

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 403
SPONSOR(S): Reed and others
TIED BILLS:

Education

IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 108

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) <u>Committee on K-12</u>	<u>8 Y, 0 N</u>	<u>Beagle</u>	<u>Ahearn</u>
2) <u>Schools & Learning Council</u>	<u>14 Y, 0 N, As CS</u>	<u>Beagle</u>	<u>Cobb</u>
3) <u>Policy & Budget Council</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
4) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
5) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The Department of Education (DOE) administers several programs aimed at promoting access to postsecondary education for all students. These programs are conducted within the DOE and through partnerships with community and professional organizations and Florida postsecondary institutions. Because participation in Advanced Placement (AP) courses is a major predictor of student's likelihood of completing a bachelor's degree in four years, promoting student participation in AP is a key component of these programs.

The Florida Partnership for Minority and Underrepresented Student Achievement (Partnership) is a program designed to increase participation in AP and postsecondary education by minority and underrepresented students. Among other things, the Partnership conducts teacher training, student skills assessment, and college entrance examination preparation designed to carry out this mission. The DOE currently contracts with the College Board to carry out the duties of the Partnership.

Current law requires each school district to make participation in the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) or the Preliminary ACT (PLAN) available to all tenth grade students. School districts are required to maintain a database of student test results. School guidance counselors can then use these test results to identify students who are prepared for AP courses.

House Bill 403 amends statute to require the Partnership to work with school districts to:

- Identify minority and underrepresented students for participation in AP and other advanced courses;
- Provide information to students and parents regarding opportunities to take AP and other advanced courses; and
- Provide information to parents, teachers, counselors, administrators, school districts, community colleges, and state universities regarding opportunities to take the PSAT/NMSQT or PLAN.

The bill also requires the Partnership to cooperate with the DOE to provide information about partnership activities to administrators, teachers, and counselors.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Empower Families-- The bill requires the Partnership to provide information to parents regarding opportunities to take AP courses and the PSAT/NMSQT and PLAN.

Safeguard Individual Liberty-- The bill requires the Partnership to work with school districts to identify qualified minority and underrepresented students for participation in AP courses.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

The DOE administers several programs aimed at promoting access to postsecondary education for all students. These programs are conducted within the DOE and through partnerships with community and professional organizations and Florida postsecondary institutions. Some of these programs specifically target minority and underrepresented students for participation in AP and postsecondary education opportunities.

Minority Participation in Advanced Placement

Participation in AP courses is a major predictor of student's likelihood of completing a bachelor's degree in four years. Overall participation in AP courses by Florida public school students has steadily increased since 2000, including increases in AP participation by minority and underrepresented students. The number of students completing high school having successfully completed at least one AP course has increased from 13.5% in 2000 to 19.6% in 2006.¹ AP participation by African-American students has increased by 20.9% between 2005 and 2006.² Approximately 21% of Florida public school students are Hispanic. This group comprises 24% percent of AP exam takers.³

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
African American	2595	3124	3648	4468	5613	6038	7270	8788
Hispanic	6181	6998	7952	9889	12,466	14,710	17,233	20,421

The Florida Partnership for Minority and Underrepresented Student Achievement Act

The Partnership is established in law "to prepare, inspire, and connect students to postsecondary success and opportunity, with a particular focus on minority and underrepresented students."⁵ The DOE currently contracts with the College Board to carry out the duties of the Partnership.⁶ The Partnership is required to:

¹ The College Board, Florida Partnership, Advanced Placement Report to the Nation, Florida Public Schools *available at* http://www.collegeboard.com/prod_downloads/floridapartnership/FloridaStateReport.pdf.

² Florida Department of Education, Information on Advanced Placement Program: Florida and the Nation, August 2006, *available at* http://www.firn.edu/doe/evaluation/pdf/ap_2006.pdf.

³ Florida Department of Education, 2007 Bill Analysis for House Bill 403.

⁴ Florida Department of Education, Rising Participation and Performance: AP, PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, September 2006, *available at* http://www.firn.edu/doe/evaluation/pdf/ap_psat_sat_2006.pdf.

⁵ Section 1007.35, F.S.

⁶ The College Board, Florida Partnership *available at* <http://www.collegeboard.com/floridapartnership/index.html>.

