



GRAY ROBINSON

ATTORNEYS | LOBBYISTS | CONSULTANTS

Florida School Boards Association 2021 Legislative Session Report

LEGISLATIVE SESSION WEEK SIX

April 5, 2021 – April 9, 2021

www.gray-robinson.com

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMMITTEE REPORTS 3

House Education and Employment Committee3

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.....31

House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee48

MOVING BILLS OF INTEREST 61

YOUR GRAYROBINSON TEAM..... 78

COMMITTEE REPORTS

House Education and Employment Committee

Tuesday, April 6, 2021

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

Summary

The House Education and Employment Committee met today to consider the following bills: CS/HB 545 Reproductive Health and Disease Education by Secondary Education and Career Development Subcommittee, Chaney; CS/HB 845 State University Free Seat Program by Post-Secondary Education and Lifelong Learning Subcommittee, Smith, D.; CS/HB 1475 Sex-specific Student Athletic Teams or Sports by Secondary Education and Career Development Subcommittee, Tuck; CS/HB 1505 Workforce Programs and Services by Post-Secondary Education and Lifelong Learning Subcommittee, Melo; CS/CS/HB 1507 Workforce Related Programs and Services by Appropriations Committee, Post-Secondary Education and Lifelong Learning Subcommittee, Yarborough; HB 7035 School Safety by Early Learning and Elementary Education Subcommittee, LaMarca, Hunschofsky. The committee also considered the following proposed committee substitute: PCS for HB 1261 -- Higher Education.

CS/HB 1505 – Workforce Programs and Services (Melo)

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

The bill:

- Creates a consumer-first workforce system requiring the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to consult with the Department of Education (DOE) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to implement a single automated consumer-first workforce system that improves coordination among the required one-stop partners to efficiently and effectively provide workforce and education programs and services in Florida.
- Requires any contract to implement the consumer-first workforce system to be performance based.
- Requires the consumer-first workforce system to support service integration and case management across programs and agencies and requires DEO to develop training for required one-stop partners on the use of the system and how all partners can prequalify individuals for benefits and services.
- Requires state career planning resources to be provided to students as they progress along their educational experience, beginning in the middle grades career and education planning course, in the character development curriculum for grades 9 through 12, and to supplement existing tools utilized within student life skills and career planning courses at the postsecondary level.
- Requires public postsecondary student career service centers to utilize state career planning resources as they prepare students for future employment.
- Creates a definition and establishes criteria for work-based learning opportunity, requiring it to be developmentally appropriate, develop workplace skills, link to next steps in career planning and preparation on a student's career pathway, be provided in an equal and fair manner, and prioritize paid experiences.

- Requires that students entering a public postsecondary institution in 2022-2023, and thereafter, must be able to earn nationally recognized digital credentials for competencies within the general education core courses which demonstrate career readiness. The digital credentials will be identified by a faculty committee appointed by the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors.
- Requires DOE to establish minimum standards and policies governing apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs which must require training providers to submit data to determine program performance.
- Requires that DOE's annual report on apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs also include retention and completion rates of participants, wage progression of participants, and expenditure data by training provider, program, and occupation.

Q&A

None.

Appearance Forms on the Bill

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

George Chamezio, Opportunity Solutions Project: Waiving in support.

Jessica McClain, College of Central Florida: Waiving in support.

Debate on the Bill

None.

Closing on the Bill (Melo)

Waived close.

Outcome

The bill was reported favorably.

CS/CS/HB 1507 – Workforce Related Programs and Services (Yarborough)

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

- Authorizes the Governor to seek federal waivers to create greater flexibility and strategic investment in Florida's implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
- Creates the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help (Office) in the Executive Office of the Governor to provide coordination and alignment in Florida's workforce development system.
- Requires the Office to create a "no-wrong-door" entry strategy whereby Floridians may access services from any workforce partner with a common intake form and case management system.

- Creates a publicly available online opportunity portal to provide Floridians with access to identify in-demand jobs, the skills needed, where to obtain those skills, available services, and program performance employability and economic mobility.
- Requires the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to evaluate the impact of workforce services on participants receiving benefits and welfare transition programs, to include performance reports on participant earnings.
- Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to develop a workforce development metrics dashboard to measure return on the state's investment.
- Requires local workforce development boards (LWDB) to be assigned a letter grade based on improvement of participant long-term self-sufficiency and return on investment.
- Charges the Labor Market Estimating Conference as the entity responsible for determining Florida's real-time supply and demand in the labor market.
- Requires the Talent Development Council to coordinate Florida's efforts to meet state healthcare workforce needs, initially focusing on nursing, by conducting a gap analysis and review of nursing program alignment.
- Requires the DEO to establish WIOA eligible training provider criteria focused on participant outcomes.
- Requires the CareerSource state board to appoint a Credentials Review Committee to identify degree and nondegree credentials of value, develop a Master Credentials List for performance funding, and establish policy direction for funding which prioritizes outcomes and leverages resources to support vulnerable populations.
- Creates the Open Door Workforce Grant Program to provide grants to school districts and Florida College System (FCS) institutions to cover up to two-thirds of the cost of short-term, high-demand programs.
- Creates the Money-Back Guarantee Program, requiring each school district and FCS institution to refund the cost of tuition to students who are not able to find a job within 6 months of completing select programs.
- Creates a new workforce performance funding model for school district and FCS institution workforce programs, requiring one-third of performance funding to be based on rewarding student job placement and the remaining two-thirds be based on student earnings, with a focus on increasing the economic mobility of underserved populations.

Q&A

Representative Hawkins

Q: If a company wants to hire someone that needs training, how will that change under the proposed state mastering credentialing system?

A: Currently, a company can come to a local workforce board and say they need x number of employees and x amount of machinery within two months. The bill will still allow local boards to retain the ability to respond to the local demands in the same fashion. The boards can also react through the quick response training program.

Ranking Member Williams

Q: Will that employee you just spoke of get additional tax credit for bringing someone in off this program?

A: I can get back with you on that. Not to my knowledge, but I will find out.

Amendment #205995 (Yarborough)

This amendment addresses the labor market estimating conference. We're going to add the identification of in-demand middle wage occupations to the list of occupational shortages identified by the labor market estimating conference. Instead of just high wage, it will also include middle wage.

Outcome

The amendment was adopted without objection.

Amendment #045693 (Yarborough)

This would add the career source Florida State Board and the Department of Education to the list of entities that our Department of economic opportunity must solicit input from when establishing eligibility criteria for the workforce innovation and opportunity act eligible training provider list. It provides a phase in over a three-year period of the performance outcomes for workforce training providers and it clarifies the membership of the credentials review committee and ensures the committee includes representation of rural local workforce development board regions.

Outcome

The amendment was adopted without objection.

Amendment #677015 (Yarborough)

This amendment would revise local workforce development board term limits to include staggered terms so we can maintain some continuity of knowledge. It would revise the term limits for members from six years to eight years and it would clarify that no service in a term of office which commenced before July of this year would be counted toward the limitation.

Outcome

The amendment was adopted without objection.

Amendment #417459 (Yarborough)

This is a technical amendment to update the terminology from certifications for “farm occupations” to become certifications for “agricultural occupations.”

Outcome

The amendment was adopted without objection.

Amendment #560481 (Yarborough)

This would address the CTE audit phase programs, clarify the authority the Commissioner of Education has to phase out career and technical education offerings as a result of the annual CTE audit conducted by the department. It would authorize the commissioner to phase out programs that are not aligned with the framework of quality, do not meet labor market demand, do not meet institutional performance, or are unwarranted program duplications.

Outcome

The amendment was adopted without objection.

Amendment #309469 (Yarborough)

This amendment would revise the work the Florida Talent Development Council will conduct to support the state's response to the needs of our healthcare workforce.

Outcome

The amendment was adopted without objection.

Amendment #673859 (Yarborough)

This amendment addresses the cape and open-door grant programs to address workforce training needs which are unique to our local communities. The amendment would allow for regional and local demand credentials and courses to be included on the industry certification funding list, however, it specifies that add-on FTE funding may only be earned by those areas with regional or local demand as identified by the credentials review committee. It also makes several improvements to the open-door grant program to make it better and more tailored to where the needs actually exist.

Outcome

The amendment was adopted without objection.

Amendment #555721 (Yarborough)

In an effort to allow our institutions to be flexible and responsive in offering programs which meet local needs, a Florida college system, institution, or school district may offer a new workforce education program without the delay of review and approval by the state board of education if the program is already included among our statewide offerings. Programs may not receive performance funding and add-on FTE funding until they are reviewed and approved by the board of education through an expedited process. It would also require new workforce education programs to be reviewed and approved by the state board of education.

Outcome

The amendment was adopted without objection.

Amendment #453617 (Yarborough)

This amendment relates to language. The Senate has one workforce bill: SB 98. In order to get our workforce package into the best possible position, this would amend this bill to incorporate the work from HB 1505 to provide more opportunities for students to earn credentials.

Outcome

The amendment was adopted without objection.

Q&A on the Bill as Amended

Ranking Member Williams

Q: Are you combining this bill with HB 1505?

A: It is my understanding that HB 1505 will continue to move to the House floor, but we are combining them because the Senate only has one bill that addresses everything. This is an effort to put the package together.

Q: If we combine it, will this have a negative impact on Florida's higher education institutions?

A: No. This is all designed to help the jobseekers.

Q: What about the money back guarantee you spoke of?

A: The money back guarantee program is an innovative approach that we learned from a model that Texas used. It would allow for the refunding of a student, if within six months of the completion of the program that they have not been successful at finding a job, however, in the six years since Texas has instituted this program, they have only had to refund tuition one time. That is because the student also has to make sure they have good attendance, attend career day activities, etc. We believe it is a good model, but the students have to do their part.

Appearance Forms on the Bill as Amended

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

Joe Pickens, Florida College System Council of Presidents: Waiving in support.

Jessica McClain, College of Central Florida: Waiving in support.

Debate on the Bill as Amended

Ranking Member Williams

I think this will have a great impact on the state of Florida if we involve all stakeholders and bring all stakeholders to the table so that everyone has an agreement. I think it will be a positive impact for the state of Florida. Thank you.

Closing on the Bill as Amended (Yarborough)

Thank you for your indulgence on this comprehensive bill. I wanted to thank Representative Melo for her hard work. This has been a team effort and we look forward to taking this to the next step on the floor and presenting it to the full body for consideration. I also wanted to thank Mr. Chairman's very capable staff director, Joanna Hassle, who has been a great help to me. Also, Jason Fudge, Chris Sanchez, and Nicole Washington have done an amazing job. Thank you to the stakeholders; there are many. I have received a lot of good input on the bill and we are pleased with the product before you. Thank you for your consideration and I would ask for your favorable support.

Outcome

The bill (as amended) was reported favorably.

CS/HB 845 – State University Free Seat Program (Smith, D.)

The bill creates the 'State University Free Seat Program' to lower tuition costs and encourage nontraditional students, veterans, active duty members of the United States Armed Forces, and active drilling members of the Florida National Guard, to enroll in and attend one of Florida's state universities.

The bill provides an eligible student one free online course in an online baccalaureate degree program at a state university. For all other courses in the program, the bill provides the student up to a 25 percent discount on tuition, provided the student remains enrolled in at least one online course during each academic year.

The tuition discount is applicable for up to 110 percent of the number of required credit hours of the degree program for which the student is enrolled. This means that for a 120-credit hour state university baccalaureate degree program, the waiver is applicable for up to 132 credit hours.

Each state university must annually report to the Board of Governors the number and value of waivers granted pursuant to the bill's provisions.

The Board of Governors must adopt regulations to administer the granting of the waiver.

Q&A

None.

Appearance Forms

Amanda Praytor, Opportunity Solutions Project: Waiving in support.

Kahn LeeAnn Banko, Florida PTA: Waiving in support.

Debate

Representative Valdes

Thank you for this very thoughtful bill. I can see the potential of giving a glimmer of hope to help find success and go back to college. I do appreciate this bill and I cannot wait to support it.

Representative Arrington

I think this is a great bill. For someone like me, it could get me into the door and get me to sign up for more classes and I know that is your intent. I appreciate it. Thank you so much.

Closing (Smith)

As a lifelong learner myself, I look at education as a marathon. This free seat program is the first step in that marathon for Floridians to get a college degree.

Outcome

The bill was reported favorably.

HB 7035 – School Safety (LaMarca and Hunschofsky)

In 2018, the Legislature enacted the “Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act” to address school safety and security and establish the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission. The bill improves transparency around school safety and security, addresses student mental health, and clarifies juvenile diversion policies by:

- Requiring district school boards and charter school governing boards to adopt a plan that guides family reunification when K-12 public schools are closed or unexpectedly evacuated due to natural or manmade disasters.
- Creating a parental right in the Florida Education Code to timely notification of school safety and emergency incidents and to access school safety and environmental incident reporting data.
- Revising emergency notification procedures to include specified unlawful acts or significant emergencies.
- Requiring all safe-school officers, not just school resource officers, to complete mental health crisis intervention training.
- Adding school-related data to the annual Baker Act report issued by the Department of Children and Families.
- Strengthening school mental health coordination and implementation by authorizing school districts to enter into contracts or interagency agreements with managing entities for the provision of behavioral health services.
- Requiring the Department of Education to work with the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute to produce an annual report on the availability and effectiveness of mental health services provided under the Mental Health Assistance Allocation.
- Clarifying what acts require a school to refer a student to law enforcement for civil citation or similar prearrest diversion program or assign a student to a school-based intervention program.

The bill reinforces the oversight and sanctioning authority of the Commissioner of Education to oversee school safety and security compliance in the state.

Q&A

None.

Amendment #811271 (LaMarca)

This amendment clarifies the school district responsibilities for school safety and expands a parent's right to information about incidents that happen on school on the school campus. The amendment requires threat assessment teams to provide parental notification consistent with the best practices of the office of safe schools model behavior threat policies and best practices for K-12 schools. It replaces the term active shooter with active assailant to require emergency notification and staff and student training for situations in which the perpetrator may use a weapon other than a gun, such as a knife or a bat. It requires school districts to coordinate with the local governments as well as law enforcement when adopting a family reunification plan. It requires the composition of threat assessment teams that reflect the demographic make-up of students at the respective school.

Outcome

The amendment was adopted without objection.

Appearance Forms on the Bill as Amended

Natalie Kelly, Florida Association of Managing Entities: Waiving in support.

Rita Wilkins Lincoln, Florida PTA: Waiving in support.

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

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

Debate on the Bill as Amended

Representative Arrington

Thank you for the amendment and making this bill even better. Thank you for working with the Representatives, stakeholders, and the folks that have first-hand experience. I think that first-hand experience really helps us to understand.

Chair Latvala

Like many people, I remember exactly where I was on February 14, 2018 around 3 o'clock and that was sitting on the House floor next to then Representative Jake Rayburn when we heard about the tragedy that was unfolding in Parkland. Since then, I have met a number of the parents of kids that died that day. They are people that, frankly, I never should have met. They never should have become activists. Their lives never should have changed. They kissed their kids goodbye one morning and they never saw them again because a madman opened fire at their school and killed their kids. The least that we can do is try to make our schools safer and make our kids safer. During that process, I met the Parkland mayor. I am now honored to call her a colleague. Another one of our colleagues is a graduate of that high school (Rep Dailey). This bill is a team effort. I also want to recognize the hard work of one of our lawyers (Jen Gihutson). Lastly, as of right now there is no school safety bill in the Senate. Hopefully that will change, because this is something that we can improve upon every year. My hope is that this year we pass this bill and next year we make it even better. I am reminded when I look at my wrists, one of my friends who is one of the activists (was a parent) and he is working tirelessly to pass this bill.

Closing on the Bill as Amended (LaMarca and Hunschofsky)

LaMarca: As you know, coming from a place like Broward County and coming to Tallahassee in this legislature, the politics are a little different, but ultimately when we are faced with issues like this, we come together. That is why I am happy to support these issues.

Hunschofsky: Every step is a step toward making our schools safer. I want to thank Chair Latvala for his commitment to school safety. You have been an ally and an advocate. I know how much it means to the families that lost their loved ones. School safety is something we will need to continue to work toward. I think it is great that we are working to take in all the different perspectives and experiences. One of the most important things in this bill is the mental health aspect. We are making sure the mental health issues are addressed, not just during the school year, but also during the calendar year and making sure it is done in a meaningful way. I want to thank everyone in the committees for their commitment to school safety.

Outcome

The bill (as amended) was reported favorably.

PCS for HB 1261 – Higher Education (Toledo)

The bill contains several provisions relating to and impacting higher education, such as COVID-19 liability protection for educational institutions, state university system institution tuition and fee waivers, and tuition assistance program metrics.

The bill provides liability protections for educational institutions for actions related to the COVID-19 pandemic and provides that these liability protections apply retroactively to causes of actions accruing on or after March 1, 2020, the date of the declaration of the COVID-19 public health emergency by the State Surgeon General, and apply prospectively to causes of action that accrue before the end of the academic term during which the emergency declaration expires or is terminated.

However, the bill specifies that the liability protections do not apply in a civil action against a particular named defendant which is commenced before the provision's effective date.

To provide an incentive to students to enroll in, and graduate from, state university baccalaureate degree programs linked to in-demand occupations, the bill provides a 'buy one, get one free' tuition and fee waiver on upper-level courses in a program of strategic emphasis as identified by the Board of Governors (BOG). In doing so, the bill lowers tuition costs for students and assists the BOG's efforts to align degree programs to meet the state's economic and workforce needs. A student receiving Bright Futures will receive a disbursement for the tuition and fees waived that is equal to his or her award amount. A Florida Academic Scholar will receive 100 percent of the amount of the tuition and course fees waived. A Florida Medallion Scholar will receive 75 percent. A state university is eligible to earn incentive funding, subject to appropriation, based on the number and value of waivers it grants pursuant to the bill's provisions. The bill specifies this funding would be in addition to Performance-based Funding Incentive.

To attract talented out-of-state students, the bill provides an out-of-state fee waiver for top-performing, out-of-state high school graduates who have a grandparent that is a Florida resident.

The bill also provides minimum performance standards for institutions to be eligible to participate in the Effective Access to Student Education tuition assistance program.

Q&A

Representative Fine

Q: As it relates to the in-state tuition if you have a grandparent in Florida, oftentimes a grandchild may not have the same name as the grandparents. How are we going to make sure that we verify that the student really does have grandparents here? How are we going to protect against fraud?

A: I do believe that grandparents has not been defined in statute. That is something that I look forward to looking into and seeing if we can narrow down that definition to make sure there is no fraud.

