



Notes pages

HB 3 - Online Protections for Minors - Tramont

Enforces online protections for minors by regulating social media platforms and online content.

- Defines terms related to social media platforms and account holders, focusing on minors and their online activities.
- Requires social media platforms to prevent minors under 14 from creating accounts and mandates the termination of existing accounts for those minors.
- Imposes parental consent requirements for minors aged 14 and 15 to have social media accounts.
- Mandates the permanent deletion of personal information once a minor's account is terminated.
- Establishes civil penalties for platforms that knowingly or recklessly violate the act, including potential damages up to \$50,000 per violation and additional punitive damages for consistent misconduct.
- Allows the Department of Legal Affairs to take legal action against social media platforms under the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act for non-compliance.
- Requires commercial entities to utilize age verification methods to restrict minors' access to harmful materials online.
- Introduces "anonymous age verification" as a secure method to protect minors online without retaining their personal information.
- Stipulates that entities enabling minors' access to harmful content or not adequately verifying ages are subject to legal action and penalties.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

SB 46 - Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Program - Stewart

Modifies the Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Program to expand tutoring availability and provide stipends to tutors.

- Establishes that tutoring as part of the program can occur during or after the school day.
- Allows high school students who meet criteria such as a GPA of 3.0 or higher and no history of disciplinary issues to tutor K-3 students to enhance literacy skills.
- Requires school districts participating in the tutoring program to recruit, train, and deploy eligible high school students for tutoring.
- Permits a participating student to earn up to three elective credits for high school graduation based on verified tutoring hours.
- Counts tutoring hours toward high school graduation and Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program community service requirements.
- Designates high school students who provide at least 75 hours of tutoring as New Worlds Scholars, awarding them a pin.
- Authorizes participating school districts to provide a stipend to instructional personnel and high school students serving as tutors for after-school tutoring.

Effective Date: 7/1/2024

HB 49 - Employment - 2024 Chaney

Amends work hour restrictions for minors in Florida, altering employment conditions for those aged 15 and under, and those aged 16 and 17.

- Allows minors 15 and under to work until 7 p.m. on school nights, with a weekly maximum of 15 hours during school periods, and sets holiday and vacation employment limits.
- Permits 16 and 17-year-olds to work until 11 p.m. on school nights, more than 8 hours on holidays or Sundays, and up to 30 hours a week during school, with waiver possibilities for weekly hour limits.

- Mandates breaks for minors working over 4 continuous hours and specifies exceptions to these restrictions for graduated minors, those with exemptions, minors in hardship situations, home educated, or in approved virtual programs.
- Allows the department to waive work hour restrictions and clarifies employer violations regarding minor employment laws.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

HB 151 - Florida Retirement System - by Busatta Cabrera

Authorizes certain retirees to be reemployed while still receiving retirement benefits, with restrictions.

- Allows retirees of the Florida Retirement System to be employed by non-participating employers without affecting their retirement benefits.
- Requires a 6 or 12-month waiting period before retirees can receive both a salary and retirement benefits from participating employers, depending on the retirement or termination date.
- Stipulates that reemployed retirees cannot renew membership in the Florida Retirement System but must instead pay into it as if they were employers.
- Exempts retirees reemployed as school resource officers from the waiting period to receive both a salary and retirement benefits.
- Prohibits new participants in the Florida Retirement System Preservation of Benefits Plan from July 1, 2026.
- Adjusts employer contribution rates to the Florida Retirement System to address unfunded actuarial liabilities.
- Aligns provisions with changes by conforming cross-references and adjusting reemployment policies.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

HB 187 - Antisemitism - Bill by Gottlieb

Adopts the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism to assist in identifying and combating antisemitism and hate crimes against Jewish individuals in the state.

- Defines antisemitism as a perception of Jewish individuals which may be expressed as hatred, including rhetorical and physical manifestations targeting both Jewish and non-Jewish individuals and Jewish community institutions.
- Includes contemporary examples of antisemitism, such as justifying harm against Jewish people, promoting stereotypes, denying the Holocaust, accusing Jews of dual loyalty, and applying double standards to Israel.
- Clarifies that criticism of Israel similar to that of any other country does not constitute antisemitism.
- Ensures that the section does not infringe upon First Amendment rights or conflict with federal or state antidiscrimination laws.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

HB 523 - Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program - Canady

Establishes the Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program within the Department of Education to recognize high school graduates with exemplary achievements in the arts.

