

February 26, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Joy Frank
Alex Sarsfield, Legislative Intern
Chesten Goodman, Legislative Intern

RE: Week of February 22 – Legislative Update

General Information

The House and Senate will initiate the budget conference this weekend.

This will be the last full report until the end of session. I will report on any pertinent issues particularly as it relates to the budget and the capital outlay issues that are outstanding. Most of the substantive language has been provided to you and won't change. It is just a matter of what is going to ultimately pass. Again, if there are major changes, I will report on those as the session winds down.

If you have any questions about any budget or substantive issues, please give me a call.

Senate Committee Action

SB 524 by Gaetz re to SUS Performance-based Incentives. There was a lengthy amendment that incorporated several bills including capital outlay and the Special Facilities Program. There was no provision relating to the sharing of discretionary millage with charter schools. Below is an outline of the provisions which was compiled by Broward County Public Schools. Please keep in mind that this chart corresponds to the "delete-all" amendment Barcode 741272.

SB524: R/T State University System Performance-based Incentives		
Line Number	Addition/Strikethrough	Topic
11-14	Addition	Duties as District School Board: Visitation of Schools
351-354	Addition	Consideration Points for Matrix of Services Calculation re: deaf/enrolled in auditory-oral education program
367-373	Addition	VPK Eligibility
379-381	Strikethrough	Requirements for Online Course Requirement Outside of the School

SB524: R/T State University System Performance-based Incentives

Line Number	Addition/Strikethrough	Topic
		Day
390-404	Addition	Addition of Online Course Requirement Options
406-408	Addition	Addition of Requirements for Online Course Requirement Outside of the School Day
482-525	Addition	Federally Connected Student Supplement
550-681	Addition	PAPPI Program (Broward mentioned at line 562)
690-693	Addition	Exception of PAPPI Program districts to Equity in School-Level Funding Act's 80%
711-731	Addition	PAPPI School Principal Duties
748-756	Addition	Educator Liability Insurance Notification for Postsecondary Students
759-817	Addition	Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program
891-919	Strikethrough	Charter School Capital Outlay Funding Priorities/Allocation
925-994	Addition	Charter School Ineligibility for Funding Allocation/Eligible Fund Use/Funding Calculation
995-1010	Strikethrough	Funding Calculation (one-fifteenth)
1011-1012	Addition	DOE will Calculate Eligible Charter School Funding Allocations
1016-1019	Addition	DOE will Recalculate Charter Allocations Periodically
1026-1030	Strikethrough	Calculation for Allocation Based on 2 nd and 3 rd Enrollment Surveys
1086-1094	Strikethrough	Additional Dedicated Funding Source/Allocation of Capital Outlay Funds for Charters
1118-1119	Addition	Ineligibility of Districts to Receive Funding While Any Portion of the District's Participation Requirement is Outstanding (re: Special Facility Construction Account)

SB524: R/T State University System Performance-based Incentives		
Line Number	Addition/Strikethrough	Topic
1133-1137	Addition	District May Request a Preapplication Review at Any Time for
1147-1148	Addition	Special Facility Construction: FTE Determined by the Demographic, Revenue, and Education Estimating Conferences, not DOE
1154-1156	Addition	Survey Amendment Prepared by District and DOE and Approved by DOE
1156-1160	Addition	Survey Consultant Compensation
1176-1179	Addition	Total Cost per Student Station Exception
1184-1188	Addition	Specifying Construction Projects for SY2019/20
1192-1207	Addition	Max Millage Levying for Special Facility Construction
1203-1207	Strikethrough/Addition	Requirement to Budget 1 mill per Year to Project
1220-1226	Strikethrough/Addition	Removal of 3-year and Inclusion of Commitment to "Satisfy its Participation"
1235-1236	Addition	DOE Representative Shall Chair the Special Facility Construction Committee
1256-1298	Addition	Documentation of Construction Costs/OPPAGA Study of School Construction Costs
1308-1336	Addition	Sanctions for Exceeding Per Student Station Costs
1353-1358	Strikethrough/Addition	DOE will Give Annual District Construction Cost Reports to the Auditor General, Not the Governor, Senate President, and Speaker of the House
1366-1371	Strikethrough	Restrictions on Cost per Student Station Construction Do Not Apply to Projects Funded Entirely by Specified Proceeds

SB524: R/T State University System Performance-based Incentives		
Line Number	Addition/Strikethrough	Topic
1382-1442	Addition	Competency Based Pilot Program (Broward Not Mentioned)

Senator Montford filed several amendments to the “delete-all” amendment and two passed. The first related to the capital outlay provisions. The original language of the bill authorized the Auditor General to determine if sanctions were to be imposed due to districts exceeding the cost per student station limits. The amendment, which passed, states that if the Auditor General determines that the cost per student station overage is de minimus or due to extraordinary circumstances, outside of the control of the district, the sanctions will not apply.