Q: Let's imagine I have two parents and they each have parents. But let's imagine that my parents got divorced and married someone else with parents. Let's say I consider them my grandparents despite not being related by blood. Under this bill, could they be considered as my grandparents?

A: It is my understanding that a person can only have four biological grandparents. So, the answer is a biological grandparent is a biological grandparent.

Representative LaMarca

Q: In your bill, what are the specific changes? I know you talked about analysis and annual review. Can you tell us a little bit more about that and what has changed from years past? What type of students get these?

A: In the past, you were eligible to receive \$2800 in tuition assistance in the 34 programs. That did not have any performance metrics. We are adding these performance metrics and you would have to meet three out of the five (test scores, Pell, Bright Futures, and other state aid; retention rates, graduation rates, transfer rates, and graduate employment rate; and earnings).

Q: Can you tell us more about if this is evenly spread across the spectrum? How is that being administered? Is there a heavy concentration for a specific type of institution?

A: My understanding is that every student can apply for that and it depends on what college they choose.

Ranking Member Williams

Q: In the past, they have fought for grandparent rights and that has not been granted. In this bill, you identify them as grandparents for the purpose of them receiving benefits. Why are we using this now at this particular time for us to be able to receive the benefits? What was the loophole and how can we continue to use it?

A: I would love to work on that with you. The reason for this bill is because we have so many grandparents paying into our taxes right now. We want their brightest biological grandchildren to come to school here.

Representative Hunschofsky

Q: Will this increase the percentage of out-of-state students in the Florida university system?

A: That is correct. No, it will not increase in-state tuition.

Appearance Forms on the Bill

Amanda Praetor, Opportunity Solutions Project: Waiving in support.

Bob Boyd, Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida: We have some concerns (starting on line 219) about the EASE metrics in this bill. If these metrics are applied, 13,000 students will lose their award now. This will disqualify 12 of the 30 ICUF institutions from awarding EASE. There are ramifications immediately on these students. Sixty-three percent of the students losing this access grant are minorities, seventy-eight percent of these students go to ICUF faith-based institutions. This is money being taken away from students now when they are already struggling financially. This also applies retroactively. It uses data from 2018 to disqualify students today. Why not use today's data? This is simply balancing the budget. These metrics punish students for their choices/proximity to a school. We do not do the same in K-12. These metrics are detrimental to Florida's workforce. ICUF schools are economic anchors. The ICUF schools are licensed based on their eligibility to award EASE. This will add more costs and bureaucracy. Please consider making this metrics prospective.

JaMecia Windom, St. Thomas University: I am speaking against the proposed committee substitute that places metrics on Florida schools. (Repeated almost everything Bob Boyd stated). Our students choose our schools because we are smaller. They need to be able to choose schools that meet their needs. We give students the tools they need so that they can get jobs when they graduate and provide for their families. I ask you not to deny our students access or to choose their own institutions. This would alter their futures in a negative way.

Michelle Paige, Keiser University: I am a current recipient of the EASE grant. I am also a mother of four. I am a hardworking mother and I also take care of my sick mother. Had it not been for the EASE grant or programs like this, I would not be able to continue my education and further my dream of becoming a nurse. Please reconsider the reconstruction of the EASE program so that people who would not be qualified will continue to be qualified so they can fulfill their dream as well.

Wensesmont Montluis, Keiser University: I am currently serving in the United States Navy as a hospital corpsman. I am also a nursing student in my last semester. I want to start out by thanking you for the funding of the EASE grant. It has allowed me and thousands of other students to select and attend universities of our choosing to meet our educational needs. I work at TMH in the heart and vascular department. Without this EASE grant, I would not have been able to work the number of hours that I do. I am sure countless other students are in the same position with this grant. I am asking you to please continue to fund this grant and reconsider removing or reducing any costs. Doing so will negatively impact countless students who rely on this grant.

Arthur Keiser, Keiser University: We are the largest independent nonprofit university in the state. We offer everything from Associate to Doctorate degrees. We are number eleven in the country and number one in Florida for upward mobility for our students. We are ranked by Money Magazine as the eighth best cost institution in the state of Florida. I cannot speak in favor or against the entire bill because it is complex. We support the beginning of the bill. The pandemic is a difficult and serious problems. We are okay with the out-of-state student portion if you are not taking away from in-state students. We were not asked about the metrics being presented. Keiser meets four out of five of the metrics presented. The ICUF institutions are very diverse. It is important for the committee to realize that the metrics are based on state universities, which have very different metrics from small and independent institutions.

Belinda Keiser, Keiser University: I am one of ten vice chancellors with Keiser Universities. We serve 20,000 students and we have 4,000 team members. You want to know if, based on these metrics, will it affect Keiser University? If you look at the intent of the statute, it was access and choice. Communities across Florida rely on these ICUF schools. All ICUF institutions have to provide these metrics, and they have for many years. We have a rich history in the state of Florida. Yes, there is COVID. There are 24 nursing programs in the ICUF system. Keiser produces roughly 1,200 nurses per year. We have been on the frontline to serve Floridians. That, in my book, is a high level of accountability. We are a diverse group of schools. We do believe in accountability. We are market-driven, independent, and private. I know that ICUF schools will continue to be critical. I speak against this PCS because the metrics portion of this needs significant work. I cannot see people get locked out of this program. I am a proud Floridian. I ask you to reconsider. Together we can build a brighter future.

Matamron Bacen: I was born and raised in Florida. I am a senior at St. Thomas University where I double major in Political Science and English Literature. I proudly serve as the university student government president. I have been given the opportunity to engage in the community while serving in this position. I served as a research assistant. I have created policy proposals (for you guys, of course). As of November 2020, I secured post-graduate employment within the operations management sector capacity at a large corporation in Florida. I say all these things with a genuine sense of gratitude. As a high school senior, I did not picture myself attending college. My parents (and many others) wanted the best for me, but they just could not afford to pay for my education. I fell in love with St. Thomas University. After collecting as many scholarships as possible and working full time throughout my studies, EASE became the equalizer that made my experience at STU possible. For that, I thank you. You helped me ensure my story was one of hope. My presence here is proof that the system is working currently. Please reconsider stripping this grant away from 46,000 students. They also deserve to have a pleasant story.

Sandy Harris, Nova Southeastern University: I am here to talk about the COVID liability portion of the bill. Nine private colleges are facing class action lawsuits because of actions we took last spring to move to online learning. These were difficult decisions, but we had to make them. We would have been faced with lawsuits no matter what we did. We have two lawsuits and would appreciate your support on this issue.

Rita Wilkins Lincoln, Florida PTA: (Was not clear which way she waived).

Debate on the Bill

Representative Hunschofsky

My main concern is on the funding portion for our current in-state students and all of our students. The difference between in state and out-of-state tuition per credit hour \$505.55. If you bring that up to 120 credit hours, it is over \$60,000. If you are bringing in students who have capped out in the incoming credits (45 credit hours), they would still have 75 credit hours to do. The difference is over \$37,000. For example, at FSU if you had 20% of the out-of-state students taking advantage of that, it

could be as high as \$25 million. My concern is about what is going to be the financial impact on the universities, but it is also about the education the students would be receiving. I wouldn't want to see that quality decline. I want to make sure there is enough funding to maintain quality.

Ranking Member Williams

One of the reasons I am against the bill is because of the funding. My second concern right now is about the grandparents. I think, in this bill right now, we use the grandparents as an ATM machine. I think in a child's life, a grandparent needs to be much more than an ATM machine. We have fought countless years for grandparents' rights. This gives the grandparents only the right to be an ATM. I think we need to rethink their roles.

Representative Fine

I want to focus on the topics of grandparents and the EASE grant. I love the grandparents idea because we want smart kids to come to our state. It is not just any out-of-state student---they have to be in the 89th percentile or higher on the SAT. It is attracting the best and the brightest from around the country. I do have that concern about non-grandparents becoming ATMs and making sure that as you take the bill forward, I think you really need to buckle down on the fraud issue, because I think it will be a big issue if we don't sort it out. As it relates to EASE, you are on year three of a multi-year journey. To get an EASE grant today you have to meet three criteria (alive, Floridian, accepted to a school). That is it. For three years we have been focused on creating some criteria. We should trust the institutions to identify whether or not students will qualify based on the metrics. I am a huge fan of Keiser University and they stood up here and testified, but they would qualify under these metrics. They are not hurt in any way. This grant is a fixed pot of money. We set aside a certain amount of money for every year. It is not an entitlement. If fewer schools qualify, the dollar amounts of the grants can actually go up. This does not have to be a program about cutting people out. ICUF does not want a standard, because I tried to get one for two years. Hopefully as this bill moves forward in the process, those discussions will happen. The taxpayers should have some standards and should know where their money is going.

Representative Bush

I do have some concerns, especially about the grandparent portion of the bill as well as the EASE grant program, which was established in 1979. When I listened to the young man who spoke from St. Thomas University, and I am a Representative of that university he attends as well as another HBCU school in my district. I just have some concerns as the bill moves forward. I would hope that we would take into consideration some of the issues that were brought up. The 13,000 students that the EASE program serves are predominantly kids of color. I know how difficult it is for parents in those communities to assist with the cost of higher education. Most of them are single head household. Now, they also have to deal with COVID and certainly the high level of violence that exists within these communities. Many students are sent to these HBCUs to give them a better way of life. As this bill moves forward, I would hope that we take all of that into consideration. These students need these dollars. I look at the students in my districts and there is a significant need. Having access for these students is very key.

Representative Mariano

I just want to talk about a couple of things about the bill that have not been discussed. First, that is the scholarship, which is a great tool for our students. We need to make sure we are incentivizing our students to go into in-demand fields so, if they are taking out debt, they know they are going to have a high paying job on the other side. I really applaud your efforts on that. On the second piece (grandparents aspect) we hear about worrying about fraud, but at the end of the day, we have a really great process in place for students that have to claim residency to get in state tuition. The universities would be able to replicate this in the same way for the grandparents. I don't think that would be a problem. Finally, I would like to think that I am probably one of the strongest advocates for the EASE grants. I think it is a great program. I think it is consistent to what we do with K-12, to have higher education choice in education. So, when we are putting these metrics on these institutions,

this is to protect our students and to make sure they know that the degree they are getting will be worth something when they come out. I think the metrics may need some tweaking moving forward, but I think it is important to make sure there is some type of standard to ensure these schools are held accountable. I encourage you all to support this bill.

Representative Maney

I do want to make a few quick comments on the grandparent provision which seems to have drawn some concern. I think this bill demonstrates a commitment to families in that grandchildren can be closer to their grandparents. I think it demonstrates an opportunity for out-of-state students who are high performers to come to the state of Florida and join our workforce after getting educated, and it allows them to come here when they might not have otherwise been able to afford it because they are paying in state tuition. It does not cost in state students/parents any more money, because the Board of Governors already caps the percent of out-of-state students to 10 percent and we're only using 9 percent of those. It'll make the pool of students more competitive. It will not in any way disadvantage in state students and I think you've done a wonderful job bringing this bill forward. Thank you.

Representative Valdes

I'm concerned about the EASE aspect of the bill and let me preface this by saying that I do believe in metrics. I believe that metrics are very important for the sustainability of universities for one to be able to meet benchmarks. My suggestion would be that, as we heard that maybe potentially about 13,000 students would be affected by this immediately, if we were to just pass this bill as it is as we work with these institutions to be able to come up with viable metrics and things that would be beneficial for both parties. A suggestion might be to grandfather these students currently there, because they are counting on these dollars. I look at it from the perspective of equity and understanding how many students may benefit just from that (whatever that amount is maybe \$1500 or \$2000) to help them with the cost. I think that that would be something that is worthwhile exploring and when it comes to the floor, I would like to see if we can work together to try and see about potentially grandfathering these students. Then I would most definitely be in supportive of the bill at that point. We would have to hold institutions accountable and we're just not an ATM. I'll be willing to work with you on that and hopefully when the bill comes to the floor it will have that provision in it so that we can help safeguard these students that are currently involved. Those \$1500 might make a difference in them being able to finish their degree. So, hopefully we can work on that together and go from there.

Closing on the Bill (Toledo)

As this bill moves forward, I would love to continue that conversation. This bill is not about hurting students; this is about empowering students; this is about guiding students and families. It was concerning to me to hear the ICU schools complaining about metrics. I come from a low income family, a minority family with a single mom and it would have been unfortunate if they would have preyed on someone like me to go be accepted into these schools just so that they could receive the \$2800. Now the \$2800 is just a percentage. Most of these schools cost \$30,000; that's the average. Where are they getting the other money? If you're low income, you have to either borrow that money from somewhere else, and we have a \$90 billion student debt, that's what we have to address in this. So, providing these metrics is very important to our students and our families to make sure that their students are getting an education so that they can get a job and provide for their families, not so that they can check something off a box. This bill is about empowering students and families. The Hilo scholarship is an additional tool that parents and families can use if you can't qualify for Bright Futures. There's another option and this option will lead you in a path to get a high paying job in the future. So, I ask for your favorable support and I'll be willing to work with any member in the future. Thank you.

Outcome

The bill was reported favorably.

CS/HB 1475 – Sex-specific Student Athlete Teams or Sports (Tuck)

This bill is designed to protect the integrity of competitive sports and to ensure that women and girls do not become silent spectators. American sprinter Allyson Felix is the fastest woman in the world; she has more gold medals than you Usain Bolt, but yet her personal best in the 400 meters can be beaten by hundreds of high school boys. Why is this the case? There are inherent biological differences between men and women. The fairness in Woman Sports Act supports women and girls by ensuring they have the same opportunities as men and boys to showcase their skills, strength, and other athletic abilities. In doing so, the act requires public schools' athletic teams at the K12 and collegiate levels to be designated based on biological sex. 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 government entities, educational institutions, and other entities that may receive a complaint relating to the act's requirements. The act provides a cause of action for any student who is deprived of an athletic opportunity for direct or indirect harm or faces retaliation in connection with the violation of the act's provisions. It's important to remember this act is pro women and pro girls and acknowledges the biological differences between men and women. Men generally have denser, stronger bones, tendons, and ligaments, larger hearts, greater lung capacity, higher red blood cell count, and higher hemoglobin. These and other biological differences give men an athletic advantage. If we allow biological males to compete in athletic events against biological females, we may never see another Allyson Felix again. We are already seeing it at the high school level. In Connecticut, two biological males who identify as female won 15 high school track and field championships between 2017 and 2019. In 2016, nine different biological females held those same state titles. The opportunities and rewards women have gained through sports have taught them leadership, hard work, being a part of the team—those could all vanish. The very purpose of Title 9 was to increase the athletic opportunities afforded to women and girls. They could participate in and reap the benefits of playing a sport. We have seen the significant increase for the women and girls in sports through Title 9. Now, nearly 50 years after title 9, all the gains women have gained athletically could be wiped away. The Fairness in Women's Sports Act is intended to make sure that doesn't happen.

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 Arrington

Q: I wanted to ask you about the Florida High School Athletic Association and the NCAA. They already have existing policies in place for almost a decade for transgender girls to compete fairly with other girls. Why is this policy not already sufficient?

A: The FHSAA and NCAA are both very different policies. NCAA requires that if a biological male wants to participate in a female sport, they must take testosterone suppressants for at least one year. FHSAA has a series of reviews, which is more invasive than the NCAA process. I believe mine strikes a balance and makes sure that women are not competing unfairly against biological men.

Q: Have transgender girls/women ever competed against other women and won an NCAA division one competition or in the Olympics?

A: We have reached out to them a couple of times, but never received a response from them. In FHSAA there have been eleven transgender athletes who have been through the review process, but they don't have information on whether or not they have competed. They just deal with the eligibility. So, not that we know of.

Q: Have you reached out to transgender girl athletes in Florida about this legislation? Did you discuss it with any transgender groups when drafting?

A: We received emails from both sides. They all have very similar concerns on either side.

Q: Did you sit down with them and discuss those decisions and talk about how it would affect them? Did you incorporate that into your legislation?

A: Not with a transgender athlete specifically.

Q: Has there been any reported instances of transgender girls in Florida in middle school, high school, or college level that have injured another girl?

A: Not that we know of in Florida, but there have been other instances out of state. We want to make sure we are proactive in Florida, so it does not happen here.

Q: Who is allowed to dispute that a girl is eligible to play under the guidelines of this bill?

A: We are not sure about that yet. DOE had the opportunity to decide those rules. I anticipate being very similar to the FHSAA review process, but we are not sure about that until DOE gets those rules.

Q: If the dispute is filed, is the girl immediately ineligible to compete until she proves herself?

A: I don't anticipate it being on a contest by contest basis. I anticipate it being similar to the eligibility where that is considered before the season.

Q: But my understanding from this bill is that anyone can dispute it, so if a girl is already playing and someone disputes it, is she automatically ineligible while she is being investigated?

A: I am not sure at this time. That would not be my intent.

Q: Who is responsible for the cost of the physical should a transgender be accused?

A: I anticipate it being the parents who pay for the sports physical. One of the criteria is the physical anatomy, which is part of the normal sports physical.

Q: Have you had a sports physical recently?

A: No, not recently.

Q: It has been a long time for me too, but when they did my sports physical, they did not inspect my anatomy down there.

Q: I just want to follow up on when we discussed transgender athletes injuring students in another state. Was it physical injury you were speaking of?

A: Not physical injury. We have a couple of examples. One is from Connecticut and one is from New Hampshire of transgender athletes who have taken away championships from other biological females.

Ranking Member Williams

Q: Who will pay for the physical?

A: Similar to what I told Representative Arrington, I anticipate the parents paying for it like they would any other sports physical.

Q: If the bill passes, what happens to students that are already participating in sports? Do you call them up, get a letter, or are they automatically disqualified to participate?

A: Eligibility for sports, in my understanding, is on a year by year basis. The students would continue until eligibility of the following year.

Amendment #629565 (Arrington)

This amendment would allow trans girls who have completed one year of hormone replacement therapy to compete. Additionally, they would need to provide a letter from their doctor attesting to the fact and similar to some of the FHSAA guidelines.

Q&A

None.

Public Testimony

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

John Harris, Equality Florida: Waiving in support.

Ida Escamoni, Florida Rising: Waiving in support.

Outcome

The amendment failed.

Amendment #299997 (Arrington)

We talked a little bit today about the supposed advantage of trans girls including their time on testosterone and experiencing male puberty. This amendment would allow trans girls who have not gone through male puberty, who have started puberty blockers at a younger age, to compete on girls' teams. This is because they would not have the acquired advantages that the bill is claiming they have. Quoting from the NCAA handbook: "transgender girls who medically transition at an early age do not go through puberty and therefore, their participation in athletics as girls does not raise the same equity concerns that arise when transgender women transition after puberty."

