch continuing to appropriate, which is the right thing to do. There is federal money coming to deal with COVID and the 2.8 billion won't be the end of that. But again the class reduction categorical is to meet the constitutional requirement.

Q: Absolutely, class size is a constitutional amendment. It is not about reducing, it's just times have changed with COVID and we need to think outside the box when it comes to class size and meeting that requirement. I must caution us that although yes, the federal government is issuing these relief dollars, they are one time dollars that we should not be considering for recurring expenses. That is extremely dangerous and we must remember that.

### **Presentation on Virtual K-12 Education (Chair Fine)**

---

Florida leads the nation in virtual instruction, FLVS is funded as a special school district in the FEFP. However, it is not the only virtual option available to students. In addition to FLVS, current law requires all school districts to offer virtual instruction options for their students. It seems that students are actually liking virtual school, and there is no reason to think that they will come back to brick and mortar institutions. School districts reporting the FTE are funded for the FTE regardless of the student's residency, so when one district poaches another district's student, that shows up in our funding issues. The COVID pandemic has more than doubled the number of students enrolling in virtual instruction.

### **Q&A**

---

#### **Representative Bartleman**

Q: As it pertains to accountability, do all of the schools you mentioned, are they responsible for FSA, EOCs, and others?

A: Yes.

Q: Because they are virtual programs, when they take the FSA, do they take them in person or online?

A: I believe they are taking them in person and are required to do so.

Q: Who is administering the FSA to the FLVS students around the state? Do they go into the district? This is an important question considering everything going on right now.

A: Sure, from my understanding, the school districts administer it but we can look into that.

**Ranking Member Willhite**

Q: What are the ramifications if parents choose not to allow students to come in to test? That is something that I have followed up with the Department of Education about but I'm still waiting on a response. I have some concerns. You mentioned the out of district students, no disrespect, but what is the root for why those students are not participating in their own home district? That is alarming and some of the numbers are high. We need to find the root. I'm glad the money is following the student. I think we should look at this as a concern. Something I find troublesome is student's having an education gap or lapse or lack of social interaction. If parents are choosing to do virtual school I think we should be giving deference to the parents versus what we think is best for that child. For someone to assert that all students would be doing better in brick and mortar is just not factual. As a parent, I am making that decision, and when it works for them we need to understand that. Saying everyone has to go back to brick and mortar is disingenuous. I think that these numbers just prove to us that virtual learning can be a good thing and I'm curious to see where these virtual numbers go after the pandemic.

A: Thank you for that question. You have made my point that people are going to continue with virtual school after the pandemic and we don't know how many students that is going to include. Not to speak for the Governor, but I think his point was having choice. Unfortunately 46 states in the country have chosen not to follow the science and deprive their children of the option to have in person school. To be clear, before COVID you did not have to send your kid to in person school. All of these virtual options existed beforehand. As this all relates to testing in person, we talked to superintendents, and some are concerned that home school equals no school. We do have an obligation to make sure children are being education and that is where the testing does that. It makes sure people are being tested in person and no funny business is going on. I think students can sit in on these tests with proper social distancing and other measures in place.

Q: I think what leads me to be concerned is that if parents are choosing to put their child in virtual school and the child is excelling, why do we have to go subject our student to in person school to take these tests? It could give them anxiety not being in their normal setting even if COVID is not an issue and it is safe. I'm concerned to see that the testing will not keep in par with what their grades are on a normal basis because they are thrust into a situation where they may be anxious. I'm curious to see if there will be a difference between their scores and their normal grades.

A: This is really about testing to make sure you have learned what you have learned. Accountability is important. We want to make students are actually learning. This isn't about sending them to brick and mortar permanently, just for testing.

**Representative McClain**

Q: On the first slide, there were many ways virtual instruction can be offered. Can we get statistics on how many districts offer employ more than one of the types of virtual education?

A: Yes we can get that. So everyone knows, there are 8 virtual instruction providers available, there are 5 virtual charter schools, and 7 virtual course providers, so around 20 entities outside of FLVS.

Q: When a private provider enters into a contract with a district, that contract is between the district and the private provider?

A: Yes.

Q: When were the increased enrollment numbers developed?

A: Probably the October count. We don't have the February numbers yet.

Q: I want to make a comment. For me, it seems there is a lot of redundancy in virtual school systems in general. I'm not picking on anyone here. It seems there is a lot of redundancy when we have 67 counties that can provide their own virtual. It seems like a spread out system. When there is redundancy, there are financial implications from that and I also think that we need to make sure there is competition between providers and those types of things.

A: That is a fair point and I don't want to name certain school districts but I will tell you we believe part of it is happening basically like Facebook ads, people think they are signing up their child for FLVS but they are not. I will also say that there are instances where the districts are paying the providers significantly less than what they are getting to educate the student. The complexity does create the opportunity for nefarious activity. I'm not saying it's happening everywhere but it is a good point.

#### **Representative Andrade**

Q: Hendry has been discussed a good amount over the course of the committee weeks, but looking at how it is funded based on completion and how you described it with the historical data to estimate the total number of FTE that will complete, when you see that massive increase, did we learn anything about whether or not our ways that we estimate is accurate enough to put us at a significant risk of some type of budget shortfall or additional commitment?

A: We don't have the data because the school year is not over. I will attest that it is harder to get a completion when it is virtual than when it is in person because fundamentally it is the parents at home who are having to do the accountability. It is hard to do. We don't know because it is an explosion due to COVID and we will learn when we have the data. It is an issue to be looked at. I believe in school choice. The great thing about virtual is that it doesn't matter where you are. We need to look at why we delegated this scale-able idea to 67 districts where it becomes a big mush as Representative McClain talked about.

#### **Representative Bartleman**

Q: I just wanted to know because as long as we are looking into this for the future, can we look into percentage of pass rates, reading levels, and other statistics. If their funding is based on completion, you want to make sure that completion equals a quality education.

A: Sure, we want to make sure this is working. Something I didn't know until I got this job that is there are twenty virtual companies out there besides FLVS, all doing similar things to FLVS. Another FYI to bring to your attention as we wrap up our presentation. If you will remember FLVS exploded, it did not get the extra money for all of those students how showed up. I believe they were shorted around 83 million dollars. They were the largest school district deprived of money because we chose not to have the money follow the student. We chose to fund based on what we thought would happen.

#### **Closing**

---

We have two meetings next week.

## House Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee

### Presentation of Bills

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

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

### Summary

---

The House Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee met to discuss HB 149 and HB 419. They also considered a proposed committee bill, PCB ELE 21-01 – Student Literacy.

### HB 419 Early Learning and Early Grade Success (Grall)

---

This is a substantial bill. This bill aligns early learning with the K-20 system to ensure that the state approaches education from a birth to 20 perspective, which would provide a comprehensive alignment of educational programs beginning from the earliest stage of brain development in learning that support school readiness and future school success. The first part of the bill covers governance. It eliminates the Office of Early Learning and creates a Division of Early Learning to be administered by a Chancellor of Early Learning accountable to the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education. The new division would be responsible for the program, allowing statewide coordinate activities and initiatives that fully support the continuum of education for Florida's children. The bill also clarifies that the Commissioner and DOE are responsible for aligned integration of birth thru 5 in its approach to work and policy by doing the following: requiring DOE to set up an early learning-20 information system, submitting a unified budget to the legislature, adding the early learning coalition to the oversight jurisdiction of the state board of education, and requiring DOE to develop performance standards for the early learning coalition. Early learning coalitions should be directly accountable to the communities they serve. As for Gold Seal accreditation, it allows for there to be a higher pay differential to be paid to certain providers. The merits of the accreditation are supposed to be linked at least in part to structural quality within an early education provider. Structural quality means the state of the facility. Programs that maintain this accreditation receive up to a 20% payment differential. This should therefore be an incentive to become accredited because that is a substantial payment differential, so we should see better outcomes out of this program. This bill moves the accreditation procedures to DOE and sets a minimum accreditation differential of 20%. There have been discussion of up to 40% differential, but that would be subject to legislative appropriation. IT requires the entity doing the credentialing to do an on-site monitoring every 5 years. With regard to VPK accountability, it needs to align with the school readiness system as well as Kindergarten. The way VPK is supposedly held accountability is by the FLCKERS. That screener is supposed to reflect back to the VPK provider that a child is ready or not, 5 months after they leave VPK. That is fundamentally the flaw in our current system. This bill aims to change that and give information to parents in real time. It requires DOE to require VPK providers to participate in a program assessment. That assessment measures teacher child interactions. That would be 50% of the provider's score. It also requires a performance metric, a pre and post assessment, which would be like an age-appropriate game. A child must attend at least 85% of the VPK program in order for the provider to be held accountable for their performance. The bill adds exceptions for good cause and exemptions for children with special needs. There is an appropriation with this bill, it is insignificant in comparison to the \$400 million of general revenue. We have such an opportunity here to change our children's path of success here in Florida. We need to do everything we can with the resources that we are already investing by holding the system accountable.



