

**2010 Session of the Florida Legislature
Week 6 Committee Meetings
Quick Summary**

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Senate Education Pre-K – 12 Appropriations Committee

S140 GENERAL BILL/CS by Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Siplin; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Rich; Gaetz; Bullard; Lawson; Wilson; Smith; Hill (Similar CS/H 1619) School Food Service Programs [SPSC]; Creates the Florida Farm Fresh Schools Program within the DOE. Requires the department to work with the DOACS to recommend policies and rules to the State Board of Education relating to school food services which encourage schools and school districts in this state to buy fresh and local food. Requires the DOE, in collaboration with the DOACS, to provide outreach services regarding the benefits of fresh food products in this state. The Committee approved the bill.

S1060 GENERAL BILL by Storms; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Gaetz; Crist (Identical H 0521) Compact/Educational Opportunity/Military Children [SPSC]; Repeals s. 5 of ch. 2008-225, Laws of Florida. Abrogates the future repeal of specified provisions relating to the compact. Deletes provisions relating to the disclosure of information and records and the closure of meetings by the Interstate Commission on Educational opportunity for Military Children. Provides for future legislative review and repeal of the compact. The Committee approved the bill.

S1806 GENERAL BILL/CS by Education Pre-K - 12; Detert (Identical H 7037, Compare CS/CS/H 7053, CS/H 7189, CS/CS/2ND ENG/S 0004, CS/CS/2ND ENG/S 0006, CS/CS/S 1412) Education [SPSC]; Redefines and deletes terms relating to vocational rehabilitation programs. Revises provisions relating to eligibility for vocational rehabilitation services. Requires the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in the DOE to conduct trial work experiences before determining that an individual is incapable of benefiting from services. Requires the division to administer an independent living program. The Committee approved the bill.

S1884 GENERAL BILL/CS by Finance and Tax; Altman (Compare CS/CS/H 0927) Real Property [WPSC]; Revises the criteria under which a transfer of homestead property is not considered a change of ownership. Provides for such provisions to apply to a leasehold interest under certain circumstances. Provides that a change in the ownership of non homestead residential property is not deemed to have occurred due to certain transactions involving a publicly traded company. The Committee approved the bill.

Three members of the Senate Pre-K – 12 Appropriations Committee also serve on the Pre-K – 12 Committee. They had heard, debated and approved these bills before so there were no questions or amendments. All the bills passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

House PreK – 12 Appropriations Committee

H1287 GENERAL BILL/CS by PreK-12 Policy (EPC); Grady; (CO-SPONSORS) Stargel (Similar CS/[S 1970](#), Compare CS/[H 5101](#)) Public K-12 Education; Designates act as "Incentives for Excellence in Education Act"; provides reporting requirements for Florida Partnership for Minority & Underrepresented Student Achievement relating to Advanced Placement instruction; revises requirements for allocation of funds appropriated for International Baccalaureate, Advanced International Certificate of Education, & Advanced Placement instruction & corresponding teacher bonuses. The bill's sponsor, Rep. Grady, offered a strike-all amendment making the bill identical to CS/SB 1970 by Sen. Detert. The amended bill was approved by a unanimous vote.

Because significant interest in the bill was expressed during weekly conference calls with school districts, we have excerpted portions of the Senate Staff Analysis describing the major provisions of CS/SB 1970:

- School districts must 100 percent of the funds received for instruction for the AP, IB and AICE to the program or school that generates the funds
- Funds appropriated for the programs must be spent on teacher bonuses and allowable costs associated with the programs. Allowable costs include: annual school program fees, exam fees, salaries and benefits of school-based program coordinators, supplemental books, instructional supplies and equipment, or activities that identify and prepare prospective program students.
- Restores the \$2,000 cap on bonuses per teacher per year.
- Increases to \$5,000 the cap on bonuses per teacher per year in D and F schools.
- Restores current law for the \$500 bonus for AP, IB and AICE teachers in D and F schools, with the exception of the cap on the number of classes or students earning an eligible score.
- Provides that bonuses for AP teachers in D and F schools are \$500 per individual eligible student score for the first four students who attain the score.

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Senate Education Pre-K – 12 Committee

S2320 GENERAL BILL by Siplin (Identical [H 1255](#)) Code of Student Conduct [SPSC]; Requires the district school board to include in the code of student conduct adopted by the board an explanation of the responsibilities of each student with regard to appropriate dress and respect for self and others, and the role that appropriate dress and respect for self and others has on an orderly learning environment. Provides disciplinary actions for students who violate the dress code. The bill was approved by a unanimous vote.