Public Testimony

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

John Harris, Equality Florida: Waiving in support.

Ida Escamoni, Florida Rising: Waiving in support.

Outcome

The amendment failed.

Amendment #039179 (Arrington)

Florida is a beautiful state with weather and attractions that people want to visit with their families for conventions, vacations, and a place to hold sporting events and tournaments. Our hospitality industry relies on these events to help generate revenue and we have many scheduled on the calendar with the NCAA and others for the next four years—in fact, 56 for Florida. We want to continue hosting as many of these tournaments and competitions as possible. This amendment would allow trans girls who are traveling to Florida for a sporting event game competition or tournament to compete. The NCAA and other athletic associations have their own rules and guidelines and are more likely to pull their events out of Florida if the state disqualifies their athletes.

Public Testimony

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

John Harris, Equality Florida: Waiving in support.

Ida Escamoni, Florida Rising: Waiving in support.

Outcome

The amendment failed.

Amendment #433787 (Arrington)

Currently, the bill requires someone to dispute that a girl is eligible, then the child or her parents have to prove that she is eligible at her own cost and this could result in children who do not have the means to pay for a physical or any of these other tests being kicked off the team until such time that they could resolve this dispute. This amendment would require the person who filed the dispute to pay up front for the athletic medical appointment and any testing required. If the girl is deemed to be eligible to play, she would be entitled to damages.

Public Testimony

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

John Harris, Equality Florida: Waiving in support.

Ida Escamoni, Florida Rising: Waiving in support.

Outcome

The amendment failed.

Amendment #429907 (Arrington)

This amendment asks that the sports league, school, or athletic association be responsible for paying the medical appointment testing required if the girl is challenged. As just discussed, the student would be in charge of this cost or her parents and I do not think that's fair to do the child. So, this would put this on the sports league, school, or athletic association to be responsible for paying for the appointment.

Public Testimony

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

John Harris, Equality Florida: Waiving in support.

Ida Escamoni, Florida Rising: Waiving in support.

Outcome

The amendment failed.

Amendment #098867 (Arrington)

This amendment would forbid the state of Florida from spending any public funds on legal defense to certain legal or constitutional challenges to the bill. I'm sure most of you received the letter from the Department of Justice saying that this would be unconstitutional. My amendment would disallow the use of public funds to be spent defending this bill against any constitutional challenge for any challenge brought under title nine of the education amendments 1972 20 USC 16 X or any other provision of the federal law.

Public Testimony

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

John Harris, Equality Florida: Waiving in support.

Ida Escamoni, Florida Rising: Waiving in support.

Outcome

The amendment failed.

Appearance Forms on the Bill

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

Ida Escamoni, Florida Rising: Waiving in opposition.

David Poole, AIDs Healthcare Foundation: Waiving in opposition.

Barbara Devein, Florida National Organization for Women: Waiving in opposition.

Armando Pomar, Hispanic American Diabetes Foundation: (Not stated).

Anthony Bardugo, Christian Family Coalition of Florida: We are the state's largest human rights organization and we strongly support HB 1475 and it's very simple. Please follow the science; follow the biology. A yes vote is a vote for fairness and a vote for equal rights for women and women's sports. Right now, title 9 is under assault and so is women sports and we see it all across this country and they are the ones that are most vulnerable. What I hear about in all of these debates that we have is that under the guise of discrimination young women are being denied their chance at winning titles, at winning races, at really working so hard at their craft for so many years and then having a young man come posing as a girl and saying they want to compete, whether it's track and field or whether it's wrestling. We have an example of an MMA fighter Erica Newsome in Coral Gables. She had to fight a man who claimed to be a woman. She lost she was knocked unconscious. She's never fought again. Where are her rights? We are going to talk about this discrimination and tolerance, tolerance is a two-way street and we don't have absolute rights in this country. What we have is a balance of rights and that needs to include young girls and young women that are competing. That's just being fair; that's not discrimination; that is being fair and that is being just. Please do the right thing. Thank you for allowing me to speak and vote yes on HB 1475.

Ash Soto: I use they/them pronouns. I am an instrumental music education major and the College of Music Senator at Florida State University. I am here to speak against HB 1475. This bill dehumanizes the lives of transgender individuals as they make doctors check what's in our pants in order to partake in athletics. Representatives, have you spoken to your LGBTQ+ colleagues about this bill? Last time I checked, they emailed me back and told me that they are going to be in opposition of this bill, so I'm going to assume that you didn't talk to them. To be frank with you all, it costs tens of thousands of dollars to fully transition with insurance along with more money for name changes on documents. If that still isn't enough for you to remove this bill completely, as a nonbinary student I've been targeted and, in some cases, attacked for several things including being targeted about my own identity both in person and on social media. How can you say that you're fighting for your constituents when the community that is being affected is constantly emailing you and showing up to committee to speak in opposition? Your constituents don't deal with this because they want to be accepted without any judgment. With that being said, I'll end with this quote: "If you don't have to constantly fight for your rights or your people, then consider yourself privileged." I urge you to vote no on this bill. Thank you.

Caitlyn Lily: I'm here to ask you to vote no on house bill 1475. This bill is not about sports; it's about marginalizing and demonizing the transgender community in all aspects of life. This is an overt, coordinated multi-state attack on our community in all aspects of life. This is an attack on the state's most vulnerable young people. It is important that we affirm and empower transgender young people, not use them as political pawns. This is a community of youth who are already facing discrimination, bigotry, and violence at higher rates than their peers. Trans youth are the most likely to be bullied and marginalized because they are the most likely to be misunderstood. Our focus should be on protecting them and providing them with the support they need to thrive—not attacking them. We don't need Florida legislatures to be the worst bullies of all.

Amara Corbit: I'm here today to ask you to vote no on HB 1475. We are at a critical moment in education. With the impact that COVID-19 has had on learning, students are at a vulnerable moment right now with many having had major interruptions in their academics, extracurricular, and social activities. We do not need further barriers for community and participation placed on them by legislators, especially if we work to rebuild the community over the next year. Targeting young trans people right now is incredibly cruel. Our elected leaders should be fostering a culture of exclusivity in schools not attempting to legislate marginalized communities out of crucial social interactions. A blanket ban on transgender athletics is dangerous, callous, and threatens to isolate a group of people young people who need more support—not less.

PG Schafer, Florida Citizens Alliance: I am here on behalf of Florida Citizens Alliance and we have more than 110,000 active supporters. We strongly support the science that there are two biological genders and therefore support the fundamental concept that competition in sports should be limited to one's biological sex. We are a little concerned that the bill uses a test for testosterone to determine eligibility and would prefer for eligibility to be based on a DNA test, which is unambiguous. We strongly support this bill and we urge you to vote yes on it. I am volunteer high school coach's wife and the mom of a varsity athlete when she was in high school. She was not the strongest player on the team, but she had a spot on a varsity team playing volleyball. Someone bigger and stronger because they have an advantage scientifically and biologically because they are male she would not have gotten a spot on her team. My husband has been volunteering at a high school in Ocala for more than a decade and he strongly supports this bill and opposes males being allowed to compete in the women's sports. We worked very hard for Title 9 for many years. We finally got there so why are we kicking it to the curb? (She was cut off).

Terry Kemple, Protect Our Children Project: We communicate with about 8,000 people here in Florida, about 5,000 of them are pastors. All of those people in the congregations are interested in this issue and interested in what you do. I can't imagine that any of you are science deniers. If a person says the earth is flat, that person is a science denier. No matter how strongly or sincerely that person believes that the earth is flat, the earth is round, that's science. In the same way, science says there are two biological sexes: male and female. If a male says he's a female, he's a science denier and he has a mental condition known as gender dysphoria. No matter how sincerely he believes he's a girl, he's a boy. No amount of hormones or surgery can change that scientific fact. Letting him compete in girls' athletic competitions is patently unfair and it conflicts with the intent of title 9. Regardless of the level of testosterone, the physiological difference between girls' bodies and boys' bodies gives him an advantage in the competition.

Daniel Wink: I'm the father of two daughters who played high school and collegiate athletics. I am also retired teacher and a girls' high school and club volleyball coach from western Pennsylvania originally. I've also volunteered as a club coach in Florida since moving here in 2004. Edith Green, the mother of title 9 believed that history teaches valuable lessons. Her favorite saying was the trouble with the next generation is that they haven't read the minutes of the last meeting. I want to share four real quick stories short stories about some athletes that I've had. The first story I want to share is that pointing to the dangers when allowing boys to participate in girls' sports. In 1996, this is before girls had to avoid boys that claimed to be girls. We had a 6.4 center on the boys' basketball team who had a 39-inch vertical jump 11/5 and he decided that he wanted to come out for the girls' team. To show perspective on those steps, his vertical touch was 4 feet above the ground, effectively being able to punt the ball directly downward at 80 mph. This could seriously hurt most high school girls. My tallest girls were 5'10" with a vertical of plus or minus 20 inches. They could touch about 9 feet and my average girl touched about plus or minus 8 feet and the basketball coach and myself, we off the record talked with Max and explained to him why he should reconsider. Fortunately, he did. (There was a lot of arguing about his time being up and he eventually was cut off).

Nancy Clemmons: I am a resident of Tallahassee. I'm asking you to vote no on HB 1475. As many of the other speakers today have mentioned, this bill is callous and it's violent. Black and Brown trans women are being murdered at an alarming rate in Florida. Studies show that when bills like this are proposed and passed that rates of attempted suicide rise significantly among trans youth. We know stigmatizing trans people increases violence for trans people and we know that this violence impacts the most marginalized of the trans community: trans Black women. Acceptance and support for trans members of our community is a matter of life and death. I ask that you work to make our community safer for trans people. I ask you to vote no on this violent legislation. I would just like to say as a nurse, the science that some other people have claimed is not factual. I notice that nobody here is talking about trans men at all; it's all about trans women and the unfairness and that's misogyny. Sure, women and men have different bodies, but not every person is an athlete so the blanket stereotype that men are stronger than women is inaccurate and false.

Ray Myers: (Did not state which way he waived.)

Emily Richardson: I'm asking you to vote no on HB 1425. The notion of trans girls having an unfair advantage comes from the idea that testosterone causes physical changes such as an increase in muscle mass, but trans girls are not the only girls with high testosterone levels. An estimated 10% of women have polycystic ovarian syndrome which results in elevated testosterone levels, yet these women are not being banned from women's sports. An expert on testosterone and bioethics at Yale University explains that studies of testosterone levels in athletes don't show any clear or consistent relationship between testosterone and athletic performance. Sometimes testosterone is associated with their performance, but other studies show weak or no links. This bill lacks scientific validity. Claiming that transgender girls have an unfair advantage in sports neglects the fact that these kids have been marginalized and oppressed in so many ways. They suffer from higher rates of bullying, anxiety, and depression, all of which make it more difficult for them to train and compete. They have higher rates of homelessness and poverty because of their common experiences with family rejection. This is a likely a major driver of why we see so few transgender athletes included in sports and none in Olympics. This bill will do nothing but further marginalize trans children. Please vote no on this terrible bill.

Chloe Ilkess: I'm here today to oppose House Bill 1475. Just so you know, by the way, my shirt is inside out because apparently in pride and protests with the tiny rainbow flag is far too offensive for this committee, but somehow the extremely transphobic rhetoric that we've heard today is not. Anyway, I just wanted to clear some things up. I'm a sociology major here at FSU. One of the many things that I've learned is that not only is gender socially constructed but sex is also socially constructed. Both biologists and sociologists agree on this. The actual science does not back this bill in the slightest. If you would look it up and do any research, then you would know that. One of the things about this bill that frustrates me the most is how adamantly this bill assures us that this isn't about discrimination, when you use explicitly transphobic language and use a bill that specifically targets trans girls. You can't say this bill isn't intended to discriminate. As a nonbinary lesbian, you could say I've had my fair share of experiences with discrimination. I can confidently say that I'm honestly ashamed of the representatives who are using their platform to bully an already extremely marginalized population. This is a non-issue; you know that already. Please vote no.

Linette Annly: (Did not specify which way she waived.)

Gerald Busten: I'm a Christian missionary and pastor. I went among the people of New Guinea when it was Stone Age. For 25 years living among those people and learning their language and their culture and I can tell you there was not one transgender or messed up gender person among those primitive people. Why? Because God made us male and female. They recognize that, accepted it, and it wasn't until more recent years that we've been having this discussion because this is under an agenda to try to change the whole culture of this country. I strongly support this bill. I believe that we need to go back in America through the Bible that was the foundation of our country and if you want to check it out, it was the most referenced book in all of our foundation documents and it was from that book that we got the nation that we had. We hold these truths to be self-evident that all are created equal and are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights--we're trying to decide some different rights besides what our creator gave us. We've been teaching our public schools that there is no such thing as a creator and that we are evolving animals and, as such, we can evolve into whatever we want to evolve into. Our founding document says that God made us male and female and I strongly urge you to support this bill.

Shirley Temple: (Did not specify which way she waived.)

Abigail Loughlin: I'm a voter from Okaloosa County and as a former or varsity high school athlete, I am testifying in opposition to House Bill 1475. This bill is titled Fairness in Women's Sports Act when it really should be called "banning trans woman

from sports.” This bill does nothing to further fairness of woman sports, because if it did, it would be advocating for equal pay and instructor adherence to title 9, which includes trans women. I'm quite honestly offended that the claim of protecting women is being used to exclude transgender individuals when there are bigger issues at stake when it comes to equity for women. For years, athletic associations already have adequate regulations in place for transgender athletes that acknowledge that gender is not simply what is in one's pants, so why are we imposing elite level standards on kids? This bill has no merit as it attempts to solve a problem that simply does not exist. It simplifies biology. Transgender youth are already at a higher risk for suicide and various mental health conditions, not because there's something wrong with them, but because they do not have equal access to affirming healthcare. In reality, discrimination among transgender individuals is so prevalent but these kids often have to choose survival over playing sports. A man does not simply wake up and decide to compete on the women's team. That's not how being transgender works. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommend “that forcing transgendered children to play on teams according to their sex assigned at birth, rather than the gender they live in, also puts their physical and mental health at risk.” Transgender women are women and transgender kids are still kids. Some claim that the bill reflects values but, Representatives, imposing one's values that ignore the science of wellbeing of others upon the entire state is not admirable; it is discrimination. Your failure to amend the bill acknowledges that you do not care about complex biology and those who are intersex. It just acknowledges that you are transphobic. You cannot advocate for equality for while simultaneously excluding another. Well intentioned or not, the precedent this bill will set is dangerous. Please vote no.

Anna Philcowsky: (Did not specify which way she waived.)

Lauren Brinsol: I want to thank you for having us here today. I also want to shout out the trans folks that are in the audience today who have spoken up and have faced some active misgendering and hate from folks in the room. I look forward to committee debate further that does not fall into that same pitfall. There are 28 other states where we're seeing legislation like this. What's not clear is why we're pushing this legislation. We know that this legislation is going to have a negative impact on our economy in this state and this is going to have a negative impact on our economy during a time when we need to be encouraging tourism in our state. This bill is going to lead to over 55 major corporations boycotting moving industry into the state and that includes Amazon, American Airlines, AT&T, Airbnb, Google, Ikea, Microsoft, Nike, PayPal, Uber, and Verizon. Those are pretty big companies that we could be losing industry from. Additionally, the NCAA has stated that they will boycott states like for that for future tournaments if legislation like this is passed. We're not in a position to give up opportunity and enterprise in this state right now. We rely on tourism and need to rebuild our economy. I asked you if you cannot vote against this legislation in the interest of protecting trans lives, that you do it because it's not good for Florida's economy.

Nancy Formanzono: Thank you for allowing us to come and speak. We've heard a lot of different testimony thus far but a couple of the items that we haven't heard about are the complications that result in the teams traveling. You have restrooms, locker rooms, shower situations, overnight trips to tournaments, or games that would really complicate a lot of things. Earlier we heard that there were no injuries when in fact, a mixed martial arts boxer was hit so hard in the face at one of her competitions that she suffered orbital fracture to face, requiring 7 staples to put her skull and her face back together. We know biologically that men differ from women. Boys are different than girls. There isn't much more to say. I just would ask that you would think about all the implications. This is a very slippery slope that we are about to enter, and God only knows where it would end up. I'm here to please ask you to support this bill and protect our children and their safety.

Marsha Jewel: I'm a Christian and I am absolutely in favor of this bill. This is only addressing the transgender men being allowed to play with the women. It's not a problem the other way around. Men have no problem with women that have transitioned into men, because it's a more level playing field. Whereas men are biologically stronger, they have more muscle mass and God created this. This manipulation of the science does not overrule God. God created science; men did not. Also, where is the voice for women's rights? What happened to the women that used to stand up so radically for women's rights?

Where are those women today? Why are they not speaking out against this? Also, this is not targeting transgendered people. I don't understand transgender... (Chair asked her to wrap it up). I am absolutely in favor of HB 1475 and I implore everyone to go with it.

Ruth Philamazare: (Did not specific which way she waived.)

Paul Erins: I am a physician. My practices included transgender individuals and I am unequivocally opposed to House bill 1475 and its Senate version. As a scientist I want to represent science accurately. Young transgender subjects of HB 1475 have a scientifically validated female gender identity. This bill is an assault on their personhood. Second, as you heard earlier, transgender youth often medically delay puberty through hormone blockers. They are also used in male to female transitions so there is no increase in muscle mass or other physical advantage. Thus, the criteria in HB 1475 are not relevant. Third, sufficient guidelines are already in place from the Florida High School Athletic Association and the NCAA. Bill 1475 would needlessly deprive transgender young women of the benefits of gender appropriate school sports and would keep their cisgender peers from fully knowing and appreciating them as teammates. House bill 1475 disregards scientific and medical facts. I urge you step back from the brink, gather more information if you don't already see the error of this bill especially without Representative Arrington's amendments that could have added some fairness to it. Please vote no.

