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A dark blue horizontal band containing the title text in white. The background of the entire page features a low-angle shot of a modern glass skyscraper against a blue sky with clouds and a bright sun flare.

Florida School Boards Association 2021 Legislative Session Report

LEGISLATIVE SESSION WEEK THREE

March 15, 2021 – March 19, 2021

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senate Committee on Education

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

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

Summary

The Senate Education Committee met to consider SB 86, SB 1372, and SB 1898.

Amendment 594362 to SB 86 Student Financial Aid (Baxley)

The strike all retains many of the provisions of the original bill with some modifications. It modifies current financial aid programs creating new programs that provide greater access and support for low-income students and students without a high school credential as well as those programs that provide for exceptional student rewards. It prioritizes state funding for students in education options that lead to good employment outcomes. The amendment creates a new requirement that the BOG creates a new online dashboard of salary, income, debt, and continuing education information about university graduates available by January 21st, 2022. It also requires each university BOT to develop procedures to connect students to career planning which must include a hold on registration after the students first year until the student registers with the career center and is directed to the online dashboard. The procedures must be approved by the BOG. The amendment also retains the requirement in the bill to identify certificate and degree programs, but it requires the BOG, the State Board of Education, and the independent colleges and universities of Florida to each identify and publish a list of certificate undergraduate and graduate degree programs that do not lead directly to employment. We are saying, show us which ones that do not lead to jobs. We are hoping that none will be on that list.

We are trying to prevent the situation where students graduate from a university program and they have debt and they are not hireable for some reason with the alignment in the program and where they are in the market. We want to align the economy and our education system better. We need to rearrange our priorities. We are not eliminating Bright Futures; we are transforming it. We are not picking on certain majors. We hope that no majors are deemed to have no value. This amendment also modifies Bright Futures awards. What we are doing is instead of putting numbers in a bill, we are moving it over to appropriations where the dollars get allocated. We are spending a lot on this but moving it around to the place it should be. Some things that have also changed with this amendment is that we have moved in a certain direction. But we are still allowing this to happen gradually and students will be grandfathered in. I hope this fosters parent and counselor involvement. The amendment also retains the clarification in the bill that students who enter post-secondary education and are still in foster care that they are still eligible for tuition and fee exemption.

Amendment 742634 (Thurston)

This amendment to the amendment removes the use of the certificate and degree programs list when determining eligibility for funding awards under the Bright Futures and Benacquisto Scholarship Program. Essentially, all the great stuff that Senator Baxley just talked about would stay. We would have the benefit of helping those students who have dropped out and all of the other aspects of the bill but we would not have a list of majors or areas that we deem not worthy of students pursuing. So that is what the amendment does.

Public Testimony on Amendment 742634

Tracy Strecker, Florida PTA: Waiving in support.

Angie Gallo, Alliance for Public Schools: Waiving in support.

Chase McLaughlin: I think it is a great idea to have a dashboard but I think it is wrong to use that information to essentially get a segment of majors and deem that as not necessary. There are parts of this bill that are productive but not the entire thing.

Matthew Schnippert: I am a teacher here in Tallahassee and I strongly support this amendment. Our society needs people well-versed in all areas. I know teachers who have majored in literally everything under the sun and it contributes to great diversity of thought. I understand the sentiment of this bill and think the amendment fixes the problems I have with it.

Debate on Amendment 742634

Senator Baxley

This amendment is well-intentioned but I have concern with it. The amendment really removes the use of the certificate and degree list for the BF and Benacquisto programs. It removes the primary intent of the bill which is to help connect students with career path opportunities and to ensure that students are pursuing programs that are beneficial to the students and the state and the environment of the economy. I think students need help with how they match their interests with also their financial opportunities. It is not irrelevant.

Closing on Amendment 742634 (Thurston)

There are some promising things about this bill and I think Mr. Chase, the student who testified, recognized that. But he also stated that it was un-American to limit him from choosing what they can study and what they cannot study. The bill sponsor says that when someone pays for something, they should have a say in it. Well they have always had a say in it, you have to earn this scholarship and meet the requirements. Generally speaking you have to do this with your first entry into school. It also says that the state will decide who gets the scholarship money that they have earned and who doesn't. Yes, we are paying for it, but does that give the government a right to tell a students who has followed all the rules and worked hard that he or she does not get to use it for any purpose other than what the government decides. In the end we would either force students to do something that they are not going to be passionate about or we will allow them to exercise their passion and make it profitable for them. This bill is a betrayal of everything we are going to hear today from these students. Let's preserve the freedom and liberty of students allowing to choose what they want to pursue. This is absolute government control and we should not allow it.

Outcome

The amendment is not adopted.

Amendment 722206 (Polsky)

My amendment prompts the Board of Education to adopt procedures to allow students to appeal their designation of financial aid ineligibility. It would specifically allow students deemed ineligible for an award for more than 60 credit hours due to their enrollment in a program on the list. They can appeal to receive the maximum applicable state student financial aid award. They must show that their enrollment in the program will help them obtain a career in the future.

Public Testimony on Amendment 722206

Angie Gallo, Alliance for Public Schools: Waiving in support.

Debate on Amendment 722206

Senator Baxley

The amendment allows for an appeal because a student is in an art degree program. This is premature because there is no list that has been created. We hope there is no program on this list. We think that every area can be enhanced in a way that can lead towards employment. These are public funds. These are not claims or contracts. This is about the future. I don't think this should fall within those types of assumptions. The amendment is authorizing a students to replace the work of the state board of education.

Closing on Amendment 722206 (Polsky)

I meant liberal arts when I spoke earlier. I kind of don't understand the point of the bill. I think out of the gate, the list of non-acceptable majors would certainly have things that you've mentioned. It is very clear certain majors will end up on this list. So, if there is a program that a student wants to pursue and has an idea about a path forward and believes their philosophy degree will help them get there, why can't they appeal to the school? I just think there needs to be a way around the arbitrary designation that the BOG will put forth each year and for a student who has earned it they should have the opportunity to appeal it. I hope you all can support my amendment to make a difficult bill a little better.

Outcome

The amendment is not adopted.

Q&A On Amendment 594362 to SB 86 Student Financial Aid (Baxley)

Vice Chair Jones

Q: How much do you think that the state will save with these new barriers in place for Bright Futures?

A: Well, I don't know that we will save a dime. That is not the objective. The objective is to change the purpose. We are not projecting dollar amounts. We are redesigning the program to have efficacy between work and education. This isn't a financial move. I don't understand why we are all so uncomfortable. It's really about connecting these two worlds so they are not happening as unrelated events when they are very much related, including the cost of attaining that education. From what I looked at we are spending \$862 million now. What I am concerned about is that it is wandering into an entitlement. It is being viewed as something they are entitled to and I don't know if that is incentivizing the right outcome. I am saying these students simply need to have a pathway plan. This is a juncture where we can relate these two worlds for students.

Q: I appreciate that but unfortunately a lot of students in the Civic Center were not as blessed as you to have mentors to guide them through this. There is no research that shows that putting these types of maneuvers in place to move students along a career path. Have you seen any research that has shown that the path that we are going leads students to a better outcome?

A: That is part of this, we want to shine light on this and find research. I have just met too many people one on one that couldn't get hired. I have helped a lot of people trying to make that connection.

Q: If a student majors in something not on the list, and they have already received the award and changes their major midyear, does the student have to pay money back to the state?

A: To be honest I haven't played out every situation that could happen. I would be glad to have someone from staff to help answer that question. Ok, so there is no harm to the student if the list changes.

Q: Can you give us examples of a particular major that might end up on this list?

A: I won't do that because that isn't the story. The story is pairing up these pathways. We don't have the data, we just know the real world is telling us we are getting people we can't hire.

Q: In Florida we have a lot of lab schools. Students can graduate with their AA degree. My students who I taught would not qualify to be able to receive merit in their junior year. Is that the intent of the bill?

A: The intent in the legislation is to simply make sure we don't pay for the same course twice.

Q: Do you think you can go back with staff and take a look to ensure that students in dual enrollment are not harmed from taking classes? I think there could be so unintended consequences.

A: I can assure you that we would be glad to look at that.

Senator Hutson

Q: I am going to try to get us back into a line of questioning about what the bill actually does. Is it true that this bill would grandfather these current students so that their Bright Futures will be there going forward?

A: That is absolutely correct.

Q: As this list continues to update each year, those that are getting into college before the list updates, they will not be affected.

A: That is right, they will be held harmless.

Q: So, any promise the state has made to any individual that has entered college will be kept by the state?

A: Absolutely.

Q: If an individual chooses to go to a pathway that is on this "least desirable" list and decided to go back to a pathway not on that list, do they get fully reimbursed in that Bright Futures?

A: They keep moving forward.

Q: The process of how the BOG does this, are they going to have a series of meetings with public input of what is actually on this list so everyone can participate?

A: To my knowledge, yes.

Senator Berman

Q: Is there something in the bill that says the BOG has to get input in determining the majors?

A: My understanding was that this will follow BOG and DOE procedures and that is already a very transparent process as it is.

Q: Who is the "they" that can participate in the dialogue?

A: The members of the board - that is what they are elected to do.

Q: So the public does not necessarily have any input?

A: I believe those meetings are open to the public.

Q: So let's go back to the beginning. Where does BF money come from?

A: Much of it is sourced from the lottery. But those are public funds

Q: So the bill requires the BOG to create this list which will not lead to direct employment. So how soon would a graduate need to gain employment for the purpose of making this list? What will they look at to determine whether the major is successful or not?

A: They make that decision in evaluating what the institution shows them. There must be a career path plan.

Q: Do we know how many students who have BF that graduate and are then unemployed?

A: We don't have that data but I think what we will get out of this process is a collection of that data.

Q: Do we know what the average income of BF recipients that receive a degree is?

A: It's hard to average because it could be quite different. I will also say that you can be a no-major person for 2 years. We need direction there. Anyway, I don't know. I'm sure we have that data but I would be happy to get it for you.

Q: Right now BF is funded 100% and 75% and the way you are changing the bill is you are funding it in the GAA. Will we have a situation where certain students will no longer get 100% funding?

A: There is no way to secure that in an environment where you are going to reflect the economy. There are so many things that could happen on the way there. This bill is not designed to recover money.

Q: By that same token we are giving out students 100% right now, and so this bill is a significant change. We will no longer be guaranteeing that 100% is that correct?

A: I don't think we have ever guaranteed that, we just did it. We can't guarantee their future, we have just remained committed to this process.

Q: Why would we want to preclude our highest performing students just because they have different passions and career goals?

A: We won't. They will choose things to do. They may have to contribute to some of the things they are interested in. Those things that lead towards any kind of career are going to qualify you. You need to draw the connection when you get far enough along.

Q: Did you know that there are certain medical schools that ask their students to have a liberal arts background?

A: I was not aware of that, no.

Q: With regard to the Benacquisto scholarship, you said it would eventually turn into a program for in-state students, is that correct still with the new amendment?

A: Yes.

Senator Polsky

Q: Can you explain in greater detail about the AP credits, how those credits are used?

A: The pursuit of this the whole time is that we don't want to pay twice. We are trying to avoid that liability and make sure they are getting credit. It benefits us when they finish college courses early.

Q: I don't understand though, the students seem to think them taking these AP classes is going to count against them. Can you explain that?

A: We are not going to pay for that same course again. That is the only thing.

Q: What if a college requires them to take English 101?

A: That is a discussion that will work out with the institution. There may be more to that dialogue but I think bringing it to the forefront and saying we are not going to pay twice is imperative.

Q: I would urge that gets worked out better that is a little confusing.

A: I agree.

Q: If someone wants to have a very employable career, but Bright Futures refuses to pay for their undergraduate degree in music, even though they want to go to medical school, what do we do about that?

A: I think we have to open it up for some solution finding if we change the parameter, you can believe that the institutions to make adjustments to capture this revenue. Innovations don't need to be directly related. I have confidence that these people will figure out pathways once we lay out what it is. That is part of the reason they are upset, because they are looking for answers. We haven't passed the bill yet.

Q: If this goes in the direction many of us think it will, which is to limit payment on humanities degrees, what do you foresee happening to some of those professors and programs because students cannot take it due to financial constraints?

A: The reality is that those professions will transform. We don't need to protect the old way, you move on to the new pattern and opportunities.

Q: In certain schools they have a self-declared major. How could we possibly put that on a list when it is not in existence?

A: I think some of these things are even birthed yet. They can appeal it to the BOG. There is innovation.

Q: Right but you didn't accept my amendment so there is no appeal process. How is that going to work?

A: Well, I didn't accept an appeal process either but I'm getting a lot of feedback right now.

Q: My final question is, what is the process?

A: That is a very interesting complex discussion between students, advisors, parents, mentors, and institutions.

Senator Thurston

Q: Thank you for this bill. There are some great parts to it. But where is this bill coming from? How did it originate? Are there studies that made it happen?

A: It's been around for a long time. The concept has been born from different input and conversations over time. These inputs of real-world challenges of matching up talent with opportunities is where you start.

Q: So college graduates who have earned a BF scholarship cannot write a letter?

A: That is what I've been told by attorneys.

Q: I guess the second point was to increase more high-tech individuals who can work on computers?

A: There is all kinds of things besides those base skills that they will get.

Q: Earlier you mentioned about being saddled with debt. You have found BF recipients saddled with debt?

A: I haven't gotten that close of an interview.

Senator Diaz

Q: Going back to dual enrollment courses, does this amendment directly addresses the fact that students who take these courses that are not accepted into the general education credits, the BF funds are not deducted?

A: That is correct.

Q: Does this bill expand eligibility options to include those students who have achieved an AA during high school through dual enrollment?

A: Absolutely.

Public Testimony on Amendment 594362

Jack Rowan: Vote no on this amendment and vote no on SB 86. This is pure government oversight.

Matthew Schnippert: Please vote no on this amendment.

