



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND PRIVATE SCHOOL PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The 2010 Florida Legislature will be in session from March 2—April 30, 2010. Presently, there are bills proposed in both the House and the Senate that, if passed by both chambers and approved by the Governor, could affect Florida private schools in general and those participating in the state scholarship programs. The number of each bill, the bill’s sponsor, bill subject, and a brief synopsis has been provided for reference.

(HB = House Bill, SB = Senate Bill)

Bill Number

Sponsor

Bill Title

HB 117

Representative Ambler
(Similar to SB 222)

Childhood Vaccinations

This bill revises requirements for administration of certain vaccines required for school entry; requires licensed health care providers to provide certain vaccine information statements to parents, legal guardians, & legal representatives before administration of certain vaccines to children; requires health care providers to obtain signed statements from parents, legal guardians, & legal representatives documenting that vaccine information statements are provided; specifies required contents of signed statements; requires health care providers to record batch & lot number of each vaccine on signed statements; requires health care providers to maintain certain records; provides for application of act to certain vaccine information statements; authorizes use of single signed statement for administration of multiple vaccines under certain circumstances.

SB 124

Senator Bullard

School Entry Requirements/Swimming Life Skills

This bill requires that children who enter public or private schools in the state present evidence of having completed a class in swimming life skills conducted by a certified instructor; provides for certain exemptions from the requirement. Amends specified provisions relating to student and parent rights and requirements for private schools, etc.

HB 207

Representative Kriseman
(Identical to SB 358)

Contamination Notification

HB 221

Representative A. Williams
(Identical to SB 1144)

Driving Safety

This bill creates the "Ronshay Dugans Act"; designates Drowsy Driving Prevention Week; encourages DHSMV & DOT to educate law enforcement community & public about relationship between fatigue & driving performance; restricts use of mobile telecommunications devices by school bus drivers; provides exceptions & penalties.

SB 222

Senator Ring

Childhood Vaccinations

This bill requires a pediatrician or attending physician to discuss the risks, benefits, and alternatives of each vaccination before a child is vaccinated; provides requirements for the administration of certain vaccines required for school entry; requires licensed health care providers to provide certain vaccine information statements to parents, legal guardians, and legal representatives before administering certain vaccines to children, etc.

SB 358**Senator Justice****Contamination Notification/Site Rehabilitation**

This bill revises contamination notification provisions; requires individuals responsible for site rehabilitation to provide notice of site rehabilitation to specified entities; authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection to pursue enforcement measures for noncompliance with notice requirements; requires the DEP to provide specified notice to private K-12 schools and child care facilities; requires the DEP to provide specified notice to public schools within a specified area, etc.

HB 383**Representative Long****Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program****(Co-sponsor Representative Porth)**

(Similar to SB 848)

This bill provides that prekindergarten instructors in school-year prekindergarten programs delivered by private providers & public schools must meet new professional credentialing requirements beginning July 1, 2013; repeals provisions relating to aspirational goals for professional credentials of prekindergarten instructors.

HB 407**Representative Brise****Student Voter Education**

(Identical to SB 524)

HB 499**Representative G. Thompson Employment of Children/Entertainment Industry**

This bill provides regulations for employment of children in entertainment industry; provides responsibilities of employers & parents or legal guardians of such children; provides duties of Division of Regulation within DBPR; provides limitations on working hours of child performers; provides certification requirements & duties of teachers of child performers, etc.

SB 524**Senator Fasano****Student Voter Education****(Co-introducer Senator Bullard)**

This bill provides for a voter education program; requires that each district school board and county supervisor of elections jointly provide the program for high school students who are eligible to register or preregister to vote; requires that such education consist of a mandatory presentation made by the supervisor of elections to public high school students who are eligible to register or preregister to vote, etc; requires presentation to be made available to nonpublic schools upon request.

SB 602**Senator Justice****Contamination Notification/Site Rehabilitation**

(Similar to HB 207 and SB 358)

This bill revises contamination notification provisions; requires individuals responsible for site rehabilitation to provide notice of site rehabilitation to specified entities; authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection to pursue enforcement measures for noncompliance with notice requirements; requires the DEP to provide specified notice to private K-12 schools and child care facilities; requires the DEP to provide specified notice to public schools within a specified area, etc.