John Harris Mower: Equality Florida strongly opposes this bill. Members, it feels like we've been talking past each other for the past several weeks, but I want to say at the outset that we can agree there are differences between males and females, but we also have to be intellectually honest about this bill. It doesn't claim to be about whether there are differences; it claims to be about whether there are differences that impact fairness or competition and that is where this bill fails. It fails because it misunderstands biology and clearly fails to address an alleged issue which FHSAA and NCAA policy clearly already addressed and have solved with 0 problems. This bill creates new problems. You just voted down 2 amendments that would have addressed biological differences that could impact competitiveness, so clearly that is not the goal here. This legislature is poised to pass in 2021 the first law intended to categorically discriminate against the LGBTQ community in Florida in 23 years. It is among the worst in Florida's history and certainly the worst attack we've seen on the transgender community. We know that this is part of a nationally coordinated attack on transgender kids because it's a cheap and easy political target. I'll remind you that no one is saying there aren't differences. We are saying that bill doesn't address them, and that existing policy already does, so let's be intellectually honest about what's left of this bill. It's political pandering. Don't fool yourselves that you're protecting girls when you're really protecting your political career. You're not fooling us and you're not fooling those girls. Please vote no.

Rita Wilkins Lincoln: Waiving in opposition.

Cynthia Checkley, Christian Family Coalition: Waiving in support.

Scott Gensler: (Did not specify which way he waived.)

Sarah Adams: I am a former high school varsity athlete as well as a constituent of Brevard County. I'm here today to ask you to vote no on this horrible bill. Sports are a fundamental part of young people's lives that help them to develop discipline, commitment, leadership, and teamwork. Sports was a fundamental part of so many of our lives and many of us would not be here today if it wasn't for the bonds we made with coaches and teammates. Young people have so much to gain when they participate in sports with their peers. Transgender youth want to experience a sense of belonging. Our elected leaders should be fostering a culture of inclusivity in our schools, not attempting to legislate marginalized communities out of crucial social interactions. I urge you please vote no on this bill to protect transgender children and all children as well.

Laura Hernandez: Waiving in opposition.

Lahey Love, Florida Coalition for Transgender Liberation: I use they/them pronouns and I'm here today representing the Florida Coalition for Transgender Liberation. We are a statewide coalition of trans-led and allied organizations, faith-based groups, and businesses. We strongly oppose this bill and we'd like to remind you this is the Employment and Education Committee. Florida statute 100.05 E Florida Educational Equity Act section 2A states that discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability, religion, or marital status against a student or an employee in the state system of public K-12 education is prohibited. That no person in the state shall on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability, religion, or marital service be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any public K-12 education system. I'd also like to remind you that Department of Justice just released a statement that title 9 includes gender identity, and that this bill that you are preparing to pass violates not only the Florida constitution but it violates the federal Department of Justice reading of title 9. Our coalition had a press conference last week where the ACLU of Florida put the state of Florida and the Florida legislature on notice that it will be working with us and our trans parents to hold you accountable for the decision that you make here today....(They turned their microphone off).

Brenda Gensler: (Did not specify which way she waived.)

Gilbert Rodriguez, Christian Family Coalition: I am a pastor and a veteran. I wear the uniform police often and an entrepreneur for 23 years and I really appreciate the fact that you guys are sitting here doing a great job on this bill. My brother has a partner of 23 years and he was in my house this week. My sister has a partner of three years. I'm a pastor, so besides the psychological and emotional issues of this topic, I am not you know homophobic. I love my brother and I kiss and hug him, my sister too. This is not about an issue of psychological or emotional. We can't ignore the scientific evidence and the doctor says otherwise, but okay that's his view. Every scientist... I'm sure we could bring a couple doctors here and we're going to have different views. I'm not a doctor but I'm a pastor. I just wanted to say this that you know sports are supposed to give people the opportunity to compete. That's all we're saying. Just give them the opportunity to compete. Give the girls opportunity to compete and not ignore this issue. It doesn't matter what hormone therapy you take. You know, doping is illegal, taking steroids is illegal. So how are we going to do this now? One person has more testosterone than the other option. Why don't we just make it simple? Women with women and men with men. This is competition, it is not psychological not emotional. It is not picking on people—just letting people have fun in sports.

Debate on the Bill

Representative Arrington

Thank you, members, for your time today and for listening to my amendments. I just wanted to cover some things that maybe weren't discussed by some of the speakers today. The fears that boys or men will pretend to be females to compete on a woman's team are unwarranted giving the entire 40-year history of sex verification procedures in international sports competitions. No instances of such fraud have been found. I don't know if anybody's asked a teenage boy or remember when they were a teenage boy, but would any teenage boy go through a transition and block puberty just to give himself a leg up in sports or receive a scholarship? I definitely think that would be a no. I don't know how many have competed in sports or have children that have competed in sports, but I was a competitive dancer growing up and many of you may have seen the show Dance Moms and it really is like that. Moms would demand birth certificates to show proof of age of children competing in their age bracket; this was just over a \$10 trophy, so imagine a state's title or a scholarship. I feel fear for our girls that are going to be humiliated when they are forced to go to a doctor to prove their identity. I'm going to use a quote from the WNBA Minnesota general manager and coach Cheryl Reeve that "transgender exclusion pits women athletes against one another it reinforces the harmful notion that there is only one right way to be a woman and it distracts us from the real threats to women's

sports.” We’ve heard today that there have been no issues with the current policy in schools in Florida since there was no problem stated by the sponsor, but I just want to know why the Florida High School Athletic Association policy is not enough? I’m not sure if my fellow members have read it, but that policy requires a trans girl to affirm her gender identity in a written statement, have documents from family and friends to affirm that the trans girl is living as a girl, a complete list of medications she’s taken, written verification from a doctor, psychiatrist, or psychologist, and she also has to have a hearing by a committee comprised of a doctor, a mental health professional, a school administrator, the athletic director, a coach, and an individual familiar with gender identity and expression issues. I feel that this policy is enough. Currently, this policy exempts private schools who have strong held religious beliefs and it also currently has the cost for the examination split by the school and the athlete requesting permission to play in the Athletic Association. Besides the fact that this legislation is discriminatory and anti-woman, there is no need for it since the FHSA policy I just mentioned has worked for this long. Additionally, it will be terrible for Florida’s economy. The NCAA president Mark Emmert spoke out Friday reinforcing that they will hold championships in locations free of discrimination. I would read all the tournaments we would lose in Florida, but it would take too long since 56 are currently on the books for the next few years. I don’t know about your districts, but mine is hurting from the pandemic since I’m in the heart of the tourist corridor. We need conventions, tournaments, and tourists to come to Florida and spend their money and stay in our hotels and visit our local businesses. If this legislation passes, Orlando will lose \$27 million for the region from 17 tournaments. USF announced around six months ago that 450 selections opposed sites for the championship events are in 2022-2026. Members, I asked for you to vote no on this bill today. As I mentioned, it’s discriminatory and bad for business and our economy. Our children don’t need this now. These kids have survived school shootings, underfunding, overcrowding, and now a pandemic. This is the last thing they need to contend with. Let them play sports. Let them learn from each other and be better human beings

Representative Mariano

First, I just wanted to condemn the testimony we heard that was in support of this bill that referred to trans girls as boys. I think that’s very hurtful to the community. I speak in favor of this bill and my support of this bill is about protecting girls’ sports. Actually, I played three varsity sports and was captain of all three of them, competed at the district, regional, and state level and was actually the athlete of the year my senior year in high school. So, this is very important to me as an athlete. We’ve heard a question asking if it trans girls have won a competition in Florida and while the answer is no at this point, I think it is very important to see that we have seen this happening in other States and this could ruin other girls’ chances at getting a spot on it collegiate team, even if it just happens in one case. So, I think that’s important to realize going forward and title 9 has allowed women sports to flourish in a way it never was able to before and now we see women competing at the highest level very successfully and we have seen every sport grow because of the implementation. Others say this is all because of the biological differences that do exist in many women’s athletics. I don’t agree with the narrative that this bill is meant to discriminate. Under this bill, trans girls are still able to participate in athletics. As girls’ success in sports grows at this level is can determine their entire athletic career and so I urge you to think about this not as a negative bill, but to really help protect our rules. Title 9 has done such a great job at allowing women to participate in athletics in a way they were never able before to do that. I urge you to support.

Representative Morales

I just want to recognize the audience and students that came forth. It took a lot of courage to come up. I want to thank you for coming up. This means a lot, seeing faces and reflecting on our future and I want to thank you for being here.

Representative LaMarca

I want to first start by wishing all the members and everyone here a happy National Student Athlete Day, because that’s what it is ironically. I started this session actually thinking about this issue as you know I followed fairness in collegiate athletics and student athletics. The Supreme Court last week began hearing a case against the NCAA dealing with student athletes for the

first time in a long time. It appears that an issue brought all the justices together as they agreed that the NCAA is essentially a cartel and price fixing the cost of labor and sadly the cost of the labor is free. I'm absolutely shocked that any of these groups would come here today in opposition to this legislation that they would use the NCAA is their example. I would specifically warn groups like the Equality Florida against citing the NCAA is a beacon of moral hope and equality. The world of women's athletics has made tremendous strides in equality and they still have a long way to go and that's clear for me from the inaction of the NCAA and Mark Emmert completely brushing off the recent women's basketball debacle. By the way, if you do get in touch with the NCAA please let them know that we've been trying to get ahold of them. With respect to the advocacy on this issue is not the hundreds of generic boilerplate emails that were sent to our emails that caused me to pause on this, it was a thoughtful piece by a friend who is a former Broward County school board member, Heather Brinkworth, on a phone call and a phone call for the deputy Broward County administrator. I will end this by saying that although I'm not convinced in the necessity of this legislation, I will support moving into the house floor, because this is something that should be debated thoroughly by the 120 members of the Florida house, not just the members of the committees along the way.

Representative Bell

I graduated in 1979 and played high school sports and never in my dreams did I think in 2021 we will be debating whether boys could play on girls' teams and in being in competition. I mean for years we have fought...As a woman I have fought to be paid more to be equal in sports. I mean we have we applied years and years and years and for the national organization of women to come out and in favor of this vra is not representing me as a woman and I just cannot imagine. I have two granddaughters that would be playing sports one day and I cannot imagine them being on a field and actually boys that are stronger and more athletic playing against them. I mean I don't know if they'll be playing tennis or wrestling or whatever, but I think, you know, this is just a culture that's trying to divide us and I think we just need to stay true to our values and this title 9 that we have fought for and has been in our schools. So, I just thank you for bringing this forward and I will be up on your bill.

Representative Hunschofsky

I feel the FHSA has already addressed what needs to be addressed regarding this and therefore I don't see the purpose of this bill. As a mother I try and look... I always talk about policy being personal and people say to keep your emotions out of it, but it's not about emotion. I look at every policy that affects children as if it were to affect my child and I say what would I want as a mother for my child? So often, elected officials get tainted with the talk but they don't think about it, they don't care about it until it affects them personally and I don't ever want to be the elected official that everything has to affect me personally before I have the empathy and compassion and the diligence to do my homework on all of these issues. As a woman I highly support all women's rights. The high school I went to didn't allow women to attend until nine years before I was accepted. As an elementary school student, I had to play on a boy and girls team. My dad gave me the shin guards and I went out and I and I did my thing and I support Florida ratifying the equal rights amendment that has been in place since 1972 and that still hasn't passed the Florida House. So, I support women. I support women's rights and I support protecting our children. Therefore, I will be voting down on this bill today.

Representative Harding

I just wanted to take opportunity to thank Representative Tuck for running this bill. I have two daughters and 28 nieces and protecting their rights and opportunity to compete is fundamental for me. So, I appreciate you running this bill.

Representative Borrero

Thank you for bringing what I believe to be a very common-sense bill. I support this bill for the same reason that we see that sports or certain sports have different weight classes. In boxing we have flyweights, in certain sports we have bantamweights, and we have heavyweights. We understand that there are certain biological advantages that come with having biological differences. I'm only 5'6". Someone who is much taller than me has a biological advantage because they are taller. For that

same reason we understand that men have certain biological advantages over women. This bill I believe protects women. We heard the testimony earlier of how Fallon Fox, who is a biological male identified as a female, battered and broke the skull of two women. That should concern all of us. This isn't about being against transgenders. What this is about is protecting women, protecting women sports, about public safety, and making sure that not another woman's skull is broken again. With that, I thank you for bringing this bill forward and I would encourage members to vote yes on this.

Chair Latvala

I just want to start off really quick by pointing out since they were mentioned numerous times, that FHSAA is indeed neutral on this bill. They have not weighed in one way or the other. Secondly, and to Representative LaMarca's point, the NCAA cares about one thing and that is not the student athlete. That is money. The NCAA needs to focus on their own house and not what we do in the Florida House. It could not be more evident than the most recent NCA basketball tournament when it was revealed that the women's basketball tournament had far more subpar facilities than the men's tournament. Their food was not adequate like the men's was. The men had a big weight workout area and the women literally had dumbbells sitting in the corner and it wasn't until women's basketball players took videos and tweeted it out that they issued a public apology and corrected it. Also one of the worst things I think that the NCA did during the most recent basketball tournament was that they had two different COVID protocols: one for the men that was far more strenuous and one for the women that was frankly subpar. So, until the NCAA treat men and women equally, they frankly can shut up about what we do here.

Closing on the Bill (Tuck)

I just want to quickly drive home the point that this is not a discrimination bill. This is to protect the integrity of women's sports and to make sure that every woman and every girl can compete on level playing field.

Outcome

The bill was reported favorably 15-6.

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

Thursday, April 8, 2021

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

Summary

The Senate Subcommittee on Education met to consider the following bills: CS/SB 192 Students with Disabilities in Public Schools (Book), CS/HB 366 Educational Opportunities Leading to Employment (Hutson), SB 918 Education (Bradley), CS/SB 934 Education (Wright), CS/SB 1028 Charter Schools (Hutson), SB 1282 Early Learning and Early Grade Success (Harrell), SB 1336 Gold Seal Quality Care Program (Gibson), CS/SB 1672 State University Free Seat Program (Diaz), SB 1798 Higher Education (Perry), SB 1816 Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys (Rouson), and SB 1864 Education (Perry).

CS/SB 934 – Education (Wright)

CS/SB 934 modifies provisions related to educator certification and nondegreed career teacher qualifications, teacher preparation programs and educator preparation institutes (EPIs), and school leadership. Specifically, the bill:

- Modifies the uniform core curricula for state-approved teacher preparation programs and EPI competency-based program requirements.
- Removes the General Knowledge Test as an admission requirement to a teacher preparation program.
- Provides that completion of an EPI may demonstrate education and successful occupational experience for nondegreed teachers of career education, and also professional preparation and education competence toward an educator certificate.
- Specifies that a master's degree or higher degree may demonstrate mastery of general knowledge toward an educator certificate.
- Authorizes an organization of private schools or a consortium of charter schools as specified to design alternative preparation programs for certified teachers to add on additional coverages to their certificate.
- Modifies the William Cecil Golden Professional Development Program for School Leaders to expand the definition of an educational leader and expand the collaborative network.

The bill does not affect state expenditures or revenues. See Section V. The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.

Amendment #751078 (Wright)

This amendment is technical in nature. Specific to the educational preparation institutes, aligning with revised provision already included in the educator's certification requirements statute. Starting on line 237 of the CS.

Amendment #425540 (Passidomo)

Section one allows school board advisory committees to meet virtually, mirroring the flexibility that other school governing boards currently have. They are subject to the sunshine and they do pass delegated by the boards which review contracts, monitor construction projects, etc. and the committees are mainly made up of retirees or business members of the community. Many are elderly and are not able to come to in-person meetings and this allows them the flexibility to meet virtually and that mirrors similar flexibility that the charter schools have for their governing boards.

Section two allows academically high performing school districts to offer up to two days of virtual learning per school year. This flexibility is only for high performing districts and allows them to teach students through virtual learning just up to two days per year. The problem is that the statute is unclear whether that is possible, so it was suggested that we put that in law. It does not really make a change for the students.

Outcome

The amendment to the amendment was adopted.

Appearance Forms on the Amendment as Amended

Jessica Fowler, Florida Department of Education: Waiving in support.

Closing on the Amendment as Amended (Wright)

Members, I think this is a very important bill to address. Some of the much-needed steps we need to take in order to support opportunities for our teachers across the state. I ask for your favorable support.

Outcome

The bill (as amended) was reported favorably. (It appears the Chair skipped a few sections)

CS/SB 366 – Educational Opportunities Leading to Employment (Hutson)

CS/SB 366 modifies Florida's career and technical education program to improve and expand apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs, provide support for students in work-based learning programs, modify assessment requirements for initial student eligibility in dual enrollment programs, modify funding incentives for industry certifications, and provide relevant mathematics pathways. Specifically, the bill:

- Broadens the scope of apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs (programs) to additional apprenticeship program sponsors (sponsors) and occupations, and:
 - Specifies that programs lead toward occupations, rather than trades.
 - Clarifies that sponsors are responsible for program supervision, subject to uniform minimum standards developed, and approval granted, by the Department of Education (DOE).
 - Includes state universities as partners in the provision of apprenticeship instruction.
 - Clarifies the duties of the DOE regarding apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs.
 - Revises the membership and scope of the State Apprenticeship Advisory Council.
 - Changes the selection criteria and use of funds for the Florida Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program.
- Specifies that students in a preapprenticeship program or courses with a work-based component are deemed to be employees of the state for workers' compensation purposes for medically necessary care only.
- Clarifies that eligibility for initial enrollment in dual enrollment courses requires a student to demonstrate a level of achievement of college-level communication and computation skills through an approved common placement test or alternative method, to be approved by the State Board of Education.

- Eases plan development and reporting requirements for the implementation of developmental education strategies by FCS institutions for potential students entering dual enrollment courses.
- Changes provisions related to Career and Professional Education (CAPE) industry certifications by:
 - Authorizing the Department of Education to adopt rules to administer the CAPE Act.
 - Clarifying Commissioner of Education authority regarding CAPE industry certifications and CAPE Digital Tool Certificates.
 - Modifying the award and use of CAPE industry certification bonus funds relating to credit awarded under statewide articulation agreements.
 - Providing bonus funds for industry certifications that lead to occupations in critical industry sectors.
- Requires a representative committee of State University System, district career centers, and FCS faculty to identify mathematics pathways aligned to programs, meta-majors, and careers.

Amendment #627820 (Hutson)

The strike-all amendment removes the bill provisions modifying the apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs, the certification industry funding list, and we are removing it because it is in Senator Albritton's bill that I believe is in appropriations right now. So, we are trying to match up with the House with both of those bills. What we keep in there is requiring the statewide articulation agreement to establish three mathematic pathways for students, authorize state colleges to use the state approved alternative methods in lieu of common placement tests to assess students' readiness for college level work and communications and computation. We are revising student eligibility for initial enrollment in college credit dual enrollment to include a demonstrated level of achievements of college level communication and computation skills as determined by common placement tests or alternative methods of assessments. We are authorizing the board of governors and the SPE to adopt regulation and rules for the administration of fee waivers to homeless students. We are shifting to the state the cost of securing the payments of worker's compensation for medical costs for eligibility, work-based learners.

