



## OVERVIEW

The Legislature held its sixth week of session, February 14-18, 2022.

Both the Senate and House passed their respective budgets this week (Senate \$108 billion/House \$105 billion) for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Budget differences will be negotiated during the budget conference scheduled to take place during the final weeks of Session. The Senate is increasing the per-student funding by \$343 for a total of \$8,093 (BCPS), including a \$239 increase in the Base Student Allocation (expectation is that all school district employees will be paid at least \$15/per hour by the 2022-23 school year). The House increased the per-student funding by \$222 for a total of \$7,972 (BCPS), including a \$150 increase in the Base Student Allocation.

The House Budget still includes the “Putting Parents First Adjustment”, which would penalize the 12 districts that adopted mask mandates by cutting their budgets by \$200 million (\$32M for BCPS). Funds would be taken from those districts, then distributed to the 55 districts as an award for not requiring masks. Earlier this week, the Governor reversed his initial opposition to the penalty and now supports it. It’s unclear if the Senate will agree to accept this plan. This issue will be decided during the final two weeks of Session during the budget conference.

### **The following education bills of interest were presented to committees this week:**

**SB 268/HB 395 - (Victims of Communism Day):** Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the bill requires high school students enrolled in the United States Government class, required for a standard high school diploma, to receive at least 45 minutes of instruction on topics related to communist regimes and how victims suffered under these regimes.

**SB 1048 - (Student Assessments):** Passed its second committee. The bill would transition from the FSA to a student progress monitoring system. Elements of the accountability system, such as school grades, student retention, promotion, and teacher evaluations, would remain in place; however, the bill would establish a baseline in the first year for future improvement ratings (more information on the bill below and committee packet).

**SB 802/HB 1421 - (School Safety):** Continues to move through the legislative process: This bill modifies both state-level oversight of school safety requirements and school district-level emergency response

procedures. The bill increases school safety oversight and accountability in the event of non-compliance of school safety requirements by a school district (more information on the bill below and committee packet).

**HB 1557 - (Parental Rights in Education):** Passed its first final committee and will now head to the Floor. This bill is a continuation of last year's bill. The bill requires districts to provide more information to parents regarding their student's educational experience. The bill would also limit discussions regarding LGBTQ+ issues in the classroom. If districts violate the provisions of this bill, parents may sue school districts for damages and legal fees. The Senate bill has two more remaining committee stops before reaching the Floor.

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

#### Senate Education Committee

Did not meet.

#### Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

**SB 236** – Children with Developmental Delays by Jones; Revising the definition of the term "exceptional student" to include additional students with developmental delays, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022. **Passed, now in Appropriation**

**SB 268** – Proclamation of "Victims of Communism Day" by Diaz; Requiring the Governor to annually proclaim November 7 as "Victims of Communism Day"; requiring the day to be observed in public schools and by public exercise; requiring a day other than November 7 to be observed by public schools under a specified circumstance; requiring certain high school students to receive specified instruction on Victims of Communism Day, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law.

**Passed, now in Appropriation**

**SB 340** – Care of Students with Epilepsy or Seizure Disorders by Garcia; Providing for the creation of an individualized seizure action plan for a student with epilepsy or seizure disorders to receive health care at school; requiring school nurses or appropriate school employees to coordinate the care of such students and ensure that specified training is provided to specified school employees and individuals; requiring school districts to provide specified information and training to school bus drivers who transport students with epilepsy or seizure disorders; providing immunity from liability under certain conditions, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **Passed, now in Appropriation**

**SB 390** – Restraint of Students with Disabilities in Public Schools by Jones; Prohibiting school personnel from using mechanical restraint on students with disabilities; providing exceptions, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022. **Passed, now in Appropriation**

**SB 554**– Educational Opportunities for Disabled Veterans by Cruz; Defining the term "disabled veteran"; providing that disabled veterans receiving certain federal educational assistance benefits are eligible to receive a waiver for the remaining cost of tuition and fees at certain institutions; requiring the amount awarded by the state to be contingent on the application of specified federal benefits; requiring certain institutions to submit an annual report to the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022. **Passed, now in Appropriation**

**SB 802** – School Safety by Gruters; Requiring the FortifyFL reporting tool to notify reporting parties that submitting false information may subject them to criminal penalties; requiring the Commissioner of Education to oversee and enforce compliance with requirements relating to school safety and security; requiring certain law enforcement officers to be physically present and directly involved in active assailant emergency drills; authorizing school safety officers to make arrests on property owned or leased by a charter school under a charter contract, etc. Effective Date: Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

**Passed, now in Appropriation**

**SB 1122** – Student Fees by Gainers; Authorizing a district school board or Florida College System institution board of trustees, in consultation with specified entities, to implement a plan for a differential out-of-state fee; authorizing a Florida College System institution board of trustees, in consultation with specified entities, to implement a plan for a differential out-of-state fee, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022. **Passed, now in Appropriation**

**SB 1226** – Virtual Learning by Brandes; Revising the purpose of the Florida Virtual School to provide for the development and delivery of online distance and blended learning; revising the requirements of a report that the board of trustees of the Florida Virtual School must annually submit to certain entities, beginning with a specified school year; requiring students enrolled in the Florida Virtual School Justice Education Program to take specified examinations and assessments at institutions or facilities operated by, or under the supervision of, the Department of Corrections; requiring the Florida Virtual School to establish the Florida Virtual School Justice Education Program, beginning with a specified school year, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022. **Passed, now in Appropriation**

