



OVERVIEW

The Legislature held its second committee week, January 21-24. Of note, the Senate Education committee passed its school safety bill, SB 7040. The bill would implement some additional recommendations of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission.

Additionally, HB 23 (Panic Alarms) by Rep. Gottlieb passed its first House committee. Also, HJR 157 passed its first committee in the House. The bill would establish an eight-year term limit on school board members. The bill requires a 2/3 vote in each chamber before it is placed on a ballot for the voters to decide.

Additionally, Governor DeSantis announced his BEST plan to replace the current education standards ([can be viewed here](#)), the complete details of the plan are expected to be released next week.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Florida Senate panel signs off on modest safety measures: [SunSentinel](#)
Gov. Ron DeSantis touts new education standards: [SunSentinel](#)
Anti-LGBT Florida schools getting vouchers [Orlando Sentinel](#)

TALLAHASSEE: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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

Prek-12 Education:

[SB 7040](#) - Implementation of the Recommendations of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission by Committee on Education; Authorizing a sheriff to contract for services to provide training under the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program; adding penalties for persons who knowingly submit false information to a law enforcement agency; revising the training, consultation, and coordination responsibilities of the Office of Safe

Schools; requiring the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute to consult with specified state agencies and convene a workgroup to advise those agencies on the implementation of specified mental health recommendations, etc. **Passed by 8-0**

[SB 132](#) - Sunshine Scholarship by Braynon. Establishing the Sunshine Scholarship Program; requiring the Department of Education to administer the program; requiring certain financial aid to be credited to a student's tuition and fees before the award of a Sunshine Scholarship; requiring a student to repay the scholarship amount under certain circumstances, etc. **Passed by 8-0, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education**

[SB 754](#) - School Crossing Guards by Baxley; Authorizing a school crossing guard employed by a private school, upon approval of the sheriff of the county in which such private school is located, to direct traffic at certain locations under certain circumstances; providing that the school crossing guard is not required to meet specified uniform minimum standards, etc.. **Passed by 8-0, now in Infrastructure and Security**

[SB 866](#) - Florida Talent Development Council by Diaz; Requiring the council to submit, by a specified date, a report with recommendations related to the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program, or a similar program, to the Governor, the Legislature, the Board of Governors, and the State Board of Education; requiring the P-TECH program to incorporate secondary and postsecondary education with workforce education and work experience, etc. **Passed by 8-0, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education**

[SB 918](#) - Civic Education by Brandes; Requiring the Commissioner of Education to develop minimum criteria for a nonpartisan civic literacy practicum for high school students, beginning with a specified school year; authorizing students to apply the hours they devote to practicum activities to certain community service requirements; requiring the State Board of Education to designate certain high schools as Freedom Schools, based on criteria the board establishes relating to students' civic learning and civic engagement, etc. **Passed by 8-0, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education**

[SB 1246](#) - Dual Enrollment by Stargel. Clarifying that secondary students eligible for dual enrollment programs include students who are enrolled in home education programs; prohibiting district school boards and Florida College System institutions from denying students who have met eligibility requirements from participating in dual enrollment except under specified circumstances; providing that certain

independent colleges and universities are eligible for inclusion in the dual enrollment and early admission programs; establishing the Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program, etc. **Passed by 7-1, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education**

[SB 1420](#) -Charter Schools by Flores; Prohibiting sponsors from refusing to receive a charter school application submitted during the calendar year; revising how charter schools operated by not-for-profit or municipal entities may use certain unrestricted current and capital assets; specifying how many applications a high-performing charter school may submit in any school district in the state to establish and operate a new charter school; revising the virtual instruction a virtual charter school may provide, etc. **Passed by 6-2, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education**

[Committee Packet](#)

[Committee Video](#)

Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

The Committee did not meet

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

Education Committee

[HB 61](#) Funds for the Operation of Schools by Overdorf; Revises annual allocation to school districts to include additional calculation of full-time equivalent membership for students who earn College Board Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma beginning in specified fiscal year. **Passed by 17-0 , now in Appropriations Committee**

[HB 1059](#) - Parental Rights by Grall. Provides parental rights relating to a minor child's education, upbringing, & health care; provides school district, health care practitioner, hospital requirements & specified penalties. **Passed by 15-2, now in Health and Human Services Committee.**

[HB 7011](#)- Athletes by Massullo: Revises provisions relating to automated external defibrillators on school grounds, training related to CPR & defibrillators, FHSAA student athlete safety policies, & specified medical evaluations. **Passed by 16-0.**

[Committee Packet](#)

[Committee Video](#)

PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee

[SB 23](#)-Panic Alarms in Public Schools by Gottlieb: Requires each public school campus to be equipped with panic alarm for specified purposes; provides panic alarm requirements. **Passed by 17-0, now in Prek-12 Appropriations Subcommittee**

[HRJ 157](#) -Limitation on Terms of Office for Members of a District School Board by Sabatini: Proposing amendments to the State Constitution to limit the terms of office for a member of a district school board. **Passed by 13-4, now in Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Committee**

[HB 883](#) - Education by Duggan: Requiring DOE to maintain a disqualification list of certain individuals; revises provisions relating to employment & termination of certain public school & private school employees; revises duties of DOE, Commissioner of Education, & school districts relating to employee conduct & employment & termination of certain public school & private school employees. **Passed by 17-0, now in Prek-12 Appropriations Subcommittee**

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PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee

Workshop on District Cost Differential: The committee discussed a proposed methodology to construct a comparable wage index. This change may benefit high cost areas (districts), such as Broward County. There was some discussion on whether or not to factor in amenities in the methodology. The committee will continue discussing this issue throughout the Session.

[Committee Packet](#)

[Committee Video](#)