A bill to be entitled

An act relating to corporal punishment in public schools; amending s. 1002.20, F.S.; prohibiting public school employees from using corporal punishment on a public school student; defining the term "corporal punishment"; amending s. 1003.32, F.S.; removing corporal punishment as an option for teachers and other instructional personnel to use to manage student behavior; amending ss. 414.1251, 1001.11, 1002.01, 1002.3105, 1002.385, 1002.42, 1002.43, 1003.01, 1003.03, 1003.21, 1003.26, 1003.52, 1006.07, 1012.2315, and 1012.28, F.S.; conforming cross-references and conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) and paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section 1002.20, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.—Parents of public school students must receive accurate and timely information regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory

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rights including, but not limited to, the following:

(2) ATTENDANCE.

- (b) Regular school attendance.—Parents of students who have attained the age of 6 years by February 1 of any school year but who have not attained the age of 16 years must comply with the compulsory school attendance laws. Parents have the option to comply with the school attendance laws by attendance of the student in a public school; a parochial, religious, or denominational school; a private school; a home education program; or a private tutoring program, in accordance with <u>s.</u> 1003.01(12) the provisions of s. 1003.01(13).
 - (4) DISCIPLINE.-
 - (c) Corporal punishment.-
- 1. A public school employee may not use In accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.32, corporal punishment on of a public school student. As used in this paragraph, the term "corporal punishment" means the use of physical force or physical contact to discipline a student or to enforce school rules. However, the term does not include the use of reasonable force by a public school employee acting in self-defense or in the protection of other students from disruptive students may only be administered by a teacher or school principal within guidelines of the school principal and according to district school board policy. Another adult must be present and must be informed in the student's presence of the reason for the punishment. Upon request, the

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teacher or school principal must provide the parent with a written explanation of the reason for the punishment and the name of the other adult who was present.

2. A district school board having a policy authorizing the use of corporal punishment as a form of discipline shall review its policy on corporal punishment once every 3 years during a district school board meeting held pursuant to s. 1001.372. The district school board shall take public testimony at the board meeting. If such board meeting is not held in accordance with this subparagraph, the portion of the district school board's policy authorizing corporal punishment expires.

Section 2. Paragraph (k) of subsection (1) of section 1003.32, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.32 Authority of teacher; responsibility for control of students; district school board and principal duties.—Subject to law and to the rules of the district school board, each teacher or other member of the staff of any school shall have such authority for the control and discipline of students as may be assigned to him or her by the principal or the principal's designated representative and shall keep good order in the classroom and in other places in which he or she is assigned to be in charge of students.

(1) In accordance with this section and within the framework of the district school board's code of student conduct, teachers and other instructional personnel shall have

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the authority to undertake any of the following actions in managing student behavior and ensuring the safety of all students in their classes and school and their opportunity to learn in an orderly and disciplined classroom:

- (k) Use corporal punishment according to school board policy and at least the following procedures, if a teacher feels that corporal punishment is necessary:
- 1. The use of corporal punishment shall be approved in principle by the principal before it is used, but approval is not necessary for each specific instance in which it is used. The principal shall prepare guidelines for administering such punishment which identify the types of punishable offenses, the conditions under which the punishment shall be administered, and the specific personnel on the school staff authorized to administer the punishment.
- 2. A teacher or principal may administer corporal punishment only in the presence of another adult who is informed beforehand, and in the student's presence, of the reason for the punishment.
- 3. A teacher or principal who has administered punishment shall, upon request, provide the student's parent with a written explanation of the reason for the punishment and the name of the other adult who was present.
- Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 414.1251, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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414.1251 Learnfare program.-

