



OVERVIEW

The Legislature held its eighth Week of Session, April 19-23, 2021. The legislature is currently negotiating their budget differences. Even though they have not agreed on the education budget, no major increases from last year's funding are expected. The final budget should be released in the coming days.

Of note, the following bills were presented in committee and on the floor:

HB 7035 – School Safety passed in the House. The bill requires DCF to analyze specified data; provides penalties relating to FortifyFL reporting tool; revises membership of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission; provides requirements for Commissioner of Education and Office of Safe Schools; provides requirements for codes of student conduct; requires district school boards to establish policies and procedures and provide timely notifications; provides training requirements for safe-school officers; revises requirements for mental health assistance allocation.

HB 7045 - School Choice passed in the House. This bill repeals the Gardiner Scholarship Program transitioning students to the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program, repeals the McKay Scholarship effective July 1, 2022 - transitioning students to the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program, and revises the scholarship amount for McKay. Additionally, the bill expands eligible and removes prior public-school attendance requirements, which will greatly increase the number of available vouchers in the state.

HB 529- Moments of Silence in Public Schools passed the legislature. The bill is now on the Governor's desk. The bill authorizes principals to require teachers to set aside time for a moment of silence.

HB 241- Parents' Bill of Rights passed the legislature. This bill is also now on the Governor's desk. 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.

SB 192 - Students with Disabilities in Public Schools passed its final committee and is scheduled for the floor next week. The bill would limit the use of restraints and seclusion rooms. The bill would also 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.

SB 200- Student Retention passed its final committee. The bill authorizes a parent or guardian to request that his or her K-5 student be retained in a grade level for academic reasons for a specified school year.

SB 1028 - Charter Schools passed its final committee. The bill allows for Universities and Florida College System institutions to solicit applications and sponsor charter schools under certain circumstances.

HB 1461- Limitation on Terms of Office for members of a District School Board passed in the House. The Bill will limit the number of terms a School Board member can serve.

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

House Education & Employment Committee

HB 157 – First Aid Training in Public Schools by Secondary Education and Career Development Subcommittee and Hawkins and Busatta Cabrera: Revises grade levels that school districts are encouraged provide certain first aid training; requires school district provide specified grade levels with certain first aid training; provides requirements for such training. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, added to Second Reading Calendar.**

HB 229 – Hazardous Walking Conditions for K-12 Students by Early Learning and Elementary Education Subcommittee and Salzman: Requires DOT to conduct study on safety of certain walking conditions; requires department to submit report to Governor, Legislature, and State Board of Education; provides requirements for the report. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **Passed, added to Second Reading Calendar.**

HB 507 – Education by Post-Secondary Education and Lifelong Learning Subcommittee and Rizo: Revises provisions relating to DOE powers and duties, the statewide assessment program and postsecondary civics education. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, first reading 04/20/2021.**

HB 531 – Student Internships by Education and Employment Committee and Post-Secondary Education and Lifelong Learning Subcommittee and Daley and Robinson, F.: Requires claimed tax credit amounts to be added to taxpayer's adjusted federal income; provides corporate income tax credit for qualified businesses employing student interns; specifies amount of credit that may be claimed per student intern; authorizes qualified business to carry forward unused credit; requires elective course be offered for each baccalaureate degree program in which student may earn credit hours while completing internship in conjunction with classroom instruction; requires entities to jointly appoint faculty committee to develop such elective course for each baccalaureate degree program. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, first reading 04/19/2021.**

HB 747 – Resident Status for Tuition Purposes for Persons Serving Outside the State by Post-Secondary Education and Lifelong Learning Subcommittee and McFarland and Harding: Prohibits loss of resident status for tuition purposes solely by reason of certain service. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, added to Second Reading Calendar.**

HB 791 – Workforce and Postsecondary Education by Education and Employment Committee and Secondary Education and Career Development Subcommittee and Harding: Renames the Florida Ready to Work Certification Program; provides where program training may be conducted, provides components of program; requires DEO to adopt rules; requires statewide articulation agreement to establish mathematics pathways for students; provides requirements for admissions counseling; revises requirements for admission to associate degree programs and dual enrollment; authorizes use of alternative methods for assessing skills; provides requirements for FCS institutions; revises eligibility requirements for Florida postsecondary student assistance grants. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, first reading 04/19/2021.**

HB 1273 – Out-of-state Fee Waiver for Nonresident Students by Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee and Maney: Requires state university to waive out-of-state fee for nonresident student who meets certain requirements; provides applicability; requires each state university to report specified information regarding such out-of-state fee waiver to BOG annually; requires state university, within non-resident student enrollment systemwide, to prioritize enrollment of student granted such fee waiver over certain out-of-state student; requires BOG to adopt regulations. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, first reading 04/20/2021.**

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