

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 781
SPONSOR(S): Gottlieb
TIED BILLS:

Public School Magnet Programs

IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 1594

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) PreK-12 Committee		Beagle	Mizereck
2) Education Appropriations Committee			
3) Fiscal Council			
4) Education Council			
5) _____			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Magnet schools are schools that offer specialized curriculums in a particular academic subject area. Due to their popularity, many of these programs have large waiting lists.

The bill creates a grant program to enable school districts to expand existing magnet programs to other schools in the district, thereby increasing the availability of these programs.

The bill has an indeterminate fiscal impact. See Fiscal Comments.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2006.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Safeguard Individual Liberty-- The bill increases the educational options available to students.

Empower Families-- The bill supports expansion of certain educational programs, thus enhancing choices available to parents for their child's education.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Magnet schools are schools that offer specialized curriculums in a particular academic subject area. Magnet schools emerged in the 1970s as a mechanism for desegregating large urban school districts. Since that time, school districts have used magnet programs to:

- Facilitate equity of access to quality educational programs,
- Enhance parental school choice,
- Enable students to choose educational programs based on their interests,
- Experiment with innovative instructional methods, and
- Individualize student instruction.¹

Current Florida law includes magnet programs among the public school choice options available to parents and students.² According to the Florida Department of Education (DOE), 20 school districts reported 306,000 students enrolled in magnet schools during the 2004-2005 school year. Subject areas offered in these programs included health related professions, criminal justice, science, mathematics, technology, visual and performing arts, International Baccalaureate, and foreign languages.³ Due to their popularity, many magnet schools have waiting lists.

The bill creates a grant program to provide funds to enable school districts to expand existing magnet programs with large waiting lists to other schools in the district. The bill designates the Commissioner of Education as administrator of the grant program. The bill requires school districts to submit proposals for expansion of magnet programs to the Commissioner for approval and specifies permissible uses for grant funds.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Creates s. 1011.755, F.S.; creating a grant program for magnet schools.

Section 2. Providing an effective date of July 1, 2006.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state government revenues.

¹ U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement, *Innovations in Education: Creating Successful Magnet Programs*, available at <http://www.ed.gov/admins/comm/choice/magnet/report.pdf> (2004).

² Section 1002.20(6), F.S.

³ Florida Department of Education, 2006 Legislative Bill Analysis for HB 781.

2. Expenditures:

See Fiscal Comments.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local government expenditures.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on the private sector.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The fiscal impact of the bill will be determined by funding provided in the General Appropriations Act.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The bill does not require a city or county to spend funds or to take any action requiring the expenditure of funds.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules relating to magnet program grants.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES