

By Senator Legg

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to instruction for homebound and
3 hospitalized students; amending s. 1003.57, F.S.;
4 requiring school districts to provide instruction to
5 homebound or hospitalized students; requiring the
6 State Board of Education to adopt rules related to
7 student eligibility, methods of providing instruction
8 to homebound or hospitalized students, and the
9 initiation of services; requiring the department to
10 develop a standard agreement for school districts;
11 requiring each school district to enter into an
12 agreement with certain hospitals within its district
13 by a specified date; providing an effective date.

14
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16
17 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
18 1003.57, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

19 1003.57 Exceptional students instruction.—

20 (1)

21 (b) Each district school board shall provide for an
22 appropriate program of special instruction, facilities, and
23 services for exceptional students as prescribed by the State
24 Board of Education as acceptable. Each district program must,
25 ~~including provisions that:~~

26 1. ~~The district school board~~ Provide the necessary
27 professional services for diagnosis and evaluation of
28 exceptional students. At least once every 3 years, the district
29 school board shall submit to the department its proposed

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30 procedures for the provision of special instruction and services
31 for exceptional students.

32 2. ~~The district school board~~ Provide the special
33 instruction, classes, and services, either within the district
34 school system, in cooperation with other district school
35 systems, or through contractual arrangements with approved
36 private schools or community facilities that meet standards
37 established by the commissioner.

38 3. ~~The district school board~~ Annually provide information
39 describing the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind and all
40 other programs and methods of instruction available to the
41 parent of a sensory-impaired student.

42 4. Provide instruction to homebound or hospitalized
43 students in accordance with this section and rules adopted by
44 the state board.

45 a. The rules adopted by the state board must establish, at
46 a minimum, the following:

47 (I) Criteria to be used in determining the eligibility of
48 K-12 homebound or hospitalized students for specially designed
49 instruction.

50 (II) Procedures for determining student eligibility.

51 (III) A list of appropriate methods for providing
52 instruction to homebound or hospitalized students.

53 (IV) Requirements for providing instructional services for
54 a homebound or hospitalized student once the student is
55 determined to be eligible for such services. A school district
56 must provide educational instruction to an eligible student who
57 receives treatment in a children's specialty hospital that is
58 licensed under part I of chapter 395 and that is located within

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59 its district until the district is able to enter into an
60 agreement with the school district where the student resides.
61 The department shall develop a standard agreement for school
62 districts to use in providing seamless educational instruction
63 to a student who transitions between school districts while
64 receiving services from a children's specialty hospital.

65 b. No later than August 15, 2016, each school district
66 shall enter into an agreement with any children's specialty
67 hospital licensed under part I of chapter 395 and that is
68 located within its district to establish a process by which the
69 hospital must notify the school district of students who may be
70 eligible for instruction consistent with this subparagraph and
71 to establish the timelines for determining student eligibility
72 and for providing educational instruction to eligible students
73 ~~The district school board, once every 3 years, submit to the~~
74 ~~department its proposed procedures for the provision of special~~
75 ~~instruction and services for exceptional students.~~

76 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.