Marie-Claire Leman: We need more choice in K-12 education and educational freedom. This bill says freedom is not important any more. The substance of this bill hasn't been determined but allowing the lists to change annually, which is crazy. More students will apply to study out of state.

Angie Gallo, Alliance for Public Schools: Waiving against.

Outcome on Amendment 594362

The amendment is adopted.

Public Testimony on the Bill as Amended

Lauren Gallo, League of Women Voters: Speaking against. We urge you to vote down on this bill.

Angie Gallo, Alliance for Public Schools: Waiving in opposition.

Tracy Strecker, Florida PTA: We have concerns about the differential funding based on specialty that may vary from year to year.

Many students gave testimony, all in opposition of the bill, all saying virtually the same thing.

Debate on the Bill as Amended

Senator Polsky

I am so impressed with all of the students and the work they have done here to oppose this bill. I applaud you for your advocacy. We talk a lot about school choice here and capitalism. We don't like big government. Well, all of those things are at risk in this bill. The Board of Governors is not comprised of educators for the most part, so who are they to make the decision for these students. We asked a lot of questions today, and frankly, we didn't get a lot of answers. That is a very scary proposition. We also need to discuss the economic disparities that may result from this bill. We are going to have a situation where only those who are wealthy can take certain majors, and we don't want that kind of economic disparity. I did not hear one person in favor of this bill, and that is alarming. I know no one here wants to be the nanny state, and unfortunately that is what it has come down to. I am also concerned about the appropriations portion of this bill. We use state money to pay for a student to go to a religious school through a voucher program, but we won't pay for a brilliant student to get an art history degree at a public university. I think that is a terrible choice. I don't think your major dictates your life's work or pattern. Please, let's listen to the students and the parents and vote this bill down.

Senator Berman

The liberal arts are the foundation of the education. I think the argument that vocational and pre-professional degrees is flawed. A liberal arts education is not a self-indulgent luxury. Pursuing one does not reflect the disconnect from the practical demands of our economic. These degrees teach important skills too. If we push someone into a specific profession, they may not be able to adjust to what their ultimate career will be. Liberal arts degrees allow people to be mobile. Florida has consistently ranked first in the nation for higher education. Why would we risk losing that? Why would we also preclude certain students from getting money for certain degrees just because they have different passions from other students? We don't even know what is in the bill and how it will play out. I am also concerned about the money. We have been giving people the guarantee that they will be 100% paid. For us to put it in the GAA and people cannot plan, that is not the way for us to operate. We want our students to stay here. I worry that by passing something like this we are taking opportunities away from children.

Vice Chair Jones

I'll be honest there are good things in the bill. The dashboard, the degree audits, the activation of the career center. I understand the intent of what you are trying to do. I agree with incentivizing students going into certain professions where there is a critical shortage. But we cannot do that at the expense of other students who are contributing to the state in different ways. It is clear financial aid gives access to students and putting barriers to this aid complicates everything. Bright Futures is not an entitlement program. It is an approach to retain talent here. Only 6% of black students qualified for Bright Futures in 2019-2020. Us passing this legislation puts even more barriers in place. The number one reason students don't go to college is because of cost. Students stay in states that incentivize their students' financial aid for education. It is not our job to penalize students for not majoring in something that the system says will not warrant them a job. I can't support this bill today and I urge you to pay attention to what the students are saying. What we are doing today is not right.

Senator Thurston

Well I want to thank Senator Baxley for bringing the bill. I am really torn on this bill because I don't like voting for something where I don't know what I'm voting about. You can't foster discussing when you don't know what you are discussing. We

don't know what the limitations on the students are going to be. Vice Chair Jones is right, I think we should be listening to the students. Life is more than work and death. Let's not deprive the youth of their passion and work ethic. Vote no for this bill.

Senator Bradley

Thank you for your hard work on this bill. I am encouraged by the changes that have taken place and am comforted by your good faith efforts to get this in a better place. Because of that I am going to vote yes today. But I do have concerns. I have spent the better part of the last decade having big discussions with my kids about what their career should be. I am the one, as a parent, that should have that discussion. I just have a problem with this list, I disagree with the idea that a state can define a student's dream. I am not sure that the evidence bares out that the most lucrative careers are those that come from STEM majors. I wish this list would be based on job skills. I hope that those comments are received as intended, which is to put the bill in a better place. I am going to support the bill and I would love to continue working with you as the bill go forward.

Senator Hutson

Thank you for bringing this strike all to us. I know we have changed from an approved list to a non-approved list. I think those students are afraid of what that list is going to look like. I think you have a good start but what I am concerned about is people making up different majors. Please take a look at that. I think the intent of the bill is that we don't want to send taxpayer money to students who will not get a job where we could be paying for a student that is. I agree with the intent that you have and I hope you will continue to put this bill in a lot better posture.

Senator Diaz

Thank you for the changes you have made. There are a lot of technical issues in the bill and a lot of potential unintended consequences. Thank you for slowing this down and trying to address these things individually. As this process works through, it is intended to make the bill better. I will volunteer to assist you in whatever way I can to make the bill better, because there are still some concerns we have to deal with. Thank you.

Closing on the Bill as Amended

Please know, that nobody wants kids to succeed more than I do. A certain amount of exertion challenges us to be our best. This is for no lack of regard for these children's abilities. We have to take risks to achieve certain outcomes. The best part is, I think they can do it. I really do. I look forward to challenging them.

Outcome

The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 5-4.

SB 1372 Literacy Improvement (Burgess)

SB 1372 establishes the New Worlds Reading Initiative to improve literacy skills and instill a love of reading by providing high-quality free books to students in kindergarten through grade 5 who are reading below grade level. The bill requires the Department of Education or a contracted third party to administer the program using state funds to pay for half of the cost to provide free books to students. The bill authorizes school districts, and charter schools in nonparticipating school districts, to provide for free monthly book delivery to students in kindergarten through grade 5 who exhibit a substantial deficiency in reading and choose to participate in the program. It requires participating school districts or charter schools to partner with a nonprofit organization to implement the initiative and to provide half the cost of the program from local funding sources.

Finally, it requires the administrator to annually report to the Legislature and the Commissioner of Education on the performance of the program.

Public Testimony

Alice Neira, Foundation for Florida' Future: Waiving in support.

Tracy Strecker, Florida PTA: Waiving in support.

Outcome

The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 9-0.

SB 1898 Student Literacy (Rodrigues)

SB 1898 includes requirements to identify student deficiencies in literacy and intervene as early as prekindergarten, support students in transitioning to kindergarten, and monitor student progress. The bill establishes a coordinated screening and progress monitoring system for students enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and students enrolled in public schools in kindergarten through grade 8. The bill also requires:

- The Department of Education (DOE) to review the competencies for the reading endorsement and provide a new pathway for teachers to achieve the reading endorsement.
- The DOE to develop a handbook to provide to parents of students with a reading deficiency to support parental engagement in student learning.
- The Just Read, Florida! Office (JRFO) to identify instructional materials that implement evidence-based reading practices and streamlines the process by which school districts may adopt identified and approved instructional materials.
- The JRFO to work with the Office of Early Learning in the development of the emergent literacy training courses and specifies that the courses must be consistent with evidence-based reading instructional and intervention programs.
- Establishes the Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence (RAISE) Program to provide literacy supports statewide through at least 20 regional literacy support teams.
- Establishes a tutoring program that affords high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to satisfy community service requirements and earn a designation as a New Worlds Scholar by providing 500 verified tutoring hours to students with a substantial deficiency in reading in kindergarten through grade 3.
- Voluntary Prekindergarten Program (VPK) instructors to take a required emergent literacy training course every five years.
- VPK providers to be rated based on student performance during the VPK school year.

Public Testimony

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

Debbie Mortham, Foundation for Florida' Future: Waiving in support.

Marie-Claire Leman, Fund Education Now: Please vote down on this bill. If we focus on test scores, pre-schools will be forced to focus on test prep and that is not a good environment for four-year-olds.

Outcome

The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 9-0.

House Early Learning and Elementary Education Subcommittee

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

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

Summary

The House Early Learning and Elementary Education Subcommittee considered HB 51, HB 1061, CS/HB 131, CS/HB 519 and PCB ELE 21-03.

CS/HB 131 Educator Conduct (Duggan)

The bill improves the processes, at the state and local level, by which educational personnel who commit sexual misconduct with a student would be prohibited from further contact with students. Additionally, the bill prohibits employment of such individuals in positions that have direct contact with students in public schools, charter schools, and private schools participating in the state scholarship program.

Q&A

Representative Williams

Q: I didn't see anything in the bill about whether it crosses over district lines, state lines, and county lines in order to protect all children?

A: It crosses over county lines within the state of Florida. If someone were placed on the disqualification list in one county, any other school in the state that is public, charter, or a private school that accepts state dollars, has to check the list. The list will catch you. It probably will not catch anyone from out of state because to my knowledge we do not have the infrastructure in place to catch that yet.

Public Testimony

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

Dawn Steward, Florida PTA: Waiving in support.

Closing

This is a passion project for me and I promised a constituent that if I got elected, I would make sure that this bill moved forward.

Outcome

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

CS/HB 519 (Yarborough)

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

provided to students in grades 7 through 12. The bill does not burden our schools with anything else because many schools across Florida have already implemented this type of education. Funding is already provided for it by the AG and the DOE.

Closing

Thank you for your consideration and I ask for your favorable support.

Outcome

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

HB 1051 Schools of Hope (Smith)

Schools of Hope are charter schools established for students stuck in persistently low-performing schools. Most often they are found in Florida Opportunity Zones. You must have a proven track record to be a Hope operator in Florida. Schools of Hope are established in Florida Statutes. This bill is about impacting student success in these schools. In order to put more money into education in the classroom, this bill asks for flexibility in 3 administrative processes, one change in DOE, and one change in an accounting matter. This bill requires NO additional funding. One of the 3 administrative things is fingerprints for background checks. Another is consolidating an audit, asking the DOE to produce a list of under-used and vacant facilities. Each school board already does that. The bill also asks the schools to spend the state money they have received over seven years instead of five.

Q&A

Representative McFarland

Q: How many schools of hope do we have?

A: We have 12.

Q: The bill analysis says we have 183 persistently low-performing schools. So theoretically if we could get the 12 commensurate with the 183, we would be serving these students much better.

A: That is correct. There are expansion plans but COVID has slowed that process.

Ranking Member Davis

Q: Schools of Hope were created with a pot of \$140 million. Now around \$237 fits in that pot. \$237 million for 12 schools right now. My concern is that you are talking about extending the years from 5 to 7. Can you explain that please?

A: The pot of money, about 90% of it has already been obligated and/or expanded. So the residual would need to carry over the 2 additional years.

Q: As for the fingerprinting, you talked about how that is just expanding it so other vendors could be a part of that process?

A: That is correct. It simply streamlines the process and reduces the burden.

Q: So we are not clarifying that we need background checks to be done, we are clarifying who can offer the background checks and fingerprinting.

A: I couldn't have said it any better.

Public Testimony

Stuart Brown, KIPP Miami: Waiving in support.

Adam Miller, IDEA Public Schools: Waiving in support.

Natalie King, Pepin Academies Foundation: Waiving in support.

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

Andreina Figueroa, Academica: Waiving in support.

Outcome

The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 15-1.

HB 51 Charter Schools (McClain)

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

Q&A

Representative Hunschofsky

Q: I want clarification because the bill says that this is for workforce but on line 78 it says regional education or workforce. I want to know the purpose of this and whether that education language could be stricken.

A: This bill would include education opportunities from the universities or the college systems. I think if we were to strike that language it would make it problematic to allow for our state colleges and universities to achieve their regional impact.

Q: So with that language, since it is OR workforce, you would not need to have the workforce requirement.

A: No, you need both. Because the Speaker has tied these things together, I think it creates a need to make sure schools can do this across all regions.

Q: Would it make sense to change the language to AND then, so that it would be both and not just one or the other?

A: Sure (laughing). I think the intention is that you can do both, or either one. If the language needs to be and instead of or we can change that. Maybe and/or?

Ranking Member Davis

Q: This bill is identified as charter schools. So we are asking our colleges and universities to take over as LEAs. Why is this not offered to some of our traditional public schools and are they restricted from being allowed to do this?

A: No, currently the school districts are the only authorizers. I think the intent of this is to try to cross regional lines. We are trying to open things up across the state. This is a regional approach. My local state college couldn't reach outside of their region for students.

Q: So, with the college or university becoming an LEA, what kind of funding would they be able to access?

A: The money follows the students through the FEFP.

Amendment 784607 (McClain)

This amendment would establish a charter lab school under FSU at the Tindall Airforce Base.

The amendment is adopted without objection

Amendment 065305 (McClain)

This amendment would allow the prevailing party in the appeal of a charter school application denial to recover reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

The amendment is adopted without objection.

Amendment 501311 (McClain)

The amendment allows charter school to immediately appeal a decision by the sponsor of a charter dispute to an administrative law judge if either the charter school or the sponsor does not wish to mediate the decision. It specifies that changes to a charter school's curriculum to facilitate blended learning are deemed approve unless the change is not consistent with the state's academic standards. It requires the sponsor to provide the facts and circumstances surrounding an emergency termination of a charter due to immediate and serious danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the charter school students. It authorizes the sponsor to seek an injunction in circuit court to enjoin continued operation of a charter school and provides reasonable attorney's fees and costs to the prevailing party in an administrative dispute of an emergency termination.

The amendment is adopted without objection

Amendment 414499 (McClain)

This amendment provides a charter school enrollment preference for students participating in a VPK program at a provider that has a written agreement with the charter governing board.

The amendment is adopted without objection.

Amendment 010257 (McClain)

This amendment provides that a high-performing charter school may increase its enrollment based on the capacity of its facilities without having to add a new grade level.

