



OVERVIEW

The Legislature held its seventh Week of Session, April 12-16, 2021. The Senate and House Appropriations committees are expected to begin their budget conference in the coming days where they will negotiate their respective differences.

Of note, the following bills were presented in Committee and the Floor:

HB 149 - Students with Disabilities in Public Schools passed in the House. The Senate companion bill is being held in its final committee on April 19th. The bill would establish a pilot program in Broward County that would require video cameras in certain classrooms at the request of a parent. The pilot program is not funded.

HB 1475 – Sex-specific Student Athletics Teams or Sports passed in the House Floor. The Senate companion bill is being held in its final committee on April 20th. The bill would require that certain athletic teams or sports sponsored by certain educational institutions be designated on the basis of students' biological sex; prohibits athletic teams or sports designated for female students to be open to male students; requires that student's school or institution, as applicable, resolve disputes regarding student's sex; requires State Board of Education to adopt certain rules; provides for civil remedies and damages; provides statute of limitation.

HB 51 - Formally titled Charter Schools is now a bill related to education. The bill passed its final committee and authorizes state universities and Florida College System institutions to solicit applications and sponsor charter schools. The Bill was amended to include term limits for School Board Members.

HB 1461 - Limitation on Terms for School Board Members also passed its final committee.

Please find below a summary of the Senate Committee & Subcommittee hearings this past week.

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

SB 280 – Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training in Public Schools by Baxley: Providing that school districts are encouraged to provide basic training in first aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, in specified grades; requiring school districts to provide basic training in first-aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, in specified grades; revising requirements for instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations.**

SB 1672 – State University Free Seat Program by Education and Diaz: Creating the State University Free Seat Program; providing an exemption from tuition and fees, including lab fees, for one online course at a state university for certain resident students; prohibiting a state university from charging such students more than a specified percentage of the tuition rate and the tuition differential under certain circumstances; providing a limitation on the application of such tuition discount, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations.**

SB 1740 – Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program by Rouson: Establishing the Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program within the Department of Education; providing the purpose of the program; specifying eligibility requirements for the awarding of a Seal of Fine Arts; requiring the Commissioner of Education and school districts to perform specified duties to administer the program; prohibiting a school district or the Department of Education from charging a fee for the seal; requiring the state board to adopt rules, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations.**

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Please find below a summary of the House Committee & Subcommittee hearings this past week.

House Education & Employment Committee

HB 3 – Home Book Delivery for Elementary Students by PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee and Trabulsy: Establishes New Worlds Reading Initiative under DOE; provides duties and responsibilities of administrator and school districts; establishes student eligibility requirements and options relating to book selection; requires books be delivered at no cost to families; authorizes DOE to contract with third-party entity. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **Passed, CS filed.**

HB 419 – Early Learning and Early Grade Success by PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee and Grall: Deletes Office of Early Learning; creates Division of Early Learning within DOE; revises provisions relating to early learning coalitions; VPK & school readiness programs; and DOE responsibilities and duties relating to early learning and Gold Seal Quality Care Program. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **Passed, CS filed.**

HB 427 – Independent Living Services by Post-Secondary Education and Lifelong Learning Subcommittee and Persons-Mulicka and Tant: Revises and provides membership, duties, and responsibilities of Florida Independent Living Council; increases percentage of certain revenues used to administer specified program. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed.**

HB 429 – Purple Star Campuses by Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Sub-committee and Secondary Education and Career Development Subcommittee and Learned and Maney: Requires DOE establish Purple Star Campus program; specifies program criteria for participating schools; authorizes schools to partner with school districts to meet criteria. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed.**

HB 575 – The Gold Seal Quality Care Program by Omphroy: Revises Gold Seal Quality Care program requirements; requires State Board of Education to adopt specified rules; specifies requirements for accrediting entity, rather than accrediting association, to be approved for participation in such program; requires DOE to establish verification process and provides requirements therefor; authorizes DOE to recommend maintenance of Gold Seal Quality Care designation for certain child care facilities; provides exemption from ad valorem taxation and rate differentials for certain child care facilities; provides for type two transfer of such program within DCF to DOE within specified time period; provides for continuation of certain contracts and agreements. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **Passed, CS filed.**

HB 847 – Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network by Byrd: Deletes provisions for Florida Academic Services Library Services Cooperative and Complete Florida Plus Program; revises provisions for statewide Internet-based catalog and online student advising services; provides duties for the Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, CS filed.**

HB 1061 – Schools of Hope by Secondary Education and Career Development Subcommittee and D. Smith: Revises student reporting for schools of hope; provides certain entities may be designated as LEA; provides schools of hope may comply with certain financial reporting in specified manner; revises provisions related to the list of specified facilities; authorizes certain unrestricted assets be used in specified manner; revises time certain funds may be carried forward; requires certain school of hope personnel undergo background screening. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, added to second reading.**

HB 1159 – Educator Preparation and Certification by Busatta Cabrera: Revises provisions relating to state-approved teacher preparation programs, career programs, educator certification, and William Cecil Golden Professional Development Program for School Leaders. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed.**

HB 1227 – Guidance Services on Academic and Career Planning by Secondary Education and Career Development Subcommittee and Arrington: Requires students and parents be informed of acceleration, academic, and career planning options; requires plan be developed in consultation with a certified school counselor; requires personalized student plan to inform students of certain opportunities. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, added to Second Reading Calendar.**

HB 7011 – Student Literacy by Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee and Aloupis: Provides and revises requirements relating to improvement of student literacy skills;

requires DOE, in consultation with Office of Early Learning, to implement coordinated screening and progress monitoring system for VPK program through grade 8; establishes Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Program within DOE; revises requirements relating to specified reading instruction allocation; revises requirements for certain instructional personnel & professional development program. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, CS filed.**

HB 7033 – Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys by Early Learning and Elementary Education Sub-committee and Koster: Creates Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys; provides task force purpose, membership, meetings, and future expiration; requires DOE to provide support and data information to assist the task force; requires task force submit report; provides for future expiration of task force. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **Passed, added to Second Reading Calendar.**

HB 545- Reproductive Health and Disease Education by Chaney: Reproductive Health and Disease Education: Requires each school district to publish notice on district's website concerning parent's right to exempt student from reproductive health & disease education; requires district school boards to annually approve instructional materials relating to reproductive health and disease education in an open, noticed public meeting; specifies that reproductive health and disease education instructional materials are to be made available for public review and comment under specific process. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now on the Floor.**

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