

## Committee on Budget

### **CS/HB 5203 — Reemployment Services**

by Appropriations Committee; Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee and Rep. O'Toole (SB 1992 by Budget Committee)

- Repeals and terminates the Workers' Compensation Administration Trust Fund within the Department of Education.
- Amends s. 440.491, F.S., as follows.
  - Removes the Department of Education from the definition of "Department", which transfers responsibilities for training and education of injured workers to the Department of Financial Services;
  - Authorizes the Department of Financial Services to contract with one or more third parties to administer functions of training and education.
  - Requires that persons or firms selected to administer reemployment services may not have a conflict of interest.
  - Prohibits a rehabilitation provider who contracts with the department to provide injured employees reemployment assessments and other services from providing training or education to the injured employee.
- Appropriates \$350,000 in recurring funds from the Workers' Compensation Administration Trust Fund and 5 full-time positions and associated salary rate of 260,000 to the Department of Financial Services.
- Provides an effective date.

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

*Vote: Senate 36-1; House 118-0*