

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND PRIVATE SCHOOL PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The 2009 Florida Legislature will be in session from March 3—May 1, 2009. 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 17

Representative McBurney

Public School Attendance

This bill creates Student Preparedness Pilot Program to include Duval County School District as one of selected school districts; allows students 16 to 18 years of age to terminate school enrollment if they meet pilot program requirements for attendance & completion; provides for nontraditional academic options; provides for study & report by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability.

HB 33

Representative Ambler

Childhood Vaccinations

This bill requires that health care providers disclose information about childhood vaccinations to a minor's parent or legal guardian before vaccinating the minor; requires the Department of Health to develop a standardized form; prohibits a provider from administering a vaccination to a minor until after the minor's parent or guardian signs the form; requires certain health care providers to provide information about childhood vaccines to patients who are pregnant, etc.

SB 76

Senator Wilson

Juvenile Records

This bill requires each clerk of court to submit information concerning juvenile arrest records to the Department of Law Enforcement; revises the criteria for disseminating criminal justice information; provides for agents of the Department of Juvenile Justice to administer oaths and affirmations; requires that fingerprints and photographs be taken from certain juveniles for use in investigating other violations of law, etc.

SB 82

Senator Wilson

Mandatory School Attendance

This bill changes the ending age for mandatory school attendance from 16 to 18 years of age.

SB 92

Senator Wilson

School Attendance/Withdrawing from School

This bill requires that a student who is withdrawing from school be assigned a counselor or other school personnel to provide educational information until the student is 18 years old; requires 9th graders and students who are withdrawing from school to receive instruction about the effects of withdrawing from high school and certain available options.

SB 146

Senator Bullard

School Entry Requirements/Swimming Life Skills

This bill requires children who enter public or private schools in the state to present evidence of having completed a class in swimming life skills conducted by a certified instructor; provides for certain exemptions from the requirement, etc.

SB 194

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; 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; requires rules for eligibility for and the distribution of funds, etc.

SB 308

Senator Ring

Childhood Vaccinations

Identical to HB 33

HB 323

Representative Bullard

School Attendance

Identical to SB 92

HB 353

Representative Porth

John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program

This bill authorizes students who receive certain services under VPK Program to receive John M. McKay Scholarship; deletes requirement that student must have spent prior school year in attendance at Florida public school or Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind to be eligible for scholarship; provides certain rights & requires information explaining rights & responsibilities; requires DOE to recommend training for school personnel in procedures for safe restraint of students; requires private school to refund scholarship payment under certain circumstances; permits students to receive scholarship services at locations other than private school's site under specified conditions.

HB 397

Representative Skidmore

Prohibited Discrimination

This bill prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, familial status, & marital status; defines terms; conforms terminology.

HB 453

Representative Weatherford

Tax Credits for Contributions to Nonprofit Scholarship-funding Organizations

This bill provides for credits against sales & use tax for contributions to eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations; expands Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program to include sales & use tax credits & insurance premium tax credits; revises credits for contributions to nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations; specifies that taxpayers' use of credit doesn't reduce alternative minimum tax credits; specifies DOE tax credit scholarship notification requirements; specifies notice requirements & limitations; provides for credits against insurance premium tax for contributions to nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations.

CS/HB 453 PreK-12 Policy Committee and Weatherford (CO- SPONSORS) Horner; Hudson; Workman; Zapata

Committee substitute: filed March 4, 2009

SB 520**Senator Hill****Public School Attendance**

Identical to HB 17

SB 610**Senator Wise****Florida Schools of Excellence (FSE)**

This bill provides the purpose of the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission; provides that the commission may authorize new sources of community support to participate as cosponsors in developing and supporting charter schools; revises the application requirements to sponsor a FSE charter school; provides requirements under which the commission may sponsor a conversion charter school and a FSE charter school, etc.

SB 916**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; 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; requires public schools to account for the use of scholarship funds, etc.

HB 999**Representative Horner****Educational Choice**

This bill establishes Class Size Grant Program to provide option to attend public school other than the one to which student is assigned, or to provide class size grant to private school of choice, for students assigned to classrooms that exceed constitutional class size limits; provides eligibility requirements for receipt of grant; provides school district, DOE, & Commissioner of Education obligations & authority; provides eligibility requirements & obligations of private school participating in program; provides for grant funding, reporting, & payment; requires DOE to report on school district implementation of & compliance with program.

SB 1010**Senator Ring****McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities**

Similar to HB 353

This bill authorizes students who receive certain services under the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to receive a John M. McKay Scholarship; deletes the requirement that a student must have spent the prior school year in attendance at a Florida public school or the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind to be eligible for a scholarship, etc.

SB 1310**Senator Gardiner****Tax Credits/Nonprofit Scholarship-funding Organizations**

Identical to HB 453

HB 1325**Representative Kriseman****Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program**

This bill requires students participating in Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program to take FCAT under specified conditions; provides additional requirements for private schools participating in program; revises DOE program obligations; provides additional requirements for teachers employed by or under contract with private schools participating in program.

HB 1455

Representative Reagan

Childhood Immunizations

This bill revises list of required childhood immunizations; provides set of recommended vaccination requirements that address manner & frequency of administration of immunizations for children who are entitled to admittance into kindergarten or any other initial entrance into public or private school in this state.

SB 1988

Senator Wise

School Choice Pilot Project/Orange County

This bill establishes the Education Empowerment Zone Pilot Project in Orange County; provides student eligibility requirements for school choice options, including public school, charter school, private school, and virtual school choice; provides eligibility requirements for receipt of an education empowerment zone grant to attend a private or virtual school; specifies parent and student responsibilities for participation, etc.

SB 2124

Senator Wise

Educational Choice/Class Size Grant Program

Identical to HB 999

SB 2478

Senator Gardiner

Children with Disabilities

Compare to HB 353 and SB 1010

This bill requires certain licensing boards to require continuing education on developmental disabilities for certain licensees and certificate holders; requires the DOH to develop and implement a plan to promote awareness of developmental disabilities; authorizes students who receive certain services under the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to receive a John M. McKay Scholarship, etc.

SB 2564

Senator Deutch

Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program

Similar to HB 1325

This bill requires that students who are participating in the Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program take the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test under certain conditions; provides additional requirements for private schools that are participating in the program; revises the DOE's obligations under the program; provides additional requirements for teachers employed by or under contract with private schools that are participating in the program.

SB 2674

Senator Bennett

Childhood Immunizations

This bill revises the list of required childhood immunizations; provides a set of recommended vaccination requirements that address the manner and frequency of administration of immunizations for children who are entitled to admittance into kindergarten or any other initial entrance into a public or private school in this state.

SB 7050

Proposed Committee Bill

**Consideration by Education Pre-K - 12
Criminal Background Screenings**

This bill revises the terms "child care personnel" and "screening" to specify the personnel who are subject to the screening requirements and conform to changes made by the act; prohibits the DCFS from adopting different background screening standards for facilities that serve different age groups; revises the minimum screening standards for child care personnel, etc.

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>.