Q&A on Amendment 010257

Ranking Member Davis

Q: Who would be approving the new enrollment capacity?

A: Whoever the authorizer is. It could be the school board, in this case, it could be a college or university board of trustees. Under current law even if you have capacity in your facilities, you cannot add students unless you add a grade level.

Outcome of Amendment 010257

The amendment is adopted without objection.

Amendment 408057 (McClain)

This would allow a charter ESE center that receives 2 consecutive school improvement ratings of maintaining or higher to replicate its program.

Q&A on Amendment 408057

Ranking Member Davis

Q: Is the college or university approving this replication?

A: This would be to all charter schools but if a university or college would happen to be running an ESE school this would transfer to them but currently we are changing law on the books for ESE schools.

Q: What do you mean by replicate?

A: Currently you can only replicate 2 schools per year, under this you could replicate more. You could start more charter schools for ESE students if you have a grade that is maintaining or higher.

Outcome on Amendment 408057

The amendment is adopted without objection.

Amendment 751957(McClain)

This would reduce the administrative fee a school district may withhold from an ESE education center that receives 2 consecutive school improvement ratings of maintaining or higher from 5% to 2%. There are currently 29 charter school ESE centers and there are 12 that have 2 consecutive improvement ratings of maintaining or higher so this amendment would really only be for 12 of those 29.

The amendment is adopted without objection.

Public Testimony on the Bill as Amended

Natalie King, Pepin Academies- Hillsborough: Waiving in support.

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

Phillip Suderman, Americans for Prosperity: Thank you for this important bill. HB 51 seeks to expand educational freedom throughout the state. Educational freedom is important because every child is unique in the way that they learn and grow. I ask for your favorable support.

Dawn Steward, Florida PTA: Waiving in opposition.

Kristellys Estanga: Waiving in opposition.

Jacqueline Miner: Waiving in opposition

Christian Camara: Waiving in support.

Debate

Representative Williams

Normally I am up on charter schools but because we have so many amendments added on, it's not even a bill we are reading it is the whole entire bill. I will be down on it.

Representative Nixon

I don't have an issue with school choice. However the issue with this bill presented, I feel that we as parents elect school boards, not college or university boards. The school board that we elect has been charged to do what is best for students in that district. For that reason I am going to have to vote no on this bill and also because it seems to be on a trajectory to gut the very essence of public schools. So again, I'm going to be voting no.

Closing

Thank you for your comments and questions. This is a regional approach to education and workforce development. It cuts down some of the red tape. It also creates accountability. In the FCS institutions, most of the board members are community leaders and are from the same region they would be serving. They will take into account the same set of requirements that any other authorizer would. I will ask for your favorable support today and thank you for letting me present the bill.

Outcome

The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 12-5.

PCB ELE 21-03 School Safety (LaMarca)

It has been three years since the tragic shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School. During the ensuing years, leaders and stakeholders have tried to make improvements to ensure the safety of Florida's students. The bill reflects ongoing conversations and recommendations among legislators, parents, DOE, MSD Commission, and the grand jury. The PCB improves information provided to parents regarding the safety and security of their children's school before and after events occur. It also strengthens the coordination of school mental health services and requires that students and their families be informed about these services. The PCB requires school district and charter school governing boards to adopt a plan that governs reunification of students and parents when schools are closed due to an emergency or disaster. The bill establishes a parent's right to timely notification of specified unlawful act or significant emergencies that occur on school grounds, transportation, or school sponsored activities. The bill improves reporting of student mental health expenditures. The bill clarifies what acts require a school to refer a student to law enforcement. Finally, the bill reinforces the oversight and sanctioning authority Florida's Commissioner of Education has over school safety and security compliance in the state.

Q&A

Ranking Member Davis

Q: On page 5 line 123 it talks about the increase of members to the commission from 16-19 and I guess I was just curious about the increase.

A: I'm going to have to get back to you on that.

Q: On page 7 from lines 160-169 it talks about the withholding of the superintendent's salary determining when the board feels the safety and security procedures have failed, who actually determines that the school district hasn't done what it needed to do to provide the safety and security?

A: It would be the office of state schools established in prior bills.

Q: Page 10 lines 240-244 we talk about the student code of conduct as if it is something we don't already have in place. Is there additional verbiage going into the code of conduct, is this something we are incorporating? What is happening here?

A: It is established, it is just re-stating it.

Q: Page 13, it talks about a family reunification plan, could you describe that for us?

A: This is important when a situation occurs causing students or faculty to become displaced. This would provide both through school facilities as well as law enforcement for families to be reunited as well as faculty and students to be reunited.

Representative Williams

Q: Could you elaborate on that more because I didn't understand what you said?

A: I'm not sure what the question is, I think the language is very clear.

Q: Is that not something already established in Broward County?

A: I can't answer that for you, it would make sense that it would be.

Representative Hunschofsky

Q: When you talk about the penalty to the superintendent it says that charter schools must also comply but it doesn't specify a penalty for that superintendent if the safety isn't deemed appropriate. Can you explain that?

A: Charter schools are public schools and are treated as such in Broward County, so I would assume that the same penalty would apply to them as for the superintendents of traditional public schools.

Q: So the superintendent's salary would be withheld?

A: Let me get clarification on that for you.

Q: On page 9, what is considered a timely notification?

A: I haven't had a conversation with some of the folks working on the MSD Commission. We need to clarify it, but the intent is to be within 24 hours.

Q: As a preface to my next question I want to thank all of those who made this discussion even possible. This bill mentions the active shooter drills and that it should be as often as any of the other drills. One of the concerns is that students are required to have fire drills once a month and so now the active shooter drills are dependent on that monthly. Is it possible to define how often that the active shooter drills should occur separately from that? Because now you are having multiple drills a month taking away from learning.

A: I understand what you are saying and I'll get clarification on that. Just because we haven't had a fire in a while doesn't mean we don't need to have regular fire drills scheduled. I understand that we need to have a plan to get children out of the building whenever there is an emergency. I will check the timeline on that and get back to you.

Q: To add on to that since mental health seems to be a large component to this, I was wondering if there was a possibility to also have some check in from behavioral health specialists to make sure that these drills are not adding to any dramatic situation. On the reunification plan, I would add that this should be done not just with local law enforcement agencies, but also the local government. I think that has to be looked at. I think it is a wonderful provision, but I was wondering if that is something we could look to add?

A: That is a thoughtful question. This is something we should look at. I understand your concern.

Q: The bill discusses if the charter school is unable to obtain a school safety officer that the traditional public schools need to obtain the school safety officer for them. And the funding added would go to the traditional district. What if the district is having the issue getting a school safety officer? I bring that up because in Broward there was so much turnover because of the level of pay that sometimes you are not always able to get the guardian. Additionally, an SRO is way more expensive

that the school safety allocation. So number one, I was wondering if you could look into clarifying that. And number two, there comes the question of what is the funding source beyond the school safety allocation?

A: So to get back to the first part of this, it is already in Florida law that they are required from a funding perspective. And to the question of what is available, both SROs which are typically contracted security guards, are available. I understand your concern for the second part of your question. To your point there is a way that school districts should they have a funding issue go back to the taxpayers, especially in Broward County.

Q: I think it is great that the managing entities are being added in here. Is there going to be a requirement that when the schools are helping students with behavioral or mental health issues, that whenever they begin will continue throughout the calendar year not just the school year?

A: Although it is not specified in this right now I think that is something should be considered as we make this better. So I understand where you are coming from.

Representative Williams

Q: Under normal circumstances the city helps pay for a resource officer in their schools in that district. Will this include an additional source of funding for the schools?

A: That is already in obligations. Let me be clear I am not a fan of how we fund safety and schools, especially in Broward County. That being said I tried to look into something to fix that. But the way current law is the school district is required to provide at least one school safe officer.

Q: I understand but we have cities that are struggling already before they have to pay for additional officers to be in our schools. If we have a bill and we are able to put funding in I think we should have open minds to do that. So that was my question to see if the bill writer would be open minded to helping those cities. (Note: she was very angry and somewhat rude)

A: I will work with you on some of those concerns as this bill moves.

Ranking Member Davis

Q: Is there a current report published that is available now on the website. I am asking if there is a report now – from December 1, 2020?

A: That is available and the office of state schools collects that.

Public Testimony

Dawn Steward, Florida PTA: Waiving in support.

Angie Gallo, Alliance for Public Schools: The Alliance for Public Schools supports this bill. The only thing we ask is that the prior parental notification before the student is removed from school if you would consider that to be added to this bill. It is in a standalone bill but we would love to see that added to the bill. As for drills, there are a lot of drills happening right now. With the CIT training, SFOs and SROs makes perfect sense but guardians and security guards don't have arrest authority and should not ever be Baker Acting a child so we are concerned about adding them to it would clog up the already clogged up system of getting CIT training so we would hope you would consider that. We love the bill though and are supporting it.

Karen Woodall, SPLC Action Fund and Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy: Waiving in support.

Debate

Representative Hunschofsky

I appreciate the work being done on this bill. I brought up my concerns that I hope will be addressed as someone who has lived through the aftermath of the MSD shooting. I'd like to bring everyone's attention to the grand jury report addressed in here. It addresses the mental health portion and I am glad there has been an attempt to have some coordination between the school system and the managing entities but in the need our whole mental healthcare system is broken. There needs to be a mental health commission to address these needs. I bring that up because it is an opportunity to make sure our students are being taken care of.

Ranking Member Davis

I completely understand what you are trying to do here and appreciate the efforts. Some of us would like to see additional dollars to deal with the SROs and SFOs and the guardians in the school. I like this bill like everyone else and will be supporting this bill today but in previous conversations we have dealt with conversations of diversity. I want to bring attention to the fact that when we are dealing with counseling we don't realize how those teams look as far as diversity in race and gender. I know it is not anything you can do individually in this bill but I hope we have something that stresses to our school districts that that is even more important when done at the school district and county level. Thank you and I will be supporting this today.

Representative Williams

I appreciate the extra work you have put in this bill and for being open minded to some of our concerns. I understand how important it is to make sure our children are being in a place where they feel safe and secure. Because you are open minded to work for me to make sure that the schools have the resources they need to do so I will be up on the bill.

Chair Aloupis

Thank you for your leadership in preparing this bill. I have no doubt that student safety is a fundamental priority for every member on this committee. Representative LaMarca is someone who has always had a policy of working to get legislation to the best place possible. I want to thank you for addressing this hugely important issue.

Closing

Thank you for your kind comments and putting your trust in me. This is about the safety of our kids and it will be the next step in implementing some great recommendations from the MSD commission. As I close there is some information in the bill package of guardian funds paid out to date. I am going to look at with our leadership every way to make sure we are able to keep our schools safe. I know that can become a funding issue but Representative Williams we are going to work together to make sure that all members have the ability to tell their city and county elected officials that we have their back. With that I close and ask for your favorable support.

Outcome

The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 18-0.

House Post-Secondary Education and Lifelong Learning Subcommittee

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

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

Summary

The House Post-Secondary Education and Lifelong Learning Subcommittee met to consider HB 281, HB 507, and PCS for HB 1423.

PCS or HB 1423 (Tuck)

The bill authorizes the following postsecondary institutions to participate in the Florida Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant Program (FSAG Postsecondary):

- A competency-based nonprofit virtual postsecondary institution that is accredited by a member of the Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions and is created by the governors of several states, has established and continually maintains a location of operation in Florida, and maintains a governing body or advisory board in Florida at least 1 year before the institution's students are eligible to receive an FSAG Postsecondary grant;
- Or an aviation maintenance school which is located in Florida, certified by the Federal Aviation Administration, and licensed by the Commission for Independent Education.

The bill authorizes a full-time degree seeking student who is accepted at the competency-based nonprofit virtual postsecondary institution or a full-time certificate seeking student accepted at the aviation maintenance school to be eligible to receive an FSAG Postsecondary grant. The bill authorizes a full-time certificate seeking student to be eligible for a FSAG Postsecondary award for up to 110 percent of the number of clock hours required to complete the program in which the student is enrolled.

Public Testimony

Julia Corona, Southeastern College: I am concerned that we are making the pot smaller by adding one more institution to the pot. As of now there are about 20% of students in our sector that are eligible for the funds do not receive it. My other concern is that we are looking to accept an institution that looks to provide competency based learning, not traditional learning. The thought of not being able to offer students all of these funds is disturbing to me. I respectfully ask you to consider not amending the statute and leave it as is.

Kim Estep, Western Governors University: Western Governors University is different from all other colleges and universities across the state and so are our students. WGU was born of a successful public-private partnership. We are a low-cost university, around \$6,670 a year for enrollment in our programs. We are competency based as well. Every student gets a program mentor from the day they enroll to the day that the graduate. Our students bring in significant expertise to their classes and often can finish some courses very easily. All of our students are Florida taxpayers and work in Florida. We only do workforce oriented programs. Eligibility for this fund would help our neediest students. We believe they should have that opportunity as they are Florida taxpayers and Florida citizens. This would serve Florida's neediest students and we believe it would be in the best interest of the state to build a very well-educated workforce.

Allen Mortham, Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges: From a general standpoint we represent the proprietary schools here in Florida. We need to take a hard look at how we are using these funds. The amount of funds

available in this PCS has been declining over the past few years. We have students that are getting less than \$300 currently out of this fund. If you don't increase the size of the appropriation and add new eligible students, the only thing is that this will change the amount of funds eligible students will get. This is a need-based program. I think it is problematic public policy when a system that has been in place almost 50 years with 67 campuses that are playing by the rules and now there are two single schools that want to access funds that they would not be eligible if not for this bill.

Ranking Member Thompson

Q: How much of the cost of an education program is covered presently for a student under FSAG?

A: It looks like the average is about \$1100. I can't give you an answer without having a specific course to talk about.

Q: So with additional students who would become eligible, the amount students would presently get it, would in your estimation not cover the cost or would it?