Amendment #511432 (Hutson)

This amendment brings in the appropriation of \$2 million nonrecurring funds for the general revenue fund to the state risk management trust fund and the Department of Financial Services for worker's compensation costs. It also authorizes two full time equivalent positions from the state risk management trust fund are appropriated to the Department of Financial Services for the purpose of implementing the worker's compensation coverage provisions in this act. Any business that wants to hire a student under the age of 18 can do so and not have to take on the worker's compensation liability. The state will fund that for them if they are going to be in an apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program.

Outcome

The amendment was adopted.

Outcome

The amendment (as amended) was adopted.

Q&A on the Bill as Amended

None.

Appearance Forms on the Bill as Amended

Matthew Hoy, Florida Chamber: Waiving in support.

Florida Home Builders Association: Waiving in support.

National Utility Contractors Association of Florida: Waiving in support.

Florida Road Materials and Construction Association: Waiving in support.

Debate on the Bill as Amended

Chair Broxson

Senator Hutson, I just want to tell you how much I appreciate how hard you worked. I know you had some moving parts on this. You had to put the funding together and I appreciate you doing that. I think you have a very good bill here.

Closing (Hutson)

I would just like to thank the Chair, your staff, the appropriations staff, and everyone that has helped me work through and navigate through the hurdles of this and also our President, who is a big believer in this program as well.

Outcome

The bill (as amended) was reported favorably.

SB 918 – Education (Bradley)

SB 918 provides additional requirements for how the Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) FEFP bonus funds can be expended by school districts, and expands the expenditure of bonus funding to include school programs administered by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate which prepare prospective students to enroll in AICE courses.

The bill also updates which teachers are eligible for a bonus to include classroom teachers who teach International General Certificate of Secondary Education (pre-AICE) courses.

The bill does not require a state appropriation. See Section V. The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.

Q&A

None.

Appearance Forms on the Bill

Angela Dempsey, Cambridge Assessment International Education: Waiving in support.

Debate on the Bill

None.

Closing on the Bill (Bradley)

I would appreciate your support. I think this bill will allow the AICE program to really have more kids participate and it is a great, rigorous program for college readiness. Thank you.

Outcome

The bill was reported favorably.

SB 1282 – Early Learning (Harrell)

SB 1282 modifies the administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program (VPK) and the school readiness program and reorganizes the regulatory structure of the Office of Early Learning to consolidate authority and oversight within the State Board of Education. The bill also transfers the Gold Seal Quality Care program to the Department of Education (DOE) from the Department of Children and Families and adds standards for accrediting entities.

The bill expands accountability and assessment requirements for VPK providers. Specifically, the bill requires:

- A coordinated screening and progress monitoring program (CSPM) for students in VPK through grade 3 to provide information on students' progress in mastering the appropriate grade-level standards to parents, teachers, and school and program administrators.
- Beginning in the 2021-2022 program year, a program assessment composite score for each VPK provider based on the results of a program assessment that measures the quality of teacher-child interactions, including emotional and behavioral support, engaged support for learning, classroom organization, and instructional support for children ages 3 to 5 years, in each VPK classroom.
- A performance metric that provides a score to each VPK provider based on the results of the CSPM, including learning gains, and the program assessment, beginning in the 2022-2023 program year.
- The assignment of a performance designation for VPK providers beginning with the 2023- 2024 program year.

The bill creates the Council for Early Grade Success within the DOE to oversee the CSPM and requires the new screenings and assessments to be administered by qualified individuals.

The bill modifies the market rate schedule paid to school readiness providers to require a market rate schedule based on the prevailing market rate.

Amendment #240086 (Harrell)

This strike-all establishes a coordinated screening and assessment program in order to really evaluate and make sure our kids are ready. It also adds math as well as early literacy to the program. It allows the state, schools, teachers, and parents to deploy interventions when children are not ready and are not making the necessary learning gains. It puts accountability and assessment into the program. Beginning in 2022-2023, there will be a program assessment composite score for each of the...to measure teacher interactions, including emotional and behavioral support, engaged how the child is learning, as well

as classroom organization. This will allow for the evaluation of our VPK providers. It also sets a performance metric that will help score each VPK provider. Beginning in 2023-2024, it sets that performance metric and sets standards. We are not using an A-F system; we are using specific things such as proficient and so that our children are ready. It moves the Gold Seal Quality Program from the Department of Children and Families to the Office of Early Learning and sets standards for accrediting the Gold Seal Program. It creates the Council of Early Grades Success within OEL and to oversee the CSPM program. It modifies the market rate schedule paid for school readiness providers to require a market rate schedule. It removes the transfer of the OEL directly under DOE and that State Board of Education. Given the extensive issues with COVID, we felt this would not be the time to do that. It also changes the implementation dates. It removes the fiscal.

Q&A

None.

Appearance Forms

Brenda Dickinson, Florida Council of Independent Schools: I just want to thank Senator Harrell for the change in the governance in this bill. We believe that this is the appropriate placement for a scholarship program and VPK is a scholarship program. The Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice is already managing scholarship programs efficiently and we just believe that this is the correct placement for it. Thank you.

Chris Dugan, Florida Association of Education and Young Children: Waiving in support.

David Daniel, Florida Association for Childcare Management: Waiving in support.

Tony Lupe, Florida Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County: I want to thank Senator Harrell for her hard work in early education and commitment to children. We waive in support. Thank you.

Debate

None.

Closing (Harrell)

Waived close.

Outcome

The amendment was adopted.

Q&A on the Bill as Amended

None.

Appearance Forms on the Bill as Amended

Tony Lupe, Association of Early Learning Coalition: Waiving in support.

Adam Gaffy, Robert F. Monroe Day School: We serve students in the VPK program through 12th grade. Well over half of our students are on financial aid in school. We currently support a program that achieves the important goal of giving students in our disadvantaged county a head start in preparing them for kindergarten, which research shows is an important predictor of eventual academic success. Of all the programs we are involved in, VPK is by far the most time consuming and resource intensive program. Teachers are asked to conduct extensive training, professional development, and assess if children are meeting specific benchmarks while the funding necessary for this program necessitates a salary on par with minimum wage professionals. I would implore this body to appreciate the incredibly important role the VPK program is in providing Florida families with a good education and recognize that more funding is needed to assure high quality teachers can be attracted and kept in this vital profession. Attempting to add additional regulations will devastate the program throughout Florida and a failure to better fund the program will further hamper a program already struggling after the pandemic, furthering increasing the economic hardships to those that depend on the VPK program to get their children the head start they need.

Chris Dugan, Florida Association of Education of Young Children: Waiving in support.

Rita Lincoln, Florida PTA: Waiving in opposition.

Matthew Coy, Florida Chamber: Waiving in support.

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

Debate on the Bill as Amended

Chair Broxson

Senator Harrell, I know that you are certainly aware that the federal government is sending a lot of money down for early educational programs. I am sure you will be getting a lot of calls, but I am not sure we will be in a position to do anything in this session, but it is something I know you are passionate about.

Closing on the Bill as Amended (Harrell)

As we all know, a child's early learning experience really determines how they are going to fare in our school system and how successful they are going to be in life. This establishes the very basis of where children grow and learn, and it is so essential. I would encourage us to use some of those federal dollars. I know we will be able to use some for the implementation and for this. I have already looked into that. So, as the appropriations committee, I think hopefully we will have the resources to do this. It is going to make a huge difference and really beef up this program for our kids. I would ask for your favorable support.

Outcome

The bill (as amended) was reported favorably.

CS/SB 192 – Students with Disabilities in Public Schools (Book)

CS/SB 192 revises the circumstances and procedures required for restraining students with a disability in public schools and prohibit the use of seclusion. The bill also provides enhanced mechanisms for monitoring specified classrooms. Specifically, the bill requires:

- School districts to:

- Adopt positive behavior interventions and supports for students with a disability and identify all school personnel authorized to use the interventions and supports.
- Provide training to all school personnel authorized to use positive behavior interventions and supports.
- Publish the procedures for training in positive behavior interventions and supports in the district's special policies and procedures manual.
- The development of a crisis intervention plan for a student who has been restrained twice during a semester.
- Schools within the Broward County school district, as part of the Video Cameras in Public School Classrooms Pilot Program, to install a video camera, upon the request of a parent, in self-contained classrooms where students with disabilities are enrolled and specifies the circumstances under which the video recording may be viewed.
- The Department of Education (DOE) to collect information relating to the installation and maintenance of video cameras in self-contained classrooms as part of the pilot program.
- Data maintained by the DOE on the use of restraint to be updated monthly and made available to the public through the DOE's website by October 1, 2021.
- The Commissioner of Education to develop recommendations that incorporate instruction regarding emotional or behavioral disabilities into continuing education or in-service training requirements for instructional personnel.

The bill does not require a state appropriation. However, school districts may incur costs to provide training in the use of restraint or positive behavior interventions. The Broward County School District may incur costs related to the installation and maintenance of video recording equipment. See Section V. The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.

Q&A

None.

Appearance Forms on the Bill

Rita Lincoln, Florida PTA: Waiving in support.

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

David Cullen, Advocacy for the Institute of Children: Waiving in support.

Debate on the Bill

None.

Closing on the Bill (Book)

Waived close.

Outcome

The bill was reported favorably.

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

SB 1816 establishes the Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys within the Department of Education (DOE) to examine evidence-based strategies for closing the achievement gap for boys and to make recommendations to the department, the Governor, and the Legislature. The recommendations must address:

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

The bill establishes the Commissioner of Education or a designee as chair of the task force. Other members of the task force must be appointed by August 1, 2021, including stakeholders appointed by the Governor, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The bill requires the task force to convene by October 1, 2021, and upon the call of the chair thereafter. The task force must submit a report containing its recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2022.

The task force expires on June 30, 2022.

The DOE will incur costs associated with support of the functions and meetings of the task force. These costs are indeterminate. Task force members may be entitled to reimbursement for travel and per diem. See Section V.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.

Q&A

None.

Appearance Forms on the Bill

Rita Lincoln, Florida PTA: Waiving in support.

Mary Chance, Florida Educational Foundations: Waiving in support.

Debate on the Bill

None.

Closing on the Bill (Rouson)

Waived close.

Outcome

The bill was reported favorably.

CS/SB 1028 – Charter Schools (Hutson/Diaz)

CS/SB 1028 adds provisions for public postsecondary institutions to serve as a charter school sponsor, modifies provisions for hope operators, and authorizes a career and professional academy to be offered by a charter school. Specifically, the bill:

- Authorizes state universities and Florida College System (FCS) institutions to solicit applications and sponsor charter schools upon approval by the Department of Education (DOE).
- Provides that a state university sponsored charter school may serve students from multiple school districts to meet regional education or workforce demands, and an FCS sponsored charter school may serve students from any county within the college's service area to meet workforce demands.
- Authorizes an FCS institution that operates an approved teacher preparation program to operate additional charter schools.
- Provides that the board of trustees of a sponsoring state university or FCS institution charter school is a local educational agency for the purpose of receiving federal funds and accepting responsibility for all requirements in that role.
- Provides that students attending a state university or FCS institution sponsored charter school are not to be included in the school district's grade calculation.
- Establishes operational funding and capital outlay funding formulas for charter schools sponsored by a state university or FCS institution.
- Requires the DOE to collaborate to develop a charter school sponsor evaluation framework.
- Authorizes charter schools to provide career and professional academies and revises charter school enrollment limitations.
- Adds hope operators to the list of entities required to perform an annual financial audit.
- Modifies provisions that a high-performing charter school may submit two applications for a charter school within the state to be opened at a time determined by the high-performing charter school.
- Clarifies that instructional and noninstructional personnel at a school of hope must file with the school of hope, rather than the district school board as for other charter schools, a complete set of fingerprints taken by an authorized law enforcement agency or other recognized entity.
- Authorizes a charter school that is an exceptional student education center that receives a rating of "maintaining" or higher may replicate its educational program.

Amendment #444320 (Hutson/Diaz)

This strike-all keeps the provisions I mentioned before and modifies provisions that a high performing charter school may submit two applications for a charter school within the state to be opened at a time determined by the high performing charter school. They may not apply additional applications unless those approved applications are put into vigor or the schools open. It authorizes charter schools to provide career and professional academies and revises charter school enrollment limitations. It clarifies that instructional and noninstructional personnel at a school of hope must file with the school of hope rather than the district school board. Asks further charter schools a complete set of fingerprints taken by an authorized law enforcement agency or other recognized entity. It also authorizes a charter school that is an exceptional student education center that receives a rating of maintaining or higher to replicate its educational program. It adds hope operators to the list of required to perform an annual financial audit.

Q&A

Senator Polsky

Q: Can you describe what the current process is for a charter school to appeal the decision by a sponsor? What is changing with this with respect to that?

A: The bill does not change the process by which the charter school appeals. The process occurs, it just allows for attorneys' fees to be collected if the appeal is taken to the process.

Q: Is that a prevailing party gets the attorney's fees? Or just the plaintiff if they win?

A: From what I understand, that is the prevailing party.

Q: Does this amendment expand the criteria by which a charter school can deny entry or cherry pick the students?

A: This bill does not change the criteria by which charter schools take in students for enrollment.

Senator Gibson

Q: So, the colleges and universities that establish charter schools, are they using their funding under their umbrella or is traditional public-school funds moving to these charter schools?

A: Currently, the universities are able to do a lab school and have a charter school. This would expand it to the college system and expand the ability for the university to sponsor it. That funding would probably come in the form of what we do now with the special district, which is how the lab schools are funded right now.

Appearance Forms

Adam Miller: Waiving in support.

Stewart Brown, KIPP Miami: Waiving in support.

Ethan Merchant, National Coalition for Public School Options: Waiving in support.

Academica: We want to thank the committee and the bill sponsor for addressing a lot of our concerns on this bill. Thank you for your support.

Phillip Seamus, Wayman Academy of the Arts: Our academy has been around for 22 years. One of the first charter schools in Duval County. We feel that the language in this bill is unfriendly to mom and pop charter schools that are looking to expand. Wayman is currently a high performing charter school. They are doing a good job to expand, but the current statute says they must have three or more schools, so mom and pop charter schools are limited with this language. We are looking to expand that, as the language does not prioritize smaller charter schools.

Marie Claire Leman, Fund Education Now: We are opposing this bill. This bill is an attempt to do what has been tried many times before, circumventing the constitutional authority of elected local school boards. By placing these charter schools under the authority of political appointees like the board of governors, parents will have no recourse to an elected body neither at the local or state level. Now with the funding coming entirely out of the GAA, the taxpayer also has no local oversight over funding of these so-called public schools. We are concerned about the expansion of entities that are not restricted by the number of schools and classrooms that they can build. There is no requirement to demonstrate the need of seats that need to be added to the school system. This should interest you as an appropriations committee, because in a year where we are having to cut funding across the board, this will cause a net duplication and these seats will be seats that the state is paying for entirely. They will cause further instability to the student population and our funding in the existing schools. The fiscal is

indeterminate here because you don't know how many charter schools will ultimately be authorized by the universities and where they will locate, but the impact to the GAA could be significant. Currently, 43% of the FEFP funding is from required local effort. Some districts generating as much as 90% of the funding. In those districts, if students were to transfer to a university authorized charter school, the state responsibility would increase from 10% to 100% of the cost of that student. The required local effort is in the FEFP to provide equitable funding across districts with districts that have dramatically different tax bases. This bill would break that formula, requiring the state to pay 100% for students from the wealthiest districts.

Debate

Senator Gibson

In the sponsor's close, explain the connection...how the state universities or college system...what is the direct connection to the charter schools and enrollment and how that impacts traditional public schools in the area of those campuses.

Closing (Diaz)

In response to Senator Gibson: We already have existing lab schools in our universities that are funded under special districts. The only effect it would have is if a state university/college sponsored charter school feels the need to have a school in an area to serve the needs of the work demand. The only impact would be if students were to go to that school as opposed to another. There is no financial drain of funds, other than a student moving schools, which can happen now.

Outcome

The amendment was adopted.

Q&A on the Bill as Amended

None.

Appearance Forms on the Bill as Amended

Rita Lincoln, Florida PTA: Waiving against.

Adam Miller, Ideal Public Schools: Waiving in support.

Ellen Merchant, National Coalition of Public School Options: Waiving in support.

Kristen Mara, Florida Charter School Alliance: Waiving in support.

Marie Claire, Fund Education Now: Lines 976-978 say the total amount obtained from the calculation previous must be appropriated from state funds in the general appropriation act to the charter school. I think this is perhaps contrary to the way charter schools are currently being funded.

Debate on the Bill as Amended

Senator Cruz

I find this bill very problematic because what I see is more potential to continue to expand Florida's ever-growing charter schools that have continued to grow with limited accountability. That is the operative term here that worries me is the limited accountability. I feel as if the charter schools fall short when it comes to oversight, accountability, transparency, and the

assessment of charter school students. The bill allows charter schools living in a development to cherry pick the students within their area and that can attend the charter schools. So, for that reason and a host of others, I won't be able to support this bill today. Thank you.

Closing on the Bill as Amended (Hutson/Diaz)

The funding mechanism that exists for these schools already exists with our state university lab schools, which are sponsored schools by the university. It simply expands their ability. There are public entities or state universities/colleges. I want to make clear that the charter schools continue to fall under the same accountability transparency requirements as all of our other public schools in the state. This does not change any of that. The one issue that was discussed on students in a school in a certain area—we already have that in existing current law. When a municipal current charter is put into place and approved, there is a caveat in law that allows that municipal charter to give access to the residents of the municipality where that charter is located and sponsored. The language described here as “cherry picking,” all that does is mimic that language as to when there is a large development and the developer invests money in putting in a school (a charter school) to meet the demands of the districts so that the district does not have to build another building and seats to serve the demand caused by the increase in population. It allows for those seats to be filled first by the area of need, which is why the school is being built. In order to actually relieve the districts responsibility for more seats. I just wanted to clarify that issue. It is not cherry picking.

Outcome

The bill (as amended) was reported favorably.

SB 1336 – Gold Seal Quality Care Program (Gibson)

SB 1336 transfers the Gold Seal Quality Care (GSQC) program from the Department of Children and Families to the Department of Education (DOE) and modifies requirements for GSQC accreditation. The bill provides flexibility by allowing a qualified entity to become an accreditor, regardless of whether the entity is part of an association.

