

April 19, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents
FROM: Joy Frank
RE: Legislative Update – Week of April 15th

General Information

Committee meetings are basically complete except for Rules to set the Special Order Calendar. Budget Conference will probably begin next week. Regular session ends on Friday, May 3rd. This will be the last weekly report until the after session report. I will send updates on major legislation as it moves through the process during the last two weeks of session.

The Senate passed SB 7030 relating to school safety. The House version, HB 7093 was temporarily postponed on the Calendar on Second Reading. A detailed side-by-side has been updated and is attached.

The Senate Appropriations Committee passed SB 7070 relating to school choice out of the Senate Appropriations Committee this week. The Senate bill now incorporates provisions from several House bills and it was also amended in the Appropriations Committee. The latest committee substitute has not been released that incorporates the amendments. However, the attached side-by-side incorporates the amendments and I think the section numbers are correct. The primary House companions, HB 7095 and HB 7075 have been retained on the House Calendar.

Committee Action – Senate

SB 522 by Diaz re to Apprenticeship Programs. The bill establishes a new reporting requirement and funding source to expand apprenticeship and preapprenticeship opportunities. It passed the Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee Committee favorably and is now on the Special Order Calendar.

SB 1198 by Stargel re to School Board Fiscal Transparency. The bill revises and clarifies current statutory language relating to fiscal transparency and reporting requirements scheduled to take effect July 1, 2019. The bill was amended to revise approval requirements for school board member travel expenses. Prior board approval for out of district travel greater than \$500 was modified to just requiring prior approval for all out of state travel. The bill passed the Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee favorably as a committee substitute.

SB 1366 by Baxley re to Education. The bill promotes options for education in computer science. The bill was amended to permit a parent to request an exemption for his or her child from any portion of the comprehensive health education course of study the parent finds objectionable. The bill was also amended to remove from inclusion in comprehensive health education course of study concepts related to dating violence and abuse and adds concepts related to techniques to respond to child abuse and the warning signs of human trafficking. Finally, the bill was amended to allow a virtual instruction provider

to use learning gains for students in other states as a way to demonstrate success and extends the conditional approval period from one year to two years. The bill passed the Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee favorably as a committee substitute.

SB 1470 by Diaz re to Charter Schools. The bill authorizes the Charter School Commission (formerly the Charter School Appeal Commission) to review applications from specified entities and maintain duties related to charter application appeals. The bill also establishes penalties for specified charter school personnel or entities. The bill passed the Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee favorably.

SB 1610 by Montford re to Emergency Mitigation and Response. The bill provides for a comprehensive response to the recovery from Hurricane Michael. The bill was amended to provide that the bill is subject to an appropriation. The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation favorably.

SB 190 by Stargel re to Education. The bill modifies requirements relating to the Bright Futures Scholarship Program, etc. There was a delete all amendment that added many postsecondary and other provisions to the bill. The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee favorably as a committee substitute.

SB 770 by Hutson re to Workforce Education. The bill promotes career education and readiness opportunities for student in public schools. There was a delete all amendment that added several provisions to the bill. The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee favorably as a committee substitute.

SB 1444 by Diaz re to Education. The bill creates a state disqualification list to be maintained by DOE. The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee favorably.

SB 1456 by Perry re to the Office of Early Learning. The bill establishes professional development standards and career pathways for early childhood teachers and school readiness program providers. The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee favorably.

Committee Action – House

HB 7123 by Ways and Means Committee re to Taxation. This is the House tax package and includes provisions relating to charter schools. The bill would amend s. 1011.71(9), F.S. to clarify that the term “school operational purposes” includes charter schools sponsored by a school district, for the purpose of distributing taxes collected under the additional, voted operational millage. The funds levied by this voted millage would be shared proportionately with charter schools as provided under s. 1002.33(17), F.S., and must be used by the charter schools in a manner consistent with the purposes of the levy.

Additionally, the bill would amend s. 1002.33(17), F.S. to clarify that a “school district’s current operating discretionary levy” includes the voted levies authorized pursuant to section 1011.71, F.S., as part of the charter school funding calculations.

These new provisions would apply to collections after July 1, 2019.

The bill passed the House Appropriations Committee and is now on the House Calendar.

HB 1061 by Overdorf re to Funds for Operation of Schools. The bill provides for school districts to receive additional funding through the FEFP for each student who receives an Advanced Placement

Capstone Diploma in addition to a standard high school diploma. The bill passed the Education Committee and is now on the House Calendar.

HB 1197 by Fischer re to Charter Schools. The bill authorizes state universities and Florida College System (FCS) institutions to sponsor charter schools upon approval by DOE. The bill also revises requirements for charter schools operated by a FCS institution with a teacher preparation program. The bill provides that the board of trustees of a sponsoring state university or FCS institution is a local educational agency for the purposes of receiving federal funds and accepting responsibility for all requirements in the role. The bill requires DOE, in collaboration with charter school sponsors and operators, to develop a sponsor evaluation framework and report results in its annual charter school application report. In addition, the bill revises charter school application reporting requirements and submission dates for both sponsors and DOE. The bill establishes operational funding and capital outlay funding formulas for charter schools sponsored by a state university or FCS institution.

The bill was amended in the House Education Committee to provide that upon approval by DOE, a state university or FCS institution may sponsor a charter school.

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

HB 7055 by PreK-12 Innovation re to Education. A delete everything amendment was filed and adopted by the committee along with two amendments. The bill provides career pathways for students, authorizes computer science course to substitute for math or science credit, requires a course in career planning in middle school, etc. The bill passed the House Education Committee as a committee substitute.

HB 587 by Andrade re to Medicaid School-based Services. The bill aligns current law with the federal Medicaid requirements by removing the requirement that Medicaid recipients receiving services through the Florida Medicaid Certified School Match Program qualify for Part B or H of the IDEA, or for exceptional student services, or have an IEP or IFSP. The bill passed the House Health & Human Services Committee and is now on the House Calendar.

HB 1171 by Grall re to Parental Rights. The bill prohibits the state, its political subdivision, any other governmental entity or any other institution from infringing upon the fundamental right of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of his or her minor child. The bill passed the House Health & Human Services Committee favorably as a committee substitute and is now in the House Judiciary Committee.

HB 891 by Ponder re to Military-friendly Initiatives. Among other provisions, the bill requires a school district to consider a child a resident when his or her parent provides official military orders to the school district in advance of the family's relocation. The bill passed the State Affairs Committee favorably and is now on the Calendar.