

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, PRIVATE SCHOOL, AND HOME EDUCATION PROGRAM PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The 2013 Florida Legislature will be in session from March 5—May 3, 2013. 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 school choice in Florida, including private schools in general, those participating in the state scholarship programs, and home education 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 149

Representative Campbell

Safe Work Environments

This bill creates "Safe Work Environment Act"; provides findings & intent; provides that subjecting employee to abusive work environment is unlawful employment practice; prohibits retaliating against employee who has opposed any unlawful employment practice, or who has made charge, testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in investigation or proceeding concerning such claim; provides for vicarious liability for employers in certain circumstances; provides defense; provides for liability for individual employees in certain circumstances; provides defense; provides affirmative defenses; specifies relief available; limits employer's liability for emotional distress & precludes punitive damages in certain circumstances; specifies that provisions may only be enforced by private right of action; provides time limitation on actions; provides that remedies provided shall be in addition to & not in place of other remedies provided in law; provides for screening certain persons public & private school entering instructional areas.

HB 237

Representative Bracy

Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program

(Identical to SB 776)

This bill requires private school participating in program to report to DOE assessment scores of students who are administered certain assessments; requires publication of scores on DOE website.

SB 776

Senator Thompson

Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program

(Identical to HB 237)

This bill requires a private school participating in the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program to report to the Department of Education the assessment scores of any students who are administered certain assessments; requires the department to publish the scores on its website, etc.

HB 253

Representative Passidomo

Protection of Vulnerable Persons

(Compare to SB 1222) (Co-sponsor Rep. Rooney)

This bill provides for protective services interventions when ability of vulnerable adult is impaired, rather than when capacity to consent is lacking; reduces minimum amount of theft from person 65 years of age or older that constitutes felony of third degree; revises terminology to prohibit specified offenses against vulnerable adult, rather than against an elderly person or disabled adult; conforms provisions.

SB 1222

Senator Richter

Protection of Vulnerable Persons

(Compare to HB 253)

This bill reduces the minimum amount of a theft from a person 65 years of age or older that constitutes a felony of the third degree; providing criminal penalties; revises terminology to prohibit specified lewd and lascivious offenses committed upon or in the presence of a vulnerable adult and to prohibit specified offenses involving exploitation of a vulnerable adult, etc.

SB 284

Senator Negron

Student Safety

(Identical to HB 369)

This bill Requires district school board policies to list the emergency response agencies that are responsible for notifying the school district of emergencies; requires the emergency response agencies to notify private schools in the school district under certain circumstances, etc.

HB 369**Representative La Rosa****Student Safety**

(Identical to SB 284)

(Co-sponsors Representatives M. Diaz and Hutson)

This bill requires district school board policies to list emergency response agencies that are responsible for notifying school district of emergencies; requires emergency response agencies to notify private schools in school district under certain circumstances.

HB 465**Representatives Brodeur and M. Diaz****Exceptional Student Education**

(Similar to SB 1108)

(Co-sponsor Rep. R. Rodriguez)

This bill provides requirements for parent meetings with school district personnel relating to ESE & services; provides requirements for reimbursement of federal funds to charter schools; requires school district to provide ESE-related services to certain home education program students; provides terms relating to instructional settings; requires use of parental consent forms for actions in student's IEP; provides requirements for certain changes in IEP; encourages public & private instructional personnel collaboration; requires ESE center to choose to receive school grade or school improvement rating; provides requirements for renewal of professional certificate relating to teaching students with disabilities.

SB 1108**Senators Gardiner and Thrasher****Exceptional Student Education**

(Similar to HB 465)

This bill prohibits certain actions with respect to parent meetings with school district personnel; requires a school district to provide exceptional student education-related services to certain home education program students; requires the use of parental consent forms for specified actions in a student's individual education plan; provides requirements for renewal of a professional certificate relating to teaching students with disabilities, etc.

HB 585**Representative Hood****Department of Law Enforcement**

This bill revises duties concerning missing person reporting; specifies additional items to be reported by persons required to register as sexual offenders; repeals triennial study of sexual predator & sexual offender registration & notification procedures; redesignates statewide automated fingerprint identification system as statewide automated biometric identification system; requires collecting additional information from persons charged with or convicted of specified offenses; increases period in which minor may seek expunction of nonjudicial arrest record following diversion; revises language concerning prior criminal history sealings or expunctions that would preclude sealing or expunction; provides for accreditation of correctional facilities, public agency offices of inspectors general & pretrial diversion programs; revises date of report detailing transportation & protective services provided by FDLE; deletes obsolete provisions; revises terminology.

HB 615**Representative Reed****Statewide K-12 Education Commission**

(Similar to SB 992)

This bill creates Statewide K-12 Education Commission within DOE to streamline & improve state's education system; provides membership & duties; requires annual report with recommendations.

