



OVERVIEW

The Legislature held its second week of session, March 8-12, 2021.

Of note, the following education bills were presented to committees this week:

HB 51 (Charter Schools) passed its second committee. The bill would allow state universities and colleges to sponsor charter schools.

SB 200 - (Student Retention) passed its second committee. The bill would allow parents to request that his/her student be retained in a grade level for a specified school year.

HB 1461 - (School Board Member Compensation). The Joint Resolution which must pass both the senate and house, would place a ballot measure (requires a 60% plus one vote to approve the changes in the Florida Constitution) for the voters to consider the prohibition on compensation for School Board members.

SB 86 - (Student Financial Aid) was temporarily postponed this week; however, the bill will be back on the Senate Education committee agenda next week. This bill would limit Bright Futures funding to degree programs that only lead to direct employment.

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

Senate Education Committee

SB 86 – Student Financial Aid by Baxley: Requiring that eligibility for state financial aid awards and tuition assistance grants be reevaluated each term and identify students' program of study; revising the formula for calculating how Florida Public Student Assistance Grant Program funds are distributed; authorizing a Bright Futures Scholarship recipient to apply the unused portion of a Florida Academic Scholars award or Florida Medallion Scholars award toward graduate study for a specified academic year; establishing the Florida Bright Opportunities Grant Program; establishing the Florida Endeavor Scholarship Program, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Temporarily Postponed.**

SB 532 – Workforce Education by Burgess: Revising the workforce education programs that school district career centers are authorized to conduct, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Health Policy.**

SB 1450 – Civic Education Curriculum by Rodriguez: Revising the social studies high school graduation credit requirement; requiring the Department of Education to develop or approve an integrated civic education curriculum that meets certain requirements; requiring the department to curate oral history resources to be used along with such curriculum; designating the "Portraits in Patriotism Act", etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

SB 726 – Individual Education Plan Requirements for Students with Disabilities by Taddeo: Revising the timeline for the development and implementation of an individual education plan (IEP) for a student with disabilities to transition to postsecondary education and career opportunities; revising the requirements for an IEP for the transition to a post-secondary education or career opportunities; requiring the Department of Education to conduct a review of specified services and programs, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

SB 938 – Purple Star Campuses by Wright: Requiring the Department of Education to establish the Purple Star Campus program; specifying program criteria for participating schools; authorizing the department to establish additional program eligibility criteria; authorizing schools to partner with school districts to meet such criteria, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security.**

SB 1484 – Florida Private Student Assistance Grant Program by Gruters: Expanding eligibility for the program to full-time degree-seeking students accepted at a competency-based nonprofit virtual post-secondary institution that meets specified criteria, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

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Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

SB 200 – Student Retention by Education, Berman: Authorizing a parent to request that his or her student be retained in a grade level for a specified school year; requiring such a request to be submitted in a specified manner; requiring school district Superintendents to grant such requests if they are timely received; requiring a retained student to remain in the grade in which he or she was retained in until the student qualifies for promotion at the end of the school year; requiring school districts to report certain data to the Department of Education by a specified date, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **Passed, now in Appropriations.**

SB 1436 – Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network by Gruters: Revising provisions

relating to the awareness of certain post-secondary education programs and initiatives; deleting provisions relating to the Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative; providing that the Board of Governors and the Department of Education will oversee a host entity chosen to deliver certain services; transferring responsibility for certain statewide online student advising services to the host entity; requiring the Chancellors of the State University System and the Florida College System to provide a certain report, 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 233 – Post-secondary Education by Post-Secondary Education & Lifelong Learning Subcommittee and Roach: Prohibits State Board of Education and BOG from shielding students, staff, and faculty from certain speech; requires State Board of Education to conduct annual assessment on intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity; creates a cause of action for recording or publication of certain video or audio recordings; revises provisions related to protected expressive activity, university student governments, and codes of conduct. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, added to Special Order Calendar.**