## Q&A

---

### Representative McFarland

Q: VPK is more than just the one year before Kindergarten, right?

A: VPK is the three hour program prior to Kindergarten. If it is done over the summer, it is a full day program. It is the year prior to Kindergarten and a child who is in VPK can also receive school readiness dollars in order to have a full day program at the provider that they are at.

Q: When you talk about tracking progress across service providers, you are talking about tracking from birth to five years old?

A: This takes it from birth to third grade. The progress monitoring tool in this bill would not be appropriate for younger children but it needs to align with those receiving school readiness dollars. This ensures that all data is kept together.

### Ranking Member Davis

Q: This is a BILL. In your bill you talk about the value added model, could you discuss what that means to the service providers and the teachers?

A: I think I know the answer to this but I will follow up with you. I don't believe that this is related to the teacher directly. This does not relate back to a score for the teacher.

Q: That is where I was going, so there is no penalization. Anyway, the progress monitors with the parents and the teachers – that tool that you discussed substitutes for the pre and the post test. Can you talk to me about that?

A: Currently, we use STAR. That is given in Kindergarten and that is given in one day. That assessment is related back to the VPK provider. There are different vendors that would provide that tool at the beginning middle and end of a program. This would make sure the state is using the same progress monitoring tool so we are comparing apples to apples. And that tool will give us more accurate outcomes and progress, as well as an achievement score. We are now using different programs and they don't align with one another. This bill calls for one tool to be used.

Q: Is there a cost to the service provider for the professional development of their teachers and is there anything different about this particular measure in the bill than it has had in years past?

A: The cost to the provider currently would be whether or not they are going to pay for the time the teacher is engaged in that course. The state has to provide the course so there should be no cost to the provider for the course itself, but if the provider is going to allow the teacher to go through that service on their time, they would decide whether they are going to pay them at their hourly or salaried rate. Nothing in this bill other than dates is identical to last year's bill.

Q: The last part you talked about was the merging of the coalition. Some counties, mine specifically, are concerned with that. Can you explain that?

A: Merger is given as an option DOE as well as contracting out services with an entity other than a coalition. If a coalition is not performing well, DOE can engage in a corrective action plan, and that plan is not prescriptive in the bill because deficiencies could vary across coalitions. If a coalition is not performing well after they have not met their 60% client satisfaction and their corrective action plan, then there would be a conversation about either a merger or contracting out with a different entity. At that point, if there are coalitions that are concerned about getting bigger, that is when the department would engage with all 30 coalitions about whether it is possible or not. There is no intention to add a burden to a highly functioning coalition. There are plenty of opportunities for conversation at that point but the plan is not prescriptive and does not require a merger.

Q: Do you anticipate a timeline for that corrective action plan?

A: I would anticipate that it is no longer than one or two years.

Q: Do you foresee any unintended consequences to any of our services providers for some of the changes you are trying to implement here? For example, loss of providers, loss of teachers, or closures?



A: I think this bill seeks to minimize those unintended consequences of the providers that are doing a good job but that the tool is not measuring well. I believe the FLICKERS are a high stakes test for the providers. Because the system we have in place can cancel those providers based on the readiness rates. Now, OEL is not doing that and I believe that is a failure of the system. If we are really measuring readiness, we are not following our own rules right now. Should those rules ever be enforced, we will lose a lot of providers. This bill instead says we are going to look at what is happening with the child while the child is in the care of a specific provider.

### **Representative Williams**

Q: I have a lot of questions and a lot of concerns. You stated that certain parts of the program have to be taught in school and summer time. Could you explain that?

A: Parents can choose right now whether they want the full VPK program or the summer program. The summer program is that it must be administered through a public school. The full year can be contracted with any provider associated with the early learning coalition, but the summer program is in the public school. I believe that once we have real data on how our providers are performing, we could have other options available for private providers to offer that summer VPK.

Q: According to the bill right now, the centers cannot teach the summer program?

A: Current law, not anything that the bill touches. This does not address whether or not anyone else can do summer VPK. I will confirm that though. Actually, wait, yes. If the provider has a degreed teacher teaching, they may do the summer program.

Q: Do we have the percentage of children not attending VPK?

A: I'm happy to get that to you.

### **Chair Aloupis**

Really quickly, Representative Williams. Historically, it covers around 78-80% of the market share.

### **Representative Williams**

Q: Is there a dollar amount connected to the provider in order for them to continue to be a part of this program?

A: There is no investment they would have to make specifically because the training is paid for. The investment may have to be paying their staff to do the training. There is a possibility for them to get a rate differential based on their performance. That is the incentive for them to invest so they can be eligible for that differential.

Q: I ask that question because I feel like certain times, when there is a dollar amount attached to the training, like for the Gold Seal, certain facilities really don't have that money to put in.

A: That is why this bill sets the minimum at 20%. So yes, you are investing in your program but you are receiving this extra money so hopefully you see the return on the investment to get the accreditation.

Q: You said something about 85% instead of 70% for attendance, does this affect that 70%?

A: This changes the definition of a VPK completer to 85% instead of 70%. That means we are not going to ding a provider if they have a child who has not attended enough of a program to see the benefit from it. It would help the providers and allow them to not be harmed by maybe a child who has excessive absences.

Q: If a child leaves the program after completing 85%, will they be included in the scores?

A: I'll look into that. The child should be included.

Q: Currently certain students have tested on paper or on computer and then vice versa, what will happen here?

A: Currently the screener is given on a computer with a mouse, some students can take a paper test. This would be a tablet adaptive assessment to help the teacher understand where that child is. The fiscal associated with this bill calls for tablets because there is concern that computers are not age appropriate.

## Representative Nixon

Q: I have a few questions. In regards to the accreditation, were there issues previously with accreditation firms and organizations?

A: I think there is a concern that there are many different types of accrediting entities. The goal is to move it into the Department of Education and align it with education so they know that there are certain standards that need to be in place. Also, they are in the best position to be coordinating the entire program since the differential can be so significant for the providers. So we want there to be consistencies in the accreditation and that they have similar rigor. There have been some questions around the number of entities and how they provide those standards around the state.

Q: Can you explain to me how they are graded? There are so many and they are grading people differently.

A: There are numerous ways you can get accredited; some are very easy some are rigorous and that is what this bill addresses. So to have varying accrediting entities to those extremes are a problem when we are talking about investing additional dollars.

Q: You were saying earlier that some private schools are not part of the VPK program. My concern is, do the children still get tested? How does that work?

A: If you got to a private PreK that is not voluntary at that point, they are not participating with the state. But if that child goes into a public school after that they will still take the Kindergarten screener, but it doesn't reflect back to the provider since that provider isn't taking state dollars. If the child goes to a VPK and then doesn't go into public school, they will never take the screener either. I do see that as an issue so this bill allows us to really look at the point in time that the child is at the VPK provider and not lose the information the state is investing in.

Q: If a child gets their final assessment and they are not prepared and a parent holds them back, what mechanisms are in place to help students get caught up for lack of a better word?

A: Those mechanisms vary district to district. They are there but I wouldn't say that there is a consistent state mechanism for there to be an enhanced VPK experience.

Q: You were talking about the parent survey, what does that look like?

A: It is a parent survey of the coalition, not the provider. This is for the Department to develop the survey. The coalitions would have input on the survey and it should focus on what the coalition is supposed to be doing to meet the needs of the families in the community.

## Representative Williams

Q: Will they be using a state data assessment that is from AP 1, 2, and 3?

A: This bill would require DOE to procure a tool that could be like those, but it would require them to procure a tool that is going to be a part of that progress monitoring system that would serve the same purpose as AP 1, 2, and 3.

## Public Testimony

---

**David Daniel, Florida Association for Childcare Management:** We support HB 419 and we encourage you to vote in favor of this bill. The VPK accountability system is broken in the state of Florida. It also doesn't serve the policy-making, we have no idea where our money is going. This system does not serve parents or providers. If you want to serve VPK children in the state of Florida, the state dollars must be accountable. We have one request and that would be a delay in the implementation of the new requirement on the private childcare providers. Childcare is in crisis because of Florida, I cannot emphasize that enough.

### Representative Williams

Q: I appreciate all you do. What does this delay look like for providers that provide services below the poverty level?

