

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Date: April 16, 1998 Revised: _____

Subject: School Advisory Councils

	<u>Analyst</u>	<u>Staff Director</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<u>Harkey</u>	<u>O'Farrell</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill requires that a majority of school advisory council members be persons who are not employed by the school board at that school, thus permitting school board employees who work at other locations to serve and be counted in the majority.

The bill takes effect July 1, of the year in which it is enacted.

This bill substantially amends section 229.58 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

School advisory councils (SAC's) are an important component of Florida's school improvement and accountability system. Section 229.58, F.S., requires the school board to establish a SAC for each school in the district, but gives smaller school districts (those with fewer than 10,000 students) the option of establishing a district advisory council. Each SAC assists in preparing and evaluating the school's improvement plan and provides any assistance requested by the principal in preparing the school's annual budget. School improvement plans are locally developed, school-specific plans for achieving the state education goals and student performance standards. Section 229.58(2), F.S., specifies that no SAC shall have any of the powers and duties now reserved by law to the school board.

Each SAC must be composed of the school's principal and an appropriately balanced number of teachers, education support employees, students, parents, and other business and community members who are representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school. Performance reviews conducted by the Office of the Auditor General in 1993-94 and by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Governmental Accountability (OPPAGA) in 1995-96

found persistent problems in SAC memberships. The 1995-96 performance review looked at school improvement efforts in 14 school districts. In one-third of the SACs reviewed, 50 percent of the SAC members were new to the councils. Almost half of the SACs reviewed did not include all statutorily required membership groups, such as business/community members and education support employees. About one-third did not reflect the school community's racial and ethnic diversity. Sixty-three percent were dominated by school employees and 78 percent were dominated by school district employees. Legislation passed during the 1997 legislative session required each SAC to draw a majority of its membership from individuals who are not school board employees.

The Legislature annually appropriates funds for SACs to use for school improvement. From the school district's lump sum allocation of lottery funds, the school board must allocate \$10 per FTE student (in FY 1997-98) for uses determined by each school's advisory council or by the school's parent advisory committee, if there is no school advisory council.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 229.58, F.S., relating to the membership of school advisory councils, to require that a majority of school advisory council members be persons who are not employed by the school board at that school, thus permitting school board employees who work at other locations to serve and be counted in the majority.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
