



OVERVIEW

The Legislature held its sixth Interim Committee Week, November 29 - December 3, 2021. Several Education bills moved through committees during the final week of Interim-Committee weeks. The sixty (60) day regular Session begins on January 11, 2022.

The Senate Education Committee passed the following bills of interest:

SB 758 (Charter Schools) would establish a Charter School Review Commission within the Department of Education. The Commission would be authorized to sponsor charter schools.

SB 560 (Hope Scholarship Program) would expand eligibility to include any student who attends a school overseen by a district school board that is subject to ongoing action initiated by the State Board of Education (SBE) for non-compliance with state law or state board rule.

SB 410 (Photographic Enforcement of School Zone Speed) would authorize counties and municipalities to enforce school speed zones through the use of speed detection systems.

SB 244 (Partisan Elections for Members of District School Boards) passed its first committee. If passed by the Legislature (must pass each house by a three-fifths vote of the membership) it would amend the State Constitution to require members of a district school board to be elected in a partisan election. A proposed amendment requires at least 60 percent approval from voters to pass.

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

Senate Education Committee

SB 410 – Photographic Enforcement of School Zone Speed Limits by Rodriguez; Authorizing counties and municipalities to enforce school speed zones through the use of speed detection systems; authorizing counties and municipalities to install, or contract with a vendor to install, speed detection systems; requiring counties and municipalities that install speed detection systems to provide certain notification to the public; authorizing counties and municipalities to authorize traffic infraction enforcement officers to issue certain traffic citations, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education**

SB 480 – Required Instruction in Public Schools by Burgess; Requiring members of the instructional staff of public schools to provide instruction on social media literacy; defining the term “social media”; requiring district school boards to make social media literacy instructional material available online, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education**

SB 506 – Hope Scholarship Program by Diaz; Revising the purpose of the Hope Scholarship Program; revising program eligibility; providing for the use of funds under the program; revising school district, Department of Education, parent, and nonprofit scholarship-funding organization obligations under the program; authorizing payment of scholarship funds by organizations to be made by deposit into the student’s account instead of by individual warrant made payable to the student’s parent, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education**

SB 622 – Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation by Diaz; Requiring the Department of Education to collaborate with the Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation in developing a sponsor evaluation framework for charter schools; establishing the institute at Miami Dade College; authorizing the institute to apply for and receive certain grants; requiring the District Board of Trustees of Miami Dade College to establish policies regarding the institute, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$1,000,000 Effective Date: 7/1/2022 **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education**

SB 758 – Education by Diaz; Establishing the Charter School Review Commission within the Department of Education; requiring the Commissioner of Education to appoint members; authorizing the commission to solicit and review charter school applications; requiring that the district school board that oversees the school district where a charter school approved by the commission will be located shall serve as the charter school’s sponsor; requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to conduct an analysis of charter school capital outlay and submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education**

SB 790 – Computer Science and Technology Instruction by Hooper; Requiring public schools to provide computer science instruction conforming to specified requirements; requiring the Florida Virtual School to offer computer science courses identified in the Course Code Directory; requiring school districts that do not offer an identified course to provide students access to the course through the Florida Virtual School or other means approved by the

department; requiring instructional personnel who meet specified criteria to receive a bonus, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education**

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Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

- Did not meet

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

Education & Employment Committee

- Did not meet

Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee

HB 225 – Charter School Charters by Hawkins: Charter School Charters: Revises provisions relating to consolidation of multiple charter into single charter, renewals, non-renewals, & terminations of charters. Effective Date: July 1, 2022. **Passed, now in Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee.**

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Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee

- Presentation on electrocardiograms for student athletes
- Presentation on transparency requirements relating to curriculum and instruction and school district budgeting and accountability

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House Pre-K Appropriations Subcommittee

- Overview Presentation and Discussion on the Results of the Final Calculation of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Florida Education Finance Program

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