SB 992**Senator Bullard****Statewide K-12 Education Commission**

(Compare to HB 615)

Creating the Statewide K-12 Education Commission within the Department of Education; providing for terms, membership, meetings, and duties, etc.

HB 859**Representative Hutson****Extracurricular Activities**

(Similar to SB 956)

(Co-sponsor Rep. Davis)

This bill authorizes students attending public school that does not offer particular extracurricular activity to participate in that extracurricular activity at public or private school, subject to certain requirements; deletes criterion for students who are enrolled in non-FHSAA member private schools to participate in interscholastic or interscholastic sports.

SB 956**Senator Bean****Extracurricular Activities**

(Similar to HB 859)

This bill provides that K-12 public school students who meet certain requirements have a right to participate in extracurricular activities; authorizes public school students attending a public school that does not offer a particular extracurricular activity to participate in that extracurricular activity at another school, subject to certain requirements; deletes a criterion for students who are enrolled in non-Florida High School Athletic Association member private schools to participate in interscholastic or intrascholastic sports, etc.

SB 1164**Senator Stargel****High School Athletics**

(Identical to HB 1137)

This bill revises criteria for student eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities to include students in charter schools; revises the criteria for bylaws, policies, or guidelines adopted by the Florida High School Athletic Association; provides procedures for student residence and transfer approvals; provides that the burden is on the FHSAA to demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that a student is ineligible to participate in a high school athletic competition, etc.

HB 7029**Choice and Innovation Subcommittee****Digital Learning**

(Compare to HB 7009) (and Representative Diaz)

This bill provides requirements for funding home education students enrolled in Florida Virtual School; provides reporting requirements for Florida Virtual School Global; revises requirements for approval as virtual instruction provider; authorizes district school board to operate district innovation school as pilot program; removes restrictions on students taking online courses across district lines.

SB 1400**Senator Montford****Education Accountability**

This bill revising parents' responsibilities for participation in the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program; revising the eligibility requirements for a private school to participate in the scholarship program; revising the duties of the Department of Education relating to the scholarship program in the reporting of scores for standardized tests; requiring each school district to administer statewide assessments to students participating in choice programs and report the assessment results and scores to parents, students, and applicable schools, etc.

HB 1251**Representative Bileca****Education Savings Account Program**

(Similar to SB 1492)

This bill establishes the Education Savings Account Program to provide student account to pay for specified educational expenses at private school, private virtual school, private tutoring program, or public or private postsecondary institution or to contribute to college savings plan or make payment for prepaid college plan.

SB 1492**Senator Negron****Education Savings Account Program**

(Similar to HB 1251)

This bill establishes the program to provide a student account to pay for specified educational expenses at a private school, private virtual school, private tutoring program, or public or private postsecondary institution or to contribute to a college savings plan or make payment for a prepaid college plan; provides parent and student responsibilities; provides educational institution eligibility and obligations; provides for the total amount of payments; provides requirements for enrollment in the program for the 2013-2014 school year, etc.

HB 1273**Representative Dudley****Religious-Exempt Child Care Programs**

(Identical to SB 1682)

This bill provides exemption for child care programs affiliated with religious congregations or religious boarding schools from regulation by DCF; requires display of certificate of compliance issued by accrediting agency recognized by DCF; requires accrediting agency to conduct initial onsite review; provides DCF is not authorized to regulate specified elements of program; provides timeframes within which an exempt child care program must notify an accrediting agency of its transfer & termination of accreditation; prohibits recognized accrediting agency from owning, operating, or administering certain programs.

SB 1682

Senator Joyner

Religious-exempt Child Care Programs

(Identical to HB 1273)

This bill provides for a child care program affiliated with a religious congregation or religious boarding school to be exempt from regulation by the Department of Children and Families as a religious-exempt child care program; requires religious-exempt child care programs to display a certificate of compliance issued by an accrediting agency recognized by the department; requires a recognized accrediting agency to conduct an initial onsite review; provides timeframes within which child care programs must meet the requirements for training and credentials, etc.

HFS 13-02

Healthy Families Subcommittee

Residential Services for Children

This bill revises requirements set by the Department of Children and Families for boarding schools; specifies accreditation requirements and timelines; provides for removal of noncompliant boarding schools from the directory of private schools by the Department of Education; provides for sanctions imposed by the Department of Children and Families on noncompliant boarding schools.

SB 878

Educational Accountability

**Appropriations and Education,
Senator Galvano**

This bill requires the State Board of Education to notify the Legislature of any major changes in federal law which may affect the state's K-20 education performance accountability system; requires the Board of Governors to make available to the Department of Education all data within the State University Database System which is to be integrated into the K-20 data warehouse; revises provisions relating to schools that are assigned school grades, including co-located schools, and students whose assessment data is used in determining school grades, etc.

(Latest committee referral)

(Notes in parentheses)

***** indicates IEPC analysis (lead or consult) w/ lead office initials**