



OVERVIEW

The Legislature held its seventh week of Session, February 24-28. The Budget conference, where the Senate and House negotiate the final budget, will begin on the eighth week of session.

Several bills moved through the legislative process this week. First, SB 70/HB 23 (Panic Alarms) passed its final committee. The bill will require FLDOE to implement a statewide mobile-based alert system. Second, SB 1220 (Education) passed its second committee and HB 7067 (School Choice) passed its final committee. Both bills would expand the Family Empowerment Scholarship, which will have a negative financial impact to the District of over \$20 million. Third, SB 1644 (Students With Disabilities) passed its second committee. The bill would require video cameras in certain classrooms at the request of a parent. An amendment was filed to pilot the video cameras in the classroom in Broward and Volusia Counties.

TALLAHASSEE: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

[SB 70](#) – Panic Alarms in Public Schools by Book; Citing this act as "Alyssa's Law"; requiring each public school to be equipped with a panic alarm system, etc. **Passed by 8-0, now in the Appropriation.**

[SB 1220](#) – Education by Diaz; Revising initial scholarship eligibility criteria for the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program, beginning with a specified school year; revising eligibility criteria for the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program and applying the criteria only to initial eligibility; requiring that the rules to establish uniform core curricula for each state-approved teacher preparation program include evidence-based reading instructional strategies and mental health strategies and support; expanding requirements for the certification program of a postsecondary educator preparation institute to be approved by the Department of Education, etc. **Passed by 5-3, now in the Appropriation.**

[SB 1568](#) – Education by Hutson; Providing that individuals enrolled in certain pre-apprenticeship programs are deemed to be employees of the state for purposes of receiving certain medical care under workers' compensation coverage; revising the general duties of the Department of Education with regard to registered apprenticeship and registered pre-apprenticeship programs; providing that registered apprenticeship or registered pre-apprenticeship program sponsors are responsible for the selection and training of certain personnel, as approved by the department; revising criteria for apprenticeship occupations, etc. **Passed by 8-0, now in the Appropriation.**

[SB 1644](#) by Book; Students With Disabilities in Public Schools; Requiring school districts to prohibit the use of seclusion on students with disabilities in public schools; prohibiting specified restraint techniques; requiring a video camera to be placed in specified classrooms upon the request of a parent; requiring schools to provide written notice to certain individuals of the placement of a video camera; requiring continuing education and in-service training for instructional personnel teaching students with emotional or behavioral disabilities, etc. **Passed by 8-0, now in the Appropriation.**

[SB 1688](#) – Early Learning and Early Grade Success; Adding the Division of Early Learning to the divisions of the Department of Education; revising the duties of the Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference; providing requirements for minimum child care licensing standards; requiring students enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to participate in a specified screening and progress-monitoring program; revising the performance standards for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program; authorizing certain child development programs operating on military installations to participate in the school readiness program, etc. **Passed by 8-0, now in the Appropriation.**

[Committee Packet](#)

[Committee Video](#)

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

Education Committee

[HB 23](#) – Panic Alarms in Public Schools by Gottlieb: Requires each public school to implement panic button system; provides requirements for such system; provides appropriation; provides DOE requirements for such appropriation. **Passed by 16-0, now in the House floor.**

[HB 1029](#) – Charter Schools by Rodriguez: Revises provisions relating to charter school application process, charter school student enrollment, high-performing charter schools, & virtual charter schools. **Passed by 16-0, now in the House floor.**

[HB 1083](#) – Student Mental Health Procedures by Webb: Requires verification that certain strategies have been utilized & certain outreach has been initiated before student is removed from school, school transportation, or school-sponsored activity under specified circumstances; provides exception. **Passed by 16-0, now in the House floor.**

[EDC 20-04](#) – Professional development by Education; The bill provides flexibility for teacher preparation programs and professional development requirements in order to improve professional growth and student learning. **Passed by 15-0, now in the House floor.**

[Committee Packet](#)
[Committee Video](#)

Education Bill in non-education committees

[SB 70](#) – Panic Alarms in Public Schools by Book; Citing this act as "Alyssa's Law"; requiring each public school to be equipped with a panic alarm system, etc. **Passed by 19-0, now on the Senate Floor.**

[SB 836](#) – Funds for the Operation of Schools by Simmons; Revising the annual allocation to school districts to include an additional calculation of full-time equivalent membership for students who earn a College Board Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma, etc. **Passed by 18-0, now on the Senate Floor.**

[SB 1206](#) – Applied Behavior Analysis Services by Harrell; Authorizing the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to establish a certification process for registered behavior technicians; requiring the agency to recognize the certification of registered behavior technicians awarded by a nonprofit corporation that meets specified requirements; providing an exemption from licensure requirements for certain individuals who are employed or under contract with certain entities providing applied behavior analysis services; revising the definition of the term "private instructional personnel" to include certain registered behavior technicians, etc. **Passed by 10-0, now in Appropriations.**

[SB 1628](#) – Holocaust Education by Book; Including the study of a specified policy against anti-Semitism in specified instruction; providing school district, charter school, and Department of Education requirements relating to such instruction; authorizing the department to work with certain Holocaust educational organizations for specified purposes relating to the required instruction, etc. **Passed by 19-0, now on the Senate Floor.**

[SB 1634](#) – Parental Rights; Designating the “Parents’ Bill of Rights” by Stargel; providing that the state, its political subdivisions, other governmental entities, or other institutions may not infringe on parental rights without demonstrating specified information; providing that a parent of a minor child has specified rights relating to his or her minor child; requiring each district school board in consultation with parents, teachers, and administrators, to develop and adopt a policy to promote parental involvement in the public school system; prohibiting certain health care practitioners from taking specified actions without a parent’s written permission, etc. **Temporarily Postponed**

[HB 7067](#) – School Choice by Education: Revises provisions relating to Auditor General, Gardiner Scholarship, Family Empowerment Scholarship Program, Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, & Hope Scholarship Program. . **Passed by 18-10, now in the House floor.**