

February 19, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Joy Frank
Alex Sarsfield, Legislative Intern
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RE: Legislative Update – Week of February 15th

General Information

The budget conference is expected to be next week.

The House has passed off the floor their major education bills with few amendments. The bills and amendments are summarized below.

The House Education committee passed an amended version of HB 873 relating to capital outlay. A summary of the changes is below. The Senate did not address capital outlay this week.

Senate Committee Action

SB 686 by Gaetz re to Government Accountability. The bill is an omnibus government accountability bill and:

- Extends the conflicting contractual relationship ban in s. 112.313(7)(a), F.S., to include contracts held by a business entity in which a public officer or public employee holds a controlling interest in a business entity or is an officer, director, or a member who manages such an entity.
- Amends Florida's criminal provisions relating to Bribery, Misuse of Public Office, Unlawful Compensation or Reward for Official Behavior, Official Misconduct, and Bid Tampering to replace the corrupt intent mens rea requirement with the knowingly and intentionally mens rea requirement. The bill also applies the crimes of Official Misconduct and Bid Tampering to "public contractors."
- Requires governmental entities to investigate claims of unauthorized compensation.
- Allows the Governor or Commissioner of Education, or their designees, to report that a local governmental entity has failed to comply with applicable auditing, financial reporting, bond issuance notification, bond verification provisions, or failed to disclose a financial emergency or provide information required during a financial emergency. The bill increases the Single Audit Act threshold from \$500,000 to \$750,000 and allows the Auditor General to review the threshold periodically and make appropriate recommendations to the Legislature. The bill makes changes to the financial reporting requirements and independent audit requirements. The bill specifies who can serve as members of the auditor selection committees for local governmental entities. The bill requires the Florida Virtual School to have an independent financial audit each year.

- Requires the Governor or the Commissioner of Education to notify the Legislative Auditing Committee of financial emergencies instead of notifying the members of the Legislative Auditing Committee.
- Clarifies that members of the public are not required to provide an advance written copy of their testimony or comments as a precondition to being given the opportunity to be heard.

The bill passed the Senate Community Affairs Committee favorably and is now in Appropriations.

SB 1100 by Brandes re to Local Tax Referenda. The bill standardizes the time at which a referendum to adopt or amend a discretionary sales surtax may be held and adjusts the voter approval threshold necessary for the adoption or amendment of such surtax in certain circumstances. A referendum for a discretionary sales surtax may only be held at a general election, a presidential preference primary election, or a primary election. The bill prohibits a local government from holding a referendum to levy a discretionary sales surtax at a special election. If the referendum is held on the day of the general election, a majority of the voters voting must approve the discretionary sales surtax before it may go into effect. If the referendum is held during a primary or a presidential preference primary election, at least 60 percent of the voters voting must approve the discretionary sales surtax before it may go into effect. The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

The bill passed the Senate Community Affairs Committee and is now in Finance and Tax.

SB 1150 by Bean re to Legislative Reauthorization of Agency Rulemaking Authority. The bill now requires the Administrative Procedures Committee to submit recommendations to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by March 1, 2017, on a process to periodically review rulemaking authority granted to state agencies. Such recommendations must outline a process similar to the Open Government Sunset Review Act, set forth in s. 119.15, F.S., including the expiration of rulemaking authority until reauthorized by the Legislature.

The bill passed the Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee favorably.

SB 1222 by Flores re to Millage Rates. The bill changes the maximum millage rate that counties, municipalities, special districts, or municipal service taxing units may levy without a supermajority or unanimous vote of the governing board to the millage levied in the prior year, adjusted for change in per capita Florida personal income, unless the change is negative.

The bill passed the Senate Finance and Tax Committee favorably.

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;

- Be 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 was reported favorable by the Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

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 was reported favorable by the Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

SB 1076 by Legg re to Education. The bill expands student access to advanced-level instruction and examinations that students may take to generate high school credit through a performance-based approach. Specifically, the bill:

Provides for the creation of structured high school acceleration programs (structured programs) that may include collegiate high school programs, and modifies existing provisions for collegiate high school programs to also apply to the structured programs.

Specifies the purpose of the structured programs.

