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## LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	•	House
Comm: RCS		
04/17/2017	•	
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Appropriations Subcommittee on Pre-K - 12 Education (Stargel) recommended the following:

## Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

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Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert: Section 1. <u>Comprehensive study on middle school</u> <u>performance.-</u> (1) The Department of Education shall issue a competitive solicitation for a contract with private vendors to conduct a comprehensive study of states with high-performing students in

## 258976

10	grades 6 through 8 in reading and mathematics, based on the
11	states' performance on the National Assessment of Educational
12	Progress.
13	(2) The study must include a review of at least all of the
14	following:
15	(a) Academic expectations and instructional strategies,
16	including:
17	1. Alignment of elementary and middle grades expectations
18	with high school graduation requirements;
19	2. Research-based instructional practices in reading and
20	mathematics, including those targeting low-performing and high-
21	performing students;
22	3. The rigor of the curriculum and courses and the
23	availability of accelerated courses;
24	4. The availability of student support services;
25	5. The sequence of courses and the prerequisites required
26	for advanced courses;
27	6. The availability of before- and after-school programs,
28	and efforts to address the summer gap between school years,
29	including related funding; and
30	7. The availability of other academic and noncore classes,
31	and electives.
32	(b) Attendance policies and student mobility issues.
33	(c) Teacher quality, including:
34	1. Teacher certification and recertification requirements;
35	2. Teacher preparedness to teach rigorous courses;
36	3. Teacher preparation specific to teaching middle school
37	students;
38	4. Teacher recruitment and vacancy issues;

Page 2 of 5

258976

39	5. Staff development requirements and the availability of
40	effective training;
41	6. Teacher collaboration and planning at the school and
42	district levels; and
43	7. Student performance data collection and dissemination.
44	(d) Middle school administrator leadership and performance.
45	(e) Parental and community involvement.
46	(3) The department shall submit a report on the findings of
47	the comprehensive study and make recommendations to improve
48	middle school student performance to the Governor, the State
49	Board of Education, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker
50	of the House of Representatives by December 2017.
51	(4) This section expires upon submission of the final
52	report.
53	Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.
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56	And the title is amended as follows:
57	Delete everything before the enacting clause
58	and insert:
59	A bill to be entitled
60	An act relating to a middle school study; requiring
61	the Department of Education to solicit for a contract
62	to conduct a comprehensive study of states with
63	nationally recognized high-performing middle schools
64	in reading and mathematics; specifying areas that must
65	be reviewed in conducting the study; requiring a
66	report to the Governor, the State Board of Education,
67	and the Legislature by a specified time; providing for

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expiration; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, since 1998, Florida has seen a continuing trend of reading improvement in the elementary school grades, which has led to an increase of 17 percentage points in reading at or above proficiency for 4th grade students on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, while Florida's 8th grade students achieved only an increase of 7 percentage points, and

WHEREAS, since 2003, Florida's 4th grade students have demonstrated an increase of 11 percentage points in mathematics at or above proficiency on the national assessment, while Florida's 8th grade students have shown an increase of only 3 percentage points, and

WHEREAS, since 2013, Florida's middle school students' proficiencies on the national assessment in both reading and mathematics have remained flat or decreased, and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, and New Jersey are the top performing states in the percentage of 4th and 8th grade students scoring at or above proficiency in reading on the national assessment, and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Washington are the top performing states in the percentage of 4th and 8th grade students scoring at or above proficiency in mathematics on the national assessment, and

WHEREAS, Florida's academic expectations for students in both reading and mathematics were raised in 2010 and 2014, and

WHEREAS, the performance of Florida's middle school students on the state assessments in reading has remained flat since the state's standards were raised, while their performance



97 in mathematics increased slightly between 2015 and 2016, and 98 WHEREAS, success in the middle school grades is a predictor 99 of academic success in high school and college and career 100 readiness, NOW, THEREFORE,