

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2012 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Education Pre-K - 12

CS/CS/HB 7063 — Digital Learning

by Education Committee; PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee; K-20 Innovation Subcommittee; and Rep. Stargel and others (CS/CS/SB 1402 by Budget Subcommittee on Education Pre-K - 12 Appropriations; Education Pre-K – 12 Committee; and Senator Gardiner)

The bill provides additional virtual instruction options for K-12 students by:

- Authorizing the Florida Virtual School (FLVS) to provide full-time and part-time instruction for students in kindergarten through grade 12;
- Limiting the combined total of all full time equivalent (FTE) students reported by the FLVS and the school district to 1.0 FTE for full-time students in kindergarten through grade 12 and part-time students in kindergarten through grade 5;
- Authorizing exceptional student education (ESE), English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and other weighted program funding for students in a full-time FLVS, district virtual instruction program, and a virtual charter school;
- Expanding the part-time district virtual instruction program to students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 courses;
- Expanding eligibility for participation in virtual education programs to students in grades 2 through 5 who are enrolled in a full-time virtual program without having to meet the prior public school enrollment requirement;
- Providing that school district virtual instruction must be reported by the school district providing the instruction rather than the school district in which the student resides;
- Prohibiting a school district from requiring a student to take the online course required for high school graduation beyond the school day or in addition to the student's courses for the semester;
- Providing an exception from the current online course requirement for high school graduation for a student with a disability whose individual education plan indicates that an online course is not appropriate or for a student enrolled in a Florida high school for one academic year or less;
- Establishing that an individual who knowingly and willingly takes an online course or examination on behalf of another individual for compensation commits a second degree misdemeanor;
- Revising the qualifications for approval of virtual instruction providers to include an annual audit conducted by an independent certified public accountant pursuant to rules adopted by the Auditor General;
- Requiring full time virtual instruction programs to meet the school district requirements for public school ESE students who are enrolled in the program; and
- Providing standards for participation in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular activities by students in a full-time FLVS program.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2012

This summary is provided for information only and does not represent the opinion of any Senator, Senate Officer, or Senate Office.
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Vote: Senate 36-3; House 100-16