- Requires the structured program contracts to delineate courses that fulfill general education core curriculum or common prerequisites.
- Establishes bonus funding for school districts based on students successfully completing 30 or 60 college credit hours and attaining one or more industry certifications.
- Establishes notification requirements for district school boards, and reporting requirements for district school superintendents and the Commissioner of Education.
- Expands the Credit Acceleration Program mechanism for earning high school credit to include Advanced Placement examinations that students may take to fulfill the requirements for earning a standard high school diploma and a scholar or merit designation on the diploma.

The bill was amended to remove the compliance requirements.

The bill was reported favorable by the Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

SB 1126 by Detert re to Auditory-oral Education Programs. The bill requires a school district to annually add four special consideration points to the total score of all domains on the matrix of services

for a child who is deaf and enrolled in an auditory-oral education program to provide additional supports and services.

The bill was reported favorable by the Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

SB 1196 by Bean re to Emergency Allergy Treatment in Schools. The bill modifies the definition of 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. Specifically, the bill:

- Expands the definition of authorized entity to include private schools and their employees, agents, and physician; changes the purposes for which public and private schools and their employees, agents, and physician are considered an authorized entity; and extends immunity from liability to such schools and their employees, agents, and physician.
- Clarifies that public and private schools may obtain a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors from a wholesale distributor or enter into an arrangement with a wholesale distributor or manufacturer for the epinephrine auto-injectors.

The bill was reported favorable by the Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

SB 1418 by Simmons re to Supplemental Academic Instruction. The bill modifies and extends the requirement of providing an additional hour of daily intensive reading instruction to students enrolled in elementary schools identified as the lowest performing.

Specifically, the bill:

- Extends the requirement through the 2016-2017 fiscal year.
- Requires the 100 lowest-performing elementary schools to provide at least 40 hours of the instruction in a 2017 summer program to students who have Level 1 or Level 2 reading assessment scores.
- Allows students enrolled in the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools that have Level 5 reading assessment scores to participate in the additional hour of instruction on an optional basis.
- Requires a school district to provide 180 hours of additional instruction through a district adopted plan for students who have Level 1 or Level 2 reading assessment scores at any elementary school that is one of the 300 lowest-performing, but not one of the 100 lowest performing.

The bill was reported favorable by the Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

SB 1670 by Bean re to Apprenticeships. The bill updates terminology, modifies requirements, and creates training grant opportunities relating to apprenticeship and postsecondary career programs. Specifically, the bill:

- Updates terminology and expands instructional methods associated with apprenticeship programs.
- Requires Florida College System (FCS) institutions to jointly develop and implement apprenticeship program articulation agreements with registered apprenticeship programs which must:

- Provide for at least two general education courses offered by the FCS institution to be included in the apprenticeship program;
- Award college credit to apprenticeship program students upon completion of the general education courses, as defined by the FCS institution;
- Provide for enrollment of apprenticeship program students into a degree program at the FCS institution upon completion of the apprenticeship program; and
- Ensure the current tuition and fee exemptions for students enrolled in registered apprenticeship programs are applied to courses those students may take pursuant to the articulation agreement associated with his or her apprenticeship program.
- Allows a high school student participating in an apprenticeship associated with a certified trade association to use credits earned upon completion of the apprenticeship to satisfy the high school graduation requirements for courses in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or practical arts; physical education; or electives.
- Creates the Florida Apprenticeship Grant (FLAG) Program to award competitive grants to FCS institutions for the purpose of establishing new or expanding existing apprenticeship programs.
- Creates the Rapid Response Grant Program to award competitive grants to FCS institutions for the purpose of expanding or implementing high-demand postsecondary programs

The bill was reported favorable by the Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

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.

Public schools in Lake and Pinellas Counties, the P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School, and school districts or charter schools designated by the Commissioner of Education may apply to the department for approval of their pilot program.

The bill was amended to add Seminole and Palm Beach School Districts to the pilot program.

SB 1220 by Garcia re to Public Records. The bill provides guidance to judges in determining whether to grant or deny enforcement costs, including reasonable attorney fees, in actions requiring agencies to disclose public records. A court must assess and award the reasonable costs of enforcement, including reasonable attorney fees, against the responsible agency if it determines that the:

- Agency unlawfully refused to permit the public record to be inspected or copied; and
- Complainant provided written notice identifying the public record request to the agency's custodian of public records at least 5 days before filing the civil action, except as provided below.