A: The cost of FSAG does not cover the entire cost anyway. This is almost like a fund of last resort. Anectodally I am told that there are more than 5,000 students who would become eligible for these funds under this bill. Not all would be eligible for FSAG to be fair, but certainly a portion of them would, so the award would simply have to go down or the legislature needs to appropriate more. That is probably not a reality under these circumstances.

Representative Tant

Q: I have a question about the Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions created by governors of several states. Who is on our commission here in Florida? And second, the governing body has to be in Florida for at least a year, so who are we looking at serving under paragraph b and who is charged with doing that work?

A: In Florida, the governing body is CIE within DOE. They are not the accreditor they are the regulator so it's a little bit different. The schools that are under CIEs jurisdiction can be accredited by various bodies or not. As far as the paragraph you are talking about, they are the accrediting body for this particular university. They are certified with the US DOE. No one would argue that this is not a good school it is just that this school accessing this particular pot of funds is not necessarily appropriate.

Q: So then what is to prohibit someone from coming in to set up shop for a year who has not been fully vetted. If this is a regulator and not a creditor how do we ensure the students are being taught.

A: At that point you would be dependent upon a creditor from outside of this jurisdiction and again that could be problematic.

Q: On page 3 looking at line 60 we are talking about the aviation students receiving up to 110% of the class hours. How much money is that?

A: They are not a member school of ours. They are not housed in Florida. Their home base is in another state so I don't have access to some of that data but I think the same type of argument could be made.

Representative Arrington

Q: This may be a question for the sponsor but do you know how many of the aviation maintenance schools we have in Florida.

A: I don't know the exact number but I could get with CIE and I am happy to provide it for you.

Debate

Chair Mariano

The testimony we heard today was focused on the amount of funds but missed the point of the bill, which is to help students. This is just about providing more access to funds for our students. If enrollment at any of these universities went up we would face the same funding problem.

Closing

It is important to remember that even though this is a non-traditional style of learning, these are still Florida students and they have the exact financial needs and we need to offer them access to the same financial assistance to them.

Outcome

In her presentation, Mrs. Dyson discussed the types of students her scholarship foundation serves and specifically about the AAA foundation.

Q&A

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

HB 507 Education (Rizo)

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

Amendment

This amendment removes line 323 and inserts "schools and departments of juvenile justice education programs."

The amendment is adopted without objection.

Public Testimony on the Bill as Amended

Robert Holladay, Professor: Members of the public don't know our basic history. The DOE realizes this which is why they have supported this bill language for the last two years. I hope you do as well. Thank you.

Ranking Member Thompson

Q: Do you see Juneteenth and May 20th as mutually exclusive?

A: My understanding is that the official emancipation day is May the 20th. It didn't happen in Florida.

Q: With regard to civic education I agree it is very important. As a part of civics education could we promote a paid holiday for both dates?

A: Absolutely.

Sara Clements, ACT, Inc.: Most assessments kids will take throughout their career don't provide them a real benefit. The ACT and SAT do. It gives students access to college and scholarships. This bill helps reduce the equity gap between kids

with resources and kids without resources. When students have to sign up for a test on their own, there is a lot of extra logistical burden. Having the ability for kids to take this assessment on a regular school day at the school they go to 5 days a week helps reduce that equity gap as well. We think this is a great bill and urge you to support it.

Alexis Calatayud, Department of Education: Waiving in support.

Debate

Ranking Member Thompson

I think because we are now requiring an assessment related to civics that this is a good bill. Many people will not understand that after the end of the civil war when President Lincoln sent union soldiers throughout the south to read the Emancipation Proclamation. They read it in Florida on May 20th. People also need to know that the last of the slaves to get this news were in Texas and received that news on June 19th in 1865. I don't see May 20th and Juneteenth in conflict. Because this assessment will require a comprehensive view of history I will argue that this is a good bill.

Closing

It is heartwarming to see that so many of my colleagues see the value in this. We can all agree that this bill is good for kids in Florida and will truly open the doors of opportunity for everyone. I thank you all for your positive support and hope you vote yes.

Outcome

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

HB 281 Postsecondary Education Financial Matters (Duggan Zika)

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

Q&A

Representative Andrade

Q: Are you 100% sure this bill has nothing to do with Bright Futures?

A: Yes, I am.

Public Testimony

Alexia Laroe, Step up For Students: Waiving in support.

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

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

Outcome

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

House Education and Employment Committee

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

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

Summary

The House Education and Employment Committee met to discuss HB 5, CS/HB 149, CS/HB 611, HB 861, and HB 7017.

HB 7017 Foreign Influence (Grall)

The bill arose out of the 2020 work of the House Select Committee on the Integrity of Research Institutions. That committee learned of foreign influence corrupting Florida's research environment. Reviewing numerous informative studies, the Select Committee also learned of the corrupting influences of foreign funding and certain cultural exchange programs. Legislation in 2020 imposed strict disclosure requirements on university employees engaged in research activities. The bill proposes greater disclosure of foreign support for public entities, scrutiny of grant applicants and purveyors of goods and services with certain foreign connections, thorough scrutiny of foreign applicants for research positions and of foreign travel and activities of employees of major research institutions. Specifically, the bill requires state agencies and political subdivisions to disclose all foreign donations and grants of \$50,000 or more to the Department of Financial Services (DFS); applicants for grants from or those proposing contracts with state agencies and political subdivisions to disclose all foreign financial connections with any of seven countries of concern; universities and colleges, including their Direct Support Organizations (DSOs) and other affiliates, to disclose all foreign donations and grants of \$50,000 or more to either the Board of Governors of the State University System (BOG) or the Florida Department of Education. The bill also prohibits agreements for or the acceptance of donations conditioned on a program to promote the language and culture of any of seven countries of concern; requires thorough screening of foreign applicants for research positions and foreign travel and activities of employees for every higher education institution and related research institutes having a research budget of \$10 million or more. The bill provides for enforcement of disclosure requirements and operational audits of other requirements.

Outcome

The bill is adopted favorably by the committee, 19-0.

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

For students with disabilities in public schools, the bill revises requirements for the use of seclusion and restraint and creates a pilot program for the use of video cameras in certain classrooms. The bill defines terms related to seclusion, physical restraint, and mechanical restraint, and it specifies when such techniques may be used. The bill requires school districts to prohibit placing a student in seclusion. The bill provides that restraint may only be used to protect students or school personnel and not for discipline. A student may be restrained only for the time necessary to protect the student and others and only after all positive behavior interventions and supports are exhausted. The bill prohibits the use of restraint techniques and devices, including straightjackets, zip ties, handcuffs, and tie-downs, in a way that obstructs or restricts breathing or blood flow or places a student in a facedown position with the student's hands restrained behind the student's back. The bill prohibits the use of any restraint technique to inflict pain to induce compliance. The bill requires school districts to adopt policies and procedures related to positive behavior interventions and supports and to identify all school personnel authorized to use restraint techniques. The bill requires school districts to develop a crisis intervention plan for a student who is restrained more than once during a semester. The bill requires the Department of Education to publish de-identified data on reported restraint incidents on the department's public-facing website each month. The bill implements a pilot

program for video cameras in certain classrooms in Broward County. At the written request of a parent, Broward County school district must install a video camera and record a classroom in which a majority of the students are provided special education services. The video camera must be capable of monitoring all areas of the classroom and entrances and exits associated with the students' restroom but may not monitor the restroom itself or any other area where students change their clothes. The bill provides circumstances under which the video recording may be viewed and limits who may view the recording to include school employees involved with an alleged incident of abuse or neglect or the investigation of such an incident, the parent of a student who is involved in the alleged incident, and law enforcement if the incident is reported and representatives of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) as a part of a child abuse investigation. The bill requires anyone who views the video to report suspected child abuse to the DCF.

Public Testimony

Pamela Burch Fort, Florida State Conference of NAACP Branches: Waiving in support.

Dina Justice: I am standing here today as a mom. Please don't restrain these children and please educate the educators instead.

Closing (DuBose)

All restraint is limited to the application of situations where all positive behavioral techniques have been exhausted. In closing, I want to thank you for hearing this. This bill has been going through here for 15 years. This is a very bi-partisan initiative and there has been a lot of work by a lot of stakeholders to get us to this place with this bill. I ask you to vote favorably for it.

Outcome

The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 19-0.

HB 861 Board of Directors of Florida Able, Inc.

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

Q&A

(This portion was a light-hearted hazing of Representative Botana – but all the representatives essentially said that this was important legislation and that they were very happy he was bringing it forward. They all said they would be supporting the bill.)

Representative Fine

Q: The Chair asked me to take a good hard look at your bill so I have a series of questions. What does Able do?

A: Able is an advocacy group to help people with special needs get jobs and to help them get support generally.

Q: I was not impressed with that answer. What does Able even stand for?

A: I'm going to have to get back with you on that one.

Q: Could you give us an example of a project in Chair Latvala's district that this organization has worked with that you would make sure is overseen appropriately?

A: I don't know where that is exactly, I think somewhere around Tampa. I'll have to get back with you on that.

Representative Andrade

Q: Why do you hate term limits?

A: That is a good question but I believe when we have the situation with people with special needs, when we have an advocate that is passionate, we want them to be able to stay there

Q: You are increasing the size of the board. So you hate term limits and are expanding the size of government with this bill?

A: If we have decent people to represent people with special needs, I believe we can get a more diverse group of people.

Q: So not only does this eliminate term limits, expand government, but it also dilutes the appointment from the House and give more power to the Florida Prepaid Program.

A: This is going to be a great situation to help people with special needs. We are not taking away from this board we are adding to it. We need to help people in need.

Vice Chair McClain

Q: Did you take any classes on etiquette as to how you would present a bill?

A: I think I did?

Q: Clearly you didn't, were you not required to attend those?

A: I am under a lot of pressure right now.

Q: So, you came up, you addressed the chair, you didn't address anyone else her. You probably need to work on your etiquette a bit.

Representative Hunschofsky

Q: What was the impetus behind bringing this bill forward?

A: My great predecessor, Ray Rodriguez brought it to my attention. I got involved in it and started reading about it.

Representative Mariano

Q: Are you able to name all of the board members who sit on this board?

A: Unfortunately I am not.

Q: How many board members are there currently?

A: 4 right now.

Q: And so who are we going to be adding to this? Do you know who the new board members will be?

A: Not at this time, but as soon as the time comes Florida Prepaid will submit those names to be appointed to the board.

Representative LaMarca

Q: Are you familiar with HB 727 from the 2019 session?

A: No rep, could you enlighten me.

Q: It was entitled hazing; I ran it with a member in the Senate.

Debate

(Again, this portion was a light-hearted hazing of Representative Botana – but all the representatives essentially said that this was important legislation and that they were very happy he was bringing it forward. They all said they would be supporting the bill.)

Representative Fine did say that if Senator Rodriguez could not get this bill over the finish line that Representative Botana would have his work cut out for him and to keep that in mind as it moved forward.

Outcome

The bill is reported favorably by the committee.

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.

Q&A

Representative Bush

Q: Is this a civics bill or a history bill?

A: This is a civics bill?

Q: I have concerns about the curriculum of this bill. How will we ensure that it includes other ideology such as slavery and the mistreatment of Native Americans?

A: This bill is very specific that political ideologies that conflict without our American values.

Q: How will the legislation be implemented?

A: The legislation will direct DOE to work with the school districts or they can propose a curriculum if the school district does not have their own.

Q: Can the legislative members be a part of implementation?

A: HB 5 directs DOE to build a video library of personal stories of diverse individuals to be a part of the curriculum. So, yes.

Representative Valdes

Q: He asked if the legislature could be involved in the process of DOE. Will the legislature be directing DOE as to what diverse videos would be presented as curriculum?

A: The bill is drafted with a clear purpose giving instruction to DOE. The word diverse is included in the language.

Q: In essence, the legislative body will not have any authority over DOE to direct them as to what is considered acceptable, diverse, and part of the curriculum?

A: That is a great question. What the House is doing now is sending a bill with a law that will provide specifics of how it will be implemented. We can always amend the law to ensure that it is being implemented the way we intended.

Q: The question is yes or no. Once it becomes law, we do not have the authority to go to DOE and tell them that they're doing it wrong, we would have to amend the law, correct?

A: Yes, that is the only way we can currently do that. We are three separate branches of the government. We communicate with the executive branch through law. Also, the agencies can fix things on their own if it is clear they are not implementing things correctly. We would tell them they need to fix that. That is what we would do in that case.

Q: I was just trying to clarify the point that once we pass these laws and give it to the Department, our job is done, and if we want to change something if it is not working, then we would have to amend it.

A: We can still communicate with DOE.

Representative Fine

Q: Is there anything special about your bill that violates the legislative process versus every other bill?

A: You are correct that the process of a bill being implemented is the same and it is no different here.

Debate

Representative Bush

I am in support of the bill and will vote up on it today. I think it will help give our public-school students a civic-minded mindset. It is so important to engage our students in this and show them how the process works so they become integrated into society. With that being said I am 100% behind you in this bill and I am working forward to working with you.

Representative Valdes

Thank you so much for this bill. We have talked for hours about this bill. This bill is extremely important. Until students see the work happening, they won't be able to put the connections together. In your bill, talking about the American experiment, it is important to educate others as to what some of the challenges people have struggled through to get to this land. I am a proud American but my biggest concern is the implementation of the bill. The intent is beautiful. My concern is implementation and I'm worried about ensuring the diversity that is truly in our state is reflected in the video library. So yes, I am up on this bill and I am cautious about it because folks have their own biases. It is important that if we are going to be teaching children everything.

Representative LaMarca

I am for your bill; I agree there are some concerns about implementation but I am here for it.