A: That is the struggle. We can't delay the bill, the bill needs to pass. At its core, the delay is a struggle. This bill deals with the accountability of VPK, so when do we pass it? But this lower-income issue isn't necessarily the portion of the bill we are speaking of.

Q: Are we asking for additional training to assist? How are we going to be able to help the providers in the centers?

A: The federal government is sending money down. My providers want to see money dedicated to the providers doing the good work right now, but the ones that are open and doing good work. We want money going to the teachers who are working now. Our request, which is not necessarily to the legislature, we need this money to get to providers and those that are in the facilities. We also want to hire more teachers. So if we don't do something with the money now childcare is going to look completely different.

**Conlin Banko, Florida PTA:** Waives in support.

**Rick Owen, United Way of Florida:** Waives in support.

**Alejandro Gonzalez, United Way of Broward County:** Waives in support.

**Elizabeth Berglin, United Way of Miami-Dade:** Waives in support.

**Edward Briggs, Helios Education Foundation:** Waives in support.

**Sarah Suskey, Association of Early Learning Coalitions:** Waives in support.

**Michele Watson, Florida Children's Services Council, Inc.:** Waives in support.

### Debate

---

### Ranking Member Davis

I, and all of us, can tell you have been working so hard on this. We have heard an increase in pay differentials, consistencies in accrediting entities, removing certification to DOE, using an assessment that is more age appropriate, and better accountability. I agree with all of that, but it is hard to know that this is a bill that is right for us here today at the right time and in the right moment. I will be supporting the bill today but I do have one concern, and the concern is the implementation timeline. I'm worried about how providers will take care of these teachers that will require the professional development and that cost we talked about. How will that affect them being able to implement the emergent literacy we are focused on in this state? I know we can talk that through and work so that providers don't have to close. Thank you for bringing this bill.

### Representative Nixon

Thank you for this great bill. I want to echo some of the same sentiments that Ranking Member Davis expressed. I am very supportive of this bill but I just want to lift up the fact that our work in a district where the reading scores are low, but there are also root cause issues such as poverty, technology, and others. My concern is potentially later down the road that this could morph into something punitive. I'm concerned about school closures because that will obviously exacerbate the situation. I want to make sure we are providing the tools we need providers and parents. I just want to offer that up but I will be voting for this bill today.

### Representative Williams

I know you have been working for years on early learning and this is the first year our committee has been created. In my former career I was a director of VPK programs. I have seen from time to time that the small businesses are the ones that suffer the most. I am concerned at this point that some of the centers that are smaller and don't have deep pockets will not be able to survive once this bill moves forward. I am supportive of the bill as of now but I would like to sit down with you and talk about those who I think will have the problems. They are on the frontline and are there for

the struggling parents that cannot afford to stay home, even during the pandemic. Any new program that is created to bring in additional funds and additional students, the small business owners suffer. Thank you for putting this forward and thank you Chair for allowing us to talk about early learning in this committee.

### **Representative Learned**

Thank you for your work on this bill, this is an ambitious project. You can count on me as a friend to help you get this bill over the finish line.

### **Chair Aloupis**

Thank you so much Representative Grall for bringing this bill. I will see it quite a few more times in this process. You are one of my closest friends in this process and as someone who has been in this space for ten years, I come to you as a resource. All of us in the early childhood community are grateful to you for your leadership. This is a huge bill and I think the governing structure piece is so important. Thank you for your leadership for bringing this bill back this year.

### **Closing**

---

I am a small business owner so I understand the struggle when it seems like these big businesses are always a few steps ahead. We implemented the teacher childhood component in this bill to help them. We don't want to teach parents something new every time their child leaves a classroom. If a parent knows that they invest in VPK, it helps for the consistency of what is happening in that household. In the long term this should be cost-saving in terms of time and resources. I look forward to the continued conversation to see what we can do regarding the implementation timeline and what we can do to help figure out the resources needed for training. The bill allows for a year for procurement, I understand what Mr. Daniel is talking about and we will look at this timeline but it does allow for a year of the program to move forward without any consequences for VPK providers. The coalitions are there to support the providers in this implementation, and they have dollars available to do that. I look forward to continued conversation and would appreciate your support today.

### **Outcome**

---

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

### **HB 149 Students with Disabilities in Public Schools (DuBose)**

---

This is a legacy bill that has been around for a while. It has bipartisan support. Incidents with restraints and seclusion with students in the classroom are not currently defined in Florida law. These techniques need to be addressed, especially in regards to students with disabilities. Under this bill, restraint is defined and prohibits the use of straightjackets, zip ties, handcuffs, or tie downs. These techniques also may not inflict pain to induce compliance. Seclusion is defined as involuntary confinement in a room or area alone, preventing a student from leaving. This bill prohibits seclusion. To implement these policies school personnel will be trained annually and it must include safe and appropriate restraint techniques. And that is the bill.

### **Amendment 202617 (DuBose)**

---

This amendment is technical in nature and changes lines 99 to refer to statute 1003.52 rather than 100.53 and changes lines 108-109 to techniques or devices such as. That is the amendment.

## Outcome of Amendment 202617

---

The amendment is adopted.

## Amendment 335987 (DuBose)

---

This amendment is also technical and changes lines 305 to remove Volusia county schools. That is the amendment.

## Outcome of Amendment 335987

---

The amendment is adopted.

## Q&A on the Bill as Amended

---

### Ranking Member Davis

Q: Could you talk to us about the significance of this bill because you have been working on it for a number of years?

A: This is a legacy bill that has been around for fifteen years. Students with disabilities are some of our most vulnerable children, and some cannot even express themselves. This bill protects our most vulnerable students. Just as a parent it is very personal to me. Our job is to put definitions on the books to protect these students and make us feel comfortable sending our students off to school. I'm hopeful this time that this will make it through this time. This is a great piece of legislation and I hope I have your favorable support again.

## Public Testimony

---

**Britta Williams Lincoln, Florida PTA:** Waives in support.

**Alejandro Gonzalez, United Way of Broward County:** Waives in support.

**Pamela Burch-Fort, Florida State Conference of the NAACP Branches:** Waives in support.

**Mary-Lynn Cohen, Advocacy Institute for Children:** Waives in support.

## Closing

---

In the interest of time I defer my answer to Representative Davis' question.

## Outcome on the Bill as Amended

---

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

## PCB ELE 21-01 on Student Literacy (Aloupis)

---

This is a product of many conversations we have had over the last month and a half. This bill creates the RAISE program, which establishes 20 regional literacy support teams, to help schools struggling with overall low reading scores. To help schools identify struggling readers earlier, including those who may have learning disabilities, this bill will require the implementation of a statewide VPK-8 progress monitoring system. This system will be administered at least three times a year with results being provided to teachers and parents in a timely manner. To speed up the implementation of

interventions, this bill requires if a student receives a diagnosis of dyslexia, that the appropriate interventions need to be implemented immediately. This bill also requires the Department of Education to establish at least one statewide competency based pathway to a reading endorsement. I am very excited about this part: the Department of Education must provide teachers a micro credential for each reading endorsement competency that they complete. Because classroom implementation is so important, this bill requires teacher to earn that reading endorsement by demonstrating competency – not just passing a test. This bill expands training for VPK teachers from one to three emergent literacy courses and requires an emergent literacy training every five years. This bill expands the content for read at home plans to support at home parent involvement. Finally, and this part is extremely important to me because I have seen it firsthand. We know that the transition from PreK to Kindergarten can be extremely disjointed. What this bill does is require that early learning coalitions provide best practices for transitioning students from PreK to Kindergarten. This is a critical part of this bill. This bill is designed to equip teachers and parents with the necessary resources to ensure that we are improving student literacy and making sure that every child thrives.

## Q&A

---

### Ranking Member Davis

Q: Who makes up the support teams?

A: Each of the 20 centers will have a literacy director and stipend teachers will probably make up the support team underneath them.

Q: So is the rest of the team teachers and reading coaches...or?

A: They can be. And a lot of this will be dictated by how it is defined within the Department of Education. Also, mine and Representative Grall's bill are going to work in conjunction. This one is about literacy interventions through early learning.

Q: How do teachers demonstrate literacy competency?

A: It will require that every teacher who receives the credential will need to show proficiency through the 300 hours of service training as well as observation in the classroom.

Q: Will there be a cost to those trainings to the team member?

A: It will be determined at the district level, it is a conversation we are having now.

Q: As for the feeder pattern from VPK to K, talk to us about that.

A: What I have seen is that there is a fundamental disconnect between the early learning providers and the elementary schools that they are going into. There is no coordination for the PreK teachers to communicate difficulties a child may be having. This bill forces the early learning coalitions to look at the relationships between the VPK providers and the K-12 system to ensure that there is integration.