S2356 GENERAL BILL by Sobel (Similar [CS/H 1233](#)) Educational Plan Surveys [WPSC]; Authorizes an extension to a school district educational plant survey submission deadline. Provides requirements for the submission of a request for an extension to the Department of Education and requiring department approval. Provides restrictions on school district construction during the extension period. Requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules. The bill was approved by a unanimous vote.

S2746 GENERAL BILL by Gardiner (Compare [CS/H 1505](#)) Education Programs for Children with Disabilities [SPSC]; Amends a provision relating to the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program. Authorizes students who receive certain services under the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to receive a John M. McKay Scholarship. Revises definitions for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. Establishes a prekindergarten program option for children with disabilities. The Committee adopted two amendments. The first provides more complete definitions of intervention services by cross referencing existing laws. The second provides the authority and a process for the Commissioner of Education to suspend, deny or revoke a private schools participation in the scholarship program. The bill passed as a Committee Substitute by a unanimous vote.

S2262 GENERAL BILL by Thrasher (Similar [H 1173](#), Compare [S 0534](#), [S 1124](#)) Education/Virtual School [SPSC]; Authorizes a charter school operated by a provider that is approved by the DOE to provide online instruction. Revises provisions relating to funding for the Florida Virtual School to conform to changes made by the act. Revises provisions relating to home education students to allow them to enroll in courses offered by the Florida Virtual School, or a franchise of such, and in courses offered in their local school districts. The bill's sponsor offered a Committee Substitute that strikes the content of the original bill and substitutes authorization to create virtual charter schools. Virtual education services must be provided by a DOE approved provider, the charter must be approved by the district school board,

and the charter may only serve students living in the chartering district. The bill passed by a vote of 5 to 2.

Friday, April 16, 2010

House Education Policy Council

H31 GENERAL BILL/CS/CS by Policy Council; PreK-12 Policy (EPC); Drake; Evers; (CO-SPONSORS) Burgin; Bush; Carroll; Ford; Fresen; Horner; Murzin; Patronis; Stargel; Van Zant; T. Williams; Workman Public Education; Prohibits district school boards, administrative personnel, & instructional personnel from taking affirmative action that infringes or waives rights or freedoms afforded by First Amendment to United States Constitution in absence of certain consent. The legislation was prompted by a controversy in Santa Rosa County in which two students alleged Establishment Clause violations of their rights. The school board admitted liability and entered a joint consent decree prohibiting school officials from engaging in certain religious activities – basically praying with or leading prayers with students at school. The bill would authorize such activity, it passed by a unanimous vote.

H467 GENERAL BILL/CS by PreK-12 Policy (EPC); Jones; (CO-SPONSORS) Clarke-Reed; Culp; Jenne; Pafford; Rader; Soto; Stargel (Similar CS/S [0642](#)) Public K-12 Education; Provides that comprehensive health education taught in public schools shall include component on teen dating violence & abuse for students in grades 7 through 12; requires district school boards to adopt & implement dating violence & abuse policy; requires DOE to develop model policy; requires school personnel training. The bill passed by a unanimous vote.

H623 GENERAL BILL/CS/CS by PreK-12 Appropriations (CEED); PreK-12 Policy (EPC); Burgin; (CO-SPONSORS) Hudson; Nehr; Plakon; Rouson (Compare CS/H [5101](#), [S 1124](#)) Instructional Materials for K-12 Public Education; Includes electronic textbooks in definition of term "adequate instructional materials"; requires each district school board to provide technology as needed for its educational program; authorizes use of certain funds for purchase of electronic textbooks by district school boards; provides for purchase of electronic or computer hardware under certain conditions. Although a few members expressed reservations, the bill passed by a unanimous vote.

H1061 GENERAL BILL/CS/CS by PreK-12 Appropriations (CEED); PreK-12 Policy (EPC); Heller; (CO-SPONSORS) Brandenburg; Bullard; Chestnut; Kriseman; Schwartz; Soto; Steinberg (Identical CS/CS/S [0434](#)) Suicide Prevention; Revises membership of Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council; requires that district school boards provide access to suicide prevention educational resources to all

instructional & administrative personnel as part of school district professional development system. The bill passed by a unanimous vote.