Representative Andrade

I think this bill is an incredible approach to reinvigorating our appreciation for democracy in the United States and the State of Florida. It concerns me when in our civil discourse people forget how great our democracy is. The US is not perfect and we have had many historical ills. But the system of checks and balances, separation of powers, and federalism, have all resulted in those ills we had being resolved for the most part, peacefully. This is a beautiful country, and giving the opportunity to expose students to the juxtaposition of economics, and American history in comparison to world history is I think a great opportunity to re-invigorate that idea of what makes America so special.

Representative Fine

I am not worried at all about the implementation of this bill. There is no country in the history of the world that has as many great success stories as we have here in the United States. But that is not what makes America great. It is the diversity of those stories. You cannot do what Representative Zika is talking about doing if you don't include all of the stories that exist. We are a melting pot. Unfortunately, it feels all too often that we are not a melting pot, and that no one comes together. There are millions of great American stories. Thank you for bringing the bill forward and I think you will do great presenting it on the floor.

Closing

When I came to America at 17, I found a place to long for, to live in, and to love. There is something special about America. It is a place of big dreams and unique achievements, where your place of beginning does not determine your place of becoming. Despite the difficulties I experienced in my early years in America, I knew I could overcome the persistence of adversity, because anything is possible in America. Please make it possible to tell our children our stories of what it means to be an American.

Outcome

The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 21-0.

CS/HB 611 Civic Literacy Education (Diamond)

To help students evaluate the roles, rights, and responsibilities of United States citizens and identify methods of active participation in society, government, and the political system, the bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop minimum criteria for a civic literacy practicum that may be incorporated into a school's curriculum for the high school United States Government course beginning within the 2022-2023 school year. The bill establishes minimum requirements for a student to complete a civic literacy practicum, including the activities for student civic engagement and completion of a research paper that reflects upon the student's experience and explains the significance and role of the governmental entity. The hours a student spends outside of classroom instruction in the practicum's civic engagement activity may be counted toward the community service requirements of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. The bill encourages school districts to integrate practicum activities and hours into requirements for academic awards. The bill creates the Citizen Scholar program within the University of South Florida (USF) and headquartered at the USF St. Petersburg Center for Civic Engagement. Subject to appropriation, the bill requires USF St. Petersburg to contract with the YMCA to provide students participating in the Youth and Government Program the opportunity to be designated Citizen Scholars and earn undergraduate credit. The bill establishes that the Citizen Scholar program must combine academic instruction with the implementation of concepts learned in the classroom into the local community to improve civic literacy and expand students' educational experiences. The program must also provide students with opportunities to deepen their knowledge of American democracy and improve civil discourse.

Debate

Representative Aloupis

Thank you for bringing this bill back and thank you for your leadership. I know how hard you have been working on this.

Outcome

The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 21-0.

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

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

Summary

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education covered the following three bills during their meeting: CS/SB 726: Individual Education Plan Requirements for Students with Disabilities (Taddeo), SB 1450: Civic Education Curriculum (Rodriguez), and SB 1484: Florida Private Student Assistance Grant Program (Gruters).

SB 1450 – Civic Education Curriculum (Rodriguez)

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

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

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

The DOE may incur minimal costs associated with developing the civic education curriculum and the curation of oral history resources.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2021.

Q & A

Senator Gibson

Q: The analysis talks about comparative discussion of political ideologies that conflict with the nation's founding principles. Can you explain what that is and if the discussions are read by teachers? How is it delivered?

A: We are looking to create the Portraits of Patriotism Act, which through the Department of Education will collect oral histories of persons who overcame challenges to freedom in other countries through civic participation.

Q: I am trying to connect the dots that I don't quite understand. With what the individuals overcame in other countries, how does that connect to being in the United States and civics class?

A: Currently, Florida's next generation Sunshine State Standards for social studies includes civics and government content in K-12. A student must successfully complete the three middle school or higher courses in social studies in order to be promoted to high school. One of the three courses must be a civics education course that includes the roles and responsibilities of federal, state, and local governments, the structures and functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches on the meaning and significance of documents such as the Articles of Confederation, Declaration of Independence, and the US Constitution. This would add what's called portraits of patriotism and again these would be

stories that include our first person accounts of victims of other nations' governing philosophies, looking compare those philosophes with the ones in our country.

Senator Cruz

Q: Are we teaching any of this in the classrooms right now? Insofar as problems in democracy or when we speak in terms of communism, nationalism, or fascism. Do we know?

A: I believe it is being taught very lightly, but this would require it to be discussed with a little more depth.

Q: I want to ensure that we are fostering a whole conversation and explaining how these ideas are linked—both through the fascism and communism through history. The bill references specific political ideologies. What about fascism? What about white nationalism? What about the dangerous and damaging things that we have seen in our country?

A: As of right now, we are looking at communism and totalitarianism, which conflict with American Democracy. I am open to adding other subsections like the ones you mentioned. I think there are other things that could be added.

Appearance Forms on the Bill

None.

Debate on the Bill

Senator Cruz

I like the whole concept of the Portraits of Patriotism and how we celebrate other areas, both dark and the victories in our history. My only concern for this bill is that we don't limit this conversation and that we foster a complete and comprehensive understanding of various dangerous political ideologies globally that have existed, and unfortunately, probably continue to exist in our country. These ideas are the antithesis of those founding principles of freedom in democracy and remember we're only 50 years or so removed from the enforcement of Jim Crow laws across our country I just want to ensure that we're including these ideologies, such as white nationalism, fascism, and authoritarianism. Thank you and this is important for our children to understand where our countries come from. I know where my families come from. I know the suffering that they experienced. I appreciate this and I think that how our past can help us provide a more equitable and free future for all Americans is really important. So, thank you and I'm going to support this bill today.

Senator Gibson

I will certainly get with you because I'm still not clear on what portraits of patriotism looks like in the United States of America. And I suppose I'm not sure that has a lot to do with overcoming in other countries when they overcame actually in this country. I hope that within the civics education curriculum as we add information about people overcoming in other countries, we mention what's happened in in this country. For example, black history requirements in our statutes are not being followed. So, I believe that when we start introducing new components that we certainly should be fostering and teaching with the old components that are in statute already. It's obviously your bill. Your focus is not to satisfy me or any other individual senator, but I would like to understand so I can make sure I can even explain such to my constituents in my district.

Closing (Rodriguez)

I will definitely meet with all of my colleagues that would like to provide input and suggestions to make this an even better bill, and to provide education to Florida's students on this very important topic. Thank you.

Outcome

The bill was reported favorably.

CS/SB 726 – Individual Education Plan Requirements for Students with Disabilities (Taddeo)

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

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

The bill has no impact on state revenues or expenditures. See Section V.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2021.

Amendment #489150 (Taddeo)

This amendment adds the word "Workforce" to the title. The new title would be "Workforce and Career Planning for Students with Disabilities."

Q&A

None.

Appearance Forms

None.

Debate

None.

Closing (Taddeo)

Waived Close.

Outcome

The amendment was adopted.

Q&A on the Bill as Amended

None.

Appearance Forms on the Bill as Amended

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

Debate on the Bill as Amended

None.

Closing on the Bill as Amended (Taddeo)

Senators, I appreciate your favorable support on this bill that really makes a difference for people with disabilities as they try to enter the workforce.

Outcome

The bill (as amended) was reported favorably.

SB 1484 – Florida Private Student Assistance Grant Program (Diaz)

SB 1484 expands eligibility for which institutions may participate in the Florida private student assistance grant program. The bill specifies that students may be eligible for a state need-based financial assistance grant if they have been accepted at a competency-based nonprofit virtual postsecondary institution in order to receive a grant, provided the institution:

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

The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.

Amendment #751632 (Gruters)

During the last year many Floridians were able to continue to advance their education in their careers with the help of regionally accredited, competency-based education programs. These career aligned programs are virtual inflexible for working students seeking to complete their bachelor's degree. This amendment would include undergraduate students who demonstrated substantial financial aid and have been accepted at an accredited post-secondary institution. The institution has to have specific criteria for students to be eligible, such as accredited by a member of the council of regional accrediting commissions, created by the governors of several States, and have established and continually maintained the operation in this state, and maintains a governing body or advisory board. Lastly, the amendment does change the funding source from the Florida private student assistance grant over to the Florida postsecondary student assistant grant program.

Q&A

None.

Appearance Forms

None.

Debate

None.

Closing (Diaz)

Waived close.

Outcome

The amendment was adopted.

Q&A on the Bill as Amended

Senator Cruz

Q: I am trying to understand this bill... Since this is virtual, is this available to students who do not live in Florida?

A: No. This bill is designed to allow Florida students to have access to a school that would meet these requirements and allow them to compete in these competency-based programs as long as the school meets those requirements in the state.

Q: What is the reason that students currently do not qualify for the private student assistance grant program? Is it because you are not a Florida school?

A: Currently, that is correct. Our goal would be to have a base established in Florida and to have a local advisory board in Florida. This would benefit those students.

Q: This applies not just to Western Governor's University, but also to other schools in the same situation? It is a grant for the Florida taxpayers.

A: That is correct.

Q: Passing this bill would allow a Florida student grant money to study at your university which is not in Florida?

A: Well, it is in Florida in the sense that we have faculty and students in Florida. The only thing we lack is a physical campus in Florida. Because we are virtual, we do not have that physical location in Florida.

Q: Would you say that this grant would be available to other colleges that are completely virtual?

A: No, ma'am.

Q: So, this bill is especially for WGU?

A: That is my understanding.

Senator Gibson

Q: What is the funding pot again? We moved it...

A: We moved it to the Florida Post-Secondary Student Assistance Grant Program.

Q: Do we have that pot?

A: Yes. This is the Florida Assistant Student Grant Program. It is our need-based aid program for private and public universities.

Q: If we use this, are we deducting funds for the other Florida institutions?

A: If the need-based financial aid is for the student, then it could have an impact. This just gives the students another option based on where they choose to go.

Q: The virtual institution... the only requirement is that the school has an advisory board, then a Florida student would get financial assistance? It is the same pot for institutions that have a physical presence in Florida.

A: They have to have established and continued in the state of Florida. Students would then be eligible to attend that school.

Q: Unless the amendment changed it, the bill says OR, not AND.

A: Mine says "and."

Q: Where do the nursing students at WGU do their clinicals?

A: We can provide a list of hospitals where the students do their clinicals. We have them throughout the state.

Q: I would love to have that list. In the analysis it lists certain areas... are those the governors who came together to form this university?

A: No. Those states are what we call state affiliates. WGU has a physical campus in those states.

Appearance Forms on the Bill as Amended

Dr. Kim Estep, Southeast Region Western Governor's University: We are a different kind of university than any other university operating in the state. It was created in 1997 by 19 governors who created a very successful public/private partnership in order to educate working adults in their states. In their states it is a workforce aligned University. We only offer programs in four areas that are all workforce-needed areas, including nursing, teaching, IT, and business. We are a competency-based University, which means when students come to us, they were able to leverage what they have learned in their past collegiate experience in their classwork experience in order to move more quickly through our curriculum. They have a lot of support from their faculty. They get a weekly call from a faculty mentor. They also have a course instructor that is available to them for every course that is in the sequence of their program. We were designed also to be affordable. WGU is only \$6670 a year, so we are a very different type of University, because we are virtual. Though it does not mean that we are not here in the state of Florida. We have approximately 7000 Floridians currently enrolled in WGU in Florida. We have 501 employees who live and work in the cities and towns and rural areas of the state of Florida. 11,000 graduates of WGU live and work in Florida. All the students who would have access to this fund are Florida residents. When they complete their degrees, they are very likely to stay in Florida and can continue to contribute to the tax base and the growth of the workforce in the state. Sixty-six percent of our enrollees are women and another thing that makes us quite different is that their average age is 37. They are significantly older than the students at most colleges and universities in the United states. 2/3 of them represent underserved populations. They are students who live in rural areas. They are first generation college students. They are students of color. They are low income students. 2/3 of our students meet at least one an many several of those criteria eligibility. This program would allow these students, about 1100 of whom have a zero estimated family contribution on the FAFSA, to continue to enroll and it would allow WG to continue to keep borrowing rates low. We have some of the lowest borrowing rates of any institution in the country and we like to have opportunities through state grants as well as our own scholarships and our low tuition. This allows students to complete their degrees without taking on monumental debt, so this would allow Florida's neediest students that are enrolled now and in the future to have access to the funds as Florida taxpayers that we believe they should have the right to.

Debate on the Bill as Amended

Senator Cruz

I am going to vote for this bill today, but I don't understand why we did this for one college. I feel like we should add an amendment that includes other colleges so that students have a wider range of choice for their virtual schools. I am going to vote for it today, but I have trouble with that.

Closing on the Bill as Amended (Diaz)

I understand that concern. The only thing I will point out on Senator Gruter's behalf is that this is a unique formation. When we talk about Western Governors University, it is trying to build a relationship with Florida. It gives unique opportunities for students in Florida. I ask for your support.

Outcome

The bill (as amended) was reported favorably.

House Secondary Education and Career Development Subcommittee

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

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

Summary

The House Secondary Education and Career Development Subcommittee met to consider HB 723, HB 1475, PCS for HB 355, PCS for HB 791, and PCS for HB 1027.

HB 723 Juvenile Justice Education (Massullo)

The bill updates how juvenile justice education programs may be operated. The bill provides that juvenile justice education programs may calculate their period of operation in hours rather than days. Additionally, the bill increases the percentage of Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funds generated by students in juvenile justice education programs that must be spent on instruction and clarifies that juvenile justice education programs are entitled to all formula-based categorical funds generated by their students. The bill updates the requirements for contracts between district school boards and juvenile justice education program providers (Providers). The bill provides mandatory timeframes for the execution of new or renewal contracts and for the satisfaction of invoices submitted by Providers. District school boards may not delay payment while awaiting local funds and are required to pay interest related to untimely satisfaction of invoices.

Public Testimony

Jodi Stevens, PACE Center for Girls: Waiving in support.