Q: There is a fiscal for HB 419. I see a small fiscal for this one in conjunction with that bill. Can you talk to us about that?

A: That is a conversation that we are going to look at when this gets a bill number. But when you are talking about a 400 million dollar plus investment, it doesn't make sense not to invest those dollars to make sure the dollars you are investing are resulting in a high quality early learning system.

### Representative Williams

Q: As for the feeder patterns, will those children have to attend a school in their district or can they attend a school of their choice?

A: No, there is no mandate that a child has to go to certain elementary schools. This bill just calls for coordination.

Q: Will there be some type of data that will be kept for that?

A: Line 49 of the bill walks through what this transition looks like.

Q: So they can start out in the public school and be transferred to a charter school?

A: Nothing in the bill would prevent that from happening, yes.



### Representative Trabulsy

Q: In regards to the reading endorsement with the test and competency, will current teachers who have their reading endorsement need to be up to speed as well?

A: Yes, every five years they have to re-authorize.

### Public Testimony

---

**Cathy Boehme, Florida Education Association:** I have questions about adaptive testing for very young children and I would suggesting replacing current assessments instead of adding additional ones. I am concerned about one critical assumption – that all teachers have completed preparation. There are not enough teachers from teacher prep schools to serve our state. I am happy to continue this conversation with you all and Chair Aloupis to make this a better bill.

### Debate

---

#### Representative Nixon

I appreciate this good bill but I want to echo the sentiments of the representative from FEA. There is indeed a teacher shortage and I'm concerned it could possibly grow with this bill. I want teachers to still be able to teach while they are getting these accreditations.

#### Ranking Member Davis

I want to make a brief statement about how the out of field teachers are not allowed and I want Chair Aloupis to address this in closing and how we move forward with this particular legislation.

### Closing

---

One of the blessings of being in this space is that we have had many conversations about this issue and we need to figure it out. So know that as this bill moves we will address that dynamic. I appreciate all of these conversations and we will work on this. I ask for your favorable support today.

### Outcome of the PCB

---

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



## House Post-Secondary Education & Lifelong Learning Subcommittee

### Presentation of Bills Wednesday, March 3, 2021

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

#### Summary

---

The House Post-Secondary Education & Lifelong Learning Subcommittee held a meeting to discuss HB 51, HB 845, HB 1261, and HB 1273. Chair Mariano emphasized, because of last week's outbursts, that all comments need to come through the chair, especially when there are high emotional issues up for debate.

#### HB 845 State University Free Seat Program (Smith, D.) Strike All Amendment

---

The amendment makes the bill more inclusive and aligns the language with SB 1672 by Senator Diaz.

#### Outcome

---

The amendment is adopted.

#### Bill as Amended

---

The free seat program allows nontraditional and military students to attend an online course free of charge at one of Florida's 12 state university system. Essentially just a Zoom meeting with one more person. With any additional classes taken, they will receive a 25% discount as long as they stay enrolled in an online course of instruction. This bill breaks down barriers for those outside of the mainstream college system.

#### Q&A

---

##### Representative Gottlieb

Q: I support your bill and I will be voting up on it. I do have one concern though and I realize the fiscal is smaller because it is online but do we have any idea how many students would want to benefit from this and what that fiscal impact to each state university might be?

A: There was no study done in advance but I believe that education is a marathon for lifelong learning. This is not scholarship, this is fee waiver, and that will be tracked and reported to the BOG. So we will keep track of that but as of right now we don't know.

##### Representative Alexander

Q: Of the bills today this is something I am attempting to support today. I appreciate the strike-all. I just want to make sure in regards to the bill, is this punitive to the state universities? As in what if some students cannot meet the demand? Is this obligated for the universities to do this? Will there be a cap?

A: There is no cap in this bill but it is not in any way meant to be punitive and per my discussions, there is no one in the state university system in opposition.

## Debate

---

### Representative Alexander

I am going to vote for the bill today. I don't want to get into a conversation about my concerns but I do believe, Representative Smith, that you are an admirable person and will make sure that we don't open up the floodgates that have consequences on the universities. I would encourage you to consider a cap or allow the universities to have discretion. I want to say one thing and I will speak to it later on. We need to make up our mind on what we want to do. On one end we have these performance metrics, we want to obligate our students to graduate in four years. We want to hold our students accountable for that. Then on the other end, we recognize the importance of non-traditional students having access to educational experiences. Institutions may not be saying this but they have concerns about choosing students not based on merit but how they are going to help these schools move up in the performance metrics system. I am also concerned about how our system holds all of our state universities on the same level and funding is based on a tier system. Some schools don't get nearly as much funding as others. If you can give me your word that we can work on this with a cap or percentage based, I will be in good spirits to vote on it today. I really hope all of you all are listening to me today because I'm giving you really good information and perspective on what is really going on in the state university system.

## Closing

---

I am certainly willing to work with any member to make this a better bill. I like to think of this as the first step and once we can get them in free of charge, then they may become a paying student, and a contributory citizen to our state.

## Outcome

---

The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 13-0.

## HB 1261 Higher Education (Toledo)

---

The tuition waiver in this bill provides low cost tuition for a degree program linked to a high-demand, high-wage occupation. The waiver provides in state students who enroll in certain high demand and critical workforce needs Baccalaureate program a BOGO, buy one course, get one free in upper-level courses only. A student may apply if they are an in-state student, have completed 60 semester credit hours towards a Baccalaureate degree after 2 years of initial enrollment, and are enrolled in a degree of emphasis program, which is designated by the BOG annually.

## Debate

---

### Representative Alexander

I get the intent behind the bill and think it has a good structure. However, with my background, I really see this tying the hands of our local apparatuses to the Board of Trustees to make decision regarding our institutions that the local apparatuses know how to handle better. Each institution has their own individual realities. The part that worries me most is making the universities ineligible for performance based funding. Everyone is not getting the same amount of resources and some universities are not going to be able to afford this and then raised tuition is going to go on the backs of students. I believe this bill has a lot of unintended consequences. I think if you took out the ineligible for performance based funding in it, I would consider at least walking down the field. I try my best to support as many bills as possible. I'm not trying to be the anti-person but we really need to look at this stuff. I'll be voting down today.

## Representative Andrade

I appreciate where this bill is coming from, one of the big issues we do have now is that we fund these programs every year and we don't have a grasp or understanding of metrics, performance, and controls. While I understand that universities may be concerned about performance based metrics in the future, we don't have some type of mechanism to make sure that they are doing what is best for their students and we have no way to enforce it. While the SUS has a higher goal and mission, at the end of the day, these are tax dollars and we have to be doing what is right by their dollars. We shouldn't be eliminating any kinds of liberal arts programs if students want to participate in them, but we should not be subsidizing them at the same rate with Florida taxpayer dollars when the measure for them is different than the measure of each 18 year old. I think this strikes a good balance and I appreciate the sponsor for bringing it.

## Closing

---

I have no intent on harming the universities. The businesses here we attract is based on the workforce we provide and I believe education is the foundation of that. I believe this bill cultivates that. Thank you and I appreciate your support for my bill.

## Outcome

---

The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 12-2.

## HB 1273 Out-of-state Fee Waiver for Nonresident Students (Maney)

---

This bill is the grandparent tuition waiver bill. It provides for in state tuition for top performing out-of-state high school graduates whose grandparent is a resident in the state of Florida. Florida's senior population can help our state universities remain among the best by encouraging their bright out-of-state grandchildren to attend university in Florida.

## Q&A

---

### Representative Andrade

Q: Do you have out of state grandchildren?

A: Yes, I do! I have six.

Q: Would you benefit from the bill if it were passed?

A: Well my wife would certainly be more pleased if the grandkids lived closer.

### Ranking Member Thompson

Q: Would the grandparent have to be a full-time resident of the state of Florida?

A: Yes ma'am. They would have to be full time residents of Florida. The BOG would set up how they mechanically do that, but it will require an attestation from the grandparents that they are full time residents.

### Representative Caruso

Q: Is there a definition for grandparent?

A: No there is not. We have looked throughout the statute and the word grandparent is used repeatedly throughout the statutes and it is never defined.

Q: Is that something you could look into down the road before the next committee to possibly prescribe.

A: Absolutely, if that is a concern. Yes.

## Public Testimony

---

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

## Debate

---

### Representative Alexander

Once again I believe this bill has major unintended consequences. One, let me speak to the reality of many of our state university border schools. I think it is paramount for us to understand that a student may enroll in the SUS however there are other components and aspects that are going to force the hands of universities to have to support a groundswell of students in many ways. That is just a broad assessment. I keep seeing this contradictory reality where we are talking about out of state students come in, the 89%, but on the other end are proposing policies to cut Bright Futures for the same top performing in state students. You can't have it both ways. I don't know how this creates access and diversity to our academic institutions. It almost has an elitist tone like the Best and Brightest.