H1085 GENERAL BILL/CS by PreK-12 Policy (EPC); Bullard Career and Education Planning; Requires career exploration in specified fields to be included in career & education planning course required for middle grades promotion. The bill passed by a unanimous vote.

H1619 GENERAL BILL/CS by PreK-12 Policy (EPC); Bush; (CO-SPONSORS) Stargel (Similar CS/[S 0140](#)) School Food Service Programs; Creates Florida Farm Fresh Schools Program within DOE; requires program to comply with regulations of National School Lunch Program & meet specified requirements; requires DOE to work with DACS to develop policies that encourage school districts to buy fresh & local food & select foods with maximum nutritional content; requires departments to provide outreach services regarding benefits of fresh food products from state. The bill passed by a unanimous vote.

H1569 GENERAL BILL/CS/CS by PreK-12 Appropriations (CEED); PreK-12 Policy (EPC); Stargel Charter Schools; Provides requirements for designation & operation as high-performing charter school; revises requirements for providing financial statements to charter school sponsor; revises requirements for establishment of charter school-in-the-workplace & authorizes capital outlay funding; revises provisions relating to compliance with building codes & requirements; provides for exemption from certain exactions. Council members raised a number of concerns and technical issues regarding the bill. Because the bill's prime sponsor was called away from the meeting and this was the last regular Council meeting, members agreed to resolve issues and make necessary amendments on the floor. The bill passed by a unanimous vote.

Next Week (April 19-23)

The House is finished with regularly scheduled Council and Committee meetings. Final Senate committee meetings will be held Monday and Tuesday.

Monday, April 19, 2010

Senate Education Pre-K – 12 Appropriations Committee

S434 GENERAL BILL/CS/CS by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Education Pre-K - 12; Sobel; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Fasano; Storms; Wilson; Dean; Rich; Bullard (Identical CS/CS/[H 1061](#)) Suicide Prevention Education

[SPSC];Deletes references to inactive organizations represented by members of the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council and replaces with active organizations. Requires that district school boards provide access to suicide prevention educational resources to all instructional and administrative personnel as part of the school district professional development system.

S718 JOINT RESOLUTION by Fasano; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Gaetz (Similar [H 0027](#), [H 0039](#), [S 2650](#)) Homestead Property Assessed Value [WPSC]; Proposes amendments to the State Constitution to prohibit increases in the assessed value of homestead property if the fair market value of the property decreases. Comparable House resolutions (HJR 27, HJR 39) have not been heard in committee.

S896 GENERAL BILL/CS by Health Regulation; Peaden; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Jones; Fasano; Sobel; Lawson; Detert; Storms; Wilson (Compare CS/CS/[H 0747](#)) Students with Diabetes [SPSC]; Requires the DOH to develop guidelines, with the assistance of certain entities, for the training of diabetes personnel. Requires each district school board and the governing body of each private and charter school to provide training to a minimum number of school employees. Prohibits a school district from restricting the assignment of a student who has diabetes to a particular school.

S2262 GENERAL BILL/CS by Education Pre-K - 12; Thrasher (Compare [H 1173](#), [S 0534](#)) Charter Virtual Schools [SPSC]; Provides for the establishment of charter virtual schools. Provides requirements for participation in the program. Provides requirements for student eligibility. Provides for funding. Provides exceptions from certain requirements.

S2356 GENERAL BILL by Sobel (Similar CS/[H 1233](#)) Educational Plant Surveys [WPSC]; Authorizes an extension to a school district educational plant survey submission deadline. Provides requirements for the submission of a request for an extension to the Department of Education and requiring department approval. Provides restrictions on school district construction during the extension period.

S2686 GENERAL BILL by Garcia; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Villalobos; Wilson (Identical [H 1451](#)) District School Costs Study [SPSC]; Requires the Department of Education to contract with an out-of-state postsecondary educational institution to conduct a study to analyze Florida's district cost differential amenities index and to develop a cost-of-education index. Requires a report and submission of the report to the Legislature and the Governor. The House companion has not been heard in committee.

House Full Appropriations Council on Education & Economic Development

(Agenda not available until Monday)

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Senate Education Pre-K – 12 Committee

S1580 GENERAL BILL by Wise Public Ed./Inspirational Message/High School Event [SPSC]; Authorizes district school boards to permit the delivery of an inspirational message at a noncompulsory high school event. Provides purpose.

Questions, requests, comments and suggestions may be addressed to mike@mixonandassociates.com