Closing

These programs allow students to have a leg up. They get them out of jail, and make them functioning members of society. I ask for your support humbly.

Outcome

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

PCS for HB 791 Workforce and Postsecondary Education (Harding)

To increase access to and articulation in postsecondary education, the bill requires the State Board of Education (SBE), by January 31, 2022, to adopt rules to develop and implement alternative methods for assessing the basic computation and communication skills of students who intend to enter a degree program at a Florida College System (FCS) institution. It authorizes FCS institutions to use the SBE approved alternative methods in lieu of common placement tests to assess student readiness for college-level work in computation and communication and for student admission counseling. The bill revises student eligibility for initial enrollment in college credit dual enrollment to include a demonstrated level of achievement of college-level communication and computation skills as determined by a common placement test or an alternative method of assessment. It authorizes FCS institutions to accept for admission to associate degree programs, a high school equivalency diploma issued by another state which is recognized as equivalent by the SBE and is based on an assessment recognized by the United States Department of Education. The bill requires the statewide articulation agreement to establish three mathematics pathways for students by aligning mathematics courses to programs, meta-majors, and careers and requires a representative committee consisting of faculty from the state university system, the

FCS, and school district career centers to collaborate to identify the mathematics pathways. Finally, the bill authorizes the SBE and the Board of Governors to adopt regulations regarding documentation and procedures to implement the exemption of tuition and fees for students experiencing homelessness.

Q&A

Representative Robinson

Q: Right now in our college system you take a basic math, and when you go into your major it increases. What are we actually trying to accomplish?

A: Your feedback is well-informed as an educator. The main goal we are trying to achieve is to ensure that students that are pursuing certain degrees are not forced to take math classes that have nothing to do with their degree. If the major does not have a math focus, let's make sure we are not targeting that major and creating unnecessary hurdles. This is built from feedback from the colleges.

Representative Valdes

Q: Based on what you described, has there been collaboration with superintendents to see the impacts of what would change for the requirements at the high school level?

A: I don't want to speculate on that as this bill is on the college side but I would happy to get back to you on that.

Representative Woodson

Q: Was there any student input in creating this bill?

A: So the feedback has been stories of students and faculties that was relayed to the colleges. I haven't had direct contact with a student but I would be happy to do that and see if there are any concerns there.

Public Testimony

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

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

Alexis Calatayud, Department of Education: Waiving in support.

Tracy Strecker, Florida PTA: Waiving in support.

Adam Strecker: Waiving in support.

Debate

Representative Robinson

As a math major, I just have particular concerns that we lower our standards in math. Our STEM in the US has not always been as competitive with other countries. We want people to get a degree but we want to make sure that they have a good foundation. Math is not just about numbers, it is about problem solving and analytical thinking, which can help in any career. I hope you take this into consideration and I would love for you to work on that.

Representative Woodson

Once the concept of math is lost at an early age, it is hard for them to catch up. This is a very good bill on the end. I hope we try to find methods to help kids and to address those issues so we have more kids getting into STEM programs. It is a great bill but I hope you can try to fix that and become proactive as opposed to reactive. Thank you.

Closing

Thank you for your input. I think this bill strikes at the heart of what we are trying to do here, which is to get students career-ready. I ask for your favorable support.

Outcome

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

PCS for HB 1027 Open Remarks at High School Athletic Contests

The bill requires athletic associations, whose memberships include public schools, to adopt bylaws, policies, or procedures that provide schools participating in a high school championship contest or series, under the direction and supervision of the association, an opportunity to make brief opening remarks at the event. If requested by the school, a speaker from the school may give opening remarks, no longer than 2 minutes, using the public address system at the event. Prior to the opening remarks from school speakers, the association must make an announcement that the schools' opening remarks are not endorsed by the association, nor do they reflect the views and opinions of the association. The bill establishes that athletic associations may not control, monitor, or review the content of schools' opening remarks, nor may the associations control the schools' choice of speaker. The bill provides that the decision to allow opening remarks before regular season contests is at the discretion of each school.

Q&A

Representative Valdes

Q: Is this a thing that the Athletic Associations do not allow opening remarks?

A: This bill is needed simply because it is not standard practice.

Representative Benjamin

Q: What is the purpose of opening remarks?

A: It is a purpose that is being served here in the US ever since the inception of our nation. Wherever there is an opening of a sport event, there has always been an inspirational message, prayer, or other words of encouragement. This bill simply codifies that.

Q: So we are saying that the school will now allow for opening remarks of whatever nature at sporting events?

A: This is not a school mandate; it is simply allowing this already practice procedure to be allow to take place without any equivocation simply because it is part of the First Amendment.

Representative Robinson

Q: My concern or I guess the question I'm asking is, you're saying that what is being said, you have no control of that? It's nice if the person is saying something motivational. What if you have rival schools and what is said is not necessarily motivational? There is no control over what is being actually said. Anybody can come up and give remarks before?

A: It clearly states that the announcement and remarks would be the school's choice of speaker, so the school will be able to vet what would be said beforehand.

Representative Benjamin

Q: The school provides the venue and the speaker, but the school will disavow anything the speaker says, is that correct?

A: Mr. Benjamin, I am not an attorney, so when you say the school will disavow, the school will be able to vet the 2 minute remark prior to it being made.

Public Testimony

Ron Book, Florida High School Athletic Association: Waiving in opposition.

Debate

Representative Yarborough

I just wanted to offer some comments because I am a prime co-sponsor on the bill with him. What brought this about, members, was that back in 2016, we had some schools who went to a state championship and they asked the FHSAA if they could offer a prayer before the game, but the FHSAA told them they could not. It is a way to try to allow a message by the schools if they choose to do it. We want to strike a balance if the school chooses to do it or chooses not to. I ask you for your favorable support.

Representative Valdes

I understand the intent of the bill but my concern is that people will veer away from the speech. I agree with the intent, there are ways in which schools, before the game, if they want to have a moment of silence or meditation that is fine. I am concerned that maybe these freedoms might be taken to a different level and create a problem at a school to rival teams. I am concerned for the safety of the students. The intent of the bill, I get it, but I am concerned about the practicality of these procedures.

Representative Woodson

My concern is that we just passed a bill on observing a moment of silence in school. This bill would allow private schools to say a prayer. My concern is that it would impose on some students' certain messages. Trust me I am for prayers in school, but for those who are from different faiths, what would that do. I have some reservations now that I am hearing this.

Representative Benjamin

What Representative Woodson just talked about gave me pause. The school, i.e. the government, will provide the venue and the speaker. And the speaker could choose to say a prayer or word of encouragement before a game. A game that will have players from all types of faith. Now they have to sit through the prayer possible of another faith and the school will then say, it wasn't us. I think we are treading on a legal issue that will find itself challenged if passed. So with those concerns I caution my colleagues in the passing of this particular bill and I will be down on the bill.

Representative Robinson

My major concern is the rival schools situation, I would not feel comfortable leaving an open platform for something to be stated that is not positive. It could bring hatred and confusion in that instance.

Representative Giallombardo

I really like this bill. Being an athlete, that first part when you get on the field and are saying the national anthem and there are opening remarks that is a huge part of playing the game. I really appreciate this as an athlete and thank you for bringing it forward.

Closing

Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to my colleague for their comments and concerns. I would like my colleagues to listen to what I am about to say. I am proud to be a member of this House. But what did we open the first day up with? Say it. That's right, prayer. No one objected to the prayer said here. If it is good enough for us, it ought to be good enough for our children. Let's not confuse or muddy things. There have been no lawsuits about high school prayers. We must use common sense. I am proud to be here because common sense needs to return to our legislative bodies. If we as adults can sit here and listen to a prayer and not protest, so can our children. I urge you to vote for this bill and I ask for unanimous consent.

Outcome

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

HB 1475 Sex-specific Student Athletic Teams or Sports (Tuck)

The intent of this bill is to protect the integrity of women's sports. To maintain opportunities for female athletes to demonstrate their skill, strength, and athletic abilities and achieve recognition, accolades, college scholarships, and the numerous other long-term benefits that result from success in athletic endeavors and to promote sex equality, the 'Fairness in Women's Sports Act' (Act) requires the designation of separate sex-specific athletics teams or sports at the primary, secondary, and collegiate levels. The Act requires separate sex-specific interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural, or club athletics teams or sports if the team or sport is sponsored by a public primary or secondary school, a public postsecondary institution or any school or institution whose students or teams compete against such public schools or institutions. While the Act allows coed teams, it specifically reserves female teams for biological women and girls. The Act facilitates the handling of disputes involving a student's biological sex and provides a safe harbor for a school or public postsecondary institution for maintaining separate interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural, or club athletic teams or sports for female students. The Act provides private causes of action for injunctive relief, damages, and any other relief available under law for students, schools, and public postsecondary institutions harmed by a violation of the Act's provisions. All such civil actions must be brought within two years after the alleged harm occurred.

Q&A

Representative Valdes

Q: Can you point to a specific example of a student in Florida being meaningfully harmed by a transgender athlete participating in women's sports?

A: We are not aware of any specific cases here in Florida, but we are aware of cases in other cases. We should not wait until there is a problem to have a policy.

Q: Under this bill would an opposing girls' sport's team be able to challenge the sex of another team's member because she did not appear feminine enough? Would she be subjected to a verification process?

A: The bill provides for a dispute resolution and the State Board of Education is empowered to create those rules for the resolution process. As of now, I anticipate it being similar to the current FHSAA policies that allow the students to bring the dispute for themselves.

Q: It appears this bill contains the same language as HB 500 passed by Idaho's legislature last year. Are you aware that a federal judge placed an injunction against that bill? Would it not be more prudent to await the results of that litigation?

A: I am aware of that case. It's important to note that it is a transgender athlete that is disputing the law so we don't need to wait until there is a problem to have a policy against it.

Representative Benjamin

Q: Under our current system we split athletics up between boys and girls?

A: That is correct.

Q: Girls can participate in sports that are deemed to be the sports for guys?

A: That is correct.

Q: However guys cannot participate in sports deemed to be girls' sports?

A: That is correct but the policy behind that is because men have inherent athletic advantages. When a woman competes on a men's team, they are not taking away athletic opportunities for men.

Q: Where then should transgender kids be allowed to participate in team sports to get the benefits of participating and learning the advantages of team sports?

A: We are not asking anyone to not be included in sports. We are asking they play based on their biological gender so that they are not taking opportunities away from women.

Amendment 768125 (Tuck)

This is a technical amendment to clarify that the intent of the legislation is to maintain opportunities for female athletes.

Q&A on Amendment 768125

Representative Benjamin

Q: The intent is trying to save girls' sports? Is that correct?

A: We are changing the word provide to maintain so that the intent is to maintain because we are already providing those opportunities.

Outcome on Amendment 768125

The amendment is adopted without objection.

Public Testimony on the Bill as Amended

Kara Gross, American Civil Liberties Union: Waiving in opposition.

Karen Woodall, Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy: Waiving in opposition.

Carrie Boyd, SPLC Action Fund: Waiving in opposition.

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

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

Kristellys Estanga: Waiving in opposition.

Ida Eskamani, Florida Rising: Most of us will never know what it is like to be transgender, but they, like other kids just want to be loved and included. I urge you to protect the transgender children.

Madeline Kopka: Waiving in opposition.

David Poole, AIDS HealthCare Foundation: I implore this committee to reconsider voting this bill up and protect transgender kids.

Annabeth Norris: I am asking you to vote no on this bill. Students are at a particularly vulnerable moment because of COVID-19 and we don't need more barriers placed on us. Targeting young trans people right now is incredibly cruel.

Tracy Strecker, Florida PTA: PTA supports out LGBTQ youth and believes they are a protected class. As such, our children need to participate in the sport with the gender they identify as.

Gage Morgan: This is sad to me that Florida is among the 25 states that have included this legislation on their agendas this year. This is a multi-state attack on our most vulnerable youth.

Andrew Oliver, Allendale United Methodist Church: I ask you to open your hearts to the trans lives before you and vote no on this bill.

Representative Shoaf

Q: Are you here today personally or on behalf of the Methodist Church as a whole?

A: I am here today representing the Allendale United Methodist Church and the prophetic office to which I have been called.

Emily Richeson: This bill is callous and violent. Black and brown trans women are being murdered here in this state. We need to make it safer for trans people. Vote no on this violent legislation.

Chloe Ilcus: This will be very detrimental to trans women in sports. This bill is another excuse to attack trans youth. Please vote no.

Imani Hutchinson: Vote no on this bill. Participating in sports is a part of so many of our youth's lives. A blanket ban on transgender athletes is dangerous, cruel, and threatens a group of students who need our help more than ever.

Paul Arons, Equality Florida: This board will deprive trans girls from participation in sports and inflict a stigma and humiliation and injustice on them. I implore you to vote no.

Gina Duncan, Equality Florida: I urge you to vote no on this bill. It is a flawed solution in search of a nonexistent problem. Where is the problem? We urge you to vote no on this.

Jesse Jones: Do not deny my daughter the rights that I had when I was growing up. This bill will take that away from her. Do not discriminate against her. Show love and show support. Build a foundation. I oppose this bill.

Nathan Bruemmer: The barrage of attacks on our LGBTQ communities is abhorrent. This will only create more pain and suffering. Do not let hate become part of sports, let them play.

Lakey Love: Waicving in opposition.

Samantah McLoughlin, FSU College Democrats: This bill is discriminatory. It is hard enough to be a kid, let alone be a transgender kid in high school or middle school. Stop trying to pass transphobic legislation.

Jon Harris Maurer: This bill causes unnecessary harms to people by those that are supposed to take care of them.

Annie Filkowski, Florida Alliance for Planned Parenthood Affiliates: I would take a trans sister over a bull any day.