### Representative Andrade

I appreciate the perspective Representative Andrade always brings. I think that this bill is a Florida bill. I believe the high academic requirements of this bill makes sure that we are not only making sure that the grandparents in Florida can bring their grandkids back, but also, guaranteeing those grandkids are acting appropriately. This bill incentivizes making sure we are on the forefront of education. It brings talent to Florida. I appreciate it works on achieving that.

### Representative Caruso

I have concerns about how this bill brings students in from out of state that are competing with students in the state that are born and raised here and went to high school here. Especially because it increases the costs for our students. It is going to displace Florida students from getting spots at our university systems. I also have concern because of these crazy times we live in, what is the definition of a grandparent and how far do we expand that. I am going to vote up on this bill to move it on but I hope that you could look into those issues.

### Vice Chair Plasencia

I want to state for the record that Representative Caruso had mentioned his concerns with out of state students benefiting and competing against in state students. But I think it is important to emphasize that we have the Benacquisto scholarship fund that already recruits top performing out of state students. This bill doesn't set a precedent, it already exists. I do want to emphasize that when we have all of these best and bright students coming from across the country the reason we have Bright Futures is to keep our students here because what ends up happening is they tend to stay in our state. And we want to recruit people to also stay in our state so I applaud the representative on this bill because it moves more talent to our state and incentivizes it.

### Ranking Member Thompson

One of my concerns has to do with whether or not people are full time Florida residents and you assured me that the BOG would stipulate that but that hasn't happened yet. It would seem to me that it would be important to make sure we are giving benefits to people who are contributing to the tax base in the state of Florida. I am concerned about our seasonal residents. Because this isn't in the bill I will not be supporting it in its present form.

## Chair Mariano

I am grateful you came to present this bill. These students are not just ordinary students, they are some of the best and brightest with grandparents who have dedicated their lives to their grandchildren to better their education and come here to Florida. I would encourage everyone to support it.

## Closing

---

I am tempted to just waive close but I want to mention that I will take your comments into consideration. I have a draft of the definition of grandparent. In the proposed bill on line 22 we define grandparent as a legal resident defined by the statutes and if that needs to be reworked I will get with you so I can earn your support of this bill.

## Outcome

---

The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 11-3.

## HB 51 Charter Schools (McClain)

---

This will allow state universities and our Florida college system to authorize charter schools and sponsor charter schools under the Department of Education. It provides that a state university sponsored charter school can serve multiple districts within their region of impact. It provides that students attending these schools are not included in the school district's grade calculation and accountability for all charter operators by requiring DOE to collaborate with charter school programs to develop a sponsor evaluation framework. It also revises charter school enrollment limitations. And that is the bill.

## Q&A

---

### Ranking Member Thompson

Q: Your bill, it seems to me, would change the process for approving and establishing charter schools. Currently it is the school boards and districts that make that determination. Why would we want to deviate from what we already have in statute?

A: Currently if a state college or university wanted to set up a pipeline, under the current statute they would have to go to three separate school boards to get that pipeline. This is a regional approach that cuts down on administrative redundancy.

Q: With regard to local control, does this not take out the prerogative of the school board in the 67 counties to determine whether or not a charter school should be established?

A: I believe in the case of a particular charter school wanting to locate in that county, I think it would do that. But again we are trying to look at this from a regional perspective as it relates to creating a pipeline for jobs and opportunities for students that might live in that region. Again, if a charter school wants to operate in that district alone, that local government will still have that choice.

## Public Testimony

---

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

**Diego Echeverri, Americans for Prosperity:** Thank you for sponsoring this important bill. We are in support of this bill. Allowing charter schools to expand would mean more options to nurture our children to make sure that they are put on the path of success.

#### **Ranking Member Thompson**

Q: My question has to do with accountability, where would it be to make sure that the charter school has the appropriate curriculum, staff, resources, etc.

A: I can't speak directly to the accountability measure but what we love about this bill is that it creates options for students and a pipeline for workers. That is why we support it. It is my understanding that there are systems of accountability in this state and I am happy to look into it and offer you our perspective

#### **Debate**

---

#### **Vice Chair Plasencia**

This is a great bill and I want to showcase why it is important. If we had had this bill fifteen years ago, charter schools could have been serving districts and our state for so much longer. This bill gives our state university system to empower local communities and create choices in education for these parents that serve a certain niche and demographic in these communities. I support this bill.

#### **Ranking Member Thompson**

My concern based on my questions have to do with accountability. I think we need more rather than less with regard to charter schools. They can be schools without rules. I have a real concern with this. I believe in local control. If we have school boards, they should be empowered to do their jobs. Tallahassee has been on a course of preemption for years and I think this is another instance of preempting the decision regarding whether a charter school should be established from those who are on the front lines. Because of those hesitations I am not able to support your bill.

#### **Closing**

---

As for accountability, in the bill the BoT would be the responsible entity for ensuring all the standards are met. This doesn't change the standards for charter schools which I see you already have some disagreement with as they are. It does require the DOE to change some of the ways charter schools report, which will add some more accountability. That is something we are always concerned about when it comes to spending state dollars. With that, I'll close.

#### **Closing**

---

The bill is reported favorably, 12-4.

## House Secondary Education and Career Development Subcommittee

Thursday, March 4, 2021

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

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

---

To create a system-wide approach to improve the equity and access for all Floridians to have the opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency, the bill:

- Authorizes the Governor to seek federal waivers to create greater flexibility and strategic investment in Florida's implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
- Creates the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help (Office) in the Executive Office of the Governor to provide coordination and alignment in Florida's workforce development system.
- Requires the Office to create a "no-wrong-door" entry strategy whereby Floridians may access services from any workforce partner with a common intake form and case management system.
- Creates a publicly available online opportunity hub to provide Floridians with access to identify in-demand jobs, the skills needed, where to obtain those skills, available services, and program performance employability and economic mobility.
- Requires the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to evaluate the impact of workforce services on participants receiving benefits and welfare transition programs, to include performance reports on participant earnings.
- Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to develop a workforce development metrics dashboard to measure return on the state's investment.
- Requires local workforce development boards (LWDB) to be assigned a letter grade based on improvement of participant long-term self-sufficiency and return on investment.
- Charges the Labor Market Estimating Conference as the entity responsible for determining Florida's real-time supply and demand in the labor market.
- Requires the Talent Development Council to coordinate Florida's efforts to meet state healthcare workforce needs, initially focusing on nursing, by conducting a gap analysis and review of nursing program alignment.
- Requires the DEO to establish WIOA eligible training provider criteria focused on participant outcomes.
- Requires the CareerSource state board to appoint a Credentials Review Committee to identify degree and nondegree credentials of value, develop a Master Credential List for performance funding, and establish policy direction for funding which prioritizes outcomes and leverages resources to support vulnerable populations.
- Creates the Open Door Workforce Grant Program to provide grants to school districts and Florida College System (FCS) institutions to cover up to two-thirds of the cost of short-term, high-demand programs.
- Creates the Money-Back Guarantee Program, requiring each school district and FCS institution to refund the cost of tuition to students who are not able to find a job within 6 months of completing select programs.
- Creates a new workforce performance funding model for school district and FCS institution workforce programs, requiring one-third of performance funding to be based on rewarding student job placement and the remaining two-thirds be based on student earnings.



## Q&A

---

None.

## Public Testimony

---

**Carol Bowen, Associate Builders and Contractors of Florida**

**Matthew Choy, Florida Chamber of Commerce**

Waives in opposition.

We have a bill that can increase collaboration and cooperation between all the members in a community. To give a bit of a preview: the Florida Chamber has a survey that was just completed on workforce issues to kind of add on some of the statistics. Right now 53% of businesses that say they're going to hire new employees see that they need additional skills when they are put into that position and so obviously that creates a lag within how quickly they are able to get up to speed with their position. Furthermore over 75% of businesses pulled that 25% say extremely and 50% say somewhere their either employability skills or soft skills are lacking. So anytime that we can have this cross collaboration between business entities in public and private partnerships that's very much appreciated. The final statistic I would like to give showed that 58% of businesses anticipate having to provide current employees with re-skilling. I would just like to say thank you for bringing this good bill.