**SB 1386** – School Personnel by Diaz; Prohibiting a person who is required to make certain reports concerning sexual misconduct with a student from knowingly or willfully failing to make such report or knowingly or willfully preventing another person from doing so; prohibiting a person from knowingly or willfully submitting inaccurate, incomplete, or untruthful information with respect to a report concerning sexual misconduct with a student; specifying that certain instructional and noninstructional personnel must file fingerprints with the employing entity or alternative school, as applicable, rather than the district school board; providing that certain procedures established by district school superintendents set the standards of service to be offered to the public within the meaning of a specified provision and are not subject to the collective bargaining process, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **Passed, now in Appropriation**

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

**House Education & Employment Committee**

**HB 229** – Guidance Services on Academic and Career Planning by Arrington: Requires students & parents be informed of certain acceleration, academic, & career planning options; requires personalized academic & career plan be developed in consultation with certified school counselor

for certain students; requires certain information to be included in such plan. Effective Date: July 1, 2022. **Passed, now on the Floor**

**HB 395** – Victims of Communism Day by Borrero: Requires Governor to proclaim November 7 of each year as "Victims of Communism Day"; requires day to be observed in public schools & by public exercise; requires day other than November 7 to be observed by public schools under specified circumstance; requires high school students to receive specified instruction; requires SBE to adopt specified revised social studies standards. Effective Date: upon becoming a law. **Passed, now on the Floor**

**HB 461** – Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program Student Service Requirements by Melo: Authorizes student's service requirements for award under Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to be paid rather than volunteer; authorizes, rather than requiring, student to identify specified interest or develop plan for his or her service requirements. Effective Date: upon becoming a law. **Passed, now on the Floor**

**HB 573** – Educator Certification Pathways for Veterans by Snyder; Authorizes DOE to issue temporary certificate to specified military servicemembers who meet certain criteria; requires teacher mentorship for specified military servicemembers who hold temporary certificate; specifies duration & issuance of temporary certificate for specified military servicemembers. Effective Date: July 1, 2022. **Passed, now on the Floor**

**HB 599** – Upgrades to Education Facilities as Emergency Shelters by Casello: Exempts certain costs associated with certain upgrades to education facilities from being included in certain cost per student station calculations; specifies eligible upgrades that may be made; requires costs associated with certain upgrades to be consistent with prevailing market costs in area where education facility is located. Effective Date: July 1, 2022. **Passed, now on the Floor**

**HB 899** – Mental Health of Students by Hundchofsky: Revises data DCF is required to analyze when creating its annual report on initiation of involuntary examinations; requires charter schools to be in compliance with involuntary reporting laws; requires DOE to share certain data with DCF; revises requirements for plans relating to mental health assistance allocations. Effective Date: July 1, 2022. **Passed, now on the Floor**

**HB 1421** – School Safety by Hawkins: Revises provisions relating to FortifyFL, Commissioner of Education oversight of enforcement of school safety and security requirements, Office of Safe Schools, certain emergency drills, family reunification plans, threat assessment teams, safe-school officers, DOE responsibilities, & Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool. Effective Date: July 1, 2022. **Passed, now on the Floor**

**HB 443** – Interscholastic and Intra-scholastic Activities by Beltran: Provides for approval of athletic associations that meet certain requirements; provides requirements for such athletic associations, SBE, & certain schools; provides private schools & traditional public schools are considered high schools for specified purposes; authorizes students to participate or continue participating in

interscholastic & intra-scholastic activities; provides for opening remarks at certain sporting events & provides requirements for such remarks. Effective Date: July 1, 2022. **Passed, now on the Floor**

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#### Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee

**HB 289** – School Absence Due to Sickness or Injury by Valdes: Authorizes district school boards to determine licensed professionals that may attest to sickness or injury for certain exemption to attendance policy. Effective Date: July 1, 2022. **Passed, now in Secondary & Career Development Subcommittee**

**HB 825** – School Nutrition Program Requirements by Daley: Requires district school boards to provide specified information to parents & guardians of students eligible for certain school nutrition programs. Effective Date: July 1, 2022. Passed, now Education Committee

**HB 1117** – Education Recovery Scholarship Accounts by Stevenson: Establishes education recovery scholarship accounts; provides requirements for participation, DOE, parents, students & nonprofit scholarship funding organizations & administration of program; & provides immunity from liability for state. Effective Date: July 1, 2022. Passed, now in Secondary

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#### Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee

**HB 1025** – Summer Youth Service Learning by Bush: Creates summer youth service learning program by Bush; provides SBE, DOE, employer, student, & program requirements; provides for funding & rulemaking. Effective Date: July 1, 2022. **Passed, now PreK-12 Education**

**HB 1533** – Virtual Learning: Revises purpose of FLVS to provide for development & delivery of blended learning by Garrison; revises provisions relating to student priority, funding, reporting requirements, & examinations & assessments; provides for establishment of Florida Virtual School Justice Education Program; provides requirements for such program, including students participating in such program and FLVS, DOC, & DOE responsibilities; & revises definition of term "full-time equivalent student." Effective Date: July 1, 2022. **Passed, now in Education**

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#### House Pre-K Appropriations Subcommittee

**HB 1533** – High School Graduation Requirements in Personal Finance by Busatta: Revises required credits for standard high school diploma to include one-half credit of instruction in personal financial literacy & money management & seven & one-half, rather than eight, credits in electives; authorizes students to earn one-half credit in personal financial literacy & money management as elective. Effective Date: July 1, 2022. **Passed, now in Education**

**HB 1193** – Assessments and Accountability by Plasencia: Renaming "Next Generation Sunshine State Standards" as "state academic standards"; revises provisions relating to statewide assessment program, DOE & school district requirements, & state accountability program; provides certain end-of-year comprehensive progress monitoring assessments are statewide, standardized ELA &

**Friday, February 18, 2022**

**#BCPSadvocates**

Mathematics assessments for certain students; revises coordinated screening & progress monitoring program. Effective Date: July 1, 2022. **Passed, now in Education**

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