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- The department shall reduce the temporary cash assistance for a participant's eligible dependent child or for an eligible teenage participant who has not been exempted from education participation requirements, if the eligible dependent child or eligible teenage participant has been identified either as a habitual truant, pursuant to s. 1003.01(7) s. 1003.01(8), or as a dropout, pursuant to s. 1003.01(8) s. 1003.01(9). For a student who has been identified as a habitual truant, the temporary cash assistance must be reinstated after a subsequent grading period in which the child's attendance has substantially improved. For a student who has been identified as a dropout, the temporary cash assistance must be reinstated after the student enrolls in a public school, receives a high school diploma or its equivalency, enrolls in preparation for the high school equivalency examination, or enrolls in other educational activities approved by the district school board. Good cause exemptions from the rule of unexcused absences include the following:
- (a) The student is expelled from school and alternative schooling is not available.
- (b) No licensed day care is available for a child of teen parents subject to Learnfare.
- (c) Prohibitive transportation problems exist (e.g., to and from day care).

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127	Within 10 days after sanction notification, the participant
128	parent of a dependent child or the teenage participant may file
129	an internal fair hearings process review procedure appeal, and \underline{a}
130	$rac{no}{c}$ sanction $rac{may\ not}{c}$ $rac{shall}{c}$ be imposed until the appeal is
131	resolved.
132	Section 4. Subsection (7) of section 1001.11, Florida
133	Statutes, is amended to read:
134	1001.11 Commissioner of Education; other duties
135	(7) The commissioner shall make prominently available on
136	the department's website the following: links to the Internet-
137	based clearinghouse for professional development regarding
138	physical education; the school wellness and physical education
139	policies and other resources required under s. 1003.453; and
140	other Internet sites that provide professional development for
141	elementary teachers of physical education as defined in $\underline{\mathbf{s.}}$
142	$\underline{1003.01}$ s. $\underline{1003.01(16)}$. These links must provide elementary
143	teachers with information concerning current physical education
144	and nutrition philosophy and best practices that result in
145	student participation in physical activities that promote
146	lifelong physical and mental well-being.
147	Section 5. Section 1002.01, Florida Statutes, is amended
148	to read:
149	1002.01 Definitions
150	(1) A "home education program" means the sequentially

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progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her parent in order to satisfy the attendance requirements of ss. 1002.41, 1003.01(12) $\frac{1003.01(13)}{1003.01(13)}$, and 1003.21(1).

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- A "private school" is a nonpublic school defined as an individual, association, copartnership, or corporation, or department, division, or section of such organizations, that designates itself as an educational center that includes kindergarten or a higher grade or as an elementary, secondary, business, technical, or trade school below college level or any organization that provides instructional services that meet the intent of s. 1003.01(12) s. 1003.01(13) or that gives preemployment or supplementary training in technology or in fields of trade or industry or that offers academic, literary, or career training below college level, or any combination of the above, including an institution that performs the functions of the above schools through correspondence or extension, except those licensed under the provisions of chapter 1005. A private school may be a parochial, religious, denominational, forprofit, or nonprofit school. This definition does not include home education programs conducted in accordance with s. 1002.41.
- Section 6. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section 1002.3105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 1002.3105 Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) options.—
 - (3) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS.—When establishing

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student eligibility requirements, principals and school districts must consider, at a minimum:

- (d) Recommendations from one or more of the student's teachers in core-curricula courses as defined in $\underline{s.\ 1003.01}\ \underline{s.}\ 1003.01(14)(a)-(e)$.
- Section 7. Paragraph (h) of subsection (5) and paragraph (a) of subsection (11) of section 1002.385, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 - 1002.385 The Gardiner Scholarship.-
- (5) AUTHORIZED USES OF PROGRAM FUNDS.—Program funds must be used to meet the individual educational needs of an eligible student and may be spent for the following purposes:
- (h) Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services provided by a person who holds a valid Florida educator's certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56; a person who holds an adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s. 1012.57; a person who has a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree in the subject area in which instruction is given; or a person who has demonstrated a mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to s. 1012.56(5). As used in this paragraph, the term "part-time tutoring services" does not qualify as regular school attendance as defined in s. 1003.01(12)(e) s. 1003.01(13)(e).

A provider of any services receiving payments pursuant to this subsection may not share, refund, or rebate any moneys from the

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Gardiner Scholarship with the parent or participating student in any manner. A parent, student, or provider of any services may not bill an insurance company, Medicaid, or any other agency for the same services that are paid for using Gardiner Scholarship funds.