The complainant is not required to provide written notice of the public record request, as required above, if the agency does not prominently post the contact information for the agency's custodian of public records in the agency's primary administrative building in which public records are routinely created, sent, received, maintained, and requested and on the agency's website, if the agency has website.

A court may not assess and award any reasonable costs of enforcement, including reasonable attorney fees, against the agency if the court determines that the request to inspect or copy the public record was made primarily to harass the agency or cause a violation of ch. 119, F.S.

The bill has passed all committees of reference and is now on the Special Order Calendar.

SB 1570 by Simmons re to School Bus Stop Safety. The bill now only 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 passed the Senate Transportation Committee favorably.

SB 684 by Gaetz re to Choice in Sports. In general, the bill revises student eligibility requirements for participation in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular activities, expands Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSA) membership options for private schools, establishes escalating penalties for recruiting violations, and increases educational choice and controlled open enrollment options.

I sent out a detailed summary last week. The bill was amended to prohibit certain transfers if the student was under a suspension order.

The bill has passed all committees of reference and is now on the Senate Calendar.

SB 806 by Legg re to Instruction for Homebound and Hospitalized Students. The bill obligates school districts to provide instruction to homebound or hospitalized students as part of its program of special instruction for exceptional students.

The bill has passed all committees of reference and is now on the Senate Calendar.

SB 834 by Detert re to Minimum Term School Funding. The bill revises minimum school term requirements and associated funding provisions for public school students and schools. Specifically, the bill:

- Provides that schools (including double-session schools and schools utilizing an experimental calendar) that operate for less than the minimum term will generate proportionally fewer full-time equivalent (FTE).
- Repeals alternative minimum term provisions for double-session schools and schools utilizing an experimental calendar.
- Repeals the requirement for the Department of Education (DOE) to approve an experimental school calendar.
- Clarifies minimum term requirement by which DOE may approve the operation of schools under emergency conditions.

The bill has passed all committees of reference and is now on the Senate Calendar.

SB 894 by Detert re to Education Personnel. The bill modifies and expands several statutory provisions relating to education personnel.

Specifically, the bill:

- Adds Department of Education (DOE) employees and agents, who investigate or prosecute educator misconduct, to the list of individuals authorized to access records relating to child abuse, abandonment, or neglect.
- Authorizes the DOE to use information from the Central Abuse Hotline for educator certification discipline and review.
- Authorizes the Commissioner of Education to issue a letter of guidance to an educator in lieu of finding probable cause to prosecute misconduct.
- Modifies the membership of the Education Practices Commission.
- Prohibits postsecondary education institutions and school districts from requiring students participating in a clinical field experience to purchase liability insurance.
- Authorizes DOE to sponsor an educator job fair.
- Requires DOE to coordinate a best practices community to assist school districts with teacher recruitment and other human resource functions.
- Removes State Board of Education rulemaking authority regarding school district assignment of newly hired instructional personnel.
- Establishes in law state approval of school leader preparation programs.

The bill was amended to remove a fee exemption from the bill.

The bill has passed all committees of reference and should be on the Senate Special Order Calendar.

SB 1026 by Simmons re to High School Athletics. The bill modifies certain provisions of the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA). The bill provides any high school in the state, including private schools, traditional public schools, charter schools, virtual schools, and home education cooperatives, may become a member of the FHSAA and participate in the activities of the FHSAA. In addition, the FHSAA must allow a private school the option of joining the association as a full-time member or on a per-sport basis and may not prohibit or discourage a private school from simultaneously maintaining membership in the FHSAA and another athletic association. The FHSAA may allow a public school the option to apply for consideration to join another athletic association on a per-sport basis.

The FHSAA must also provide a process for the resolution of student eligibility disputes, which includes the opportunity to use an informal conference procedure. The bill provides for a formal process that must include the resolution of an eligibility dispute by a neutral third party whose decision is binding on the parties to the dispute. The bill specifies that the third party may be a retired or former judge, a dispute resolution professional approved by the Florida Bar or applicable circuit court, or a certified mediator or arbitrator.

The bill was amended to remove language relating to special event fees, etc. that precluded FHSAA from exceeding its actual cost to perform the function that is subject of fee.

The bill has passed all committees of reference and is now on the Senate Calendar.