SB 848**Senator Rich****Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program**

(Similar to HB 343)

This bill provides that prekindergarten instructors in school-year prekindergarten programs delivered by private providers and public schools must meet new professional credentialing requirements beginning July 1, 2013; deletes provisions relating to alternate educational credentials, to conform; repeals a specified provision relating to aspirational goals for the professional credentials of prekindergarten instructors, etc.

SB 896**Senator Peaden****Students with Diabetes**

This bill requires the Department of Health 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, etc.

HB 1009**Representative Weatherford Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program**

This bill makes program operation contingent upon available funds; revises eligibility criteria; revises tax credit grant provisions; specifies tax credit cap; provides for increasing cap; provides for carryforward of unused amounts of tax credits; provides limitations on conveying, assigning, or transferring tax credits; revises taxpayer tax credit rescission provisions; deletes prohibition against claiming multiple tax credits; specifies additional obligations for eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations to development & review of accountant procedures & guidelines; limits private school participation eligibility to specified grades; requires private schools to annually contract with accountants to perform procedures; revises DOE obligations; specifies additional requirements for independent research organizations; provides responsibilities of DOE; authorizes Commissioner of Education to deny, suspend, or revoke private school program participation; revises limitations on annual amounts of scholarships provided; provides for credit against oil & gas production tax, sales & use tax, corporate income tax, & alcoholic beverage taxes.

HB 1065**Representative Precourt****Biodiesel Fuel**

(Identical to SB 1730)

HB 1073**Representative Llorente****Education of Children with Disabilities**

This act designates act "Disabilities in Education Act"; requires minimum training for child care personnel to include identification & care of children with developmental disabilities; revises requirements for student eligibility to participate in John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program; requires regional autism centers to provide certain support for serving children with developmental disabilities, etc.

SB 1144**Senator Smith****Driving Safety**

(Identical to HB 221)

HB 1173**Representative Fresen****K-12 Educational Instruction**

(Similar to SB 2262)

This bill authorizes formation of virtual charter school; revises provisions for funding Florida Virtual School; authorizes home education students to enroll in virtual instruction courses; exempts certain Florida-based nonpublic schools from requirements relating to attendance records & reports, school-entry health examinations, & student immunizations; revises provisions relating to school district virtual instruction programs, etc.

HB 1261**Representative Ford****Grade K through 12 Schools**

This bill requires that locker rooms in K-12 schools be locked when not in use by students or other authorized persons & be directly supervised by faculty or staff when in use by students.

SB 1262**Senator Wilson****School-entry Health and Vision Examinations**

This bill requires children who enter public or private schools in the state to present evidence of having received a comprehensive vision examination; provides an exemption; requires the imposition of a fee on the retail sale of nonprescription eyeglasses; provides for the fee to be used by the Department of Health to assist parents in paying for school-entry comprehensive vision examinations, etc.

SB 1426**Senator Wilson****Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program**

This bill provides an additional purpose that enables students in specified grades in public schools to receive certain assistance in attaining grade-level performance; revises definitions; requires scholarship funding organizations to allocate at least 25 percent of their scholarships to public school students; permits scholarships of a certain amount for public school students, etc.

HB 1453**Representative Sands****Student Assessment**

This bill requires DOE to adopt grade-placement assessments for grades 1 through 8 to determine grade placement for student previously enrolled in private school, parochial, religious, or denominational school, home education program, or private tutoring program; requires school districts to administer assessments; provides for use of assessments; provides parent responsibility.

HB 1505**Representative Flores****McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities**

This bill revises student eligibility requirements for participation in scholarship program; authorizes students who are eligible to enter kindergarten to receive John M. McKay Scholarship; provides eligibility requirements for student identified with developmental delay; authorizes students who were enrolled & reported by school district for funding during any prior year FEFP surveys to receive scholarship; authorizes Commissioner of Education to deny, suspend, or revoke private school's participation in program for certain acts or omissions by owner or operator; permits students to receive instruction & services at site other than physical location of private school under specified conditions.

