

Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability

CS/CS/SB 514 — Substitution of Work Experience for Postsecondary Educational Requirements

by Community Affairs Committee; Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee; and Senators Burgess and Perry

The bill creates s. 112. 219, F.S., to allow governmental agencies, during the employee hiring process, to substitute equivalent work experience as an alternative to a postsecondary education, if the applicant is otherwise qualified for the position. The bill specifies that work experience may not be substituted for any required licensure, certification, or registration as established by the employing agency and indicated on the position description. The bill defines employing agencies to include any agency or unit of government of the state or any county, municipality, or political subdivision. The bill requires employing agencies who opt to substitute work experience for postsecondary education, to include a notice in the advertisements for such position that substitution is authorized and a description of what education and work equivalencies apply.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2022.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 112-0

Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability

CS/CS/HB 1057 — Evidence of Vendor Financial Stability

by State Affairs Committee; Government Operations Subcommittee; and Rep. Andrade
(CS/CS/SB 1952 by Appropriations Committee; Governmental Oversight and Accountability
Committee; and Senator Albritton)

The bill amends s. 287.057, F.S., to permit an agency to establish financial stability criteria when determining whether a vendor is responsible relating to a competitive solicitation and to require a vendor to demonstrate its financial stability during the competitive solicitation process. The bill specifies the following as forms of evidence an agency must accept if it requires a vendor to show financial stability:

- Audited financial statements that demonstrate the vendor's satisfaction of financial stability criteria;
- Documentation of an investment grade rating from a credit rating agency designated as a nationally recognized statistical rating organization by the Securities and Exchange Commission;
- A letter issued by the chief financial officer or controller to verify the vendor's satisfaction of financial stability criteria, for a vendor with annual revenues exceeding \$1 billion; and
- A letter containing a written declaration issued by the chief financial officer or controller to verify the vendor's satisfaction of the criteria established by the agency, for a vendor with annual revenues exceeding \$1 billion. The criteria established by the agency must be reasonably related to the value of the contract and may not include audited financial statements.

The bill defines the term financial stability to mean, at a minimum, having adequate income and capital and the capacity to efficiently allocate resources, assess and manage financial risks, and maintain financial soundness through the term of the contract. The bill does not preclude an agency from requiring a performance bond for the duration of the contract, when appropriate.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 112-0

Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability

CS/CS/HB 1445 — OGSR/Dependent Eligibility Information/DMS

by State Affairs Committee; Government Operations Subcommittee; and Rep. Giallombardo (SB 7026 by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee)

The bill makes confidential and exempt records collected for the purpose of dependent eligibility verification services conducted for the state group insurance program, as authorized in s. 110.12301(2), F.S., and held by the Department of Management Services.

The bill specifies that the exemption does not apply to records that are otherwise open for inspection and copying which are held by the department for purposes other than for the performance of dependent eligibility verification services.

This public records exemption expires October 2, 2027, unless saved from repeal by the Legislature.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect on the same date that SB 7026 or similar legislation takes effect.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 111-0

Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability

HB 5007 — State-administered Retirement Systems

by Appropriations Committee and Rep. Trumbull (SB 7038 by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee)

The bill establishes the contribution rates paid by employers participating in the Florida Retirement System (FRS) beginning July 1, 2022. The bill increases the amount of employer-paid contributions allocated to each active member's investment plan account by three percent of the member's compensation. The bill extends the period that law enforcement officers may participate in the Deferred Option Retirement Program from 60 months to 96 months. To be eligible for this extended participation period, the law enforcement officer must be participating in DROP before July 1, 2028.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2022.

Vote: Senate 33-0; House 108-0

Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability

SB 7024 — OGSR/Alleged Victim or Victim of Sexual Harassment

by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee

The bill amends s. 119.071, F.S., to make confidential and exempt from public inspection and copying personal identifying information of a victim of sexual harassment in addition to the alleged victim in an allegation of sexual harassment. The bill clarifies that such information is only confidential and exempt if it identifies that person as an alleged victim or victim of sexual harassment. The bill permits the alleged victim or victim to waive confidentiality in writing. This public records exemption expires October 2, 2027, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect October 1, 2022.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 112-0

Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability

SB 7026 — OGSR/Dependent Eligibility Verification Services

by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee

The bill amends s. 110.12301, F.S., to allow the Department of Management Services to contract for dependent eligibility verification services for the state group insurance program. The bill repeals statutory language relating to an audit conducted in 2018 to verify the eligibility of all dependents participating in the State Group Insurance Program. The bill revises the listing of documents that may be submitted to the department or a vendor for the purpose of verifying dependent eligibility and requires the records to be retained according to the general retention schedule.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2022.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 113-0