The second amendment related to lease arrangements by charter schools. His amendment, which passed, would require such leases to be at a fair market value in the school district in which the charter school is located.

The base amendment also contains language recommended by Senator Montford that requires a study of SREF by OPPAGA.

An amendment by Senator Hays to delete the Best and Brightest Program failed. Another amendment by Senator Flores failed which would have allowed teachers to be eligible for the Best and Brightest Scholarship if they had a nationally accredited, advanced credential earned after initial certification.

The amendment as amended passed the Senate Appropriations Committee favorably.

SB 1166 by Gaetz re to Education Funding. There was a “strike-all” amendment that was filed and incorporated several bills. Below is an outline of the provisions which was compiled by Broward County Public Schools. Please keep in mind that this chart corresponds to the “delete-all” amendment Barcode 927682.

SB1166: R/T Education Funding		
Line Number	Addition/Strikethrough	Topic
11-14	Addition	Duties as District School Board: Visitation of Schools
68	Addition/Strikethrough	Public Education Choices Available Throughout the State- Not Only Home District
119	Strikethrough	Eligibility of Students for High School Athletics Dependent on Approval of Transfer by School Board
125-127	Addition	Public School Students May be

SB1166: R/T Education Funding		
Line Number	Addition/Strikethrough	Topic
		Provided Transportation to New School
137-199	Addition	Controlled Open Enrollment Process Specifics for Public/Charter Schools
213-218	Addition	Controlled Open Enrollment Eligibility Requirements
221-225	Strikethrough	School District Annual Report on Controlled Open Enrollment
231-248	Addition	Student Eligibility for Controlled Open Enrollment/Choice Program/Sports
268-272	Addition	Charter Schools/Student Reading Deficiency
294-298	Addition	Reading Curriculum Specifications
307-317	Addition	Charter School Application Disclosures
452	Addition	Charter School Reading Curriculum/Instructional Strategies "Evidence Based"
508-509	Addition	Charter School Admission/Dismissal and Academic Performance
603-614	Addition	Charter School Termination
614-638	Strikethrough	Charter School Governing Board Requirements
661-662	Addition	Upon Approval of Charter Contract, Must Provide Sponsor with Monthly Statement
671-673	Addition	Sponsor Review of Financial Statement
740-742	Addition	Charter Contract Termination After Two Consecutive "F" Grades
742-744	Strikethrough	Charter Contract Termination After Two Consecutive "F" Grades
768-774	Addition	Charter Termination Specifications
797-820	Addition	Charter Governing Board Parental Facilitation
843-844	Addition	Enrollment Preference for Students in Failing Schools
863-864	Addition	Charter Proportionate Share of Research-Based Reading Allocation
951-953	Addition	Calculation of FTE
953-966	Strikethrough	Calculation of FTE
972-985	Strikethrough	FTE Adjustments

SB1166: R/T Education Funding		
Line Number	Addition/Strikethrough	Topic
992-999	Strikethrough	Virtual Instruction Program/Virtual Charter School Funding Adjustments
1020-1029	Addition	Additional Educational Choice Options
1035-1040	Addition	Credit Acceleration Program Earned via EOCs, AP Exams, and CLEP
1164-1170	Addition	Eligibility to Participate in Inter/Intrascholastic Student Activities
1255-1256	Strikethrough	Specifying District/Interdistrict
1296-1298	Strikethrough	Specifying District/Interdistrict
1328-1345	Addition	Specifications for Student Sport Eligibility
1355-1356	Strikethrough	Removal of Stipulation that private School Must Not Offer District/Interdistrict Athletics
1371-1393	Addition	Specifications for Transfer Student Sport Eligibility
1412-1418	Addition	FHSAA Membership
1445-1451	Strikethrough	FHSAA and Transfer Students
1469-1499	Addition	FHSAA and Recruitment Penalties
1584-1588	Strikethrough	FTE Classification Specifications
1603-1607	Addition	FTE Classification Specifications
1635-1642	Strikethrough	FTE Calculation Adjustment Specifications
1648-1655	Strikethrough	FTE Calculation Adjustment Specifications
1665-1671	Strikethrough	FTE Calculation Adjustment Specifications
1679-1685	Strikethrough	FTE Calculation Adjustment Specifications
1719	Strikethrough	Removal of "Experimental Schools"
1777	Addition/Strikethrough	Removal of "annually" and Inclusion of "initially"
1179-1780	Addition/Strikethrough	Removal of "in addition" and Inclusion of "supplemental"

SB1166: R/T Education Funding		
Line Number	Addition/Strikethrough	Topic
1780-1781	Addition/Strikethrough	Removal of "FTE student membership in FEFP" and Inclusion of "basic funding level"
1783-1788	Addition	FTE Recalculation Specifications
1836-1847	Addition	Certification via Dual Enrollment
1879-1880	Strikethrough	Removal of Weights
1881-1888	Addition	Bonus Funding via Certifications
1897-1898	Strikethrough	Removal of Bonus Limit
1954-1997	Addition	Federally Connected Student Supplement
2052-2069	Addition	Notification Requirements for Teaching
2075-2077	Addition	Professional Development Certification and Education Competency Program
2094-2126	Addition	Continuing Education for Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention
2151-2153	Addition	Suspension of Educator Certificate R/T FHSAA Recruiting Penalties
2173-2175	Addition	Inclusion of FHSAA Referrals in Investigations
2245-2247	Addition	Penalties are in Addition to Existing FHSAA Penalties

Senator Hays had an amendment that would have added the recess bill. It was withdrawn. An amendment was added that names the National Merit Scholarship Incentive Program as the Benacquisto Scholarship.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee favorably as a committee substitute.

SB 1196 by Bean re to Emergency Allergy Treatment in Schools. The bill modifies the definition of an authorized entity for the purposes of emergency allergy treatment and authorizes public and private schools to enter into agreements with wholesale distributors or manufacturers to obtain epinephrine auto-injectors.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee favorably.

SB 1714 by Brandes re to Competency-based Innovation Pilot Program. The bill promotes competency-based student learning opportunities. Specifically, the bill defines competency-based education and:

- Establishes a competency-based innovation pilot program (pilot program) within the Department of Education for five years.
- Specifies pilot program related requirements.
- Authorizes waivers from certain requirements in State Board of Education rule.
- Requires students participating in the pilot program at participating schools to be reported for funding in accordance with current law.
- Specifies repeal of the pilot program effective June 30, 2021.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee favorably as a committee substitute.

SB 432 by Hutson re to Teacher Certification. The bill creates an expedited pathway for an individual holding a Florida temporary educator certificate to earn a Florida professional educator certificate for grades 6-12.

Specifically, the bill requires the applicant to:

- Meet all general certification requirements, with the exception of certain professional preparation coursework requirements;
- Hold a master's or higher degree in the area of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics;
- Teach a high school course in the subject of the advanced degree;
- rated as highly effective as determined by the teacher's performance evaluation system, based in part on student performance as measured by a statewide standardized assessment or an Advanced International Certificate of Education, or International Baccalaureate examination; and
- Achieve a passing score on the Florida professional competency examination required by the state board rules.

The bill passed the full Senate Appropriations Committee favorably.

SB 434 by Garcia re to Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative. The bill establishes the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative (PAPPI) within the Department of Education (DOE) to provide a highly effective principal of a participating school with increased autonomy and authority to operate his or her school in a way that produces significant improvements in student achievement and school management. Schools selected for participation in PAPPI are exempt from the K-20 Education Code and State Board of Education (SBE) rules, with exceptions. The bill requires specified personnel from each participating school and district to enroll in and complete a nationally recognized school turnaround program upon acceptance into the pilot program.

Funding for the pilot program is contingent upon an appropriation in the General Appropriations Act. The Legislature may provide an appropriation to the DOE for the costs of the pilot program, including administrative costs, enrollment costs for the school turnaround program, and an additional scholarship for each participating principal for use at his or her school.

This bill does not specify school districts that "may" participate. However, the language of the bill is included in other amendments to bills being considered in Senate Appropriations today.

The bill passed the full Senate Appropriations Committee favorably.

SB 442 by Flores re to Educational Facilities. The bill authorizes a district school board to adopt, by supermajority vote, a resolution to implement exceptions to the State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF). The bill requires that the district school board adopt the resolution at a public meeting that begins no earlier than 5 p.m., and conduct a cost-benefit analysis using a professionally accepted methodology for each exception selected by the district school board.

