

STORAGE NAME: h3361.edk

DATE: April 1, 1998

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION K-12
BILL RESEARCH & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

BILL #: HB 3361

RELATING TO: School Year Extension/Funding

SPONSOR(S): Representative Wallace

COMPANION BILL(S): SB 700

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:

- (1) EDUCATION K-12
- (2) EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS
- (3)
- (4)
- (5)

I. SUMMARY:

The bill provides funding for extended school year programs, requiring that each school district that provides for a school year beyond the 180 days required by statute receive an allocation for such extension for one-half of the cost of operation of schools for up to 6 extra school days per year. Funding for each additional day is to be based on a pro rata share of each school district's operational budget for the previous year divided by the number of classroom teaching days.

II. SUBSTANTIVE RESEARCH:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

The minimum length of a school year prescribed by s. 228.041(16), F.S., is "180 days of instruction or the equivalent on an hourly basis for pupils as specified by regulations of the state board for pupils plus periods for preschool and postschool conferences as approved under regulations of the state board."

Section 236.081, F.S., which establishes a formula for computing the basic amount provided to school districts for the operation of schools, authorizes school districts to provide extended-school-year programs. (s. 236.081(1)(o), F.S.) Districts may apply to the Commissioner of Education for funds to be used in planning and implementing a school year of 210 days or more. The Department of Education (DOE) is required to recommend to the Legislature the policies necessary for full implementation of an extended school year. In addition, the 1997-98 General Appropriations Act provided \$83 million for K-8 summer school programs. According to the DOE, these funds may be used by districts for extended year programs for grades K-8.

Although during the 1995-96 school year Frontier Elementary in Pinellas County operated for 210 days using funding approved by the DOE and Grand Avenue Elementary and Orange Center Elementary in Orange County operated for 196 days each, using funds provided by the school district, the DOE reports no schools currently operating an extended school year program.

The concept of an extended school year was first introduced nationally in a 1983 presidential commission report entitled "*A Nation at Risk*". Based on declining academic performance and comparisons with the education systems of other industrialized countries, the recommendation was made that education officials and state legislators consider lengthening the school calendar to 200-220 days per year.

The National Education Commission on Time and Learning, established by The Education Council Act of 1991, was directed to study the effects of time on learning. In April 1994, the Commission issued a report entitled "*Prisoners of Time*" which reported the following reasons for extending the school year:

- To give students more time for learning. According to the report, students in the United States spend half as much time in core academic subjects as their foreign counterparts.
- To meet the needs of children and communities. According to the report, an extended school year would provide a safe learning environment for children who might otherwise be unsupervised in unsafe locations.

Opponents of extended school year programs cite the following reasons against extending the school year:

- The lack of empirical evidence that an extended school year leads to greater academic achievement.
- The high cost of additional school days which is disproportionate to any improvements in achievement.
- Increased dropout rates.

(Raspberry, Q., 1992. The Extended School Year: Is More Necessarily Better? [ERIC Counseling and Student Services Clearinghouse](#).)

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The bill provides funding for extended school year programs, requiring that each school district that provides for a school year beyond the 180 days required by statute receive an allocation for such extension for one-half of the cost of operation of schools for up to 6 extra school days per year. Funding for each additional day is to be based on a pro rata share of each school district's operational budget for the previous year divided by the number of classroom teaching days.

C. APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES:

1. Less Government:

a. Does the bill create, increase or reduce, either directly or indirectly:

(1) any authority to make rules or adjudicate disputes?

N/A

(2) any new responsibilities, obligations or work for other governmental or private organizations or individuals?

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(3) any entitlement to a government service or benefit?

N/A

b. If an agency or program is eliminated or reduced:

(1) what responsibilities, costs and powers are passed on to another program, agency, level of government, or private entity?

N/A

(2) what is the cost of such responsibility at the new level/agency?

N/A

(3) how is the new agency accountable to the people governed?

N/A

2. Lower Taxes:

- a. Does the bill increase anyone's taxes?

N/A

- b. Does the bill require or authorize an increase in any fees?

N/A

- c. Does the bill reduce total taxes, both rates and revenues?

N/A

- d. Does the bill reduce total fees, both rates and revenues?

N/A

- e. Does the bill authorize any fee or tax increase by any local government?

N/A

3. Personal Responsibility:

- a. Does the bill reduce or eliminate an entitlement to government services or subsidy?

N/A

- b. Do the beneficiaries of the legislation directly pay any portion of the cost of implementation and operation?

N/A

4. Individual Freedom:

- a. Does the bill increase the allowable options of individuals or private organizations/associations to conduct their own affairs?

N/A

- b. Does the bill prohibit, or create new government interference with, any presently lawful activity?

N/A

5. Family Empowerment:

a. If the bill purports to provide services to families or children:

(1) Who evaluates the family's needs?

N/A

(2) Who makes the decisions?

N/A

(3) Are private alternatives permitted?

N/A

(4) Are families required to participate in a program?

N/A

(5) Are families penalized for not participating in a program?

N/A

b. Does the bill directly affect the legal rights and obligations between family members?

N/A

c. If the bill creates or changes a program providing services to families or children, in which of the following does the bill vest control of the program, either through direct participation or appointment authority:

(1) parents and guardians?

N/A

(2) service providers?

N/A

(3) government employees/agencies?

N/A

D. STATUTE(S) AFFECTED:

The bill amends s. 236.081, F.S.

E. SECTION-BY-SECTION RESEARCH:

Section 1: Amends s. 236.081, F.S., relating to funds for the operation of schools; requiring that each school district that extends its school year beyond 180 days receive an allocation for such extension for one-half of the cost of operation of schools for up to 6 extra school days per year.

Section 2: Provides an effective date of July 1 of the year in which enacted.

III. FISCAL RESEARCH & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE AGENCIES/STATE FUNDS:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

See Fiscal Comments.

2. Recurring Effects:

See Fiscal Comments.

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

See Fiscal Comments.

4. Total Revenues and Expenditures:

See Fiscal Comments.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS A WHOLE:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

N/A

2. Recurring Effects:

N/A

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

N/A

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

1. Direct Private Sector Costs:

N/A

2. Direct Private Sector Benefits:

N/A

3. Effects on Competition, Private Enterprise and Employment Markets:

N/A

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The provisions of this bill may obligate additional contracts for school personnel and services because most existing contracts are for 196 days (180 days, plus inservice days before the school year begins and after the school year ends).

For the 1997-98 school year the total state and local operating funds distributed to the districts was \$10,500,765,658. Assuming a 196 day school year, for operational purposes, the 1997-98 operating revenue per day was \$53,575,335. If each district in Florida were to receive funding for one-half the district operational budget per day for 6 additional days, the cost would be \$160,726,005.

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to expend funds or to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate.

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

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V. COMMENTS:

The bill creates a new paragraph regarding funding for an extended school year (s. 236.081(1)(q), F.S.) although paragraph (o) currently addresses this issue. In order to avoid conflicting statutory provisions, paragraph (o) should be amended, rather than a new paragraph created.

District operating costs include expenditures for adult programs, preschool programs, etc. It is unclear whether, for purposes of receiving funding for extended year programs, a district's operational costs would include only those applicable programs. In addition, it is unclear whether a district would be required to operate an extended school year program at all schools in the district and whether the district would receive funds for just the schools operating on an extended school year calendar.

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION K-12:

Prepared by:

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