- Requires participants to have a high school diploma, complete at least three year-long courses in fine arts with grades of "A" or higher, and meet a minimum of two additional criteria such as completing an advanced course with a "B" or higher, participating in a juried event, completing volunteer arts-related community service, being recognized for an original work of art, or fulfilling a portfolio-based program.
- Defines "work of art" and authorizes the State Board of Education to establish further criteria for awarding the seal.
- Mandates the Commissioner of Education and school districts to provide seals on diplomas and keep records of recipients.
- Prohibits charging a fee for the Seal of Fine Arts and requires the State Board of Education to adopt administrative rules, including confirmation of students' successful completion of the program.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

HB 537 - Student Achievement by Valdes

Establishes the Music-based Supplemental Content to Accelerate Learner Engagement and Success (mSCALES) Pilot Program within the Department of Education to support the adoption of music-based materials for STEM education in middle school.

- Requires the use of music-based materials to supplement math instruction at least twice weekly by certified math teachers.
- Specifies that classes utilizing these materials must adhere to existing class size regulations.
- Designates school districts in Alachua, Marion, and Miami-Dade Counties as eligible, with funding provided at \$6 per student in qualified middle schools.
- Requires annual certification from participating school districts to maintain eligibility, verifying adherence to program requirements.
- Entrusts the College of Education at the University of Florida with evaluating the program's effectiveness, including an annual report to the department and Legislature, and a comprehensive final report due by October 1, 2026.
- Sets the program's expiration date on June 30, 2026.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

SB 832 - Employment of Individuals with - Calatayud

Requires agencies involved in the Employment First Act to enhance collaborative efforts by collecting and sharing data.

- Ensures that the interagency cooperative agreement identifies the roles, responsibilities, and objectives of state agencies and organizations, including data collection and sharing to support individuals with disabilities.
- Mandates the identification of accountability measures for the sustainability of the agreement, specifically focusing on increasing competitive integrated employment, decreasing subminimum wage employment, and reducing nonintegrated employment settings for individuals with disabilities.
- Directs the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help to issue an annual statewide report by December 1 each year, detailing the act's implementation progress and the effectiveness of accountability measures.

Effective Date: 7/1/2024

HB 865 - Youth Athletic Activities Yeager

Revamps requirements for public school athletic coaches, mandating certification in critical emergency response skills.

- Requires each athletic coach employed by any public school to hold a valid coaching certificate, which can be temporary, professional, or specifically for athletic coaching.
- Mandates all such coaches to obtain and maintain certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), first aid, and the use of an automatic external defibrillator (AED), aligning with national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines.
- Excludes volunteer athletic coaches not employed by any public school district from these requirements.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

HB 883 - Short-acting Bronchodilator Use in Public and Private Schools Koster

Amends Florida Statutes to authorize public and private school students with asthma to carry and use short-acting bronchodilators and components, and allows schools to acquire, stock, and administer these medications under specific protocols.

- Defines terms related to asthma, short-acting bronchodilators, and their administration.
- Permits asthmatic students, with parent and physician approval, to carry short-acting bronchodilators and components.
- Enables public and private schools to obtain prescribed short-acting bronchodilators and components in the school's name.
- Authorizes schools to acquire and maintain a stock of short-acting bronchodilators and components for emergency use.
- Requires schools to adopt protocols for the administration of short-acting bronchodilators to students, developed by a licensed physician.
- Allows trained school personnel to administer short-acting bronchodilators to students in respiratory distress, with or without a prior asthma diagnosis or prescription.
- Mandates schools to notify parents about the adopted protocols and obtain prior permission for administering these medications to their children.

- Provides immunity from civil or criminal liability for school personnel and health care practitioners involved in prescribing or administering these medications in accordance with the act.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

HB 917 - Career and Technical Snyder

Revises duties and standards in Florida's career and technical education, amending various sections to enhance coordination and dissemination of information, redefine "journeyworker," adjust minor employment conditions, authorize journeyman recognition across counties and municipalities, offer alternatives to career fairs, revise academic standard review participants, modify high school diploma requirements, remove the requirement for entry-level exams under specific conditions, and repeal the Florida Talent Development Council.