- Provide training to enable AP teachers to prepare students for success in AP or other advanced courses;
- Provide training to middle school teachers and administrators that enables them to groom middle school students so that they are prepared for participation in advanced courses by the time they enter high school;
- Provide training and materials that are aligned to the Sunshine State Standards and the FCAT;
- Assess student strengths and weaknesses as related to potential success in AP courses and readiness for postsecondary education;
- Provide college entrance examination preparation through schools, community centers, businesses, faith-based organizations, or on-line means; and
- Develop plans for disseminating information regarding postsecondary readiness and opportunities to take advanced courses to parents.⁷

The Partnership must submit an annual report to the DOE. The report must include an evaluation of the effectiveness of Partnership activities. In addition, the report must include the number of teachers and administrators trained and the effectiveness of such training, measurement of postsecondary readiness for students served by the program, student participation levels for the PSAT/NMSQT and PLAN, and teacher awareness and satisfaction with partnership services. Florida law grants the Partnership access to DOE data on professional development, PSAT/NMSQT, PLAN, AP and other data necessary to support longitudinal studies.⁸

Florida law requires each school district to make participation in the PSAT/NMSQT or the PLAN available to all tenth grade students. School districts are required to maintain a database of student test results. School guidance counselors can then use test results to identify students who are prepared for AP courses.⁹

The 2006 Legislature appropriated \$7,125,480 to fund the Partnership for 2006-2007.¹⁰

Effect of Proposed Changes

House Bill 403 requires the Partnership to work with school districts to:

- Identify minority and underrepresented students for participation in AP and other advanced courses.
- Provide information to students and parents regarding opportunities to take AP and other advanced courses. Such information must explain enrollment procedures for AP courses and the benefits of taking these courses as related to preparing for postsecondary level coursework, accessing postsecondary education, and qualifying for scholarships and other financial aid.
- Provide information to parents, teachers, counselors, administrators, districts, community colleges, and state universities regarding opportunities to take the PSAT/NMSQT or PLAN. Such information must explain that participation in the test is open to all tenth grade students and provide testing times and dates. It must also explain the value of these tests as related to assessing student skills and predicting success in AP or other advanced courses.

The bill also requires the Partnership to cooperate with the DOE to provide information about partnership activities to administrators, teachers, and counselors.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

⁷ Section 1007.35, F.S.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Specific Appropriation 105 of the Conference Committee Report on HB 5001, Enrolled Chapter 2006-25, Laws of Florida.

Section 1.: Amends s. 1007.35, F.S.; requires the Partnership to work with school districts to identify minority and underrepresented students for participation in AP and other advanced courses; requires the Partnership to work with school districts to provide information to students and parents regarding opportunities to take AP and other advanced courses; requires the Partnership to work with school districts to provide information on the PSAT/NMSQT and PLAN to specified individuals and institutions; requires the Partnership to cooperate with the DOE to provide information about Partnership activities to specified individuals.

Section 2.: Provides an effective date.

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 revenues.

2. Expenditures:

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

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

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

2. Expenditures:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local 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 2006 Legislature appropriated \$7,125,480 to fund the Partnership for 2006-2007.¹¹

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill does not appear to require counties or municipalities to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds. This bill does not appear to reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenue in the aggregate. This bill does not appear to reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

2. Other:

None.

¹¹ Specific Appropriation 105 of the Conference Committee Report on HB 5001, Enrolled Chapter 2006-25, Laws of Florida.
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B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not appear to create, modify, or eliminate rulemaking authority.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

D. STATEMENT OF THE SPONSOR

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On March 27, 2007, the Committee on K-12 adopted a strike everything amendment and reported the bill favorably, as amended.

The strike everything amendment amends s. 1007.35, F.S., to require the Partnership to:

- Work with school districts to identify minority and underrepresented students for participation in AP and other advanced courses;
- Work with school districts to provide information to students and parents regarding opportunities to take AP and other advanced courses. Such information must explain enrollment procedures and the benefits of taking these courses as related to preparing and accessing postsecondary education and qualifying for scholarships and other financial aid;
- Provide information to parents, teachers, counselors, administrators, districts, community colleges, and state universities regarding opportunities to take the PSAT/NMSQT or PLAN. Such information must explain that participation in the test is open to all tenth grade students and provide testing times and dates. It must also explain the value of these tests as related to assessing student skills and predicting success in AP or other advanced courses; and
- Cooperate with the DOE to provide information about partnership activities to administrators, teachers, and counselors.

The strike everything amendment also deletes provisions:

- Establishing the Council;
- Requiring each district school board to discuss minority and underrepresented student's participation in AP courses annually at a board meeting; and
- Requesting an appropriation of \$50,000.

On April 4, 2007, the Schools and Learning Council reported the bill favorably as a council substitute.