- PARTICIPATION.—A parent who applies for program participation under this section is exercising his or her parental option to determine the appropriate placement or the services that best meet the needs of his or her child. The scholarship award for a student is based on a matrix that assigns the student to support Level III services. If a parent receives an IEP and a matrix of services from the school district pursuant to subsection (7), the amount of the payment shall be adjusted as needed, when the school district completes the matrix.
- (a) To satisfy or maintain program eligibility, including eligibility to receive and spend program payments, the parent must sign an agreement with the organization and annually submit a notarized, sworn compliance statement to the organization to:
- 1. Affirm that the student is enrolled in a program that meets regular school attendance requirements as provided in \underline{s} . $\underline{1003.01(12)(b)-(d)} \ \underline{s}. \ \underline{1003.01(13)(b)-(d)}.$
- 2. Affirm that the program funds are used only for authorized purposes serving the student's educational needs, as described in subsection (5).

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3. Affirm that the parent is responsible for the education of his or her student by, as applicable:

a. Requiring the student to take an assessment in accordance with paragraph (8)(b);

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- b. Providing an annual evaluation in accordance with s. 1002.41(1)(f); or
 - c. Requiring the child to take any preassessments and postassessments selected by the provider if the child is 4 years of age and is enrolled in a program provided by an eligible Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider. A student with disabilities for whom a preassessment and postassessment is not appropriate is exempt from this requirement. A participating provider shall report a student's scores to the parent.
 - 4. Affirm that the student remains in good standing with the provider or school if those options are selected by the parent.

A parent who fails to comply with this subsection forfeits the Gardiner Scholarship.

Section 8. Subsection (7) of section 1002.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.42 Private schools.-

(7) ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS.—Attendance of a student at a private, parochial, religious, or denominational school satisfies the attendance requirements of ss. 1003.01(12) ss.

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 $251 \mid \frac{1003.01(13)}{1003.21(1)}$ and 1003.21(1).

Section 9. Subsection (1) of section 1002.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.43 Private tutoring programs.—

- (1) Regular school attendance as defined in $\underline{s.\ 1003.01}\ \underline{s.}\ 1003.01(13)$ may be achieved by attendance in a private tutoring program if the person tutoring the student meets the following requirements:
- (a) Holds a valid Florida certificate to teach the subjects or grades in which instruction is given.
- (b) Keeps all records and makes all reports required by the state and district school board and makes regular reports on the attendance of students in accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.23(2).
- (c) Requires students to be in actual attendance for the minimum length of time prescribed by $s.\ 1011.60(2)$.
- Section 10. Subsections (7) and (14) of section 1003.01, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 - 1003.01 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:
- (7) "Corporal punishment" means the moderate use of physical force or physical contact by a teacher or principal as may be necessary to maintain discipline or to enforce school rule. However, the term "corporal punishment" does not include the use of such reasonable force by a teacher or principal as may be necessary for self-protection or to protect other

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students from disruptive students.

- (13) (14) "Core-curricula courses" means:
- (a) Courses in language arts/reading, mathematics, social studies, and science in prekindergarten through grade 3, excluding extracurricular courses pursuant to subsection (14) (15);
- (b) Courses in grades 4 through 8 in subjects that are measured by state assessment at any grade level and courses required for middle school promotion, excluding extracurricular courses pursuant to subsection (14) (15);
- (c) Courses in grades 9 through 12 in subjects that are measured by state assessment at any grade level and courses that are specifically identified by name in statute as required for high school graduation and that are not measured by state assessment, excluding extracurricular courses pursuant to subsection (14) (15);
 - (d) Exceptional student education courses; and
 - (e) English for Speakers of Other Languages courses.

The term is limited in meaning and used for the sole purpose of designating classes that are subject to the maximum class size requirements established in s. 1, Art. IX of the State Constitution. This term does not include courses offered under ss. 1002.321(4)(e), 1002.33(7)(a)2.b., 1002.37, 1002.45, and 1003.499.