- Revises the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help duties to coordinate publication of a statewide asset map of career and technical education by March 1, 2025, and to report annually on the state's health care workforce needs.
- Redefines "journeyworker" as someone who has completed a registered and state-approved apprenticeship program or met industry experience and testing requirements.
- Provides exemptions for minors to work under certain conditions related to construction, requiring OSHA certification and supervision.
- Requires counties and municipalities to issue and recognize journeyman licenses in specific trades across the state without additional examination or fees.
- Allows district school boards to provide other career and industry networking opportunities as an alternative to career fairs.
- Incorporates a representative from the Department of Commerce and business and industry leaders for in-demand careers in reviewing and commenting on academic standard revisions.
- Adjusts conditions under which students may use certain credits for high school graduation and convenes a workgroup by December 1, 2024, for career and technical education pathways.
- Exempts certain students from completing entry-level examinations for career education programs.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

HB 931 - School Chaplains McClain

Authorizes school districts and charter schools to adopt policies allowing volunteer school chaplains to offer support and services to students.

- Requires policies to define the possible supports, services, or programs provided by chaplains.
- Mandates parental notification about available chaplain services and requires written consent before a student can participate in or receive these services.
- Allows parents to choose a chaplain for their child from a list indicating each chaplain's religious affiliation.
- Stipulates that volunteer chaplains must meet the background screening requirements detailed in section 1012.465.
- Obliges schools that adopt this policy to publish a list of chaplains, including their religious affiliations, on their website.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

SB 958 - Local Government Employees

Revises the compensation calculation for county tax collectors and school superintendents, defines "tax collector employee," and enhances adoption benefits for certain state employees.

- Revises the base salary calculation for compensation of county tax collectors and district school superintendents.
- Defines "tax collector employee" as an employee of an office of the county tax collector.
- Authorizes tax collector employees to apply for specified monetary benefits if they adopt children from the child welfare system, with benefits ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 depending on the situation.
- Allows tax collector employees to receive adoption benefits if they meet domicile and adoption criteria beginning July 1, 2024.
- Requires qualifying adoptive employees, including tax collector employees, to apply to specific departments to obtain monetary benefits.
- Enables tax collectors to budget for and pay hiring or retention bonuses to employees with department approval.

- Authorizes district school boards to contract with county tax collector's office for administering road tests on school grounds.

Effective Date: 7/1/2024

SB 994 - Student Transportation Safety - by Burgess

Enhances safety measures for student transportation by revising the function and use of school bus infraction detection systems.

- Authorizes school districts to contract with private vendors for the installation, operation, and maintenance of infraction detection systems, with a clear stipulation that financial remuneration is not based on the number of violations detected.
- Mandates updated signage on school buses to indicate the presence of camera enforcement systems.
- Requires law enforcement agencies to send a notice of violation within 30 days after identifying a vehicle that has failed to stop for a school bus, detailing the violation and options for the recipient.
- Stipulates that a court determines the occurrence of a violation, upholding it based on evidence and potentially imposing penalties and costs on the violator.
- Specifies that collected civil penalties are used by school districts not only for the technology but also for safety initiatives, driver stipends, or other enhancements related to student transportation safety.
- Prohibits the use of school bus infraction detection systems for any form of remote surveillance not related to traffic enforcement or determining liability for incidents.
- Requires quarterly reporting by school districts on the operation and outcomes of the infraction detection systems, including statistical data on violations and safety improvements.
- Alters the allocation of additional penalties for violations detected by these systems, directing funds to the operating school district for safety-related expenses.

Effective Date: Upon becoming a law

SB 1264 - History of Communism - Collins

Mandates instruction in public schools on the history of communism and establishes the Institute for Freedom in the Americas at Miami Dade College.

- Requires public school instruction on communism history, including U.S. and foreign communist movements, atrocities committed under communism, and comparative discussions on political ideologies.
- Authorizes the department to prepare instructional standards and seek input from victims of communism or recognized organizations dedicated to communism victims.
- Creates the Institute for Freedom in the Americas to promote democracy and provide educational opportunities on democracy and governance.
- Requires the institute to partner with the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom for workshops, symposiums, and educational programs.
- Mandates Miami Dade College to approve a direct-support organization for the institute, with board members appointed by legislative leaders and the governor.

Effective Date: 7/1/2024

HB 1285 - Education Canady

Amends various Florida statutes to enhance education, including not requiring annual exemption applications for charter school properties, prohibiting board trustees from business dealings with their institutions, and adjusting criteria for classical education certificates.

- Eliminates the need for annual exemption applications on property used for charter schools, mandating notification to the property appraiser under certain conditions, with specified penalties for non-compliance.
- Introduces the Office of Ocean Economy within the State University System, outlining its duties and reporting requirements.
- Prohibits Florida College System institution and state university board members from engaging in business dealings with entities under their purview.
- Allows for enrollment preference at charter schools for students transferring from classical schools.
- Authorizes private schools to use certain facilities without specific zoning or land use requirements, provided they meet health, safety, and welfare laws.
- Specifies assessment responsibilities for virtual instruction providers and requires school districts to accommodate testing for virtual students.
- Establishes the Purple Star School District Program with requirements for support and coordination of services for military students and families.

- Mandates school districts and charter schools to offer the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test to certain students.
- Revises dropout prevention programs, including requirements for academic intervention plans.
- Prevents public postsecondary institutions from prohibiting student employment, with exceptions.
- Limits objections to school district instructional materials and requires publishers to provide materials electronically for educational purposes.
- Creates associate in arts specialized transfer degrees with a process for approval and reporting.
- Requires school districts to attempt entering agreements for online dual enrollment courses with Florida College System institutions.
- Adjusts provisions for school improvement measures, including requirements for schools failing to improve grades.
- Modifies tuition differentiation policy for advance payment contracts pre-2024.
- Requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules for issuing classical education teaching certificates, valid only in classical schools.
- Allows the Commissioner of Education to appoint an executive director for the Education Practices Commission.
- Repeals the Florida College System institution employment equity accountability program.
- Appropriates funds for bonuses to International Baccalaureate teachers based on student performance.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

HB 1291 - Educator Preparation Programs Snyder

The bill prohibits educator and school leader preparation programs from including curriculum that distorts historical events or teaches identity politics, and mandates these programs to offer opportunities for critical thinking and competence demonstration.

- Prohibits teacher preparation courses from distorting significant historical events and from teaching curriculum based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the U.S. institutions.
- Requires teacher preparation courses to provide opportunities for candidates to think critically, achieve mastery of academic content, learn instructional strategies, and demonstrate competence.
- Extends these prohibitions and requirements to postsecondary educator preparation institutes, professional learning certification programs, and school leader preparation programs.
- Mandates that school leader preparation programs also focus on candidates demonstrating mastery of program content, including instructional leadership strategies, coaching development, school safety, and continuous improvement efforts.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

HB 1317 - Patriotic Organizations - Duggan

Defines the term "patriotic organization" and outlines provisions for their participation in school activities.

- Specifies "patriotic organization" as a youth membership organization promoting patriotism and civic involvement, listed in Title 36, U.S.C.
- Allows school districts to permit representatives of patriotic organizations to speak to and distribute informational materials to students during school hours, encouraging participation in their activities.
- Enables patriotic organizations to provide recruitment displays at schools.
- Requires school districts to allocate specific times for these activities and to notify parents, offering an option to withhold consent for their child's participation.
- Prohibits discrimination against these organizations in using school buildings or property for specified activities outside of school hours.
- Clarifies that school districts are not obliged to provide equal access to non-patriotic organizations.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

HB 1329 - Veterans - Redondo

Establishes the Major John Leroy Haynes Florida Veterans' History Program to collect and preserve stories of Florida's veterans, revises the purpose of Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., adjusts corporation governance, provides free hunting and fishing licenses to certain disabled veterans, and mandates instruction on Veterans' Day and Memorial Day in schools.

- Defines "veteran" and creates the veterans' history program within the Division of Arts and Culture to preserve veterans' stories and Florida's military contributions.

- Revises Florida Is For Veterans, Inc.'s purpose to serve as the state's military transition assistance, aiming to provide employment opportunities and promote the hiring of veterans and their spouses.
 - Specifies the corporation to be governed by an 11-member board, with changes to appointment processes, including ex officio, nonvoting members.
 - Authorizes free hunting, freshwater, and saltwater fishing licenses for certain disabled veterans.
 - Requires schools to instruct on the history and importance of Veterans' Day and Memorial Day.
 - Appropriates funds and authorizes a position to implement and administer the veterans' history program.
- Effective Date: July 1, 2024

HB 1361 - Education Temple

The bill amends and introduces provisions to enhance educational services and support, focusing on artificial intelligence, expanded scholarship eligibility, literacy improvements, teacher support, and direct student aid.

