31-825-01

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to education; creating s.
3	228.507, F.S.; directing the Commissioner of
4	Education to make recommendations to the
5	Legislature for funding off-site learning
6	grants; providing for a review panel; providing
7	requirements for grant recipients; authorizing
8	rulemaking; providing an effective date.
9	
10	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
11	
12	Section 1. Section 228.507, Florida Statutes, is
13	created to read:
14	228.507 Off-site learning grants.--
15	(1)(a) The Commissioner of Education shall annually
16	make recommendations to the Legislature for funding off-site
17	learning grants to nonprofit and community-based
18	organizations, including mathematics, science, art, and
19	environmental facilities that provide learning opportunities
20	for public school students in nontraditional settings.
21	Organizations must demonstrate the educational components of
22	their program. Funding from the Public Education Capital
23	Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund as authorized in s. 235.42,
24	the Florida School Improvement and Academic Achievement Trust
25	Fund as authorized in s. 236.12295, the Classrooms First
26	Program as authorized in s. 235.187, the effort index grants
27	as authorized in s. 235.186, and the Public Education Capital
28	Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund as authorized in s. 9, Art.
29	XII of the State Constitution may not be used for off-site
30	learning grants.
31	

```
 1        (b)  In making recommendations, the commissioner shall
 2   annually appoint a review panel to assist in the grant-review
 3   process. Review panel members shall be appointed to serve for
 4   1-year terms. The panel shall review grant applications and
 5   make recommendations to the commissioner concerning the
 6   relative merits of the applicants. The department shall by
 7   rule establish criteria for reviewing grant applications to
 8   ensure compliance with applicable federal and state laws
 9   relating to discrimination and conflicts of interest.
10        (c)  The review panel shall provide a forum for public
11   comment before voting on any grant application.
12        (2)  The commissioner shall annually include in the
13   department's legislative budget request a recommendation for
14   funding off-site learning grants. The recommendation must
15   include the panel's ranking of applicants and recommended
16   funding levels for each grant.
17        (3)(a)  Upon appropriation by the Legislature of
18   funding for these grants, the department shall execute a
19   contract with each organization which must contain information
20   relating to the program, the projected operating income and
21   expenses, and other provisions considered necessary by the
22   department for the administration of the program.
23        (b)  Each recipient organization must submit an annual
24   report to the department detailing the expenditure of the
25   funds and is subject to the auditing provisions and rules of
26   the department.
27        (c)  The recipient of a grant shall comply with all
28   provisions of statute and rule as outlined in the grant.
29        (d)  The department shall adopt rules necessary to
30   administer this section.
31
```

1   Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a

2 law.

3

4   **

5   SENATE SUMMARY

6 Requires the Commissioner of Education to request funding
   for off-site learning grants. Establishes a review panel
7 to assist in the grant-making process. Provides
   requirements for the nonprofit and community-based
8 organization grant recipients.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31