



OVERVIEW

The Legislature held its fourth Week of Session, March 21-26, 2021.

Both Senate and House released their education budgets for the 2021-2022 school year. The Senate is maintaining the current per-student funding at \$7,786 (state-wide average), while the House is increasing the per-student funding by *\$181 for a total of \$7,967 (state-wide average); including a \$52 increase in the Base Student Allocation. The budgets will now move to the Appropriations Committee in both chambers before heading to the Floor for a full vote. Once the respective chambers pass their budget, they will commence negotiating their differences during the budget conference.

*(*This amount includes \$349 million for the student reserve allocation which can be used for returning student. If the students do not return, the per-student funding will be \$7,850 (state-wide average) an increase of \$63)*

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

HB 7045 - (School Choice): This is the House's companion to Senate Bill 48. 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.

SB 86 - (Student Financial Aid): Passed its final committee this week. The original bill will be amended as follows: financial aid will no longer be reduced for students seeking degrees that lead to fewer job opportunities. Students will now be required to acknowledge that they received information about career prospects in order to qualify for the financial aid.

SB 1028 - (Charter Schools): Passed its first committee this week. The bill authorizes state universities and Florida College System institutions to solicit applications and sponsor charter schools under certain circumstances.

SB 192 - (Students with Disabilities in Public Schools): Passed its first committee this week. 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.

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

Senate Education Committee

SB 98 – Workforce Related Programs and Services by Albritton: Renaming the Workforce Estimating Conference as the Labor Market Estimating Conference; removing authority for a local board to review a decision by the department to deny a contract; requiring certain standards and policies established by the Department of Education to include a specified requirement for training providers; requiring that middle grades career and professional academies and career-themed courses lead to careers in occupations aligned with the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations.**

SB 1672 – State University Free Seat Program by 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 Subcommittee on Education.**

SB 1728 – Out-of-state Fee Waiver for Nonresident Students by Baxley: Requiring a state university to waive the out-of-state fee for a nonresident student who meets certain requirements; requiring each state university to report specified information regarding such out-of-state fee waivers to the Board of Governors annually; requiring that a student who is granted such out-of-state fee waiver be excluded from the limitation on the system-wide total enrollment of non-resident students; requiring the Board of Governors to adopt regulations, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

SB 2010 – Foreign Influence by Diaz: Requiring any state agency or political sub-division to disclose certain gifts or grants received from any foreign source to the Department of Financial Services within a specified timeframe; requiring any entity that applies for a certain grant or proposes a certain contract to disclose to a state agency or political sub-division any current or prior interest of, contract with, or grant or gift received from a foreign country of concern under certain circumstances; requiring the Department of Management Services to screen certain vendors periodically; requiring the Department of Financial Services to establish and maintain an Internet website to publish the disclosures, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Temporarily Postponed.**

SB 2012 – Promoting Equality of Athletic Opportunity by Stargel: Creating the "Promoting Equality of Athletic Opportunity Act"; requiring that certain athletic teams or sports

sponsored by certain educational institutions be designated on the basis of students' biological sex; prohibiting athletic teams or sports designated for female students from being open to male students; specifying conditions under which persons who transition from male to female are eligible to compete in the female category; requiring a student that fails to comply with certain conditions to be suspended from female competition for 12 months; requiring the Board of Governors of the State University System to adopt regulations and the State Board of Education to adopt rules regarding the resolution of disputes, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Health Policy.**

SB 1094 – Required Health Education Instruction by Bean: Providing additional requirements for health education; revising the grade levels when students receive certain health education instruction; requiring health education instruction to include prevention of specified harms, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

SB 192 – Students With Disabilities in Public Schools by Book: Requiring school districts to prohibit the use of seclusion on students with disabilities in public schools; requiring school districts to adopt positive behavior interventions and supports and certain policies and procedures; creating the Video Cameras in Public School Classrooms Pilot Program; requiring continuing education and in-service training for instructional personnel teaching students with emotional or behavioral disabilities, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

SB 582 – Parental Rights by Judiciary and Rodrigues: Creating the "Parents' Bill of Rights"; prohibiting the state, its political sub-divisions, other governmental entities, or other institutions from infringing on parental rights unless specified conditions are met; requiring each district school board to develop and adopt a policy to promote parental involvement in the public school system; prohibiting health care practitioners and their employees from providing health care services or prescribing medicinal drugs to a minor child without a parent's written consent, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Rules.**

SB 1028 – Charter Schools by Huston: Authorizing state universities and Florida College System institutions to solicit applications and sponsor charter schools under certain circumstances; requiring the board of trustees of a state university or Florida College System institution that is sponsoring a charter school to serve as the local educational agency for such school; prohibiting certain charter school students from being included in specified school district grade calculations; authorizing a career and professional academy to be offered by a charter school, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

SB 1656 – Lawton Chiles Endowment Fund by Gruters: Requiring the Chief Financial Officer to annually certify the amount of unencumbered and undispersed endowment funds which reverts to the endowment's principal by a specified date; allocating a portion of the reverted funds to the board of trustees of the University of South Florida; requiring that such

funds be used to support the university's Health Heart Institute, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

SB 1282 – Early Learning and Early Grade Success by Harrell: Deleting the Office of Early Learning from within the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice of the Department of Education; establishing the Division of Early Learning within the department; revising approved child care or early education settings for the placement of certain children; requiring each parent who enrolls his or her child in the Voluntary Pre-kindergarten Education Program to allow his or her child to participate in a specified screening and progress monitoring program; revising the performance standards for the Voluntary Pre-kindergarten Education Program; authorizing certain students who enrolled in the Voluntary Pre-kindergarten Education Program to receive intensive reading interventions using specified funds, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$3,865,759. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