- Implements grants to support the use of artificial intelligence in schools for students in grades 6 through 12 and requires selected platforms to provide comprehensive support and resources for both students and teachers.
- Expands the New Worlds Scholarship Accounts eligibility to students enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.
- Revokes the requirement for quarterly payments of scholarships and certain fund transfer methods, emphasizing direct purchases by parents if an available system exists.
- Designates the University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning as the administrator for the New Worlds Reading Initiative and lists its responsibilities, including annual reporting and support for literacy improvement.
- Creates the Lastinger Center for Learning, focusing on enhancing student outcomes, educator professional development, and research in early learning, literacy, and mathematics.
- Introduces the New Worlds Tutoring Program to provide academic support in reading and mathematics, requiring annual reporting on program efficacy and student outcomes.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

HB 1403 - School Tomkow

The bill expands and modifies requirements and provisions for various school choice scholarship programs in Florida, including the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program, the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, and the Hope Scholarship Program.

- Defines eligibility and contribution requirements for nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations and penalties for non-compliance or fraud.
- Specifies eligibility for the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program, adding provisions for students with disabilities and prekindergarten programs.
- Adjusts eligibility and scholarship application processes for the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, including prohibitions and scholarship amounts.
- Amends the Hope Scholarship Program, focusing on student eligibility, parental options, and district obligations without providing detailed procedural changes.
- Updates requirements for middle grade promotion and high school diploma criteria, emphasizing the importance of civics education.
- Revises guidelines for virtual instruction program providers, including the removal of sectarian provider restrictions.
- Mandates annual financial auditing and operational review of eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations by independent entities.
- Allows for the transfer of scholarship funds between organizations and outlines the use of contributions for administrative expenses and book purchasing within specific programs.
- Requires development and annual revision of purchasing guidelines for the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program by the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

HB 1473 - School Safety Trabulsy

Enacts comprehensive school safety measures, including training and responsibilities for school guardians, reporting requirements, and drone restrictions on school premises.

- Mandates private schools are responsible for specific costs related to school guardian programs, while allowing sheriffs to waive these costs.
- Authorizes individuals already certified under Florida Criminal Justice Standards to be certified as school guardians without additional training, subject to other conditions.
- Standardizes training for school guardians, revising content to include skills for de-escalating incidents and excluding previous diversity training requirements.
- Expands the scope of who can be appointed as school guardians, including volunteers from school staff.
- Requires school districts, charter schools, and private schools to report information related to school guardians and their programs to the Department of Law Enforcement within specified timeframes.
- Obligates the Department of Law Enforcement to maintain and publish a list of certified school guardians and their training schedules.
- Imposes penalties on sheriffs and educational institutions that fail to report required information, including reimbursement ineligibility and the prohibition of operating guardian programs.
- Prohibits the operation of drones over, or recording of, public and private schools, setting criminal penalties for violations.
- Instructs district school boards and charter school governing boards to include specific instruction relating to the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool for students.
- Stipulates that superintendents must notify certain officials about alleged acts by children dual-enrolled at postsecondary institutions.
- Details duties for school safety specialists, including the completion of safety inspections and investigation of noncompliance reports.
- Establishes procedures and guidelines for school safety, including annual drills and the maintenance of safety records.
- Specifies a progressive discipline policy for personnel who violate safety requirements.
- Clarifies responsibilities before the appointment of school guardians and the handling of crisis intervention training.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

HB 1509 - Pub. Rec./School Guardians Trabulsy

Exempts information identifying individuals certified as school guardians from public records requirements.

- Provides an exemption for any data revealing whether a person has been certified to serve as a school guardian by the Department of Law Enforcement, law enforcement agencies, school districts, or charter schools from state public records laws.
- Subjects the exemption to the Open Government Sunset Review Act, setting an expiration date of October 2, 2029, unless the Legislature reenacts it.
- Declares it a public necessity to protect the identities of certified school guardians to maintain school security, the safety of guardians, and the effectiveness of school guardian programs.