SB 1426 by Stargel re to Membership Associations. This is the bill that applies to the Florida School Boards Association.

The bill has passed all committees of reference and is now on the Senate Calendar.

House Committee Action

HB 873 by Diaz re to Education Funding. This bill amends the Special Facilities Construction Program, requires the sharing of discretionary millage with charter schools under certain circumstances and establishes parameters by which school districts may expend funds for new construction. The bill was amended in the House Education Committee to do the following:

The bill excludes local ad valorem capital outlay funds and capital outlay funds received through a reduction in the administrative fee provided in s. 1002.33(20) from the calculation of charter capital outlay funds subject to the limitation of one-fortieth of the cost per student station. The bill originally included local ad valorem capital outlay funds in the calculation and would have reduced the amount of funds certain charter schools currently receive. As a result of the amendment, school districts will still be able to share local ad valorem capital outlay funds without reducing the total amount of capital outlay funds a charter school may receive.

Section 1013.738, F.S., establishes the criteria for school districts seeking to qualify for the High Growth District Capital Outlay Assistance Grant Program. This section also establishes the methodology for allocating funds to eligible school districts. The bill revises the criteria for schools seeking to participate in the HGDCOA program by:

- Revising the amount of revenue that must be derived from a school district's nonvoted discretionary capital outlay millage.
- Requiring school districts to have a combined unweighted FTE enrollment in charter schools, the virtual instruction program, the Florida Virtual School, and educational scholarship programs under Part III of chapter 1002, F.S., of at least 10 percent of the total student population of the district.
- Requiring a cumulative growth in capital outlay FTE students over the four-year period, which replaces the previous requirement of school districts having equaled or exceeded twice the statewide average of growth in Capital outlay FTE students.
- Removing requirements relating to fund allocation from the Classrooms First Program and the total capital outlay FTE students of participating school districts.

The fiscal comments in the staff analysis estimate the impact of the bill as it relates to sharing capital outlay with charter schools. The bill amends s. 1011.71, F.S., relating to district school tax and s. 1013.62, F.S., relating to charter school capital outlay funding. The bill changes the methodology for calculating the amount of funding that shall be provided from state funds for charter school capital outlay from 1/15th to 1/40th of the cost per student station provided in s. 1013.64, F.S. Based on current capital outlay FTE estimates and the January 2016 cost per student station, total funding required at the 1/40th level is estimated to be \$157.9 million. The bill requires school boards to provide to charter schools a portion of the funding generated by the 1.5 mills levied for capital outlay funding if the amount of state funding provided for charter school capital outlay is insufficient to fully fund the 1/40th of the cost per student station or the amount of funding per student generated by the levy of local ad valorem for capital outlay, whichever is less. HB 5001, Specific Appropriation 19 of the House

2016-2017 General Appropriations Act (GAA), provides \$90 million in state appropriations for charter school capital outlay. If the GAA were finalized with the \$90 million appropriation, school districts would be required to provide payments totaling \$62.9 million to charter schools from the local ad valorem revenues generated from the 1.5 mill levy.

The bill passed the House Education Committee favorably as a committee substitute.

HB 887 by Education Appropriations Subcommittee re to Computer Coding Instruction. The bill promotes student access to education in computer science and related fields by requiring the Higher Education Coordinating Council to develop recommendations that identify, among other things, high school courses in computer science, including computer coding and computer programming, which may be used to satisfy state university admissions requirements for foreign language, math, and science. In addition, the bill requires the Commissioner to establish academic standards for computer science, coding, and programming and identify high school-level courses that incorporate the standards in the Course Code Directory. The Florida Virtual School must offer the identified courses; school districts that do not offer an identified course must provide access to the course through the Florida Virtual School or through other means. The bill requires an annual report by the Department of Education to the Board of Governors and the Legislature. Finally, the bill requires the State Board of Education to work with the Board of Governors and school districts to develop strategies for recruiting and supporting computer science teachers.

The bill has passed all committees of reference and is now on the House Calendar.

HB 1147 by Latvala re to Character-development Instruction. The bill expands the curriculum for character education programs.

The bill has passed all committees of reference and is now on the House Special Order Calendar.