The bill requires the DOE to establish a process, including an auditing program, for verifying compliance with the revised requirements for accrediting entities and requires the DOE to recommend to the State Board of Education (SBE) termination of the accreditor's eligibility for two to five years if it is unable to correct deficiencies within 30 days. If an accreditor loses its approved status, the bill allows the providers it accredited one year to obtain accreditation from another approved accreditor. An accreditor is liable for repayment of provider payment differentials if it fraudulently grants accreditation or fails to conduct on-site verification.

The bill authorizes the DOE to revoke an accrediting entity's approval if the entity has accredited 10 or fewer child care providers in the previous five years. The bill also authorizes the DOE to recommend to the SBE that a GSQC provider maintain its status after it is cited for certain violations in specified circumstances.

The bill does not require a state appropriation. The bill requires a Type 2 transfer of functions from the DCF to the DOE and increases the differential payment that school readiness providers with the GSQC designation receive from a maximum of 20 percent to a minimum of 20 percent. See Section V.

The bill takes effect upon becoming a law.

Q&A

Chair Broxson

Q: There are two sides to this issue. What your bill does, in essence, it expands the providers from an entity to an entity which currently we have a national standard. This could potentially allow a local or state qualified entity. Is that correct? Does the bill do that or can you kind of walk us through how this expands the providers?

A: The expansion of providers certainly is predicated on the auditing process as well as the training and the criteria to become a Gold Seal early learning institution. To that extent, if a facility can meet the requirements, then yes, then we can expand the program. Otherwise, we wouldn't put all of the criteria into the bill to make sure they can meet those.

Appearance Forms

David Daniel, Florida Association of Childcare Management: Unfortunately, we have to rise in opposition to the bill today. Specifically, I am referring to a provision of the bill on page four, lines 107 and 108, which changes from an accrediting association to an accrediting entity. This works in conjunction with the lowering of the standards in line 124-126. I don't doubt that you share the goal of protecting and enhancing quality childcare options for our parents, the students, and the Gold Seal has been a critical component of that all along. This language does not support that goal. We believe, frankly, that it weakens the program. At a time that we should be raising standards and ensuring that those standards are followed by the accrediting bodies, the Gold Seal designation should, as Senator Gibson said, mean something to the parents and children. I would remind you that just a few moments ago, we passed Senate Bill 1282 by Senator Harrell that did just this. It raised the standard for those bodies in making sure that they are covered. We believe this change opens the door to fly-by-night operators that are becoming Gold Seal accreditors, issuing property tax exemptions, and increase in school readiness reimbursement for those facilities. A plain reading of lines 124-126: the bar to being a Gold Seal would only be an entity and that you have quality qualifying personnel experience in childcare. Under this change, if I work for accrediting, I could start my own company. I could hand out property tax exemptions and increase reimbursement for childcare centers. In the current law, one of the standards is that you have to be an active and accrediting childcare facility in Florida. In addition to that, you had to have done it for the prior five years before applying. That is put in place to protect the integrity of the Gold Seal Program. This language would remove that requirement. We also find this language odd. You remove Gold Seal accreditors if they have accredited less than ten in the previous five years. That is in lines 195-198. You can have accredited none and become a creditor, but if you don't do enough you can be kicked off. It is important that this accreditation means something to the parents and that they are following the standards in law. If we do not raise the standards, it means that Gold Seal is in jeopardy.

Debate on the Bill

None.

Closing on the Bill (Gibson)

The bill very clearly lays out what the expertise must be for the accrediting standards and the accrediting agency. The increase in those entities help to make sure that all of our programs are gold star quality and that they maintain the high standards of the Gold Seal quality childcare and Pre-K programs to move our kids forward to first grade and beyond. I appreciate your favorable support.

Outcome

The bill was reported favorably.

CS/SB 1672 – State University Free Seat Program (Diaz)

TEMPORARILY POSTPONED

SB 1798 – Higher Education (Perry/Diaz)

SB 1798 establishes a waiver of 100 percent of tuition and fees for one course in a program of strategic emphasis for every course in such a program for which a student pays the full tuition and fees. In order to qualify for the waiver, a student must:

- Be a resident for tuition purposes.
- Initially enroll full-time at a state university for the fall academic term immediately following high school graduation.
- Earn at least 60 semester credit hours towards a baccalaureate degree within two years after initial enrollment.
- Enroll in a program of strategic emphasis as specified by the Board of Governors (BOG).

In addition, the bill specifies that a waiver so granted is applicable only for upper-level courses and up to 110 percent of the number of required credit hours of the baccalaureate degree program.

The bill requires the BOG to adopt regulations to administer the above, and requires each state university to report to the BOG the number and value of all such waivers granted annually.

The bill does not require a state appropriation. However, state universities will have reduced revenues from tuition and fees for each eligible student who enrolls in a program of strategic emphasis. See Section V.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.

Q&A

None.

Appearance Forms

None.

Debate

None.

Closing (Diaz)

Waived close.

Outcome

The bill was reported favorably.

SB 1864 – Education (Perry/Diaz)

SB 1864 requires the Department of Education (DOE) to maintain a list of persons permanently disqualified from employment in a public school or a private school that participates in a state educational scholarship program (private scholarship school). The bill requires this disqualification list to include the identities of persons whose misconduct affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student and prohibits public schools, private scholarship schools, and approved virtual instruction providers from employing a person in a position with direct contact with students if the person is included on the disqualification list. The bill also:

- Requires that educational support employees be included to the same extent required for instructional personnel and school administrators in policies establishing standards of ethical conduct and procedures for investigating, reporting, and terminating personnel.
- Requires the complete investigation of complaints of misconduct by public school personnel and provides authority for the DOE to place a person on the disqualification list.
- Provides that a person commits a felony of the third degree for employing a person identified on the disqualification list.
- Provides authority for the DOE to remove a person from the disqualification list.
- Prohibits district school boards from rescreening an employee of an approved virtual instruction provider who has been screened in accordance with the rules for instructional and noninstructional personnel with direct contact with students in a district school system.

The bill does not require a state appropriation. While DOE may incur costs associated with maintaining the disqualification list, these costs can be absorbed within existing resources. See Section V.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.

Q&A

Senator Gibson

Q: This has to do with the substitute teachers you just mentioned. So, some districts go through temp services. At what point would the school district be able to vet a temp service? I just want to make sure there is no break in knowing that this person should not be in a classroom.

A: The way this would work is that it is not on the leasing company. It is specifically on an individual, whether they are hired through a leasing company or an individual. If there is an allegation against the individual and there is an investigation that concludes the wrongdoing in the district and the person is a non-state certificated employee, under this bill that would trigger the district has the responsibility to report that to the Department of Education and have that name put on the disqualification of this. So, this wouldn't affect the relationship between the district and the leasing company. That is something they would have to handle based on their contract, but the individual would now be flagged on that list and they couldn't go and get a state certificate and get hired as a teacher somewhere unless they would get clearance and was disqualified from providing evidence or whatever may happen in that case. Usually what happens is the substitutes receive a district certificate, but that is not reported to the state because it is in house. That is the loophole this is trying to prevent.

Q: The bill provides the authority for the DOE to remove a person from the disqualification list. What triggers that?

A: In order to do that they would have to provide evidence or there may be some adjudication or something that would prompt clearance from the incident that would eliminate any issue that would be a preclusion from receiving a state certificate. There is already a list of preclusions. There is the educational practice commission which handles these issues.

Appearance Forms

Rita Lincoln, Florida PTA: Waiving in support.

Debate

None.

Closing (Perry/Diaz)

Waived close.

Outcome

The bill was reported favorably.

House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee

Friday, April 9, 2021

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

Summary

The House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee met to consider the following bills: CS/HB 157 First Aid Training in Public Schools by Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee, Hawkins, Busatta Cabrera; HB 575 The Gold Seal Quality Care Program by Omphroy; CS/HB 985 Use of Federal Funding to Support Online Learning by Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee, Shoaf; CS/HB 1031 Charter Schools by Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee, Rodriguez; CS/HB 1061 Schools of Hope by Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee, Smith, D.; and HB 1199 Photographic Enforcement of School Bus Safety by Altman, Slosberg.

HB 1031 – Charter Schools (Rodriguez)

The bill revises certain provisions related to charter schools and virtual instruction providers to:

- Allow charter school applications to be reviewed and approved by a newly created Charter School Review Commission (CSRC).
- Authorize the Commissioner of Education to select the members of the CSRC.
- Require a school district to sponsor and supervise a charter school authorized by the CSRC.
- Allow charter school applications to be received and considered by a sponsor at any time during the calendar year and for a charter school to be opened at a time determined by the applicant.
- Allow a virtual charter school to offer part-time instruction and contract with any public or charter school to provide a course the school does not provide.
- Allow virtual instruction programs to meet monthly parent-teacher and student-teacher communication requirements by means other than a telephone call.
- Expand the use of unrestricted current and capital assets to other charter schools within the state which are operated by a not-for-profit or municipal entity within the state.
- Allow a high-performing charter school to submit two applications at a time instead of two per year so long as each previous charter school application is withdrawn or has commenced operation.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact. The bill takes effect on July 1, 2021.

Q&A

Representative Valdes

Q: In reference to the commission: Will the charter school applicants have a choice as to which... How is that commission going to work, basically?

A: It just transfers the commission to be appointed by the commission of education and I believe it will be seven members, currently as outlined here. All it does is for the application and application review process. Right after that application is completed, it will revert back to the school districts.

Q: I am just trying to see logistically how it will work with the partnerships with the school district and this commission. So, is it going to be a first layer of approval and then a message will be sent down to the school board that this application has been reviewed and approved? I am trying to figure out what the dynamics would look like once this becomes law in the books, because currently, there is a process in place that works well in some of our larger districts. How will this impact the great work that is being done in some of our districts?

A: Basically, all it is, is just shifting the person now reviewing the application, a group of people/a panel just designated and only focused on reviewing and approving these applications. Once the application is approved, then they will submit a report back to the school district and let them know that they are good to go. Then that applicant still needs to go through every other requirement that the school district has in place today or may modify in the future. It is just the approval process of the paper application itself. The school district will still have full authority and control over these charter schools.

Ranking Member Willhite

Q: Just to expand on line 298 about the charter school commission. So, we are creating a new seven-person panel under the DOE secretary? To me, it seems like something very serious, not just a bunch of check boxes. Why wouldn't there be like a governor appointed commission having more authority looking over the schools? I think this seems to be a little more in-depth than what you are referring to it at this point. Do you have any thoughts on that?

A: I see what you are saying, but basically, the commission was selected by the commissioner of education because it is education. It could be the governor, but the governor appoints the commissioner of education, so it does kind of fall under the governor either way. I don't know if you are suggesting that other people should have a say in who gets appointed. If that is what you are saying, I am open to that, but I don't know if I understood your question correctly. Does that answer it?

Q: Again, I understand the secretary of education works for the governor and is appointed by him, but a lot of times there are review boards and panels or the governor has a lot of appointments. It seems like, in this panel, he would appoint the seven people, they would work with the secretary of education dealing with this, but again, I think there is a little more to this and I think there is a little more intent to what this review commission is going to be. I don't think they are just going to get an application, check it over, then send it back to the school boards. I think there is going to be a little bit more and I am concerned if there are conflicts in there. It talks about how they have 30 days and can go to the judicial court of review, so I am just a little concerned and that is my thought in that area. We can talk about it more. I was just trying to get your thought on how that board works. I just think they are going to have a little bit more authority.

Representative Williams

Q: The questions I had before, I still have heart wrench about that. Could you expand on the local authority a little bit more?

A: The local authority will still be the same that it is today with the exception under this revision, that the application process will be done by another panel. The local authority will remain as it is today. It is untouched in my bill. Same authorization, same control, etc. At the end of the day, a charter school is a public school. So, that will remain in place.

Appearance Forms

Andrea Figueroa, Academica: (Did not specify which way she waived.)

Brita Wilkins Lincoln, Florida PTA: Waiving in opposition.

Christian Kamara, Florida Charter School Alliance: Waiving in support.

Christopher Moya, Charter Schools USA: Waiving in support.

Debate on the Bill

None.

Closing (Rodriguez)

Thank you for your very valid questions.

Outcome

The bill was reported favorably 10-3.

HB 1199 – Photographic Enforcement of School Bus Safety (Altman)

When approaching a stopped school bus displaying a stop signal, a driver must bring his or her vehicle to a full stop until the bus's stop signal is withdrawn, unless he or she is traveling in the opposite direction of a the bus on a divided highway with specified barriers. A person who fails to stop for a school bus displaying a stop signal commits a noncriminal moving traffic violation and must pay a civil penalty of \$200 or request a hearing to contest the citation. A driver who passes a school bus on the same side that children enter and exit while the school bus's stop signal is displayed also commits a moving violation but he or she must pay a civil penalty of \$400 and is required to attend a mandatory hearing. Traditionally, a traffic citation must be issued by a law enforcement officer who witnesses the violation occur. However, Florida allows the use of electronic traffic infraction detectors ("red light cameras") to enforce specified traffic violations. Such traffic infraction detectors are not currently authorized to enforce a violation of failing to stop for a school bus displaying a stop signal.

This bill authorizes a school district to install and operate a school bus side stop signal arm enforcement system (enforcement system) which uses electronic traffic enforcement technology to enforce traffic violations for failing to stop for a school bus displaying a stop signal. Under the bill, a school district may contract with a private vendor to provide installation, operation, and maintenance of the enforcement systems. A private vendor must submit specified information regarding an alleged violation to any law enforcement agency authorized to enforce school bus stop arm violations within 30 days after the alleged violation is captured, including the following: a copy of the recorded image showing the vehicle; the vehicle's license plate number and state of issuance; and the date, time, and place of the alleged violation.

The bill requires a law enforcement agency to review the information and determine if there is sufficient evidence that a violation occurred. If the evidence shows that a violation occurred, the agency or an authorized agent must electronically certify a notice of violation and, within 30 days send a notice of violation by registered mail to the vehicle's registered owner, including specified information detailing how to pay the civil penalty, contest the violation, and the consequence of failing to pay or contest. If the owner does not contest or pay the civil penalty, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) may prohibit the owner from renewing his or her registration or transferring the title of his or her vehicle. However, a violation detected by an enforcement system is not considered a moving violation and may not be made part of a person's driving record. Under the bill, any funds received from violations detected by an enforcement system must be provided to the school district in which the violation occurred and used only for installing and maintaining the enforcement systems or other student transportation safety technology.

The bill requires each school district using an enforcement system to provide an annual report to the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the DHSMV by December 31, 2021 and every year thereafter providing specified information.

The bill will have a fiscal impact on school districts electing to install a side stop signal arm enforcement system on its school buses. See Fiscal Comments.

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

Q&A

None.

Appearance Forms

Mary Lynn Cullin, Advocacy Institute for Children: Waiving in support.

Debate on the Bill

Representative Valdes

Thank you very much for bringing forward this bill. Too many times I find myself behind a school bus and folks are just driving by. I always honk my horn, because I am going to tell them that they are doing something wrong. Today, maybe even sounding a horn might get you shot if you will. Having said that, I do appreciate the intent of this bill and I hope it reaches the governor's desk for signature so we can keep our children safe. Thank you very much.

Ranking Member Willhite

Thank you for bringing this good bill forward. Surprising to many, I am not usually a big advocate of mandates. I believe this should be a mandate at local jurisdiction and authority. I wish this was a "have to." Too many times I've seen, as Representative Valdes said, this is the time that kids are away from their parents and their parents cannot control them. This is just another safety measure of those people taking care of people's kids. Drivers are just distracted. They don't care. They don't pay attention; they don't know the rules. We have actually had a few tragic accidents of this manner in Palm Beach County in the last few years. I absolutely support this idea and I wish that it moves forward on this. Give them a timeframe to be able to budget for it, but actually make it a mandate. Thank you very much for bringing this forward.

Chair Fine

This is actually an issue in my county. I wasn't aware of the scope of the issue until, unfortunately, an opponent that I was running against in an election, I had some parents approach me about the fact that my opponent had almost killed their kids because he blew past a school bus. While he did get ticketed, the lack of video evidence and everything else caused a problem. Unfortunately, the attitude was: "what is the big deal? I was on the other side of where the kids were going to be. This is an issue. I think we have no higher purpose here than to make sure our kids stay safe. I am really glad that you are bringing this bill forward to help protect them.

Closing (Altman)

Waived close.

Outcome

The bill was reported favorably.

CS/HB 157 – First Aid Training in Public Schools (Hawkins)

The bill requires school districts to provide basic training in first aid, including one hour of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) instruction, for public school students in grades 9 and 11. Basic CPR instruction for students is currently encouraged but not required by state law.

The bill provides that the CPR training must be based on a nationally recognized program that uses the most current evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines. The instruction must allow students to practice the psychomotor skills associated with performing CPR. If a school district has the necessary equipment, students must also be provided instruction in the use of an automated external defibrillator.

The bill encourages school districts to provide basic first aid training, including CPR instruction, to students in grades 6 and 8.

The bill has indeterminate fiscal impact. See Fiscal Comments. The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2021.

Q&A

Representative Williams

Q: Can you go back to the person you said is going to be designated training? Is this mandatory that they use this vendor that you spoke of? Or does each school district get to choose a vendor that they would like to work with?

A: This is just one vendor I found online to help defer costs.

Q: But that is not mandatory and that is not in the bill?

A: Correct.

Ranking Member Willhite

Q: I read your original bill and liked it a little bit more than this. Could you just clarify for me: they already have in grades 6 and after, but those are all “encouraged.” Now, as I understand it, you are mandating nine and eleven. Why are we doing that mandate if we already had it beforehand?

A: Only some of the larger school districts in Florida are currently doing the education right now and techniques have changed dramatically in the teaching of this (and made it better). Now we are asking that the students are older and more responsible, we are asking for it.

Appearance Forms on the Bill

Brita Wilkins Lincoln, Florida PTA: Waiving in support.

Shawn Cema, Sudden Cardiac Arrest Families: Waiving in support.

