



OVERVIEW

The Legislature held its eighth week of Session, March 2-6. The last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings was Tuesday, March 3rd. The budget conference, where the House and Senate negotiate the \$1.4 billion difference in their budgets, should commence this weekend. Once they come to an agreement on the budget, a mandatory 72 hour "cooling off" period must pass before they can vote on the final budget. Due to the timing, session is expected to be extended by a few days.

Several other bills moved through the legislative process this week. First, SB 70/HB 23 (Panic Alarms) is awaiting final passage in both chambers. The bill will require FLDOE to implement a statewide mobile based alert system. Second, HB 1231 (students with disabilities) is on the House Floor. An amendment was filed to remove the requirement of cameras in certain classrooms. Third, 7065 (School Safety), which implements additional recommendations of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Safety Commission, passed the House Floor. An amendment by Rep. Jones to allow school districts to levy up ½ mill to fund SROs failed.

Additionally, HB 7097 (tax package) passed the House Floor. The bill requires districts to share surtax with charter schools. BPCS does not currently have a surtax.

There are several bills/legislation that may still pass next week. Among those bills are: an expansion to the Family Employment Scholarship program (possible increasing the financial impact to BCPS by \$10 to \$20 million- the House Bill has already passed), charter school legislation, changes to turnaround options, and parental rights.

TALLAHASSEE: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Bills on the Floor

Senate Floor

[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**

[SB 434](#) – Designation of School Grades by Montford; Revising the components on which a school’s grade is based, etc. **Passed, in messages.**

[SB 438](#) – Florida Best and Brightest Programs by Bradley; Repealing provisions relating to the Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Program and the Florida Best and Brightest Principal Program, etc. **Passed, in messages.**

[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. **On Second Reading.**

[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. **On Second Reading**

[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, in messages.**

House Floor

[HB 7065](#) – School Safety by Massullo: Revises provisions relating to mental health assistance allocation, FortifyFL, & school safety provisions relating to Commissioner of Education, OIG, Office of Safe Schools, charter schools, school districts, threat assessment teams, safe-school officers, Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool, & DOE; provides requirements for family reunification plans & civil citation or similar prearrest diversion programs. **Passed, in messages.**

[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, in messages.**

[HB 737](#) – Moments of Silence in Public Schools by Daniels: Requires moment at beginning of each school day & provides requirements for such moment of silence. **Passed, in messages.**

[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, in messages.**

[HB 7](#) – Legal Notices by Fine: Provides for website publication of legal notices; provides criteria for such publication; authorizes fiscally constrained county to use publicly accessible website to publish legally required advertisements & public notices; requires government agency to provide specified notice to residents concerning alternative methods of receiving legal notices. **Passed, in messages.**