HB 259 – Safety of Religious Institutions by Williamson and Byrd: Authorizes, for specified purposes, concealed weapons or firearms licensee to carry firearm on certain property of church, synagogue, or any other religious institution. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **Passed, now in Judiciary.**

HB 529 – Moments of Silence in Public Schools by Fine: Requires principals to require teachers to set aside time for moment of silence; prohibits teachers from making suggestions to nature of any reflection during moment of silence; deletes provision authorizing district school boards to provide brief period of silent prayer or meditation; requires that certain teachers encourage parents or guardians to discuss moment of silence and make suggestions as to the best use of this time. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, added to Special Order Calendar.**

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Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee

HB 559 – Computer Science Instruction in Elementary Schools by Hawkins: Requires, rather than authorizes, certain computer science skills be taught in elementary school; revises computer science skills to be taught in elementary school. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee.**

HB 793 – Measurement of Student Performance by Bell: Requires Commissioner of Education to annually provide specified results to school districts by certain date. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Education & Employment.**

HB 383 – Involuntary Examinations of Minors by Plasencia: Revises certain notification requirements that must be met before minor is removed from school, school transportation, or school-sponsored activity for involuntary examination; provides exceptions; revises certain data reporting requirements for DCF and Office of Safe Schools; creates certain reporting requirements for schools; revises training requirements for school safety officers; provides requirements for school plans under mental health assistance allocation. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Secondary Education and Career Development Subcommittee.**

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Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee

HB 131 – Educator Conduct by Duggan: Requiring DOE to maintain a disqualification list of individuals; revises provisions relating to employment and termination of public school and private school employees; revises duties of DOE, Commissioner of Education, and school districts relating to employee conduct and employment and termination of public school and private school employees. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee.**

HB 281 – Postsecondary Education Financial Matters by Duggan and Zika: Establishes Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program; provides eligibility requirements for program; authorizes university Boards of Trustees to implement bonus scheme for state university system employees. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, Now in Post-Secondary Education & Lifelong Learning Subcommittee.**

HB 507 – Education by Rizo: Revises provisions relating to DOE powers and duties, the statewide assessment program, and post-secondary civics education. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, Now in Post-Secondary Education & Lifelong Learning Subcommittee.**

HB 519 – Required Health Education Instruction by Yarborough: Provides additional requirements for health education; revises grades when students receive certain health education instruction; requires health education instruction include prevention of specified harms. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee.**

HB 611 – Civic Literacy Education by Diamond: Requires Commissioner of Education to develop criteria for civic literacy practicum that meets certain goals; provides purpose and requirements; authorizes time spent on specified civic engagement activities to count toward requirements for certain scholarships and academic awards. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee.**

HB 545 – Materials Harmful to Minors by Chaney: Prohibits person from selling or renting specified materials to minor for monetary consideration and from loaning specified materials to minor for any reason; requires school districts to proactively remove specified materials; requires school districts to remove such materials independent of parent or resident

complaint; provides public school student may be exposed to certain teaching only in accordance with specified procedure; requires school districts or specified schools to notify and request written consent of parents before teaching of reproductive health or any sexually transmitted disease; prohibits schools from allowing students to be exposed to such teaching without written consent of their parent; prohibits student whose parent does not give such written consent from being penalized. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Criminal Justice & Public Safety Subcommittee.**

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House Pre-K Appropriations Subcommittee

HB 5 – Civic Education Curriculum by Zika: Revises social studies high school graduation credit requirement; requires DOE to develop or approve integrated civic education curriculum that meets certain requirements; requires Department to curate oral history resources to be used with such curriculum; requires department to approve civic education curricula submitted by school districts and charter schools. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Education & Employment.**

HB 51 – Charter Schools by McClain: Authorizes state universities and Florida College System institutions to sponsor charter schools; revises reporting and accountability requirements & populations for which charter school is authorized to limit enrollment process; provides for funding; authorizes career and professional academy to be offered by charter school. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee.**

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