## Debate

---

**Representative Valdés:** Thank you very much for bringing forward this bill. I believe that it's a positive direction that we're trying to bring all of these services into one space if you will. I'm just hoping that we are careful as we develop programs, and we mentioned nursing—currently an LPN program takes about 14 months—I'm hoping that by trying to increase the workforce that we do not do anything to downsize the curriculum. If I'm in a hospital I want an RN that knows what they're doing. I want an LPN that knows what they're doing. I just don't want them to go into a quick eight-week program and all of a sudden be an RN. We cannot afford to do that, so I'm hoping that when we move forward we develop some of these career paths and try and streamline them to maybe bring some of the courses that may be not necessarily important to the profession while still keeping the integrity of the professionals. That said, I'm up on this bill and thank you very much.

**Representative Woodson:** I appreciate you answering all my questions at midnight last night. We were talking until up to midnight and you did clarify the issues that I had. I believe in accountability. I believe in performance measures and so forth and you were able to clarify this for me, so thank you so much. I appreciate it.

**Ranking Member Bush:** I think that my colleague said what I was going to say. I want to say thank you for bringing such a good bill together. I did get a chance last night to look at the US Department of Labor recommended measures for us to clean up this situation that we have in the state of Florida. I think we're on the right road as we look at career paths for our citizens. I think by working together we can come up with what we need to do. With that said, I am 100% in support of this measure.

## Closing

---

Thank you to the members that have spoken. I appreciate that and thank you for the opportunity, as late as it needed to be, for the dialogue and opportunity to talk. I've summed up with the bill. Representative Valdes, that's similar to what a few other members had mentioned. The medical example is a really good one because if you go to a doctor or an RN, in the case that you mentioned, you're hoping and supposing without it coming up in conversation that that's the most qualified person to treat you and help you. It's just like if you get on an airplane, you hope that the pilot was the top in their class and not one that maybe didn't know everything. So, you could really apply it in many occupations. So that's the goal here in Florida. We're saying we can help you, we're here to be a resource for you, and help you get a job. But if we keep doing what we've been doing, as mentioned in the report that came out, which is the reason we're here today. If we are not going to do better and be accountable with these dollars, then we're not helping anybody and that's across the state. I'm sensitive to the northeast Florida where we are in Jacksonville, and I know many of you see the same thing in your areas. So, we want to make it better. The last thing I'll say is it's a work in progress, so let me know and I'm happy to dialogue with you anytime. Thank you.

## Outcome

---

The bill was reported favorably.

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

---

The bill requires a moment of silence to be set aside for public school students during each school day. The bill directs the principal of each school to require first-period classroom teachers in all grades to set aside 1 to 2 minutes for a moment of silence. The bill prohibits a teacher from making suggestions about the nature of a student's reflection during the moment of silence. Instead, teachers must encourage parents to discuss the moment of silence with their children and to make suggestions to their children about how they should use this time. The bill prohibits students from interfering with each other's participation in the moment of silence

## Q&A

---

### Representative Valdés

Q: Will this also pertain to our private schools and charter schools?

A: This bill applies to all public schools, in which charter schools are public schools. This bill does not apply to private schools.

### Representative Benjamin

Q: What problem are we seeking to solve or what issue are we seeking to improve?

A: I think the situation speaks for itself. We live in trying times. We have extraordinary levels of depression and mental issues among our kids. In part, it's because they have so many things competing for their time and so many things they have to worry about. A moment of silent reflection gives them time to center themselves and will benefit kids when the cell phones are off where the pressures of the outside world are gone. That time can simply be used to reflect and to be centered to be prepared for the day ahead.

Q: What do you believe this looks like when it happens? Can a student do nothing, look off into the distance, closing their eyes, folding their hands? What does this look like in practice?

A: It is up to the student. The government and teachers explicitly cannot tell the students how to use the time. The teachers should encourage the students to discuss with their parents and caregivers regarding how they should use this time. As long as the student is quiet, they can use the time however they choose.

Q: Why is it mandatory?

A: I don't know how that would work with an optional moment of silence. If you want a moment of silence, it needs to be mandatory. There's nothing mandatory about how you spend the time, though.

### **Representative Robinson**

Q: Have you surveyed to see how many of our districts are already doing it?

A: I do not know how many counties have done it, but that is something we can do.

### **Representative Woodson**

Q: I don't have any issues with a moment in silence. Because the voucher schools receive money from us, why are they left out?

A: In the legislature, we have allowed public dollars to go to private institutions, but they are allowed to operate it themselves. This is similar to the money going to public universities as compared to HBCUs.

### **Representative Benjamin**

Q: How will we enforce this? What would be the penalty?

A: It would be no different from other standards we enforce on our public institutions.

## **Public Testimony**

---

### **Devon Graham, American Atheists**

Opposes the bill.

The reasons law like this do not sit right with some of us is because it is often related to religion, even if it states that it is not. Current statutes allow any schools to enforce a moment of silence. An individual student is also currently allowed to have a moment of silence as long as they do not disrupt instruction. This bill is just one foot in the door toward coerced prayer in schools. A quarter of all Floridians are not religious. That is a significant number of students that think differently from their classmates, which might result in bullying. This is already seen where some students have been bullied for not partaking in a moment of silence. This bill is setting up kids for bullying.

### **Schneur Oirechman, Chabad Rabbis in Florida**

Supports the bill.

A moment of silence is not a moment of prayer, and this moment of silence is much-needed in today's school environment.

## **Debate**

---

**Representative Benjamin:** I am a man of religion, but I also believe in the separation of church and state. I am also a realist. The kids are not going to reflect on ethical obligation or reflect on how they're going to score in doing day to day interactions with each other. They are going to wish they didn't have to do it and they are going to wish this one minute was up. This bill seeks to solve nothing. It already exists within our law for a school district to have the option of including a moment of silence. Then as we heard from Representative Robinson, school districts like Miami Dade already incorporate them into the policies and procedures. Overall, this bill will change nothing. I'm going to be down on this bill.

**Representative Harding:** Thanks for bringing this really good bill forward. You know, if you talk to your local Sheriff, during the time that COVID happened and schools were shut down, abuse with children spiked and things happened that are hard for us to sit in this room to imagine. Oftentimes school is the safest place they have, and this is doing something to make sure that we give them one more opportunity to center themselves. It is a great effort and I support this bill 100%.

**Representative Robinson:** The district that I am in actually is already doing this, and what I would like to see would be how many other school districts are doing it in Florida. I'm still somewhat hesitant on making a mandate. I think that it should be something that is done locally. As we move forward, I am still having some doubts about the mandatory aspect.

**Representative Woodson:** My issue is not with the moment of silence. My issue is with having the other schools included in this process as well, because they do receive funding from the state. Let's be inclusive and include the voucher schools in the process.

**Representative Maggard:** I think we must realize with our kids today; their lives are just as busy as ours as adults because of what we've allowed with these electronics. If nothing else, we should make it clear that we don't have to have it every three seconds. Thank you.

**Representative Rizo:** I was also an educator and administrator. Those were some of the most rewarding years of my career. I have also worked with 39 school districts and I can tell you that the vast majority of them do offer moments of silent meditation. What I have seen as a teacher is that the arbitrary nature of the moment of silence does create an issue. I do like that you put in the parameters of 1-2 minutes. I have also had to make accommodations for students to pray. I have never seen schools try to stop such accommodations. Call it what you will, but this moment of silence allows time for children to center their thoughts. I have never seen a forcing of prayer as it relates to a moment of silence; I do not see this as a gateway in Florida, but especially not Miami-Dade. We need to bring attention to mindfulness, as I see this as a positive way to start their day.

**Representative Fischer:** I think this is a very hope-filled and optimistic bill. I served on school board in Duval County and I think it's a great idea to do this. I think it's actually very inclusive. I do want to comment on some comments that were made earlier. Some of the language that was used was kind of cloaked in the language of realism but really what we heard was pessimism. America is special and unique and we're going to hear about another bill later that talks about immigration and things like that. We are founded differently than other places and one of those things had to deal with was religious liberties and this doesn't violate any of that. In fact, it makes sure that everybody feels included in that process. Your bill provides the opportunity for kids to reflect and avoid distractions from all the difficult things they deal with. You have my full support and I am happy to work with school districts on any questions they might have.

**Representative Giallombardo:** I really appreciate this bill. As a parent it's I think it's important. Kids have tons of homework and tons of sports thrown at them. To be able to stop for second ground themselves is wonderful and I love the part where it encourages that the kids have this conversation with parents about it because it empowers us and gives us an opportunity to talk to our kids about what they should be doing with that time. Thank you so much and I'm very proud to support you on this.