Debate on the Bill as Amended

Representative Valdes

Trans folk are not presenting as women to be the best on a team, to lurk in bathrooms, or do other harm. Trans folks are our friends, neighbors, siblings, and family. This bill is a harmful solution in search of a problem. No one puts themselves through the transition process to just get an advantage in a sport. I'm worried this will tie the state up in expensive litigation. I want to say to the gender non-confirming, non-binary youth, and the families who are watching today, you are loved, you are valued, and your humanity is not defined by a vote of the Florida legislature. Please join me in voting down on this bill.

Representative Woodson

We have so much to work on and we have so many issues that are pressing. Looking at this bill, I feel like this legislation would set a dangerous precedent in our schools and attack some of the most vulnerable groups in the state. This bill would only marginalize and dehumanize the transgender community. It will create more unfairness while trying to call it fairness in women's sports. I cannot in good conscious support this bill. Please think about what you are doing to human's lives and vote no on it.

Representative Robinson

This is not a conversation about athletics. It is about people's lives. That is what we should be talking about. We need to come together and embrace inclusiveness. We should not embrace division. We live in a world of "and" and our legislation should reflect that.

Representative Benjamin

I am going to let it end with the women. Thank you.

Representative Harding

Thank you to the sponsor for bringing this pro-woman bill. I am proud to support it. The only thing I ask for is that my daughters have an equal opportunity to be able to participate in sports. I want to thank sponsor. I appreciate the bill and I look forward to supporting it.

Representative Benjamin

I feel compelled to say something. What we have heard today our pleas for us to live to the wording in our sacred documents. This bill, however well-intentioned it may be would have a disparate impact on a very identifiable and very vulnerable group. It should be voted down because of that. All groups in our country have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Vote this bill down.

Representative Shoaf

I completely reject that this bill has anything to do with race whatsoever. Opponents to this bill are saying strength and endurance doesn't matter. It vaults men to the front of the lines to participate on teams and to be awarded scholarships. So it does have a terrible impact on girls. This is wokeness versus science and it is time for common sense to come back into the room.

Representative Giallombardo

This bill does not prevent anyone from playing sports. We want all of our daughters to play sports and be competitive. Thank you so much for bringing this bill.

Representative Andrade

I want to debate to discuss some of the legal frameworks that have been thrown out in conversation today. First, Title IX and the *Bosstock* case did not consider transgender status. The same goes for the current Idaho considerations. This bill, like the Idaho bill, makes no reference to transgender status. It simply reaffirms biological status as defined in Title IX. This bill is not a statement of hate. We recognize parity and performance differences between genders and we have for decades. We have acknowledged for years that there are fundamental, immutable differences between biological men and women. Title IX has reaped so many benefits for women in this country and I want to continue to encourage that. The legal frameworks miss that in the case law, everyone has acknowledged the fundamental differences between men and women. This bill does not discriminate at all. The Equal Protection Clause is followed.

Representative Bush

I am compelled to speak today because I am a parent of two former college athletes. I know how brutal sports can become and how there are true differences between men and women when they are engaged in competitive sports. This bill is not about discrimination in my judgement. I am not speaking against transgender athletes. I am concerned about the safety of the athlete. This is not a discriminatory bill. It is about putting safety measures in places so the athletes do not get injured or hurt. We will find out where the courts are when that happens. Someone brought up that this was going to affect black children. Well, I think I am more qualified to speak on that matter and I want to share that black parents and constituents are concerned about the safety of their children in competitive sports on the high school level. This bill is a common-sense bill. There are some things I have accepted in life that I cannot change. I was born black and I am proud to be black. I rise to say I am in 150% support of this bill and it provides the safety needed for all of our children.

Closing (Tuck)

Thank you, Ranking Member Bush. I want to emphasize something Representative Valdes brought up which is the Idaho case. Sex and gender classifications are subject to intermediate scrutiny that requires a furtherance of an important government interest. An important government interest is providing women equal athletic opportunities. Gender classification is not discriminatory, it is based on biological facts. There should be no fears about equal protection. I want to drive home the point that this is not a discriminatory bill. This act provides protections to women.

Outcome

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

PCS for HB 355 (Beltran)

While maintaining the designation of the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) as the state's governing nonprofit athletic association for Florida public schools, the bill authorizes the Commissioner of Education (commissioner), with the approval of the State Board of Education (SBE), to approve other nonprofit athletic associations that public schools may join for interscholastic athletic competition. The bill defines "approved athletic association" as the FHSAA or a nonprofit athletic association approved by the commissioner and the SBE. The bill requires approved athletic associations to comply with current law regarding organizational governance, student eligibility, and health and wellness for student extracurricular activities and athletics. The bill establishes that the bylaws of each approved athletic association in the state are the rules by which high school athletic programs and member schools are governed, unless statute provides otherwise. The bill

establishes requirements relating to organizational governance, representation, and governance committees for select athletic associations. The bill provides that any high school in the state, including private schools, traditional public schools, charter schools, virtual schools, and home education cooperatives, may become a member of an approved athletic association. Current law prohibits FHSAA from denying or discouraging interscholastic competition between member and non-member schools and prohibits retributory or discriminatory action against member schools that participate in competition with non-FHSAA member schools. The bill applies these prohibitions to all approved athletic associations as well as allowing schools or home education cooperatives the option of full membership or by individual sport participation in FHSAA and other approved athletic associations. The bill requires approved athletic associations to adopt bylaws mandating students' medical evaluations before participating in interscholastic athletic competition. Approved athletic associations must comply with requirements in current law governing concussion protocol, heat stress, and hydration for student-athletes. The bill extends the requirement that all public schools have an operational automated external defibrillator (AED) available for all athletic contests, practices, workouts, and conditioning sessions to include those activities conducted by members of any approved athletic association.

Public Testimony

Ron Book, Florida High School Athletic Association: We did visit with the sponsor of the bill, we are very against what is going on. This is literally the initiation of nothing but a food fight in the legislature.

Jason Smith, Sunshine State Athletic Conference: This bill simply creates the opportunity for true choice in athletics. Athletics in the state of Florida has changed significantly since FHSAA was codified in statute. Florida's high schools deserve a choice in athletics. We are in support of this amendment.

Jessica Janasiewicz, Florida High School Athletic Association: We ask that there be consistency across statute.

Edward Briggs, Sunshine State Athletic Conference: Waiving in support.

Ronald Pierce, Sunshine State Athletic Conference: Waiving in support.

Closing

Thank you. I want to address some remarks. The FHSAA is designated in statute but our research indicates that is an anomaly in comparison to most states. There is a suggestion that there was an agreement before my time between some folks. If you go on any legal search platform, you can find the legal proposition that one legislator cannot bind another future legislator. We sit for elections every two years. We are not kings. If you believe in the idea of school choice when it comes to athletics, I hope you vote .yes on my bill, if you don't believe in school choice, that's fine, but please vote based on the merits, not what is in the statute now.

Outcome

The bill is reported favorably by the committee, 14-3.

House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

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

Summary

The House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee considered the following two bills: HB 827 School District Funding by Hawkins; and HB 7011 Student Literacy by Early Learning and Elementary Education Subcommittee, Aloupis. They also took up a consent agenda for HB 2051, HB 2323, HB 2927, HB 3061, HB 3175, HB 3361, HB 3365, HB 3451, HB 3521, HB 3603, HB 3629, HB 3681, HB 3705, HB 3707, HB 3937, HB 4077, and HB 4083.

Consent Agenda

- HB 2051 English as a Second Language through Arts Integration by Morales
- HB 2323 Special Olympics Florida Unified Champions Schools by Tomkow
- HB 2927 Florida Reading Corps by Aloupis
- HB 3061 First Tee (CHAMP) Comprehensive Health and Mentoring Program for At Risk and Developmentally Disabled Students and Young Adults. by Geller, Jenne
- HB 3175 Renewed Minds Educational Enrichment Program by Bush
- HB 3361 The Overtown Youth Center by Bush
- HB 3365 Florida Children's Initiative Education Support by Bush
- HB 3451 Youth Mentoring and Tutoring by Geller
- HB 3521 Hernando School District - Nature Coast Technical Criminal Justice Program by Massullo
- HB 3603 Safer, Smarter Schools by Aloupis
- HB 3629 Learning through Listening - Florida by Williamson
- HB 3681 The Florida Orchestra: Music Education for All by Diamond
- HB 3705 AMIkids Career and Job Placement Program by Yarborough
- HB 3707 Florida Novice Teacher Professional Development by Yarborough
- HB 3937 Help Me Grow Florida Program by Fetterhoff
- HB 4077 Walton County School District Magnet Innovation Center by Drake
- HB 4083 Walton County and Ohana Institution Esports Program by Drake

Q&A

None.

Appearance Forms on the Consent Agenda

Mario Bailey, Florida Reading Corp: Waiving in support of HB 2927.

Sam Wagoner, Hernando County School Board: Waiving in support of HB 3521.

Claudia Devont, Childrens Forum: Waiving in support of HB 3937.

Debate on the Consent Agenda

None.

Outcome

The consent agenda was reported favorably 15-0.

HB 827 – School District Funding (Hawkins)

The Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) and the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (pre-AICE) are curricula in which eligible secondary students are enrolled in programs of study offered through the AICE and pre-AICE programs administered by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate. The programs are designed to ensure that participating students acquire an in-depth understanding of a variety of subjects and master a broader range of skills critical for success in university study and employment. Both the AICE and the pre-AICE programs are two of the state's statutorily established articulated acceleration mechanisms in which secondary students can shorten the time necessary to complete the requirements associated with the attainment of a high school diploma and a postsecondary degree. Bonus funding is generated in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) for students who receive a score of E or higher on the AICE examination.

The bill provides additional requirements for school districts' allocation of the AICE bonus funds to school programs and expands these school programs to include those administered by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate. The bill also provides a specified bonus for classroom teachers who teach the pre-AICE courses.

The bill has no fiscal impact. Expanding the distribution of the bonus funds to apply to pre-AICE programs and other school programs administered by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate will impact how school districts allocate the bonus funds.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2021.

Q&A

Representative Valdes

Q: I see where we have stricken off the awarding of credits to students. Are these programs now being offered and not being counted for credit toward graduation? Are we going to a credit hour type of program rather than GPA?

A: I believe that is the change in the bill going from half credits to full time credits. We do have a representative from Cambridge that I believe is going to speak on behalf of that.

Q: I also see on line 72 where the full credit has also been stricken. What are the dynamics going to be for the outcome of the student while taking these courses? I'm not sure how this would translate to a grade for a student and how that would affect the GPA.

A: I can get back with you on that to make sure we are on the same page.

Appearance Forms on the Bill

Sherry Reach, Cambridge Assessment International Education: AICE and pre-AICE are both part of an academically rigorous high school program emphasizing critical thinking and inquiry-based learning. The pre-AICE courses and exams are prerequisites for success in the Cambridge AICE level courses and examinations. Both have the same rigorous testing

format that requires students to apply this knowledge to new contexts and justify their responses to test questions. Florida statute designates both the pre-AICE program and the AICE program as acceleration mechanisms. The reason they do it for pre-AICE is because it requires students to go further into depth in their studies and also it allows them to have more options for subjects. HB 827 will help increase access to rigorous coursework which will prepare students for success in college. In response to the earlier questions: the reference to full credit and half credit has nothing to do with high school graduation credit. They are completely separate. The reference to these courses talks about one full credit toward the AICE diploma, which is completely separate from a high school transcript. (Who keeps track of these AICE credits?) Our program requires each high school to have a designated coordinator. This would be their job to keep track of the classes and exam results. Please know that taking an AICE exam is completely separate from taking the course. A grade of E is the equivalent of a C in the United States. It is not on the transcript.

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

Debate on the Bill

Representative Bartleman

I cannot say enough about this program and the rigor and the relevance to the students. It is also important to start at the middle school level. Broward County was one of the pioneers with this program and we started out with a couple of schools. We have had to put it in multiple high schools because parents are demanding this kind of education, it's project-based learning, it's critical thinking. My daughter participated in AICE. The rigor was even beyond AP. It is also all those soft skills to work toward their goals. We dropped it down to the middle school level to teach them how to be critical thinkers and individual learners. You get the quality points you would get for an AP class. If you complete the AICE diploma it is regarded highly, and you have access to Bright Futures. This program was really a game changer and the kids love it. The teachers get specially trained. I wholeheartedly support this bill. It provides a quality education and a pathway.

Closing (Hawkins)

Waived close.

Outcome

The bill was reported favorably.

HB 7011 – Student Literacy by Early Learning and Elementary Education Subcommittee (Aloupis)

Research shows that implementation of science-based reading instruction, i.e., evidence-based practices supported by student outcomes, is the most effective way to teach children how to read, even children with learning difficulties such as dyslexia. Parental involvement and a literacy-rich home environment have also been shown to improve student literacy skills.

The bill requires the implementation of a Voluntary Prekindergarten through grade 8 Progress Monitoring System beginning in the 2022-2023 school year. The system must be designed to provide Florida educators with sufficient, high quality data to identify students with substantial deficiencies in reading and monitor the effectiveness of interventions through continuous data collection.

The bill establishes the Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence (RAISE) Program, a system of statewide literacy supports provided through 20 regional literacy expert support teams. The teams must support schools identified as requiring assistance based on data from the progress monitoring system and results from statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessments. Supports must include the provision of evidence-based professional development and implementation of data-informed instruction using high quality instructional materials as well as effective interventions through the school's multi-tiered system of supports, and school improvement plans and school district reading plans.

The bill supports implementation of these programs by enhancing evidence-based teacher and administrator training, requiring that the reading endorsement credential be updated, and providing for a new pathway to earn the reading endorsement. The bill requires the Just Read, Florida! Office to identify, as part of the instructional materials adoption process, instructional materials that implement evidence-based practices and are accompanied by appropriate professional development and streamlines the process by which school districts adopt identified instructional materials.