Edward Cosieq, Every Second Counts CPR: CPR saves lives and I know it does because it saved mine. On March 12, 2019 I collapsed and fell into sudden cardiac arrest in a Chick-Fil-A restaurant. Cardiac arrest happens when your heart goes out of control and stops. I was on the floor. I had no heartbeat. I had no pulse. I was turning blue and purple. We were in a restaurant with 40-50 people. The manager came out and yelled if anyone knew CPR. One high school girl came out of the kitchen and started doing hands-on compressions on my chest for 8-10 minutes. There was no AED in this restaurant, so she had to do this all by herself. The firemen came, shocked me four times, and brought me back to life. Since then, my life has changed, as you can see. I have asked myself why out of 50 people there wasn't anyone else that could help. First of all, a

lot of people just don't know CPR. Second is they are afraid to hurt somebody, but you cannot hurt someone that is on the floor dead. The third one is because people think they will get sued if they help someone, but we have Good Samaritan law that helps protect a person doing the right thing. So, that young girl saved my life. People tell me I was one of the lucky ones, but this is on my mind 24/7, 365 days a year. On the same date, in Cyprus, Texas, this young man, a beautiful 17-year-old boy, a strong athlete, had a sudden cardiac arrest the exact same day I had it. This young man died. That has been on my mind for a long time. There is something seriously wrong here and we have to fix it. My colleagues and heart warrior buddies came up with a great slogan: Law, not luck. You guys have the power to put this bill into law. Let's take the luck out of the scenario and let's train these kids to know CPR. We will have an army of life savers year after year that know what to do. Remember when you were young, and you were so vibrant? You were like a sponge and you were fearless. I am alive because that young kid was fearless and did the right thing. I hope you guys have it in your hearts to see the need for this bill. I want to thank Representative Hawkins for everything he has done. I really appreciate it.

Jeff Bosett: I want to mention that if any of us in this room were to collapse and go into sudden cardiac arrest right now, for every minute that we do not have CPR followed by an AED, our chances of survival drops by ten percent. For three minutes without CPR alone, our chances of having severe neurological damage is almost guaranteed. The success rate of resuscitating someone who goes several minutes without CPR and AED is highly unsuccessful. My daughter (15 years old) was cleared last August by the current FHSA screening protocols for athletics, which does not include EKGs. About ¾ of the way through the football season, my daughter (a cheerleader) decided to go out for the girls' basketball team. On her tryout day, on her first lap of warmups running around the gymnasium, she collapsed and fell face-down on her gym floor within arm's reach of four of her best friends. They watched her lay motionless on the floor of the gym, knowing there was something they should do, but they didn't know what to do. Obviously, they yelled out for help and the coach and assistant coach immediately came running over to her. The coach called 911, as luck would have it, the assistant coach was also a high school resource officer. She immediately checked my daughter's pulse (she had none) and started CPR within 30 seconds of her collapse. EMS arrived about seven minutes later and the assistant coach had continued to do CPR for seven minutes until they arrived and put an AED on my daughter. She then went to the hospital and I won't go into the detail after that, because that is our story and they were very dark days. I will say that we are blessed to have a daughter that survived. She has no neurological damage. Every single medical person that we have been in contact with said that if it was not for the immediate CPR that she received, we would most likely not have our daughter with us today. Certainly, we would not have her without some sort of severe damage. Other than the obvious that we are blessed to still have our daughter with us, these four young ladies, what they would be carrying with them for the rest of their life if my daughter had not survived. Had she died and they knew there was something that they could have done to save her, but they couldn't because they didn't know how to. That sticks with me. My son, I didn't mention, is a football player and he was out on the football field at practice at the school. They called him in, they saw them doing CPR on her. He saw them put the AED on her. Something that he shouldn't have had to see his sibling go through. He will carry that vision with him for the rest of his life. I ask all of you to vote in favor of this bill. We shouldn't have to count on luck.

Martha Lopez Anderson: Seventeen years, one month, and twenty-five days ago, my seemingly healthy 10-year-old son was rollerblading in front of our home when he suddenly collapsed. Those that witnessed his collapse thought that he was having a seizure, so they stood back from him. Precious time was wasted. 911 was called, and when they arrived, they used an AED. They proceeded to shock Shaun's heart multiple times, but instead of pumping blood, his heart just quivered. He was transported to the hospital where shortly after, he was declared brain dead, all because his brain had been deprived of oxygen. As a parent, obviously I was blindsided. I didn't know that seemingly healthy kids could suddenly collapse and die. Shaun had never missed a day of school and never missed a doctor's checkup. His death could have been prevented by people recognizing and knowing how to do CPR, the availability of an AED, and of course, early detection. Preventable is a word that I will tell you constantly and every single day. Remember that word. We can prevent so many deaths by using our

hands and compressing on a chest. I ask that kids learn what to do in this scenario, similar to how they learn to stop, drop, and roll in the case of a fire. Yesterday I posted the story of a student from Crestview high school that saved a 6-month-old baby at his job because he had learned hands-only CPR. With regards to the fiscal impact, I can tell you that the largest school districts already have a policy. Other schools have opted to do it without a policy, so many schools already have the equipment. I also know that fire rescue departments are amazing. They teach our kids on World Heart Day. We just need to make sure this is extended to all schools. I ask that you vote in favor of this bill for those that cannot speak for themselves.

Bethany Chaim, Heart Charged: I came with my defibrillator scar showing so that you would know I am a heart warrior. I remember when I went into surgery to have my defibrillator implanted after being diagnosed with hypertrophic cardo myopathy (the leading killer of student athletes). At that point, there was nothing my family could do other than wait for the professionals. It is a difficult feeling to be helpless and wait for others to help. Here are some more difficult facts we need to deal with. When sudden cardiac arrest strikes, it struck and killed as many people as COVID last year. It takes 8-12 minutes on average for professionals to arrive. At that point, death or severe brain damage is almost certain. In those minutes, bystanders don't need to wait helplessly. They just need to know hands-only CPR and AED use. Know it and feel confident doing it. This bill would teach all high school students in Florida precisely this. Unleash a lifesaving army into our state. Imagine the power of our students. Did you know sudden cardiac arrest is the number one killer on school campuses? Every day in the US, it kills the equivalent of a classroom full of kids. They're just not all in the same classroom. Pass this bill so Florida can get heart charge and begin to knockout sudden cardiac death. Personally, that is what I am trying to do. I created my organization, Heart Charge, down in Miami Dade to do just that. I taught a church how to use hands-only CPR. I even put on a heart screening in Representative Aloupis's district. A life was saved through that screening. I will keep doing these things, but I could not accomplish in every hour of every day what you all could accomplish in a single vote of yes on this bill. I will also be back next year when you work on saving these kids by offering heart screening.

Taffy Apt: My son, Michael, died at the age of 12 at school on a playground surrounded by his friends. Since then, I learned that about 19 children per day die. I thought it was rare, but it is not. I also learned that about 85% of those deaths might have been preventable if they had received an EKG in their annual checkups. My son went to every annual physical and the pediatrician always used the stethoscope. We have better tools available to us today. On the very last line of the athletic participation forms at the schools is a suggestion to get an EKG of your child's heart. Most parents are signing a stack of forms and don't notice that single line. It was never mandatory, but I wish it would have been. It might have saved my son's life. Cardiac arrest is the number one killer of student athletes. In memory of Michael, my family started a foundation to try to bring awareness to make sure that the tragedy that happened to our son does not happen to your children. We have donated AED, sponsored CPR and AED training, and sponsored EKG heart screenings for over one thousand students. By supporting this bill, making a few hours of CPR training part of high school graduation requirements, you can save so many lives. The original bill contained mandatory EKGs for student athletes, but that was removed. Please keep that in mind for next year. I will come back every year to make sure that happens. In the meantime, I hope that none of you lose a child to sudden cardiac arrest.

Nancy Stewart, Federation of Manufactured Homeowners of Florida: Waiving in support.

Debate on the Bill

Ranking Member Willhite

You know my questioning wasn't not in support of the bill. I was just trying to understand why requiring two years as opposed to just encouraging them before. My second concern with line 2 saying mandatory training in public schools. It should be altered and say all schools. I like the original bill because a lot of things were removed in there that I liked as well. I just have

to thank everyone here for coming to testify and hearing their stories to know that CPR is a lifesaver. We talked about the techniques changing, but they haven't changed at all. The only difference is now is that we only do hands-on CPR; we don't even have to do mouth to mouth now. It's not even encouraged to do mouth to mouth because you're taking time away from perfusing blood. I have done a lot of CPR problem for patients that are all ages, from 100 years old to a newborn for the last 20 years. I know it works. I encourage people to do it and it was said that people are nervous or fearful doing it, but it doesn't hurt somebody. So, the more people that do know this the better. Then there are people with underlying conditions that they don't recognize, and I think that's what a lot of the testimony was. People just didn't recognize that underlying conditions that created problems. So, I appreciate you bringing this bill forward and I would encourage you, as it was said by one speaker, to continue bringing more attention to this and adding on to it in upcoming years.

Chair Fine

It is interesting how these days sometimes go. There is another hero of this cause who is not here today who texted me this morning: Shawn Cema, who is from Brevard County. Shawn has told me his own story about his daughter having sudden cardiac arrest and her being brought back to life. When this bill popped up, I thought this was a no brainer and would only take two minutes. It is also because, in my family, we think these things are very important. It is also part of the reason both of our sons are boy scouts and they learned this. It is one of the first merit badges my son earned. Often times, speakers don't make much of an impact in this process. I think many of my colleagues understand this. Often, you don't even have time to let you say everything you want. Today is one of those rare exceptions. I actually have something in common with many of you. I watched my sister get her heart shocked around ten years ago. Unfortunately, she did not have a positive outcome and she died at the age of 33. It wasn't for the reasons you all had, but I had to watch it happen four times over ten minutes and I held her hand as she died. I know what it is like, also, for a mother to lose a child, because that has happened for my mom. I know what that is like and she has never been the same. I appreciate all of you being here and I don't think you are going to have any problem getting this bill passed today. I will do you one better and I will as my Ranking Member and ask the two of you to work on this. I don't know if it is possible, but we do have an awful lot of COVID related money that is coming into the state this year for education. Much of which, we really don't know what to do with. As it relates to health, COVID does affect many people's hearts. I would ask the three of you to work with me over the next three weeks to see if we can do a little bit better than this. I ask all of you to give him your favorable support.

Closing on the Bill (Hawkins)

I want to recognize my county. We already mandate EKGs for student athletes. That is where my passion came from. Representative Willhite, that change from mouth-to-mouth is how I was trained in school and I didn't realize it had changed. That is what I meant. I didn't run for this office thinking this would be my bill until I got with all of these families and heard their stories. I have committed with them that every year I serve in this position, I will try to get those mandated EKGs in. I feel bad that it is just for our student athletes, because every 1/300 students have a condition they don't know about. It could be more than just those that go out for sports. I have to thank Chair Fine for his comments and his help on this bill. Also, Representative McClain, thank you. You have been a dear friend and you know my passion for this. He has offered to help me in the future for this EKG portion of the original bill. Today you have an opportunity to save lives of people you will never meet. Someone will save lives because of the techniques we could mandate here today. I ask for your favorable support.

Outcome

The bill was reported favorably.

CS/HB 985 – Use of Federal Funding to Support Online Learning (Shoaf)

In response to the global emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Florida's public K-12 schools, through a series of emergency orders, federal relief funding, and agency guidance, pivoted to online and hybrid (i.e., meeting attendance requirements both through in-person and online learning) instructional delivery for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. Federal relief funding relating to the pandemic, including funding authorized for the purchase of educational technology, to include computers and other electronic devices, and to expand Internet access for purposes of online learning, has been provided through three congressional acts for total educational relief funding of nearly \$11 billion to Florida school districts.

The bill requires the Florida Department of Education (DOE), by November 1, 2021, to publish on its website a report including the amount of federal relief funding and other funding, by source, used by each school district in the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years to provide:

- Internet access and devices to students suitable for online learning and instructional continuity, pursuant to DOE emergency orders and federal relief funding plans; and
- learning management systems and other platform-based supports for in-person and online learning, as well as related professional development.

In addition, the report must include:

- the amount of unexpended federal relief funding, including the percentage as compared to total funding received, by source;
- the estimated number of students who do not have access to a device and who do not have Internet access suitable for online learning, by district; and
- barriers identified by school districts to providing students with adequate Internet access or devices for online learning.

In the report, the DOE must identify programming, initiatives, and strategies that were effective in providing Internet access and devices to students and support innovative instructional practices. The report must provide recommendations, in consultation with the Office of Broadband, for appropriating remaining federal relief funding to close the digital divide for students, consistent with best practices and geographical need.

The bill has no fiscal impact. The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.

Q&A

Representative Valdes

Q: Why the need for the Department of Education to belabor this? I believe that the school districts know where the gaps are. I am trying to understand why to belabor the DOE.

A: This bill is about transparency and accountability on the dollars that were spent for the pandemic relief. It is also to help the legislature take a broad look at all of our districts and the connectivity issues that we face as a state. Often times, and especially if we are going to approach this issue with state funds, it does not end at a county line or at a school district line. It is a regional issue and a statewide issue. Taking all of this data and putting it in a report for the Department of Education to share with the legislature, I believe, will help us be better prepared to address this issue.

Appearance Forms

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

Charles Dudley, Florida Internet and Television Association: Waiving in support.

Debate on the Bill

Representative Aloupis

I just want to publicly thank Representative Shoaf. This is something that we have worked on together. We are here today because of this issue you have sought to address. Thank you for your leadership and I look forward to supporting the bill.

Closing (Shoaf)

Thank you Representative Aloupis. You are being very modest; we are here today because of your help. This bill will allow us to better attack this glaring digital divide problem and it will help us provide much-needed internet access for our children.

Outcome

The bill was reported favorably.

HB 575 – The Gold Seal Quality Care Program (Omphroy)

The Gold Seal Quality Care Program provides financial incentives, in the form of certain tax exemptions and increased reimbursements, to qualifying child care providers. A qualifying provider must be accredited by an association approved by the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) as meeting certain national accrediting standards and other criteria. The DCF is responsible for administering the Gold Seal program, including through rulemaking.

The bill provides a type two transfer of administrative responsibility for the Gold Seal program from the DCF to the Florida Department of Education (DOE) by July 1, 2026, and places rulemaking authority with the State Board of Education (SBE).

The bill revises Gold Seal program accrediting standards and the requirements for approving an accreditor under the program. The bill specifies that an accreditor is not required to be an association and rather may be an accrediting entity.

The bill requires the DOE to establish a process for verifying Gold Seal accreditor compliance with the revised requirements, including an auditing program, and requires the DOE to recommend to the SBE termination of the accreditor's eligibility for 2 to 5 years if it is unable to correct deficiencies within 30 days. If an accreditor loses its approved status, the providers it accredited have 1 year to obtain accreditation from another approved accreditor. An accreditor is liable for repayment of provider payment differentials if it fraudulently grants accreditation or fails to conduct on-site verification.

The bill allows the DOE to revoke an accrediting entity's approval if the entity has accredited 10 or fewer child care providers in the previous 5 years. The bill also allows the DOE to recommend to the SBE that a Gold Seal provider maintain its status after it is cited for certain violations in specified circumstances.

The bill specifies that a School Readiness provider with the Gold Seal designation must receive a minimum differential payment of 20 percent, rather than up to 20 percent.

The bill has an indeterminate fiscal impact. See Fiscal Comments. The bill takes effect upon becoming law.

Q&A

None.

Appearance Forms on the Bill

None.

Debate on the Bill

None.

Closing on the Bill (Omphroy)

Waived close.

Outcome

The bill was reported favorably.

CS/HB 1061 – Schools of Hope (Smith)

To provide high quality educational options for students in persistently low-performing schools, Florida law authorizes charter school operators meeting certain criteria, known as hope operators, to operate charter schools called schools of hope. The Schools of Hope program provides schools of hope with additional funding for certain expenses such as initial school facility leasing, hiring instructional support personnel, or acquiring supplies and educational materials, along with other expenses specified in law.

The bill makes the following changes to hope operators and schools of hope:

- Authorizes a nonprofit entity that operates more than one school of hope, which has been designated as a local education agency (LEA), to report its students to the Department of Education (DOE) directly, rather than through a school district.
- Authorizes a nonprofit entity which is designated as a LEA as the entity responsible for providing quarterly financial statements to the school district and meeting annual financial audit requirements and allows unrestricted current and capital assets identified in the annual financial audit to be used by any school operated by the LEA within the state.
- Revises facility reporting requirements for identifying educational facilities that may be used by a school of hope by requiring the DOE to provide to school districts a list of all underused, vacant, or surplus facilities.
- Authorizes schools of hope to provide for background screening for their employees, rather than coordinating screening through a school district.
- Revises the definition of a persistently low-performing school to account for school years in which a school grade is not issued.
- Extends the authorization for undispersed Schools of Hope Program funds to be carried forward from 5 years to 7 years.
- Authorizes a charter school operated as a school of hope to be eligible to receive charter school capital outlay funding.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact. See Fiscal Comments. The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2021.

Amendment #223785 (Williams) -- Withdrawn

This amendment would give Florida top home-grown charter schools who have a proven record of success working with children in the urban core throughout the state of Florida the ability to receive school of hope funding, the capacity to grow in the local district to serve more kids. I am understanding there has been conversation about this amendment, so I will withdraw it. I wanted this amendment on the record still. At this point, I believe Mom and Pops are being squeezed out.

Outcome

This amendment was withdrawn.

Q&A

None.

Appearance Forms on the Bill

Adam Miller, Idea Public Schools: Waiving in support.

Phillip Singleton, Wayman Academy of the Arts: We are one of the first charter schools in Duval County, started in 1999. Wayman Academy is also a high performing charter school. There is an issue right now with the current language and law. The high performance rule basically says if you have a charter school you can expand your enrollment, but what actually ends up happening is a school like Wayman, which is a high-performing charter school in the district, essentially cannot expand because they have to be a school operator in order to expand. Wayman feels that the mom and pop charter schools that have been in the community for 20+ years, that are working in the urban core and actually pushing out of the same public schools that may be failing, schools like Wayman Academy should also be included. We are not trying to say that every mom and pop or every high-performing charter school should be able to do that, but if a school is in a position where they could expand, but the only brick wall they hit, maybe there should be something in there that allows the school district to at least include those high-performing charter schools. This really is an issue in Duval County, where they have several middle and elementary schools in the area that are closing at the school district's discretion, but they are not even considering Wayman. We do want to have more construction with the bill sponsor. Thank you, Representative Smith, for this bill, but at least as it goes forward, I would love to have that conversation. Wayman Academy would love to invite all of you to see the facility so you can get a firsthand account of what is actually happening.

Christian Kamara, Florida Charter School Alliance: Waiving in support.

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

Stewart Brown: Waiving in support.

Debate on the Bill

Representative Valdes

I do appreciate the large operators; I really do, because they have the capacity and infrastructure to be able to help many. I also, again, would like to see how we can also help and reward those small charter schools that have been in operation for many years that took an opportunity early on, to say that their kids deserve an alternative to the school-to-prison pipeline. I

am saddened that these charter schools are not taken into consideration. I would be more than happy to work with Representative Smith in trying to encompass and garner some of these great charter schools that are doing phenomenal work for our students. Hopefully by the next bill stop, maybe we can have that conversation and see how we can incorporate part of Representative Williams's amendment or idea to be able to service and help these schools become even better. I am up on the bill. I would just like to see how we can help some of these original and high-performing charter schools in Florida.