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Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

SB 86 – Student Financial Aid by Education and Baxley: Requiring the Board of Governors of the State University System to create an online dashboard; revising eligibility for an award under the Bright Futures Scholarship Program or the Benacquisto Scholarship Program; authorizing a Florida 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. **Passed, now in Appropriations.**

SB 486 – Juvenile Justice Education Programs by Education and Bradley: Increasing the percentage of certain funds that must be spent on specified costs; requiring that contracts between district school boards and juvenile justice education programs be in writing; requiring the Department of Education to provide mediation services for certain disputes; prohibiting school boards from delaying certain payments pending receipt of local funds, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations.**

SB 1372 – Literacy Improvement by Burgess: Establishing the New Worlds Reading Initiative under the Department of Education; requiring the administrator, in consultation with a specified entity, to develop a selection of books; requiring the administrator to coordinate monthly book distribution to certain students; requiring the administrator to assist with local implementation of the initiative; requiring that a certain notification include information about the initiative, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations.**

SB 1898 – Student Literacy by Rodriguez: Revising and providing duties for the Just Read, Florida! Office within the Department of Education; requiring the Department of Education, in consultation with the Office of Early Learning, to implement a coordinated screening and progress monitoring system for students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program

through grade 8; requiring certain students to participate in a certain coordinated screening and progress monitoring system; creating the "Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Act", 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 7045 – School Choice by Fine: Repeals Gardiner Scholarship; revises requirements & funding under specified scholarship programs. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed**

HB 131 – Educator Conduct by Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee and 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.**

HB 173 – Individual Education Plan Requirements for Students with Disabilities by Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee and Tant: Revising provision related to development and implementation of IEPs for students with disabilities regarding postsecondary education and career opportunities including such IEP requirements, timeline, information provided, and statement of intent; requiring DOE Education to review specified services and programs; requiring DOE to establish & publish uniform best practices for such services and programs. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed.**

HB 241 – Parents' Bill of Rights by Grall: Provides parental rights relating to a minor child's education, upbringing, and health care; provides school district, health care practitioner, hospital requirements and specified penalties. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, added to Second Reading Calendar.**

HB 519 – Required Health Education Instruction by Secondary Education and Career Development Sub-committee and 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, added to Second Reading Calendar.**

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, added to Second Reading Calendar.**

HB 1027 – Opening Remarks at High School Athletic Contests by Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee and Barnaby and Yarborough: Requires athletic associations to create bylaws, policies, or procedures allowing opening remarks at events;

provides requirements for remarks; requires announcements before opening remarks; provides opening remarks at events are at the discretion of each school. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, added to Second Reading Calendar.**

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Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee

HB 489 – Student Identification Cards by Daley and Woodson: Requires school principals to ensure that crisis prevention hotline and text line and behavioral health hotline and text line numbers are printed on back of student ID cards. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee.**

HB 849 – School Absence Due to Sickness or Injury by Valdes: Specifies types of sickness or injury included under certain exemption to attendance policy. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee.**

HB 1119 – Water Safety and Swimming Certification for K-12 Students by Daley and Mooney: Requires district school boards and governing authorities of private schools to ask if certain children have completed a water safety education course and swim lessons; provides that schools may ask for specified certification; requires schools offer document containing specified information to certain children; requires school districts to maintain certain records; provides liability exemption for specified injuries. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee.**

HB 1635 – Hernando County School District, Hernando County by Ingoglia: Repeals resolution of School Board of Hernando County providing for appointed superintendent of schools; provides for an elected superintendent of schools and referendum. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **Passed, now in State Affairs Committee.**

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Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee

HB 383 – Involuntary Examinations of Minors by Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee and Plasencia: Revises certain notification requirements that must be met before removing minors from school, school transportation, or school-sponsored activity for involuntary examination. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Education & Employment.**

HB 827 – School District Funding by Hawkins: Requires school districts allocate certain amount of specified funds to programs that prepare students to enroll in AICE courses; requires such funds be spent on specified costs; requires school districts to distribute specified bonuses to certain teachers providing pre-AICE instruction; requires bonuses based on student's score on AICE examination to be paid to all AICE teachers. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations.**

HB 1031 – Charter Schools by Rodriguez: Revises provisions relating to charter school applications, use of specified assets, opening of additional high-performing charter schools, and virtual charter schools. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee.**

HB 1033 – Certificate of Completion by Borrero and Valdes: Specifies students who have been awarded certificates of completion are eligible to enroll in certain programs. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

HB 1061 – Schools of Hope by D. Smith: Adds certain hope operators to entities required to perform annual financial audit and provide financial statements; revises definition of "persistently low-performing school"; revises student reporting for schools of hope; revises provisions related to the list of specified facilities; revises time certain funds may be carried forward; requires certain school of hope personnel undergo background screening. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Education & Employment.**

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, now in Post-Secondary Education & Lifelong Learning Subcommittee.**

HB 1279 – Florida Talent Development Council by Melo: Requires council to submit to specified entities a report that includes recommendations on feasibility of establishing & implementing Pathways in Technology Early College High School program or similar program; provides requirements for report. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee.**

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House Pre-K Appropriations Subcommittee

Presentation on Chair's Budget Proposal for FY 2021-2022.

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