To support parents, the bill requires that school districts keep parents of struggling readers informed of their students' progress and the effectiveness of interventions, provide them materials explaining the exceptional student education process, and notify parents of students who are evaluated for exceptional education services or who require accommodations of school choice options. The bill also requires the Office of Early Learning and early learning coalitions to provide guidance and planning to assist with the transition from prekindergarten to kindergarten.

The bill will have a fiscal impact for the implementation of the progress monitoring system and the RAISE program literacy supports. See Fiscal Analysis and Economic Impact Statement Section.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2021.

Q&A

None.

Appearance Forms on the Bill

Deborah Morthan, Foundation of Florida's Future: Waiving in support.

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

Debate on the Bill

Representative Valdes

Thank you for bringing forward this bill. As you stated, it is so needed, and also for recognizing dyslexia. I believe that is something that a lot of our youngsters wind up having and they go undiagnosed and there are not many accommodations and tools available for them to be able to help them along the way. So, thank you very much for making note of that and recognizing that this is something that many kids suffer from. I am really happy to support this bill.

Representative Williams

I want to say that I appreciate having the conversation with you on early learning. Bridging the gap between the VPK programs and the county schools gives the opportunity to understand that we have different practices. These different feeder patterns are a big plus for early care. Thank you very much.

Closing on the Bill (Aloupis)

I appreciate all the conversations we have had, and I ask for your support on this bill.

Outcome

The bill was reported favorably.

LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

HB 0003 Home Book Delivery for Elementary Students (Trabulsky)

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

HB 0005 Civic Education Curriculum (Zika)

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

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

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

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

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

HB 0015 Sales and Use Tax (Clemons)

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

HB 0035 Legal Notices (Fine)

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

SB 0048 Educational Scholarship Programs (Diaz)

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

HB 0051 Charter Schools (McClain)

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

SB 0052 Postsecondary Education (Rodrigues (R))

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

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, and specified penalties. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

SB 0254 Education (Stewart)

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

SB 0258 Internship Tax Credit Program (Jones)

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

SB 0259 Safety of Religious Institutions (Byrd)

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

SB 0274 Juvenile Diversion Program Expunction (Perry)

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

SB 0280 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training in Public Schools (Baxley)

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

HB 0281 Postsecondary Education Financial Matters (Duggan)

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

SB 0282 Moments of Silence in Public Schools (Baxley)

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

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

Establishes exception to reemployment after retirement limitations to authorize retired instructional staff to be employed as substitute teachers before meeting definition of termination; prohibits accrual of additional retirement service credit & renewed membership during such period of reemployment; requires SBA and DMS to request determination letter and 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: July 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 383 - Involuntary Examinations of Minors (Plasencia)

Revises certain notification requirements that must be met before removing minor from school, school transportation, or school-sponsored activity for involuntary examination. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

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

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

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

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

HB 0419 Early Learning and Early Grade Success (Grall)

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

HB 429 - Purple Star Schools (Learned)

Requires DOE to establish Purple Star School Program; requires department to adopt certain procedures; requires department, in consultation with certain entities, to adopt program criteria; specifying minimum criteria; requires annual reporting. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

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.

SB 0486 Juvenile Justice Education Programs (Bradley)

Increasing the percentage of certain funds that must be spent on specified costs; requiring that contracts between district school boards and juvenile justice education programs be in writing; requiring the Department of Education to provide mediation services for certain disputes; prohibiting school boards from delaying certain payments pending receipt of local funds, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 0489 Student Identification Cards (Daley)

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

SB 0498 Safety of Religious Institutions (Gruters)

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

HB 0507 Education (Rizo)

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

HB 0517 School Meals (Morales)

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

HB 0519 Required Health Education (Yarborough)

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

HB 0529 Moments of Silence in Public Schools (Fine)

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

SB 0532 Workforce Education (Burgess)

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

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

Providing that state universities and Florida College System institutions are considered authorized entities for specified purposes relating to the emergency use of epinephrine auto-injectors; requiring, rather than authorizing, public schools to purchase or acquire a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors for specified purposes; requiring state universities and Florida College System institutions to purchase or acquire a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors for specified purposes, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 0545 Materials Harmful to Minors (Chaney)

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

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

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

HB 559 Computer Science Instruction in Elementary Schools (Hawkins)

Requires, rather than authorizes, certain computer science skills be taught in elementary school; revises computer science skills to be taught in elementary school. 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 0633 - Purple Star Campuses (Maney)

Requires DOE to establish Purple Star Campus program; specifies program criteria for participating schools; authorizes department to establish additional program eligibility criteria; authorizes schools to partner with school districts to meet such criteria; requires department to adopt rules. 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.

HB 0723 Juvenile Justice Education Programs (Massullo, Jr.)

Increases percentage of certain funds that must be spent on specified costs; requires contracts between district school boards & juvenile justice education programs be in writing; requires DOE provide mediation services for certain disputes; prohibits school boards from delaying certain payments pending receipt of local funds. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

SB 0726 Individual Education Plan Requirements for Students with Disabilities (Taddeo)

Revising the timeline for the development and implementation of an individual education plan (IEP) for a student with disabilities to transition to postsecondary education and career opportunities; revising the requirements for an IEP for the transitions to a postsecondary education or career opportunities; requiring the Department of Education to conduct a review of specified services and programs, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

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: July 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 and 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 0793 Measurement of Student Performance (Bell)

Requires Commissioner of Education to annually provide specified results to school districts by certain date.

HB 0827 School District Funding (Hawkins)

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

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

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

HB 0835 Employee Organizations (Byrd)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HB 0889 Nonprofit Property Tax Exemptions (Borrero)

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

HB 0907 Schools of Innovation (DiCeglie)

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

SB 0918 Education (Bradley)

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

SB 0934 Education (Wright)

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

HB 0935 Youth Gender and Sexual Identity (Sabatini)

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

SB 0938 Purple Star Campuses (Wright)

Requiring the Department of Education to establish the Purple Star Campus program; specifying program criteria for participating schools; authorizing the department to establish additional program eligibility criteria; authorizing schools to partner with school districts to meet such criteria; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 0947 Dues and Uniform Assessments (Plakon)

Requires that public employee who desires to join employee organization sign membership authorization form; requires that form include specified acknowledgement; requires employee organization to revoke employee's membership upon

receipt of request for revocation; requires employees to provide specified notice to employer to revoke deductions; provides revocation form may not require employee to state reason for revocation; provides deductions commence upon employer's receipt & confirmation of employee's signed deduction authorization form; requires confirmation within specified time; specifies time period that employee's authorization to deduct dues & uniform assessments remains in effect. Effective Date: upon becoming a law.

HB 0951 Reporting of School Safety Issues (Daley)

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

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

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

SB 1000 Part-time Public School Enrollment (Baxley)

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

SB 1014 Employee Organizations (Baxley)

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

SB 1016 Digital Learning (Baxley)

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

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

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

HB 1025 Student Retention (Skidmore)

Authorizes parent to request that his or her student be retained in grade level for specified school year; requires such request to be submitted in specified manner; requires school district superintendents to grant such requests if they are timely received; authorizes school district superintendents to grant requests that are not timely received; requires retained

student to remain in grade in which he or she was retained in until student qualifies for promotion at end of school year; requires school districts to report certain data to DOE by specified date. Effective Date: upon becoming a law.

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

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

SB 1028 Charter Schools (Hutson)

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

SB 1266 Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Memorial Day (Book)

Recognizing February 14, 2022, and each February 14 thereafter, as “Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Memorial Day” in Florida, a day of remembrance for all of those who lost their lives, or whose lives were forever changed, as a result of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, etc.

SB 1279 Florida Talent Development Council (Melo)

Requires council to submit to specified entities a report that includes recommendations on feasibility of establishing and implementing Pathways in Technology Early College High School program or similar program; provides requirements for report. Effective Date: upon becoming a law.

SB 1282 Early Learning and Early Grade Success (Harrell)

Deleting the Office of Early Learning from within the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice of the Department of Education; establishing the Division of Early Learning within the department; revising approved child care or early education settings for the placement of certain children; requiring each parent who enrolls his or her child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to allow his or her child to participate in a specified screening and progress monitoring program; revising the performance standards for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program; authorizing certain students who enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to receive intensive reading interventions using specified funds, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$3,865,759 Effective Date: Upon becoming a law.

SB 1284 Reporting of School Safety Issues (Jones)

Requiring data from a specified hotline to be included in a certain centralized integrated data repository; requiring the Office of Safe Schools to establish and operate a hotline for specified purposes; requiring threat assessment teams to report all threats and incidents to the school principal; establishing the Safe Schools Grant Program; providing for funding and administration of the program, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

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: July 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: July 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: July 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: July 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: July 1, 2021.

HB 1419 Establishment of Charter Schools (Fischer)

Establishes New Charter Application Commission; provides purpose & composition of commission; provides members serve without compensation; provides that both local school district sponsor & commission will function as charter school authorizers; revises provisions related to charter school applications & review & denial of such applications; provides duties of local school districts that did not function as charter school authorizers. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 1421 Florida Kidcare Program Eligibility (Bartleman)

Removes requirement that AHCA establish penalties or waiting periods for reinstatement of coverage; removes provisions relating to children who are not eligible to receive premium assistance; revises limitation for eligibility for continuous coverage; requires applicant seeking coverage to provide documentation if eligibility cannot be verified using reliable data sources. Effective Date: July 1, 2021

SB 1424 Students with Limited English Proficiency (Jones)

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

HB 1461 Prohibition on Compensation for Members of a District School Board (Garrison)

Proposing amendments to State Constitution to prohibit compensation for members of district school board.

SB 1468 Charter Schools (Gruters)

Revising requirements for the charter school application process; revising provisions relating to the opening of additional high-performing charter schools; authorizing a virtual charter school to provide part-time virtual instruction and be an approved provider; authorizing a virtual charter school to contract with a public or charter school, rather than enter into an agreement with a school district, for specified purposes, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 1475 Sex-Specific Student Athletic Teams or Sports (Tuck)

Requires that certain athletic teams or sports sponsored by certain educational institutions be designated on basis of students' biological sex; prohibits athletic teams or sports designated for female students to be open to male students; requires that student's school or institution, as applicable, resolve disputes regarding student's sex; requires State Board of Education to adopt certain rules; provides for civil remedies & damages; provides statute of limitation. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 1487 School Resiliency Pilot Programs (McCurdy)

Establishes Resilient Schools Pilot Program within DOE; provides directive to DOE for approving school districts for participation; requires DOE, with specified entities, to assist participating school districts & certain schools regarding renewable energy source devices, energy storage devices, & energy efficiency devices; authorizes certain schools & local government authorities to directly solicit bids from & contract directly with specified entities to acquire such devices &

services; authorizes PSC to approve pilot programs proposed by electric utilities; prohibits PSC from approving certain pilot programs; authorizes certain schools & local government authorities to enter into contracts with third parties regarding such devices; specifies that certain financing arrangements & contracted third parties are not subject to regulation by PSC; requires DOE to provide specified report to Legislature. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

SB 1496 Early Learning Scholarship Program (Ausley)

Citing this act as the "Brighter Future Act"; establishing the Early Learning Scholarship program; requiring the program to be administered by the Office of Early Learning; providing that a student who receives a scholarship remains eligible to participate until the student is admitted to kindergarten or attains the age of 6 years by a specified date, etc. Effective Date: July 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: July 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: July 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: July 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: July 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: July 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: July 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 1644 - Measurement of Student Performance (Jones)

Requiring the Commissioner of Education to annually provide learning growth data calculated in accordance with a certain formula to school districts by a specified date, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

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: July 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: July 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: July 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: July 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: July 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: July 1, 2021.

SB 1816 Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys (Rouson)

Creating the Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys within the Department of Education; providing for membership and meetings of the task force; requiring the department to provide staff, administrative support, and necessary data and other relevant information to assist the task force; requiring that the task force submit a report to the Governor and Legislature by a specified date, etc. Effective Date: July 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: July 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: July 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: July 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: July 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: July 1, 2021.

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: July 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: July 1, 2021.

HB 02051 English as a Second Language through Arts Integration (Morales)

English as a Second Language through Arts Integration: Provides an appropriation for the English as a Second Language through Arts Integration. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 3685 Manatee Schools STEM Career Pathways Pilot

Provides an appropriation for the Manatee Schools STEM Career Pathways Pilot. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 6001 Licenses to Carry Concealed Weapons or Firearms (Sabatini)

Removes provision prohibiting concealed carry licensees from openly carrying handgun or carrying concealed weapon or firearm into college or university facility. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 7011 Student Literacy (Aloupis, Jr.)

Provides and revises requirements relating to improvement of student literacy skills; requires DOE, in consultation with Office of Early Learning, to implement coordinated screening and progress monitoring system for VPK program through grade 8; establishes Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Program within DOE; revises requirements relating to specified reading instruction allocation; revises requirements for certain instructional personnel & professional development program. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 7033 - Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee (Koster - Replaces ELE2)

Creates Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys; provides task force purpose, membership, meetings, & future expiration; requires DOE to provide support & data & information to assist the task force; requires task force submit report; provides for future expiration of task force. Effective Date: upon becoming a law.

HB 7035 - School Safety Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee (LaMarca)

Requires DCF to analyze specified data; provides penalties relating to Fortify FL reporting tool; revises membership of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission; provides requirements for Commissioner of Education & Office of Safe Schools; provides requirements for codes of student conduct; requires district school boards to establish policies & provide timely notifications; provides training requirements for safe-school officers; revises requirements for mental health assistance allocation. 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.

HB 8007 Florida Storytelling Week (Robinson, F.)

Designates week of November 14-20, 2021, as "Florida Storytelling Week."

HB 8019 Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Memorial Day (Hunschofsky)

Recognizes February 14, 2021, 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 result of mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

YOUR GRAYROBINSON TEAM



**Dean Cannon, President and Chief Executive Officer
Chair of Government Affairs**

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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

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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

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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.