Representative Aloupis

I carried this bill in my first session, so I understand this issue pretty intimately. I do think there is a conversation to be had where you are not diluting the value of what a hope operator is. I think they are a particularly unique group of schools in their approach to education. I do think there is a conversation around some of these providers who have existed for some period of time who are doing very good work. There is a number of these programs that should be included in some conversation about whether that definition should be expanded in a way that would be inclusive. I thank Representative Smith for carrying the bill and I hope that conversation can be had.

Representative Williams

When we have large corporations coming in, they come in and they pretty much monopolize the entire district. We have small business owners that have been through the struggle. They know the community. They know the district. They have been through the fight with us tooth and nail. Then you have these large corporations coming in and sweeping the district. I think there should be a conversation or someone at the table that can speak up for that group. That will be me. I am in favor of charter schools. I like school of hope. I have been one of the ones that has always voted for charter schools. When I see these things that come in and are shoved down our throat without conversation or consideration, I really have a problem with that. That was the purpose of the amendment, so that someone can actually see that you have someone that cares about these small business owners. You have someone willing to speak up. At this point, I just feel that so much is coming down the pipeline that is squeezing the life not just out of the public-school system, but for small business owners. I think, right now, we all should be willing to have an understanding. When I put the amendment in, I knew it would not be accepted, but I hope that now after we are hearing the conversation, are on the same page. Thank you.

Representative Bush

I expressed the same sentiment of Representatives Williams and Valdes. I think that the original, small business should be included when we provide these opportunities for the children. I would hope as the bill moves forward that that would be taken into consideration.

Chair Fine

It is nice to see so much bipartisan discussion about the importance of charter schools and school choice. It is pretty important for me. I don't have a school of hope in my area, but I believe my county has 13 charter schools, which eleven are in the district that I represent and that is only 30% of the county. Anything we can do to make them better, count me in.

Closing on the Bill (Smith)

Having worked with Representative Williams and discussed the amendment, I can say that the amendment is not without merit. Those high-performing, non-profit charter schools that are operating today, that we need to have that conversation and I look forward to that. I appreciate your favorable vote.

Outcome

The bill was reported favorably.

MOVING BILLS OF INTEREST

HB 0003 Home Book Delivery for Elementary Students-Trabulsy

Establishes New Worlds Reading Initiative under DOE; provides duties and responsibilities of administrator; provides requirements and procedures for participating entities; establishes student eligibility requirements and 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 and 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 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, and 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 and records; provides that marketplace seller is liable for sales tax collection and remittance; authorizes marketplace providers and marketplace sellers to enter into agreements to recover certain taxes, interest, and penalties; grants DOR settlement and 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 and Florida College System institutions to sponsor charter schools; revises reporting and accountability requirements and populations for which charter school is authorized to limit enrollment process; provides for funding; authorizes career and 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.

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

Use of Epinephrine Auto-injectors on Public K-20 Campuses: Provides that state universities and 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 and 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 and FCS institutions to develop specified protocols; provides liability for use of such epinephrine auto-injectors. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 0131 Educator Conduct-Duggan

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

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

School District Career Center Workforce Education Programs: Revises workforce education programs that school district career centers are authorized to conduct. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

SB 0146 Civic Education-Brandes

Civic Education; 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, and personnel requirements; provides for placement of video camera in specified classrooms; provides requirements for such placement; requires continuing education and inservice training for teaching students with emotional or behavioral disabilities. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 0157 First Aid Training in Public Schools-Hawkins

Revises grade levels that school districts are encouraged provide certain first aid training; requires school district provide specified grade levels with certain first aid training; provides requirements for such training. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 0173 Individual Education Plan Requirements for Students with Disabilities-Tant

Revises timeline for development and implementation of individual education plan (IEP) for transition services for student with disabilities to postsecondary education and career opportunities; revises requirements for IEP for transitions to postsecondary education and career opportunities. 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 0192 Students with Disabilities in Public Schools-Book

Requiring school districts to prohibit the use of seclusion on students with disabilities in public schools; requiring school districts to adopt positive behavior interventions and supports and certain policies and procedures; creating the Video Cameras in

Public School Classrooms Pilot Program; requiring continuing education and inservice training for instructional personnel teaching students with emotional or behavioral disabilities, 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 0229 Hazardous Walking Conditions for K-12 Students-Salzman

Requires DOT to develop and adopt standards and criteria to identify hazardous walking conditions; Revises provisions relating to the transportation of students subjected to hazardous walking conditions and 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, and health care; provides school district, health care practitioner, hospital requirements, and specified penalties. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

SB 0258 Internship Tax Credit Program-Jones

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

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training in Public Schools; 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 0311 Pub. Rec./Assessment Instruments-Silvers

Expands examination and assessment instruments which are confidential and exempt from public record requirements; provides provisions governing access, maintenance, and destruction of certain instruments and related materials shall be prescribed by rules of State Board of Education and regulations of Board of Governors; provides for future legislative review and repeal; provides legislative findings; provides statement of public necessity. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 0337 Impact Fees-DiCeglie

Specifies instances when local government or special district may collect impact fee; requires local governments and 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 and expended. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 0355 The Florida High School Athletic Association-Beltran

Requires FHSAA to allow certain schools and 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

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 and 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 and 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.

SB 0366 Educational Opportunities Leading to Employment-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 specified entities to cooperate in developing and establishing apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs that include career instruction, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 0383 Involuntary Examinations of Minors-Plasencia

Revises certain notification requirements that must be met before minor is removed from school, school transportation, or school-sponsored activity for involuntary examination; provides exceptions; revises certain data reporting requirements for DCF and Office of Safe Schools; creates certain reporting requirements for schools; revises training requirements for school safety officers; provides requirements for school plans under mental health assistance allocation. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

SB 0402 Legal Notices-Rodrigues

Revising requirements for newspapers that are qualified to publish legal notices; authorizing the Internet publication of legal notices on certain websites in lieu of print publication in a newspaper; requiring the Florida Press Association to consult with the Black Press Association of Florida for a specified purpose; authorizing a governmental agency to opt for Internet-only publication of legal notices with any newspaper of general circulation within the state if certain conditions are met; authorizing a newspaper to charge for Internet-only publication, subject to specified limitations, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022.

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 and school readiness programs; and DOE responsibilities and duties relating to early learning and Gold Seal Quality Care Program. Effective Date: upon becoming a law.

HB 0429 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.

HB 0469 Required Student Instruction on Voting-Drake

Requires character development curriculum for certain grades to include instruction on voting using specified ballot. 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 districts to include certain information on student identification 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 and duties, the statewide assessment program, and postsecondary civics education. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 0519 Required Health Education Instruction-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 and make suggestions as to the best use of this time. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

SB 0532 Workforce Education-Burgess

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

SB 0538 Use of Epinephrine Auto-injectors on Public K-20 Campuses-Polsky

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

SB 0545 Reproductive Health and Disease Education-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 and 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.

HB 0551 Solar Energy Systems Located On the Property of an Educational Facility-Hardy

Prohibits costs associated with such systems from being included in calculations of total cost per student station for purposes of limits imposed on costs for certain new construction. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

SB 0559 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 and 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 and 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 and agreements. Effective Date: upon becoming a law.

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

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.

HB 0611 Civic Literacy Education-Diamond

Requires Commissioner of Education to develop criteria for civic literacy practicum that meets certain goals; provides purpose and requirements; authorizes time spent on specified civic engagement activities to count toward requirements for certain scholarships and academic awards; establishes Citizen Scholar Program within USF; requires program to serve certain students, subject to appropriation; provides program requirements; provides undergraduate credit for program completion. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 0723 Juvenile Justice Education Programs-Massullo

Increases percentage of certain funds that must be spent on specified costs; requires contracts between district school boards and 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 0750 Impact Fees-Gruters

Requiring local governments and special districts to credit against the collection of impact fees any contribution that relates to the improvement of public facilities or infrastructure; providing limitations on impact fee increases; providing for retroactive operation; requiring specified entities to submit an affidavit attesting that impact fees were appropriately collected and expended; requiring school districts to report specified information regarding impact fees, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law.

SB 0760 Florida High School Athletic Association-Burgess

Requiring the FHSAA to allow certain schools and home education cooperatives to maintain full membership in the association or to join by sport; prohibiting the FHSAA from discouraging such school or cooperative from simultaneously maintaining membership in another athletic association; requiring, rather than authorizing, the FHSAA to allow public schools to join other athletic associations, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 0791 Workforce and Postsecondary Education-Harding

Requires statewide articulation agreement to establish mathematics pathways for students; provides requirements for admissions counseling; revises requirements for admission to associate degree programs and dual enrollment; authorizes use of alternative methods for assessing skills; provides requirements for FCS institutions. 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. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 0827 School District Funding-Hawkins

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

HB 0835 Employee Organizations-Byrd

Revises provisions related to employee organizations for certain instructional personnel including provisions regarding registration renewal applications, investigation of information provided in such applications, penalties for false information in such applications, recertification, and dues and assessments. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 0849 School Absence Due to Sickness or Injury-Valdes

Authorizes district school boards to determine licensed professionals that may attest to sickness or injury for certain exemption to attendance policy. 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 Exemption-Borrero

Specifies that portions of property not used for certain purposes are not exempt from ad valorem taxation; specifies that exemptions on certain portions of property from ad valorem taxation are not affected so long as the predominant use of the property is for specified purposes. 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; requiring the Department of Education to approve a certification program if an institute provides evidence of its capacity to implement a competency-based program that includes specified strategies; revising the minimum qualifications for part-time and full-time nondegreed teachers of career programs, etc. 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

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

SB 0956 Background Screenings of Athletic Coaches-Baxley

Providing that an athletic coach and an independent sanctioning authority are deemed to satisfy certain background screening requirements if the coach and the independent sanctioning authority are in compliance with national industry background check standards required by specified organizations, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 0985 Use of Federal Funding to Support Online Learning-Shoaf

Use of Federal Funding to Support Online Learning: Requires DOE to publish a report on its website; provides requirements for report; requires DOE to consult with Office of Broadband to make recommendations. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

SB 1014 Employee Organizations-Baxley

Requiring certain employee organizations to petition the Public Employees Relations Commission for recertification; prohibiting an employee organization from having its dues and uniform assessments deducted and collected by a district school board; requiring an employee organization certified as the bargaining agent for a unit of Florida College System institution instructional personnel to include specified information and documentation in an application for registration renewal; requiring an employee organization certified as the bargaining agent for a unit of State University System institution instructional personnel to include specified information and documentation in an application for registration renewal, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 1025 Student Retention-Skidmore

Authorizes K-5 grade level retention for academic reasons upon request of parent or guardian for specified school year; provides requirements for such request; requires principal to have conversations with certain parties; requires certain documentation; authorizes alternatives to retention; specifies parent of guardian decisions controls; requires IEP review in certain circumstances; requires reporting of certain data to DOE. Effective Date: upon becoming a law.

HB 1027 Opening Remarks at High School Athletic Events-Barnaby

Requires athletic associations to create bylaws, policies, or procedures allowing opening remarks at events; provides requirements for remarks; requires announcements before opening remarks; provides opening remarks at events are at the discretion of each school. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

SB 1028 Charter Schools-Hutson

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; authorizing state universities and Florida College System institutions to solicit applications and sponsor charter schools under certain circumstances; revising the definition of the term “persistently low-performing school”, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 1031 Charter Schools-Rodriguez (A)

Revises provisions relating to charter school applications, use of specified assets, opening of additional high-performing charter schools, and virtual charter schools; establishes Charter School Review Commission; provides for commission membership and duties; provides for appeal of certain decisions; requires school district to take certain actions. 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.

HB 1061 Schools of Hope-Smith

Revises student reporting for schools of hope; provides certain entities may be designated as LEA; provides schools of hope may comply with certain financial reporting in specified manner; revises provisions related to the list of specified facilities; authorizes certain unrestricted assets be used in specified manner; revises time certain funds may be carried forward; requires certain school of hope personnel undergo background screening. 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 such education to include an awareness of the benefits of sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the consequences of teenage pregnancy, 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 public schools to provide specified information to certain parents or students. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 1141 Background Screenings of Athletic Coaches-Hunschofsky, Truenow

Provides that an athletic coach and an independent sanctioning authority are deemed to satisfy background screening requirements if coach and independent sanctioning authority are in compliance with national industry background check standards required by specified organizations. 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, and William Cecil Golden Professional Development Program for School Leaders. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

SB 1214 Nonprofit Taxation-Gruters

Specifying that portions of property not used for certain purposes are not exempt from ad valorem taxation; specifying that exemptions for certain portions of property from ad valorem taxation are not affected so long as such portions of property are used for specified purposes, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 1227 Guidance Services on Academic and Career Planning-Arrington

Requires students and parents be informed of acceleration, academic, and career planning options; requires plan be developed in consultation with a certified school counselor; requires personalized student plan to inform students of certain opportunities. 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 overview of existing career pathway programs and recommendations on the feasibility of establishing and implementing Career Pathways for Florida's Future (CaP-FL) program; provides requirements for report. Effective Date: upon becoming a law.

SB 1282 Early Learning and Early Grade Success-Harrell

Early Learning and Early Grade Success; 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 1336 Gold Seal Quality Care Program-Gibson

Gold Seal Quality Care Program; 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 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.

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.

SB 1456 Public Records/Examination and Assessment Instruments-Rodrigues (R)

Expanding an exemption from public records requirements for examination and assessment instruments used for statewide standardized assessments and student progression to include those instruments used for statewide kindergarten screening,

youth enrolled in Department of Juvenile Justice programs, limited English proficient students, civic literacy assessments, measuring minority and underrepresented student achievement, and certification of educators and those administered by a Florida College System institution, a state university, or the Department of Education; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of public necessity, 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.

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 and damages; provides statute of limitation. 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 and DCF, in consultation with DEO, to implement automated consumer-first workforce system; requires DEO to develop training for specified partners; requires certain DOE standards and policies to include specified requirement for training providers; provides criteria for work-based learning opportunity; requires that certain resources be used in career and education planning courses and character development curriculum; provides requirements for certain student career service centers and 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 and 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 and apprenticeship program grants, Money-back Guarantee Program, automated consumer-first workforce system, career and education planning courses, digital credential courses, and student career service centers. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 1585 Government Accountability-Barnaby

Creates Florida Integrity Office under Auditor General; provides duties and powers of Florida Integrity Officer, Auditor General, Chief Inspector General, and 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.

HB 1621 Early Learning Scholarship Program-Davis

Establishes the Early Learning Scholarship Program; establishes eligibility criteria; requires program funds be used for specified purpose; provides for program administration; requires report; specifies provider eligibility criteria; exempts state from liability. 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 and referendum. Effective Date: upon becoming a law.

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 1740 Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program-Rouson

Establishing the Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program within the Department of Education; providing the purpose of the program; specifying eligibility requirements for the awarding of a Seal of Fine Arts; requiring the Commissioner of Education and school districts to perform specified duties to administer the program; prohibiting a school district or the Department of Education from charging a fee for the seal; requiring the state board to adopt rules, 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 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 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.

SB 2032 Education and Sharing Day-Pizzo

Recognizing March 24, 2021, as "Education and Sharing Day" in Florida, etc.

HB 2051 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-Robinson (W)

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

HB 5101 (Formerly PKA1) Education Funding-House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee

Revises calculation for determining amount of state funds received by Florida Virtual School for operating purposes; repeals provisions relating to reading scholarship accounts; revises certain requirements for school districts providing virtual instruction programs; removes provisions relating to specified funding allocations; revises provisions relating to adjustments to minimum base salary of certain employees; requires school districts to use specified federal funding allocations for specified purposes; provides requirements relating to continued participation in reading scholarship accounts program. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 7011 (Formerly ELE1) Student Literacy-House Early Learning and Elementary Education Subcommittee, Aloupis

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 and professional development program. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 7033 (Formerly ELE2) Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys House Early Learning and Elementary Education Subcommittee-Koster

Creates Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys; Provides task force purpose, membership, meetings, and future expiration; requires DOE to provide support and data and 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 (Formerly ELE3) School Safety-House Early Learning and Elementary Education Subcommittee, LaMarca

Requires DCF to analyze specified data; provides penalties relating to FortifyFL reporting tool; revises membership of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission; provides requirements for Commissioner of Education and Office

of Safe Schools; provides requirements for codes of student conduct; requires district school boards to establish policies and provide timely notifications; provides training requirements for safe-school officers; revises requirements for mental health assistance allocation. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 7045 (Formerly ELEC1) School Choice-Education and Early Learning Committee

Repeals Gardiner Scholarship; revises requirements and funding under specified scholarship programs. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

SB 7052 Florida K-12 Education Tax Credit Program Trust Fund/Department of Education 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.

SB 7070 Impacts of COVID-19 on Educational Institutions-Education

Prohibiting an educational institution that has taken certain reasonably necessary actions to diminish the impact or spread of COVID-19 from being civilly liable for such actions; providing that general publications of educational institutions are not evidence of an implied contract to provide specified services during the COVID-19 public health emergency; authorizing school grades calculated during a certain school year to be used for eligibility for the Florida School Recognition Program, etc. Effective Date: This act is effective upon becoming a law.

YOUR GRAYROBINSON TEAM



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

dean.cannon@gray-robinson.com

Dean served in the Florida House of Representatives from 2004 until 2012. During his eight-year tenure, he played pivotal roles in property tax reform, growth management reform, health care and Medicaid reform, and major transportation infrastructure policy initiatives, among many others. He was selected by his peers to become Speaker of the House for the 2010 to 2012 term and is credited with leading the Florida House effectively during a time of great economic and political challenge.



Kim McDougal, Ph.D., Senior Government Affairs Consultant

kim.mcdougal@gray-robinson.com

Kim brings almost three decades of education policy knowledge and experience to the firm's lobbying practice, having served in multiple leadership roles at the Department of Education, including governmental relations director and senior policy advisor for several commissioners of education. Most recently, Kim served as chief of staff to Florida Governor Rick Scott. In this role, she was responsible for directly serving and advising the Governor on issues pertaining to 100,000 plus executive branch employees and administered an \$83 billion state budget. She also served as Governor Scott's deputy chief of staff, legislative affairs director, education policy coordinator and as policy advisor during his successful re-election campaign.



Carlecia Collins, Government Consultant

carlecia.collins@gray-robinson.com

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.