## Closing

---

I think it's a sad day when the idea of a moment of silence at time for silent reflection is of questionable morality. I think it's even sadder when some define realism, but they think so little of our children that they think they couldn't actually leverage this time. I have a 9-year-old son who doesn't have a one or a two-minute moment of silence. He has a 35-minute moment of silence every day. He goes to Chapel for a service of a religion that he is not part of, and he uses 35 minutes. There are many students of many faiths who do the same. I am not a realist. I reject the idea that we think so little about children that they could not use this time effectively. I'm an optimist.

Now, I want to talk about intellectually dishonest arguments. It is intellectually dishonest to say that I oppose mandates except when they're done by my local school board. In Miami Dade County the students are mandated to do a moment of silence—they're just mandated to do it by the local school boards. Either mandates are good, or mandates are not. Everyone who says mandates are okay in Miami Dade shouldn't have an issue with us mandating it here unless their issue is some issue of home rule.

One of the speakers who stood up here talked about this is a gateway. We are advocating for this kind of bill because we believe that every child deserves the ability to opt into a moment of silence. We live in a time where it almost feels like the world is falling apart and we should be doing everything that we can to make this world a little bit better for kids.

I will close with this story: I will leave here tomorrow, and I will go home to watch my oldest son's most special day he will ever have in his religion. He will have his bar mitzvah. For the first six years of his schooling he went to a non-Jewish religious school where he had, as I mentioned before, 35 minutes of silence for him every day. This year we decided to put him back in a public school. I can tell you that he has struggled moving from the private school that he went to to the public school because he lost that opportunity to have that moment of silence. I would argue to you that if this is good for a Jewish child who goes to an Episcopal school, then it can be good for every child no matter what school they go to.

This is something that will help our children. Will it change the world? Will it solve all of our problems? No, it will not, but how do you eat an elephant? You do it one bite at a time. This is a bite that we can do today and with that, I ask for your favorable support.

## Outcome

---

The bill was reported favorably.

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

---

To meet the needs of students, job seekers, and employers, the bill creates a consumer-centered workforce system that fosters greater collaboration across all partners, integrates services delivery, reports on program outcomes, and leverages state resources to inform individuals as they prepare and plan to enter the workforce.

The bill:

- Creates a consumer-first workforce system requiring the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to consult with the Department of Education (DOE) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to implement a single automated consumer-first workforce system that improves coordination among the required

one-stop partners to efficiently and effectively provide workforce and education programs and services in Florida.

- Requires any contract to implement the consumer-first workforce system to be performance based.
- Requires the consumer-first workforce system to support service integration and case management across programs and agencies and requires DEO to develop training for required one-stop partners on the use of the system and how all partners can prequalify individuals for benefits and services.
- Requires state career planning resources to be provided to students as they progress along their educational experience, beginning in the middle grades career and education planning course, in the character development curriculum for grades 9 through 12, and within student life skills and career planning courses at the postsecondary level.
- Requires public postsecondary student career service centers to utilize state career planning resources as they prepare students for future employment.
- Creates a definition and establishes criteria for work-based learning opportunity, requiring it to be developmentally appropriate, develop workplace skills, link to next steps in career planning and preparation on a student's career pathway, be provided in an equal and fair manner, and prioritize paid experiences.
- Requires that students entering a public postsecondary institution in 2022-2023, and thereafter, must be able to earn nationally recognized digital credentials for competencies within the general education core courses which demonstrate career readiness. The digital credentials will be identified by a faculty committee appointed by the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors.
- Requires DOE to establish minimum standards and policies governing apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs which must require training providers to submit data to determine program performance.
- Requires that DOE's annual report on apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs also include retention and completion rates of participants, wage progression of participants, and expenditure data by training provider, program, and occupation.

## Q&A

---

None.

## Public Testimony

---

None.

## Debate

---

**Representative Yarborough:** There are similarities that you heard Representative Melo mention about her bill that go very much positively alongside the bill that I presented to you a few moments ago. The one that was in front of you in HB 1507 was very large and many of the structural changes that we need to make that I talked all of you about. This bill is a very good bill and brings in more on the consumer-focused approach side, so it's very good and it all works together for the benefit of our students and job seekers. So, I just wanted to let you all know that. Thanks for your support on that as well.



## Closing

---

Thirty-two percent of students are confident that they could graduate with the knowledge and skills to succeed in the workplace, according to a college student survey. We have the opportunity to provide Florida consumers with access to services from multiple agencies through one site, shifting the burden of understanding how to access services on agencies rather than on the consumer. With that, I close.

## Outcome

---

This bill was reported favorably.

## HB 5 – Civic Education Curriculum (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. Designated the "Portraits in Patriotism Act," the bill provides that these resources are based on diverse individuals' personal stories that illustrate civic-minded qualities.

## Q&A

---

### Representative Omphroy

Q: As a first generation American, I am the first child born in this country on both sides of my family. My issues with civic education are ensuring the civic education is holistic and tells the true story of the American experience. Everything about our American experience is not beautiful. There are things in our American experience that are dark, that are traumatizing, and impact us each individually in different ways. Will those aspects of the American story also be told?

A: I look at you and I look at my five beautiful children who will one day be able to tell the same story as you. This specific bill ensures that each one of us has an opportunity to tell our American experience to school children. We must recognize our dark past, and the way we overcome darkness is by bringing light. When I was 9, my parents told me that we belonged to a persecuted ethnic group. From ages 9-17 I have grown up without the standard childhood. I am a proud American, and I love America. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. believed that all people are created equal, and he brought light to our darkness. He made America brighter and stronger. In America, everything is possible.

### Representative Benjamin

Q: Can you tell us what you believe the difference is between civics and history?

A: Civics and history are two important components to any society. In my view, civics ensures they each one of us take personal responsibility in being part of a society that requires our own individual contribution to govern a society, but



you cannot have civics and govern a society unless you know the history. History plays a critical role in everything we do. We must learn from our past because if we don't learn from our past, we will repeat it. The way we become stronger is by acknowledging our dark past in America and recognizing that in America everything is possible.

### **Representative Valdés**

Q: Would we be able to acknowledge the conflicting ideologies of the Confederacy and American Democracy? What about fascism? Would you be open to mentioning those in the bill?

A: Under my legislation, HB 5 ensures the high school use comparative discussion of political ideologies. It's very all-encompassing, such as communism and conflict with American Democracy. We must teach our children any form of ideology that conflicts with who we are as Americans. They must know so we don't repeat it.

Q: The reality is that sometimes that ideology looks at us as if we do not belong here. As you mentioned, being the first-generation daughter of immigrants, I do take offense to some of those ideologies. I do believe in this bill, and I think it is a good bill. These are really serious conversations. How can we ensure that the intent of this bill remains as such, so that it is not just one story being told? In the way this nation is changing, the stories must change as well.

A: When I came to America, I found a place to belong. There is nothing worse than to be rejected because I believe that each one of us is unique and created in God's image. I found a place to belong, but I also found a place to believe. There is no perfect society, and you can either seek perfection, or be part of perfection and seek a change. In my bill I intentionally used diverse language. We have become divided, whether that is Republican versus Democrat or Conservative versus Liberal. I believe this bill will send a message to our children that we are all one.

### **Representative Benjamin**

Q: Can you tell us again the part of the bill that talks about the comparison of different governments? I see those aspects of history to be teaching separate things, but I am now questioning the need for that since civics is the study of rights and obligations we have as Americans. Why is there a need for the comparative government part?

A: The high school U.S. government course requirements require compared discussion of political ideologies such as communism. It's important that we teach our children the evil and the darkness of communism. We have many Floridians and Americans that come from countries like Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua, China, Former Yugoslavia, Russia, and other parts of the world where communism killed family members. Communism has destroyed, so it's important, in my opinion, that we teach our children politically ideologies that are so dark and are still here today. I believe that is so important that we teach our children evil in the darkness of communism.

Q: Aren't they going to learn that somewhere else in the curriculum? Why is it necessary in the civics curriculum?

A: We have to teach the civics component, but we also have to teach the dark history of communism.

### **Representative Andrade**

Q: To clarify, this bill does not change or alter the one credit requirement in world history?

A: Correct.

## **Public Testimony**

---

### **Ambassador Carlos Trujillo**

Supports the bill.

It's very important for American children in our schools to understand the different ideologies that exist in the world. Right now, as we speak, in the world there are millions of people who don't have any fundamental rights. The individuals from the Victims of Communism Foundation's stories were not learned in books or TV shows. They are the stories of their lives. I think it's very important for American students to realize where we are as a country where the two

superpowers are the Communist Party of China and the Democracy of the United States. The world is debating which system will work. For me, is democracy the way of the future. Unfortunately, even in our own country, 1/3 of millennials believe that communism could work pretty well, despite the fact you can't have any freedom of speech, despite the fact that you will not vote for any of the elected officials. That one ideology will control every single aspect of your life. That is a serious problem that not only affects children of this generation, but also the future leaders of the world.