HB 1403 by Broxson re to Pledge of Allegiance. The bill repeals the requirement to conspicuously post notice of the right not to participate and instead provides that students shall be informed of the right not to participate in the pledge by a written notice published in the student handbook, the code of student conduct or a similar school publication. S

The bill has passed all committees of reference and is now on the House Calendar.

HB 117 by Beshears re to Education Funding. The bill exempts a school district with a student population of 2,000 or less from receiving a sparsity wealth adjustment.

The bill has passed all committees of reference and is now on the House Calendar.

HB 499 by Avila re to Ad Valorem Taxation. The bill makes changes to the composition of the Value Adjustment Board (VAB), and amends various provisions addressing the procedures, and oversight of the VAB process. Specifically, the bill:

- Requires the VAB submit the certified assessment roll to the property appraiser by June 1 following the tax year in which the assessments were made, or by December 1 under certain circumstances.
- Revises the requirements for written authorization for representation before the VAB.

- Revises provisions related to the exchange of evidence and the admissibility of evidence. Repeals certain Rules adopted by the Department of Revenue, which conflict with provisions of this bill.
- Clarifies that a taxpayer may appeal to the VAB the application or resetting of an assessment cap.
- Provides that a taxpayer may appeal the assessment of tangible personal property to the VAB if a complete, timely return was filed.
- Provides for an opportunity to correct an erroneous or incomplete tangible personal property return.
- Allows the property appraiser to waive penalties and interest if an assessment cap was improperly granted “as a result of a clerical mistake or an omission by the property appraiser,” and allows the property owner 30 days to pay the taxes, interest, and penalties owed before a lien is filed.
- Provides clarification of the confidentiality of information in the evidence exchange process.
- Changes interest rates for disputed property taxes from 12 percent to the bank prime loan rate; also, the bill proposes to allow property owners to accrue interest at the prime rate when the property appraiser and the property owner reach a settlement prior to the VAB hearing.
- Changes the VAB composition by replacing a county commission member with a citizen member.
- Restricts the ability of a petitioner or property appraiser to reschedule hearings.
- Restricts the qualifications of those who can represent a taxpayer before the VAB.
- Elaborates on what is required in the VAB’s findings of fact.
- Specifies that in the appointment/scheduling of special magistrates no consideration is to be given to assessment reductions recommended by any special magistrate.

The bill also requires counties to specify in the budget summary ad the proportionate amount of the proposed county tax millage and the amount of gross ad valorem taxes attributable to the budgets of the county constitutional officers.

The bill also extends by one year a process that allows school districts to collect unrealized school funds from the prior year in the event the VAB process is delayed.

The bill has passed all committees of reference and is now on the House Calendar.

HB 593 by Metz re to Government Accountability. The bill makes changes to various statutes that ensure government accountability of state and local governments. In part, the bill:

- Expands the reporting requirements for lobbying the Legislature and executive branch;
- Authorizes the Governor or Commissioner of Education to notify the Legislative Auditing Committee of an entity’s failure to comply with certain auditing and financial reporting requirements;
- Applies the conflicting contractual relationship ban to contracts held by a business entity in which a public officer or public employee holds a controlling interest or that he or she manages;
- Requires each agency, the judicial branch, the Justice Administrative Commission, state attorneys, public defenders, criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, the Guardian Ad Litem program, local governmental entities, charter schools, school districts, Florida College System institutions, and state universities to establish and maintain internal controls;

- Revises criminal provisions relating to bribery, misuse of public office, unlawful compensation or reward for official behavior, official misconduct, and bid tampering to replace the “corrupt intent” mens rea requirement with a “knowingly and intentionally” mens rea requirement and to expand the applicability of these offenses to officers and employees of a public entity created or authorized by law;
- Subjects public contractors to the criminal offenses of official misconduct and bid tampering;
- Adds school districts to the list of governmental entities who may withhold salary-related payments for failure to timely file disclosure of financial interests;
- Requires a unit of government to investigate and take action to recover prohibited compensation and exempts from the prohibition specified bonuses and severance pay;
- Requires completion of an annual financial audit of the Florida Virtual School;
- Requires a district school board, Florida College System board of trustees, or university board of trustees to respond to audit recommendations under certain circumstances; and
- Prohibits a board or commission from requiring a member of the public to provide an advance written copy of his or her testimony or comments as a precondition of being given the opportunity to be heard

The bill was reported favorable with a committee substitute by the House Appropriations Committee.