Effective Date: the same date that HB 1473 or similar legislation takes effect

SB 1688 - Career-themed Courses Osgood

Enhances the Florida Career and Professional Education Act by revising strategic plan requirements, annual review data inclusion, and informational provisions to students and parents.

- Requires strategic plans to include strategies for informing and promoting career and technical education opportunities to students, parents, the community, and stakeholders.
- Mandates the Department of Education to collect student achievement and performance data in industry-certified career education programs and career-themed courses as part of the annual review.
- Obligates school districts to inform students and parents during middle school course selection of the career and professional academy or career-themed courses available within the district.

Effective Date: 7/1/2024

SB 1746 - Public Employees y Ingoglia

Revises public employee organization regulations, including dues collection and registration requirements.

- Revises the prohibition on dues deductions for certain mass transit employees who authorize deductions.

- Requires public employees desiring to be in an employee organization to submit a signed form to the bargaining agent, including specific information about dues and the rights of employees regarding union membership.
- Mandates employee organizations to submit current financial statements prepared by an independent CPA for registration and renewal.
- Exempts specific emergency service employee organizations, including law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians, from certain provisions.
- Empowers the Public Employees Relations Commission to investigate employee organization applications for registration renewal and mandates denial under specific inaccuracies.
- Requires employee organizations representing less than 60% of unit employees to petition for recertification and allows public employers or employees to challenge the accuracy of an organization's renewal application.
- Includes transitional provisions regarding the renewal of registration of employee organizations.
- Makes technical and conforming changes to align with the revisions in this act.

Effective Date: Upon becoming law

HB 5001 - General Appropriations Act – 2024

HB 5003 - Implementing the 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act Appropriations Committee,

Implements provisions for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, focusing on appropriations, fund transfers, and various state program adjustments.

- Mandates the Department of Environmental Protection to purchase land for conservation and negotiate with property owners for agricultural leases within specific corridors.
- Directs agencies to review reports for possible modification or repeal and submit findings by October 2024.
- Exempts certain agencies from using the State Data Center, and specifies conditions under which state agencies can acquire vehicles without following state term contracts.
- Establishes a toll relief program for Florida toll facilities users with specific eligibility criteria and reimbursements.
- Requires state agencies to include a technology-related project inventory in their budget request, detailing costs, goals, and implementation status.
- Defines the Florida Turnpike Enterprise to manage a toll relief program with account credits for eligible transactions.
- Specifies that vetoed appropriations or proviso language in the General Appropriations Act voids corresponding provisions in this act.
- Contains provisions that take effect July 1, 2024, or upon the act becoming law if after this date, operating retroactively to July 1, 2024.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

HB 5101 - Education - PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee,

A bill amends various sections of Florida statutes to revise education, insurance, and scholarship programs.

- Revises definitions for the state group insurance program, including coverage for Florida College System institution officers and employees.
- Provides an initial open enrollment period for specified employees and minimum participation requirements for specified institutions.
- Allows certain K-8 public school students to receive a stipend for transportation to specific public schools, subject to legislative appropriation, with eligibility and award requirements detailed.
- Expands the list of universities exempt from certain limits regarding charter lab schools and revises funding calculations for charter schools.
- Creates the Bridge to Speech Program for auditory-oral education, subject to authorization and funding.
- Revises the authorized uses of funds from the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program and the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.
- Adjusts the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program year for adopting certain methodologies and revises early learning coalitions' duties.
- Creates the Charity for Change and AMIkids, Inc., programs, subject to authorization and funding.
- Requires district school boards to establish a threat management coordinator.
- Deletes the Driving Choice Grant Program.

- Adjusts requirements for referring certain prekindergarten students for early literacy support.
- Renames the Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program as the Florida First Responder Scholarship Program, expanding eligibility and revising program inclusion and requirements.
- Requires the department to have a system to track school bond referenda and debt.
- Establishes funding provisions for charter schools sponsored by a Florida College System institution or a state university.
- Includes specific organizations as public school district education foundations for specific purposes.
- Revises requirements for a temporary apprenticeship educator certificate.
- Specifies charter schools sponsored by Florida College System institutions and state universities are ineligible for certain funding.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