#### **Kristina Olney, Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation**

Supports the bill.

Over the past century, communist totalitarian regimes in some 40 nations have killed more than 100,000,000 people and subjected countless more to exploitation, violence, and untold devastation. These victims were shot dead in the Bolshevik revolution, they were starved to death, they were worked to death in the Soviet gulags, they were exiled to Siberia in the Baltic deportations, they were executed in Cuba, they were beaten to death in China's cultural revolution, they drowned fleeing by boat in Vietnam, and their bones littered Cambodia's desolate killing fields. Although the Soviet Union collapsed and the Berlin Wall fell 30 years ago, 1/5 of the world's population today is still suffering under communist regimes. In Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua the horrors of socialism and communism continue and today you will hear firsthand accounts of those who have been tortured and abused by these regimes. In China, the Chinese Communist Party is committing genocide.

#### **Carlos Urbaneja**

Supports the bill.

I came to America in order to keep my family safe from the rampant violence that surrounded us in Venezuela. We saw all the work so commonly perish under the extreme political circumstances of Venezuela. I started my businesses here in the states, some of which were successful, some of which were learning experiences. Even after leaving Venezuela, my family dealt with significant threats of criminals in Venezuela. They took everything, hurt my family members, and continued to ruin our lives. They used corrupt Venezuelan judges, considering us criminals. Thanks to American authorities, we were saved from further damages and dangers. I was shocked to learn that this act of judicial distortion is something very common. Thanks to the American legal system, we are safe.

#### **Gustavo Tefel**

Supports the bill.

This is the second time I have had to seek refuge in this wonderful country after coming from Nicaragua. My family faced lots of threats. They threatened to kill me and rape my children. I was 18 the first time I had to leave Nicaragua to come to this country. Now, my children are the same age. We need your help to break the cycle that keeps repeating in history. In 2018, one morning I received a call asking me to go to the hospital to help a family because the father and son had just been killed. They tried to leave during the protest and a police car ran them over. I was helping the wife and daughter to bury them, but the government would not allow us to bury them. We had to get fake papers to do it. Nicaragua is being raped by a dictator, whose daughter-in-law has charges against him for raping her when she was 14 years old.

#### **Ana M Abaunza Ramos**

Supports the bill.

I came to the U.S. in 1979 from Nicaragua. Most of my classmates were not so lucky. As high school students, we were told that the revolution would bring prosperity to the citizens. That never happened. Instead, the leaders just became more powerful. I moved back to Venezuela in 1986 until another communist took control of the country. I am lucky to be able to come to this country twice. Communism feeds on poverty and illiteracy.

**Rosa Maria Paya**

Supports the bill.

The communist regime in Cuba resulted in the death of my father and my friend. These actions remain unpunished to this day. That lack of acknowledgement and responsibility are an indicator of communism. It is important for new generations to learn the true facts of the history of communism. It is also important for them to understand that it still exists. When you pass this bill, you will be confronting big propaganda machinery.

**Zahari Masa**

Supports the bill.

I have been a human rights advocate for ten years. The safety I have here, I did not have in Venezuela. I was a target of the regime. I feared the authority of the country, whether it was judges or police. There was no justice separate from communism. This persecution involved my family as well. My parents were almost imprisoned. At the age of 25 I was paralyzed. Thanks to this country I am fine again.

**Omar Gutierrez**

Supports the bill.

**David Espinal**

Supports the bill.

About four years ago I was introduced to a man that claimed to be a Venezuelan businessman. He turned out to be a member of the Venezuelan communist regime. He tried to use me and launched into violent threats. He was an officer of the Venezuelan police department.

**Hector Escalona**

Supports the bill.

**Franklin Sequera**

Supports the bill.

**Roberto Pizano**

Supports the bill.

**Raphael Pizano**

Supports the bill.

People don't understand communism. The education system doesn't teach our kids about the world. The only communist dictator my niece has heard of is Adolf Hitler. It is important that the stories of immigrants are shared so their pain was not in vain.

**Marco Novoa**

Supports the bill.

I was tortured in Nicaragua. I was raped with a metal tube. I was thrown in a cell and starved. I was injected with drugs to sedate me. They murdered people in front of me. It hurts me that this testimony is one minute, but for me, this was my entire life.

**Omar Lopez Montenegro**

Supports the bill.

## Edwardo Montenegro

Supports the bill.

## Debate

---

**Representative Rizo:** In the Florida curriculum, there are a few places where civics is taught. It is taught in the 7th grade. After that, it becomes infused within the other curriculum (history, geography, government). The terms socialism and communism are taught as economic theories. They are never touched upon within the current curriculum as what we all heard today. That is why I believe in this bill, and I look forward to voting yes on it.

**Representative Woodson:** I know how important it is for our children to understand where they are coming from and where they are going in order for them to succeed in life. We have oppression, so all of this should be brought to light. I hope the DOE works to make this very inclusive.

**Representative Borrero:** I can't tell you how many heartbreaking stories I have heard from citizens that previously suffered under communist regimes. It is important to not only remember, but to also educate children on the oppression of freedom of speech and religion, as well as all of the other trials faced. I appreciate your comment regarding how we should teach history so that we can teach a proper civics curriculum. With that, I support this bill.

**Representative Valdés:** After hearing some of the testimony, it seems like this bill is an anti-communist agenda, and that is just not one evil side. There are a lot of other really bad ideologies that exist in this country today. For a personal story: right now, I have a niece and two nephews in Cuba, of which do not have the opportunity to escape, because visas were stopped. I have not forgotten the conversation that occurred four years ago, because that currently affects my family. They are suffering and I cannot do anything for them. Thankfully, the people here were able to escape. But for those of us in charge of making laws that have similar situations without the escape—it is heartbreaking. The telling of these stories is vital to shape the nation—to tell of white supremacy. I like this bill and I like the intent we discussed yesterday. If we are just going to focus on communism, we are going down a different rabbit hole. I will support the bill, but this is real for me. We spoke on behalf of all children, which is why I would like to bring in an amendment to also include all of these other ideologies that are not mentioned, because today we only focused on communism. Today, right now, we are debating many bills that go out to really hurt Black and Brown people.

**Representative Fischer:** As a former school board member, I saw how we were not teaching the different ideologies. I think this bill is important, and your bill covers more than just communism. I look forward to voting yes.

**Representative Omphroy:** I had to google civics, because I want to make sure we stay on topic. Civics is a social science dealing with rights and duties of citizens. When I sat here listening to those testimonies, I was reminded of the history of my own family. But I would like to stay on the topic of what civics really is. I am asking you to be mindful of veering into things that are not related to civics, and that is my request of you.

**Ranking Member Bush:** I am in support of this, and I want to tell the people who gave testimonies that we are sympathetic to your experiences.

## Closing

---

I'll keep it brief. We live in a great country, a country that I love. This bill gives us an opportunity to tell our story to our children. Today, we will do the single most American thing in this community. Some of you will vote yes and some of you will vote no. At the end of the day we will celebrate that we agreed to disagree. Together we can bring light to our darkness one step at a time. I do believe in America and I do believe in American exceptionalism. I do believe our future is bright. There is no nation in the history of humankind that has overcome aversion like us. We've come a long way but rest assured that we have a long way to go. It's incumbent upon us and generations to come to continue to make America the nation that every other nation desire to be.

## Outcome

---

This bill was reported favorably.

## 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

### **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 0096 Child Welfare (Book)**

Transferring existing provisions relating to the central abuse hotline of the Department of Children and Families; providing criminal, civil, and administrative immunity to child protective investigators who report known or suspected animal cruelty; authorizing offices of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel to establish a multidisciplinary legal representation model program to serve parents of children in the dependency system; requiring the department to make



available specified training for caregivers on the life skills necessary for children in out-of-home care; revising prohibitions relating to sexual conduct and sexual contact with an animal, etc. Effective Date: Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, and except for this section, which shall take effect upon this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect October 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.

**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.

**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.



**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 0856 School Administrator and Instructional Personnel Salaries (Plasencia)**

Revises teacher salary increase allocation; deletes definitions of the terms "grandfathered salary schedule" & "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.



**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 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: 7/1/202.

**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.

**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.

### **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 6081 Collective Bargaining for Instructional Personnel (Thompson)**

Removes requirement that each school district & certified collective bargaining unit for instructional personnel within each district negotiate specified memorandum of understanding; removes requirement that certain certified collective

bargaining units include specified information in their applications for renewal of registration; removes requirement that certain employee organizations petition PERC for recertification. 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.