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Section 11. Subsection (6) of section 1003.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.03 Maximum class size.-

(6) COURSES FOR COMPLIANCE.—Consistent with $\underline{s.\ 1003.01(13)}$ $\underline{s.\ 1003.01(14)}$, the Department of Education shall identify from the Course Code Directory the core-curricula courses for the purpose of satisfying the maximum class size requirement in this section. The department may adopt rules to implement this subsection, if necessary.

Section 12. Subsection (4) of section 1003.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.21 School attendance.-

(4) Before admitting a child to kindergarten, the principal shall require evidence that the child has attained the age at which he or she should be admitted in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (1)(a)2. The district school superintendent may require evidence of the age of any child who is being enrolled in public school and who the district school superintendent believes to be within the limits of compulsory attendance as provided for by law; however, the district school superintendent may not require evidence from any child who meets regular attendance requirements by attending a school or program listed in $\underline{s.\ 1003.01(12)\ (b)-(e)}\ s.\ 1003.01(13)\ (b)-(e)}$. If the first prescribed evidence is not available, the next evidence obtainable in the order set forth below shall be accepted:

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(a) A duly attested transcript of the child's birth record filed according to law with a public officer charged with the duty of recording births;

- (b) A duly attested transcript of a certificate of baptism showing the date of birth and place of baptism of the child, accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the parent;
- (c) An insurance policy on the child's life that has been in force for at least 2 years;
- (d) A bona fide contemporary religious record of the child's birth accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the parent;
- (e) A passport or certificate of arrival in the United States showing the age of the child;
- (f) A transcript of record of age shown in the child's school record of at least 4 years prior to application, stating date of birth; or
- (g) If none of these evidences can be produced, an affidavit of age sworn to by the parent, accompanied by a certificate of age signed by a public health officer or by a public school physician, or, if these are not available in the county, by a licensed practicing physician designated by the district school board, which states that the health officer or physician has examined the child and believes that the age as stated in the affidavit is substantially correct. Children and youths who are experiencing homelessness and children who are

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known to the department, as defined in s. 39.0016, shall be given temporary exemption from this section for 30 school days.

Section 13. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section 1003.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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1003.26 Enforcement of school attendance.—The Legislature finds that poor academic performance is associated with nonattendance and that school districts must take an active role in promoting and enforcing attendance as a means of improving student performance. It is the policy of the state that each district school superintendent be responsible for enforcing school attendance of all students subject to the compulsory school age in the school district and supporting enforcement of school attendance by local law enforcement agencies. The responsibility includes recommending policies and procedures to the district school board that require public schools to respond in a timely manner to every unexcused absence, and every absence for which the reason is unknown, of students enrolled in the schools. District school board policies shall require the parent of a student to justify each absence of the student, and that justification will be evaluated based on adopted district school board policies that define excused and unexcused absences. The policies must provide that public schools track excused and unexcused absences and contact the home in the case of an unexcused absence from school, or an absence from school for which the reason is unknown, to prevent the development of

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patterns of nonattendance. The Legislature finds that early intervention in school attendance is the most effective way of producing good attendance habits that will lead to improved student learning and achievement. Each public school shall implement the following steps to promote and enforce regular school attendance:

(1) CONTACT, REFER, AND ENFORCE.

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(f)1. If the parent of a child who has been identified as exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance enrolls the child in a home education program pursuant to chapter 1002, the district school superintendent shall provide the parent a copy of s. 1002.41 and the accountability requirements of this paragraph. The district school superintendent shall also refer the parent to a home education review committee composed of the district contact for home education programs and at least two home educators selected by the parent from a district list of all home educators who have conducted a home education program for at least 3 years and who have indicated a willingness to serve on the committee. The home education review committee shall review the portfolio of the student, as defined by s. 1002.41, every 30 days during the district's regular school terms until the committee is satisfied that the home education program is in compliance with s. 1002.41(1)(d). The first portfolio review must occur within the first 30 calendar days of the establishment of the program. The provisions of subparagraph 2.