SB 1730**Senator Oelrich****Biodiesel Fuel**

(Identical to HB 1065)

This bill exempts biodiesel fuel manufactured by a public or private secondary school from taxation under certain circumstances; specifies the circumstances under which a public or private secondary school that manufactures such fuel is exempt from certain registration requirements.

SB 2126**Senator Negron****Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program**

(Identical to HB 1009)

SB 2262**Senator Thrasher****Education/Virtual School**

(Similar to HB 1173)

This bill 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, etc.

SB 2416**Senator Crist****Background Screening**

This bill revises background screening requirements for the Guardian Ad Litem Program, mental health personnel, nursing home personnel, home health agency personnel, nurse registry personnel, and companions and homemakers; provides background screening requirements for prescribed pediatric extended care centers; revises provisions relating to the Criminal Justice Information Program under the FDLE, etc.

SB 2472**Senator Storms****Education of Children with Disabilities**

(Similar to HB 1073)

This bill requires minimum training for child care personnel to include the identification and care of children with developmental disabilities; revises requirements for student eligibility to participate in the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program; requires regional autism centers to provide certain support for serving children with developmental disabilities, etc.

SB 2558**Senator Aronberg****Grade Level Assignment Assessments/DOE**

This bill requires that the Department of Education adopt assessments for grade level assignment of a student who attended a private school or home school and who is transferring to or enrolling in public school; requires that the assessments be based upon state-adopted grade level standards; requires that parents allow for their child to be assessed regardless of the date of enrollment during the school year, etc.

SB 2602**Senator Storms****Grade K-12 Schools/Locker Rooms**

This bill requires that locker rooms in K-12 schools be locked when not in use by students or other authorized persons and be directly supervised by faculty or staff when in use by students; provides fines for violations; provides for the use of any fines that are collected.

SB 2746**Senator Gardiner****Education Programs for Children with Disabilities**

This bill 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, etc.

SB 7064**Education Pre-K - 12****OGSR/Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program**

This bill amends a specified provision relating to an exemption from public records requirements for the individual records of a child enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program which are held by an early learning coalition, the AWI, or a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider, including assessment data, health data, records of teacher observations, and personal I.D. information of the enrolled child, etc.

This bill revises background screening requirements for various licensees & service providers; requires affidavit relating to background screening & revises background screening requirements under AHCA; requires electronic submission of fingerprints; revises level 1 & level 2 screening standards; adds disqualifying offenses; authorizes agencies to contract for electronic fingerprinting; revises requirements for covered employees & employers; revises provisions relating to employment exclusions; provides that employer may not hire, select, or otherwise allow employee contact with any vulnerable person until screening is completed; revises exemption provisions; revises payment; revises provisions relating to Criminal Justice Information Program under FDLE; authorizes agencies to request retention of certain fingerprints by FDLE; provides for rulemaking to require employers to keep agencies informed of certain changes concerning persons whose fingerprints are retained; revises background screening requirements for DJJ; conforms provisions.

HB 5101**PreK-12 Appropriations Committee and Representative Flores**

This bill revises provisions relating to school capital outlay surtax, transfer of funds for class size reduction, appropriation of funds for regional consortium service organizations, calculations for funding school operating purposes, certain scholarship payments, & requirements for school-year prekindergarten program classes; revises requirements for maximum class size to include requirements contingent on voter approval of joint resolution; provides requirements relating to gifted student education, electronic learning management systems, instructional materials in electronic format, FEFP calculations, calculation of funds for instructional materials & transportation, levy of certain school district millage, & school district construction funding.

For those interested in the monitoring the status of these bills, you can view the progress through the state legislature websites. On the left hand side of both the Senate website (<http://www.flsenate.gov/>) and the House of Representatives website (<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/>) there are search functions. By entering either a number or related text into the search function, you will find a link to the text of the bill, staff analysis, and information relating to the bill history. You can also click on the bill number for a direct link to the bill's detail page.

For more information about the legislative session or to contact your legislators, please visit Online Sunshine, the official site of the Florida Legislature, at <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome/index.cfm>.