HB 701 by Lee Jr. re to Art in the Capitol Competition. The bill creates the Art in the Capitol Competition for public, private and home education students in grades 6 through 8. Student submissions will be selected by a committee of art teachers whose students have not submitted artwork for consideration.

The bill passed the House Appropriations Committee favorably.

HB 7107 by State Affairs Committee re to Public Employees (FRS). Effective July 1, 2016, the bill authorizes renewed membership in the investment plan for retirees of the investment plan, the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity Program or SMSOAP, the State University System Optional Retirement Program or SUSORP, or the State Community College System Optional Retirement Program or SCCSORP. Such renewed member will be a renewed member of the appropriate membership class in the investment plan, unless employed in a position eligible for participation in the SUSORP or the SCCSORP, in which case the retiree will become a renewed member of the applicable optional retirement program.

Effective July 1, 2016, the bill establishes new survivor benefits for members of the investment plan who are killed in the line of duty. It provides the same survivor benefits to the spouse and children of such member as those currently provided for pension plan members who are killed in the line of duty. The bill also provides the survivor benefits for any member of the investment plan who has been killed in the line of duty since 2002, when members were first allowed to participate in the investment plan. It also provides a process for calculating the retroactive benefit.

Effective July 1, 2017, the bill changes the default from the pension plan to the investment plan for members who do not affirmatively choose a plan. The bill also extends the plan election period to the last business day of the eighth month after the month of hire.

The bill has passed all committees of reference and is now on the House Special Order Calendar.

House Floor Action

HB 7017 by Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee re to Career and Adult Education. The bill revises provisions relating to apprenticeships & job-training programs, high school equivalency programs, Higher Education Coordinating Council, applied technology diploma programs, adult general education programs, CAPE digital tool certificates, and career centers.

The bill creates Florida Apprenticeship Grant (FLAG) & Rapid Response Grant programs. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the sum of \$3 million in recurring funds is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to implement the FLAG program.

The bill passed the full House.

HB 7043 by Education Committee re to Education. The bill maintains the “Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program” that provides up to \$10,000 to highly rated teachers who achieved certain ACT or SAT scores. Once a teacher is deemed eligible by the school district, including a teacher deemed eligible in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the teacher remains eligible as long as he or she is employed by the school district and maintains a highly effective rating or, if a first-year teacher, is rated highly effective.

The bill passed the full House.

HB 119 by Bileca re to Educational Facilities.

SB 7016 re to Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The bill requires the annual dues assessment for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children be paid within existing resources by the Department of Education.

The bill passed the full House.

HB 7029 by Choice & Innovation Subcommittee re to School Choice. Revises provisions relating to charter schools, virtual education, Credit Acceleration Program, FEFP, educator professional development, & charter school capital outlay funding; creates High Impact Charter Network & Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation.

Amendment by Diaz allows for a resident *or employee* of a municipality that operates a charter school-in-a-municipality or allows a charter school to use a school facility or portion of land provided by the municipality for the operation of the charter.

Amendment by Diaz requires that to be eligible for public education capital outlay (PECO) funds, a charter school must be located in the State of Florida.

The bill passed the full House.

HB 669 by Sprowls re to Educational Choice. The bill revises provisions relating to public and private educational choice options by:

- Specifying that career and professional education (CAPE) digital tools, CAPE industry certifications, and collegiate high school programs are considered public educational choice

options and the Florida Personal Learning Scholarship Account Program is a private educational choice option.

- Requiring that parents be provided information about the average amount expended per student in their child's school.
- Authorizing district school board auditors to perform additional audits and reviews as directed by the school board.
- Requiring each district school board to allow parents to seek enrollment in, and transport his or her child to, any public school that has not reached capacity in the district.
- Requiring district school boards to establish a transfer process by which a parent may request that his or her child be transferred to another teacher.
- Providing that, beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, a parent may seek enrollment in, and transport his or her child to, any public school that has not reached capacity in the state.

The bill revises the Credit Acceleration Program (CAP) to allow students to earn high school credit in a course by passing an end-of-course assessment or an Advanced Placement (AP) Examination. The authorization in the bill for students to enroll in any school district in the state would result in redistribution of funding among the 67 school districts in the FEFP.

The bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to contract with the Center for Applied Economic Analysis at Florida Polytechnic University to determine the portability of the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funds when students are able to apply and enroll in any public school in the state.

The bill was amended on the floor to authorize capacity to be determined by the charter school governing board. In addition, the provision authorizing enrollment preferences pursuant to a donation of land or funding agreement executive before July 1, 2016 was deleted.

The bill, as amended, has passed the full House.

HB 837 by Bileca re to McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities. The bill provides that certain students enrolled in John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program are exempt from specific provisions and scholarship awards are not subject to specified funding calculations. The bill creates transition-to-work program for specific students enrolled in program.

Amendment by Bileca extends the protection of children of armed forces parents also to foster children. These children must still fulfill all other requirements of the scholarship program.

The bill passed the full House.

HB 1305 by Eagle re to Student Health.

HB 249 by Moskowitz re to Culinary Education Programs. The bill provides for applicability of DOH sanitation rules to licensed culinary education program and permits a culinary education program with a public food service establishment license to obtain alcoholic beverage license under certain conditions.

The bill passed the full House.

HB 287 by Diaz re to Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative. The bill establishes the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative (PAPPI) within the Department of Education to provide the principals

of participating schools in participating school districts with increased autonomy and authority regarding allocation of resources and staffing.

The bill passed the full House.

HB 1155 by Eisnaugle re to Membership Associations. The bill defines "membership association" and requires membership associations to file annual report with Legislature. The bill prohibits membership association from expending public funds on litigation against state and requires the Auditor General to audit membership associations. The bill impacts the Florida School Boards Association.

The bill passed the full House.

HB 1003 by Sullivan re to Employment After Retirement of School District Personnel. The bill clarifies that retirees may be reemployed only on a probationary or annual contractual basis consistent with the requirements of the FRS and the Student Success Act.

The bill passed the full House.

HB 189 by Diaz re to Teacher Certification. The bill allows an individual to earn a professional certificate for grades 6 through 12 in a STEM subject without having to complete additional coursework if the individual:

- Meets the general certification requirements;
- Holds a master's or higher degree in the area of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics;
- Passes the subject area examination for the correlating certificate;
- Passes the professional education competency examination required by state board rule;
- Teaches a high school course in the subject of the advanced degree; and
- Is rated highly effective under the school district's performance evaluation system, based in part on student performance as measured by a statewide standardized assessment or an Advanced Placement, Advanced International Certificate of Education, or International Baccalaureate examination.

The bill has passed the full House.

HB 1365 by Rodrigues re to Competency-Based Education Pilot Program. The bill creates a Competency-Based Education Pilot Program.

Amendment by Rodrigues extends participation to allow Lake, Palm Beach, Pinellas, and Seminole County School Districts to submit an application in a format prescribed by the department to participate in the pilot program.

The bill passed the full House.

HB 719 by Spano re to Education Personnel. The bill revises several provisions related to education personnel, with respect to educator discipline.

The bill passed the full House.

SB 350 by Montford re to Online Procurement. The bill authorizes district school boards, Florida College System institution boards of trustees and university boards of trustees to make purchases through an online procurement system, electronic auction service, or other efficient procurement tool.

Amendment by Ring removes application of requirements of services that are eligible for reimbursement under the federal E-rate program administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company.

The bill passed the full House and had already passed the Senate.

HB 835 by Eisnaugle re to Education. The bill revises provisions relating to home education programs, nonenrollment & nonattendance cases, dual enrollment programs, & Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award.

Amendment by Eisnaugle declares enrollment in a home education program as a ministerial act by the district school superintendent upon receipt of the notice and may only be terminated pursuant to requirements already established in the bill.

The bill passed the full House.

HB 833 by Plasencia re to Public School Recess. The bill requires district school board to provide students in certain grades with certain amount of free-play recess per day and provides that free-play recess may not be withheld for specified reasons.

The bill passed the full House.

HB 705 by Berman re to Qualifications for Educational Interpreters. The bill requires the State Board of Education to establish standards for educational interpreters and school districts to notify parents if an individual providing interpreter services does not meet SBE standards and report to DOE information regarding individuals providing interpreter services.

The bill passed the full House.