Specifically, the bill authorizes implementation of the following exceptions to the SREF:

- Interior nonload-bearing walls.
- Walkways, roadways, driveways, and parking areas.
- Standards for relocatables used as classroom space.
- Site lighting.

The bill passed the full Senate Appropriations Committee favorably.

SB 886 by Benacquisto re to Parent and Student Rights. The bill expands notification requirements and educational choice options available for parents to make informed decisions about the placement of their children in an educational setting. Specifically the bill:

- Expands parent notification requirements to include school district reporting average of estimated funding expenditures on a per student basis.
- Authorizes parent ability to choose to enroll his or her child in any public school in the state which has not reached capacity. The bill further specifies the components of the school district educational facilities plan which the district school board must consider in determining capacity.
- Authorizes a parent to request a transfer of his or her child to a different classroom teacher.

The bill passed the full Senate Appropriations Committee favorably.

SB 984 by Legg re to Education Access and Affordability. The bill modifies requirements related to higher education textbooks and instructional materials affordability and promotes public awareness on higher education costs.

The bill passed the full Senate Appropriations Committee favorably.

SB 1060 by Legg re to Career and Adult Education. Updates terminology and expands opportunities and requirements related to career and adult education. Specifically, the bill:

- Updates, revises, and expands terminology and criteria to align statutory law to federal guidelines and regulations regarding apprenticeship programs.
- Increases the number of Career and Professional Education (CAPE) Digital Tool certificates that can be earned by elementary and middle school students, and approved annually on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List.
- Requires school district career centers and charter technical career centers to establish financial aid appeal procedures for students seeking redress of grievances.

The bill was amended to insert the Structure High School Acceleration Program which is the substance of a bill by Senator Legg. The amendment also incorporates a new funding model for workforce education programs based on weighted student enrollment and program costs determined by cost categories. Finally, the amendment authorizes career centers to compete for the Apprenticeship Grant Program and the Rapid Response Grant program.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee favorably as a committee substitute.

SB 126 by Evers re to Public Records and Public Meetings. The bill creates an exemption from public record and public meeting requirements for unsolicited proposals for public-private partnership (P3) projects for public facilities and infrastructure.

The bill passed the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee.

SB 268 by Ring re to Bullying and Harassment Policies in Schools. The bill requires school districts to implement a policy prohibiting bullying and harassment and revise the policy at least every 3 years. The bill also requires the policy to include a procedure for the mandatory reporting of an act of bullying or harassment and a list of bullying prevention and intervention programs.

Amendment by Clemens adds “sexual orientation” to the definition of bullying – the amendment was withdrawn after debate on it, recognizing that the votes to pass it were not present.

The bill passed the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee.

SB 1126 by Detert re to Auditory-oral Education Programs. The bill requires a school district to annually add additional points to the calculation of a matrix of services for a child who is deaf and enrolled in an auditory-oral education program.

The bill passed the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee.

SB 1160 by Detert re to Art in the Capital Competition. The bill creates the Art in the Capitol Competition, a statewide visual arts competition for all public, private, and home education students in grades 6 through 8.

The bill passed the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee.

SB 1226 by Ring re to Administrative Procedures. The bill requires a statement of estimated regulatory costs (SERC) to include the adverse impacts and regulatory costs estimated to occur five years after the effective date of a rule. If a portion of the rule is not fully implemented on the effective date of the rule, the SERC must be adjusted to include the adverse impacts and regulatory costs expected to occur within the first five years after full implementation of that portion of the rule.

The bill passed the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee.

SB 824 by Stargel re to Dual Enrollment Program. The bill modifies public and private dual enrollment articulation agreement requirements, expands fee exemptions for dually-enrolled students, and specifies funding for certain public postsecondary institutions. Specifically, the bill:

- Establishes August 1 as the annual deadline by which the dual enrollment articulation agreements with home education program students, private schools, and state universities or eligible private colleges and universities must be submitted to the Department of Education.
- Clarifies that the provision of instructional materials and transportation for home education program students and private schools must be addressed in the articulation agreement with the partnering postsecondary institution.

- Establishes provisions that must be included in the articulation agreements with private schools.
- Adds technology fees to the existing fees that public and private school students and home education program students are exempt from paying for dual enrollment courses.
- Specifies funding, subject to annual appropriation in the General Appropriations Act (GAA), for public postsecondary institutions for dual enrollment courses taken by private school students, except for the private school students for whom such postsecondary institutions are otherwise compensated.