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do not apply once the committee determines the home education program is in compliance with s. 1002.41(1)(d).

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If the parent fails to provide a portfolio to the committee, the committee must shall notify the district school superintendent. The district school superintendent shall then terminate the home education program and require the parent to enroll the child in an attendance option that meets the definition of "regular school attendance" under s. 1003.01(12)(a), (b), (c), or (e) s. 1003.01(13)(a), (b), (c), or (e), within 3 days. Upon termination of a home education program pursuant to this subparagraph, the parent is shall not be eligible to reenroll the child in a home education program for 180 calendar days. Failure of a parent to enroll the child in an attendance option as required by this subparagraph after termination of the home education program pursuant to this subparagraph shall constitute noncompliance with the compulsory attendance requirements of s. 1003.21 and may result in criminal prosecution under s. 1003.27(2). Nothing contained herein shall restrict the ability of the district school superintendent, or the ability of his or her designee, to review the portfolio pursuant to s. 1002.41(1)(e). Section 14. Subsection (4) of section 1003.52, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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1003.52 Educational services in Department of Juvenile

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

Justice programs. -

(4) Educational services shall be provided at times of the day most appropriate for the juvenile justice program. School programming in juvenile justice detention, prevention, day treatment, and residential programs shall be made available by the local school district during the juvenile justice school year, as provided in s.1003.01(11). In addition, students in juvenile justice education programs shall have access to courses offered pursuant to ss. 1002.37, 1002.45, and 1003.498. The Department of Education and the school districts shall adopt policies necessary to provide such access.

Section 15. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 1006.07, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1006.07 District school board duties relating to student discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the attendance and control of students at school, and for proper attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the welfare of students, including:

(1) CONTROL OF STUDENTS.-

(a) Adopt rules for the control, discipline, in-school suspension, suspension, and expulsion of students and decide all cases recommended for expulsion. Suspension hearings are exempt exempted from the provisions of chapter 120. Expulsion hearings shall be governed by ss. 120.569 and 120.57(2) and are exempt

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from s. 286.011. However, the student's parent must be given notice of the provisions of s. 286.011 and may elect to have the hearing held in compliance with that section. The district school board may prohibit the use of corporal punishment, if the district school board adopts or has adopted a written program of alternative control or discipline.

- (2) CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT.—Adopt a code of student conduct for elementary schools and a code of student conduct for middle and high schools and distribute the appropriate code to all teachers, school personnel, students, and parents, at the beginning of every school year. Each code shall be organized and written in language that is understandable to students and parents and shall be discussed at the beginning of every school year in student classes, school advisory council meetings, and parent and teacher association or organization meetings. Each code shall be based on the rules governing student conduct and discipline adopted by the district school board and shall be made available in the student handbook or similar publication. Each code shall include, but is not limited to:
- (b) Procedures to be followed for acts requiring discipline, including corporal punishment.

Section 16. Paragraph (c) of subsection (6) of section 1012.2315, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 1012.2315 Assignment of teachers.-
- (6) ASSIGNMENT OF TEACHERS BASED UPON PERFORMANCE

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476 EVALUATIONS.—

(c) For a student enrolling in an extracurricular course as defined in $\underline{s.\ 1003.01}\ \underline{s.\ 1003.01(15)}$, a parent may choose to have the student taught by a teacher who received a performance evaluation of "needs improvement" or "unsatisfactory" in the preceding school year if the student and the student's parent receive an explanation of the impact of teacher effectiveness on student learning and the principal receives written consent from the parent.

Section 17. Subsection (5) of section 1012.28, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.28 Public school personnel; duties of school principals.—

(5) Each school principal shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the district school superintendent, pursuant to the rules of the district school board. Such rules shall include, but are not limited to, rules relating to administrative responsibility, instructional leadership in implementing the Sunshine State Standards and the overall educational program of the school to which the school principal is assigned, submission of personnel recommendations to the district school superintendent, administrative responsibility for records and reports, administration of corporal punishment, and student suspension.

Section 18. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.

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