SB 7002 - Deregulation of Public Schools - Education Pre-K - 12

The bill introduces updates to public school deregulation, including changes in advertising requirements for school district budgets, emergency management responsibilities, signage on school buses, and public notice for district school board meetings. It revises superintendent roles, parental notification for student placement and suspension, and training timelines for prekindergarten instructors. The text also permits school boards to develop parental notification policies, adjusts financial reporting for school districts, exempting them from certain electronic fund transfer requirements, and mandates website publication of tentative budgets. Additionally, it updates procedures for purchasing transportation equipment and revises the allowable use of certain civil penalties. The act also revises policies on teacher assignment and salary schedules, enables the use of certain assessments for general knowledge mastery, offers certification fee waivers, recommends strategies for retaining exceptional student education instructors, and allows district school boards to rent or lease facilities with fewer restrictions.

- Requires district school boards to advertise budget adoption intentions on a publicly accessible website if not using newspapers.
- Defines "publicly accessible website" for budget and hearing postponement notices.
- Revises district responsibilities during declared emergencies and specifies signage requirements for school buses.
- Provides additional uses for certain civil penalties and revises public notice requirements for school board meetings.
- Enhances the role of district superintendents in reviewing and approving policies through the delegated authority of school boards.
- Requires parental notification adjustments and removes the economic security report requirement for students.
- Sets training completion deadlines for newly hired prekindergarten instructors and revises parental notification methods.
- Authorizes the development of a professional learning system by the Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation.
- Updates financial reporting requirements and bypasses certain requirements for electronic transfers of funds by school districts.
- Mandates the publication of tentative budgets on accessible websites, eliminating the need for newspaper publication.
- Allows school districts to request assistance from the Department of Education for transportation equipment purchases.
- Revises funds expenditure by school districts and updates policies based on guidelines from the department.
- Requires the State Board of Education to address critical teacher shortages and allows salary schedules based on advanced degrees.
- Enables the use of certain assessments for general knowledge mastery and offers certification fee waivers for specific teachers.
- Revises requirements for participating in the Teacher Apprenticeship Program and the validity of adjunct teaching certificates.

Effective Date: 7/1/2024

SB 7004 - Education Education Pre-K - 12

The bill amends and repeals various sections of Florida statutes related to education, making significant changes to tuition fees, performance evaluation, virtual instruction, early learning, assessment procedures, and instructional materials.

- Eliminates the State Board of Education's responsibility to establish the cost of certain tuition and fees.
- Removes the requirement for the state board to identify metrics and develop plans relating to the Florida College System.
- Deletes the necessity for a performance contract in the Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning option, instead allowing principals to use it at their discretion.
- Repeals sections related to single-gender programs, the Competency-Based Education Pilot Program, and fine arts reports.
- Removes the mandate for annual comparative evaluation of charter and public technical centers by the Commissioner of Education.
- Modifies virtual instruction program requirements, including deleting the nonsectarian requirement for virtual instruction program providers.
- Updates the review cycle for school readiness program plans from every 2 years to every 3 years.
- Changes eligibility requirements for high school equivalency examination and revises student assessment procedures in Department of Juvenile Justice education programs.
- Removes requirement for academically high-performing school districts to submit an annual report to the state board.
- Adjusts definitions and requirements for "adequate instructional materials" and modifies related notification and purchasing procedures.
- Authorizes districts to offer virtual instruction to certain students and allows for the contracting with certain providers to satisfy program requirements.

Effective Date: Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 2024

SB 7032 - Education Education Postsecondary

Establishes the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program to offer education and workforce opportunities for students who have withdrawn from high school before graduation.

- Creates the GATE Program within the Department of Education and establishes legislative intent to provide alternative education pathways.
- Requires institutions to waive 100% of fees for GATE Program students, with waivers provided after state aid is applied.
- Sets eligibility requirements for GATE Program participants, including age restrictions and residency requirements.
- Stipulates that participants are eligible for a stipend under certain conditions.
- Prohibits institutions from imposing additional criteria for fee waivers.
- Outlines Department of Education responsibilities, including disseminating information and connecting students to institutions.
- Requires annual reporting to document program metrics, such as student achievements and program costs.
- Amends related sections of Florida Statutes to incorporate references and responsibilities related to the GATE Program.
- Establishes the GATE Scholarship, Startup Grant, and Program Performance Fund to support institutions and reward successful student outcomes.

Effective Date: 7/1/2024