The bill was amended to require testing and evaluation services at diagnostic and resource centers to be made available to home education students. Also, authorizes a district to provide ESE services, as defined by SBE, to a home education program student who enrolls in a public school solely for purpose of receiving those services. Funding will be provided through FEFP.

The bill passed the Senate Education Appropriations Committee favorably as a Committee Substitute.

SB 830 by Stargel re to School Choice. Specifically, the bill:

- Adds language to charter statute that a student who has substantial deficiency in reading, the school must notify the parent of the deficiency, the intensive interventions and supports used, and the student's progress. Also adds language that a sponsor shall deny an applications if the school does not propose a reading curriculum that is evidenced based, etc. (this language is in House Reading bill)
- Also adds language that a sponsor may not require the charter school to implement the reading plan adopted by the district.
- Discloses the name of each applicant, governing board member, and all proposed education services providers; the name and sponsor of any charter school operated by each applicant, each governing board member, and each proposed education services provider that has closed and the reasons for the closure; and the academic and financial history of such charter schools, which the sponsor shall consider in deciding whether to approve or deny the application.
- Authorizes a charter school to defer opening of school for up to 2 years to provide time for adequate facility planning.
- Amends blended learning language to allow blended learning off site and not in a charter school classroom setting.
- Admission or dismissal must not be based on student's academic performance.
- Provides process for voluntary closure of charter school.
- Authorizes that a charter school that has not reached capacity, as determined by the charter school's governing board, may be open for enrollment to any student in the state.
- Allows a charter school to use a school facility or portion of land owned by the municipality for the operation of the charter school.
- Authorizes charter school cooperatives.
- Any unrestricted surplus or unrestricted net assets identified in the charter school's annual audit may be used for K-12 educational purposes for charter schools within the district operated by the not-for-profit or municipal entity operating the charter school with the surplus. Surplus operating funds shall be used in accordance with s. 1011.62, and surplus capital outlay funds shall be used in accordance with s. 1013.62(2).
- Current law prohibits local governing authority to adopt or impose local building requirements or site-development restricting such as parking and site-size criteria, that are addressed by and more

stringent than those found in SREF...Language is added to say that is the local governing authority refused to comply, the aggrieved school or entity has a right to bring action in circuit court and get attorney fees.

- Charter schools that operate in a critical need area, sponsor may withhold fee of up to 3% for enrollment up to and including 250 students per school.
- High performing application that is denied by the school board is exempt from administrative fee.
- Amends charter school statute. Requires application to contain a list and school grade of all charter schools currently or previously operated by the applicant, applicant group or proposed management company.
- Sponsor must consider the performance of all charter schools currently or previously operated by the applicant, applicant group or management company.
- Automatically terminates a charter if school earns two consecutive grades of "F" after all school grade appeals are final.
- Requires sponsor to notify in writing the charter school's governing board principal, and DOE when charter is terminated.
- Re eligibility of students adds language to state that a charter school may not deny the application or continued enrollment of a student based on the student's current or prior academic performance, including grade retention.
- Provides as one of the enrollment preferences students who are currently enrolled or were enrolled during prior school year in public school that earned an "F" or 3 consecutive grades of "D" or who are zoned for such school.
- Specifies that school entitled to funds from research-based reading allocation.
- Prohibits school board from delaying payments based on receipt of local tax revenue.
- Lifts limitation on replication of high performing charter school if such high performing charter school is established in attendance zone of school in need of intervention and support or to meet capacity needs or needs for innovative choice options identified by the district school board.
- Repeals language specifying that a high-performing charter school may not increase enrollment or expand grade levels following any year in which the school receives a "C" or lower.
- Provides expedited renewal for high performing charter school
- Establishes High-Impact Charter Network –are entities that successfully operate a system of charter schools that serve primarily educationally disadvantaged students in critical need area. "Critical need area" defined as schools receiving a school grade of "D" or "F" in 4 of the preceding 5 years; or has fewer than 25 percent of students passing statewide standardized assessment in ELA in the most recent year for which assessment scores are available. The administrative fee is waived for these schools and may receive capital outlay funding.
- Amends virtual instruction programs statute and provides that provider's contract is automatically terminated if the provider earns two consecutive school grades of "F" etc.
- Amends capital outlay provisions and weakens the language to provide that a charter school just has to have an annual audit that does not reveal financial emergency conditions in the most recent audit rather than show financial stability.
- Adds language that any student, in any grade can have access to part-time or fulltime virtual programs.
- Add CAP language for AP courses. In other words you don't have to take the course; you can just pass the test.
- Has the language that prohibits full funding of double session schools. This is Governor's, DOE's and your language.
- Also repeals performance funding for nonpassage of Algebra I EOC.

- Authorizes but does not require charter school to develop and maintain a professional development certification and education competency program.

The bill passed the Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee favorably.

SB 1068 by Legg re to Education. The bill was amended to incorporate the latest version of the House reading legislation. The bill was also amended to incorporate the substance of another bill relating to the Pledge of Allegiance. Notice of a student’s right to not perform the pledge would be provided in the student handbook. Finally, legislation establishing the Florida Seal of Biliteracy Program was incorporated into the bill.

The bill and amendment passed the Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee favorably as a committee substitute.

SB 1078 by Legg Re to Education. The bill updates terminologies to reflect the current ACT test, ACT Aspire, which has replaced the Preliminary ACT (PLAN) test. Accordingly, the bill conforms existing testing, funding, and reporting provisions associated with PLAN to the change.

The bill passed the Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee favorably.

SB 1088 by Stargel re to McKay Scholarships. The bill expands eligibility requirements for students enrolled in education programs for students with disabilities. Specifically, the bill:

- Amends the John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program (McKay) to:
 - Exempt foster children from the prior school year attendance requirement for determining student eligibility.
 - Authorize a private school to establish a transition-to-work program for McKay students.
 - Enable McKay students to take virtual courses without reducing the scholarship amount.
- Saves from repeal the Adults with Disabilities Workforce Education Pilot Program, and renames the program the “Adults with Disabilities Workforce Education Program.”

The bill passed the Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee favorably.

SB 1356 by Brandes re to Employment After Retirement of School District Personnel. The bill was substantially amended to clarify in s. 1012.33 re to contract with instructional staff that notwithstanding any other provision of law, a retired member may interrupt retirement and be reemployed in any public school as instructional personnel under a 1-year probationary contract. If the retiree successfully completes the probationary contract, the school board may reemploy the retiree under an annual contract. The retiree is not eligible for a professional service contract.

The bill passed the Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee favorably as a committee substitute.

SB 1462 by Latvala re to Education Instruction. The bill expands the requirements for high school character-development programs to include instruction on developing life and career-related skills.

The bill passed the Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee favorably.

SB 1570 by Simmons re to School Bus Stop Safety. The bill reclassifies the offense for passing a stopped school bus on the side that children enter and exit while displaying a stop signal from a noncriminal traffic infraction to the criminal offense of reckless driving.

The bill was reported favorable by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development.

Senate Floor Action

SB 468 b Ring re to Computer Coding Instruction. The bill provides that, beginning in the 2018-2019 academic year, high schools must provide opportunities for students to take computer coding courses of sufficient rigor, such that two credits in those courses and the earning of a related industry certification satisfies two credits in sequential foreign language instruction.

Amendment by Galvano authorizes FLVS to offer computer-coding courses identified in the course code directory. The bill also authorizes school districts to provide students access to such courses under certain circumstances. The last amendment requires DOE to annually report certain information to the Board of Governors and the Legislature.

The bill passed the full Senate.

House Floor Action

HB 183 by Adkins re to Administrative Procedures. The Administrative Procedure Act (APA) provides uniform procedures for the exercise of specified administrative authority. The bill amends provisions of the APA to enhance the opportunities for substantially affected parties to challenge rules.

The bill passed the full House.

HB 793 by O'Toole re to Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. The bill creates the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award as an alternative to the current Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award. A student may qualify for the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award if he or she meets the general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship program and earns a minimum of five postsecondary credits through CAPE industry certifications which articulate for college credit. The new scholarship allows for additional credit hours upon completion of a technical degree in certain instances. The bill passed the full House.

HB 791 by Ingoglia re to Local Tax Referenda. The bill provides that a referendum to adopt or amend a local government discretionary sales surtax may not be held during a special election. A referendum held at a presidential preference primary election or at a primary election requires the approval of at least 60 percent of the voters. A referendum held at a general election requires the approval of a majority of the voters. The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

The bill passed the full House.

HB 1147 by Latvala re to Character-development Instruction. The bill expands the requirements for high school character-development programs to include instruction on developing life and career-related skills.

The bill passed the full House.