

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

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

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Education Pre-K - 12 Appropriations Committee

BILL: CS/SB 1806

INTRODUCER: Education Pre-K - 12 Committee and Senator Detert

SUBJECT: Education

DATE: April 13, 2010                      REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Carrouth</u>	<u>Matthews</u>	<u>ED</u>	<b>Fav/CS</b>
2.	<u>Armstrong</u>	<u>Hamon</u>	<u>EA</u>	<b>Favorable</b>
3.	_____	_____	<u>RC</u>	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

**Please see Section VIII. for Additional Information:**

A. COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE.....  Statement of Substantial Changes

B. AMENDMENTS.....  Technical amendments were recommended

Amendments were recommended

Significant amendments were recommended

**I. Summary:**

This bill amends law governing a variety of education-related topics for the following purposes:

- Conforming state law with federal law with respect to vocational rehabilitation programs and repealing duplicative and obsolete provisions;
- Repealing statutory references to the SMART Schools Clearinghouse. The entity is no longer funded and its duties have been assumed by the Office of Educational Facilities within the Department of Education;
- Directing the Division of Statutory Revision of the Office of Legislative Services to produce a reviser’s bill for the 2011 Regular Session that will ensure the uniform use of terminology related to the Florida College System throughout the Florida K-20 Education Code; and
- Repealing sections of law that have been held unconstitutional; that establish programs that have been superseded by legislation; that are duplicative of federal law requirements; or that have not been funded or implemented.

This bill amends sections 413.20, 413.30, 413.341, 413.371, 413.393, 413.40, 413.405, 413.407, 163.31777, 1001.20, 1013.04, 1013.21, 1013.33, 1013.35, 1013.41, 1013.42, 1013.72, 1013.73, 1002.33, 1011.69, 1013.64, 1004.68, 1013.11, 1009.40, 1009.94, Florida Statutes.

The bill also repeals sections 413.206, 413.39, 413.70, 413.72, 413.73, 1013.05, 1004.87, 1002.335, 1003.413(5), 1003.62, 1003.63, 1008.345(7), 1006.67, 1009.63, 1009.631, 1009.632, 1009.633, 1009.634, and 1009.64 of the Florida Statutes.

## II. Present Situation:

### VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Vocational rehabilitation (VR) consists of various programs designed to foster the independence and employability of eligible individuals with disabilities. VR services are funded under Title I of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.<sup>1</sup> Agency oversight for such programs is provided by the Department of Education's (DOE) Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR).<sup>2</sup> Federal law establishes minimum eligibility requirements for state VR programs. States that receive federal VR funding may only serve individuals with disabilities who meet the federal eligibility classification.<sup>3</sup>

Florida law contains numerous inconsistencies with federal law governing VR services. Most inconsistencies are due to the 1998 congressional amendments to the Rehabilitation Act.<sup>4</sup> These amendments made changes to VR terminology and program requirements and Florida law has not changed to conform to the federal changes.

#### Terminology

Current federal law uses the term: (a) "Individualized Plan for Employment," while state law uses the term, "Individualized Written Rehabilitation Program;"<sup>5</sup> (b) "significant" disabilities, while state law refers to "severe" disabilities;<sup>6</sup> and (c) "eligible individual," while state law sometimes refers to such individuals who are receiving VR services as "clients."<sup>7</sup>

Further, both Florida and federal law substantively define the term "personal assistance services" to mean a range of services designed to assist a person with a disability to perform daily living activities on or off the job that the person would typically perform if the person did not have a disability.<sup>8</sup> The federal regulation adds, however, that, "The services must be necessary to the achievement of an employment outcome and may be provided only while the individual is receiving other vocational rehabilitation services. The services may include training in

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<sup>1</sup> 29 U.S.C. § 701 et seq.

<sup>2</sup> Part II, ch. 413, F.S.

<sup>3</sup> 34 C.F.R. § 361.42(a).

<sup>4</sup> The Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Pub. L. No. 105-220, 112 Stat. 936.

<sup>5</sup> An Individualized Plan for Employment is a written plan that prescribes the VR services to be provided to, and employment outcome to be achieved by, the individual. 34 C.F.R. § 361.45; § 413.30(5), F.S.

<sup>6</sup> 34 CFR 361.5(30) & (31); s. 413.20, F.S.

<sup>7</sup> 34 CFR 361.38; ss. 413.30 and 341, F.S.

<sup>8</sup> 34 C.F.R. § 361.5(b)(39); § 413.20(18), F.S.

managing, supervising, and directing personal assistance services.”<sup>9</sup> This latter provision is not contained in the state’s definition.

Finally, s. 413.395, F.S., creates the “Florida Independent Living Council.” This term is not used consistently in several sections of law governing VR.<sup>10</sup>

### **Trial Work Experiences**

Under Florida and federal law, individuals with disabilities are presumed eligible for VR services.<sup>11</sup> A state must initially assess an individual for service eligibility and if a state cannot determine that VR services will benefit an individual after the initial assessment, federal law requires states to follow certain procedures before determining that the individual is ineligible for VR services.<sup>12</sup> Prior to the 1998 amendments to federal law, states were required to conduct an “extended evaluation” in these circumstances. The 1998 amendments established a new, alternate procedure referred to as “trial work experiences.”<sup>13</sup>

Trial work experiences provided by the state must be of sufficient variety and duration to accurately assess service eligibility. Individuals may be placed in supported employment, on-the-job training, and other appropriate work experiences. A state must find clear and convincing evidence that VR services will not benefit the individual before denying them services.<sup>14</sup> The extended evaluation process may still be used if an individual cannot take advantage of trial work experiences or if options for trial work experiences have been exhausted before the state is able to make an eligibility determination.<sup>15</sup>

Florida law still reflects the “extended evaluation process” as the sole method for determining eligibility for services after the initial assessment and requires the DVR to conduct the evaluation for up to 18 months.<sup>16</sup>

### **Required Referrals**

Federal law establishes procedures that a state must follow when it determines that an individual is ineligible for VR services. Depending on the reason for denying service eligibility, a state must refer such individuals to: (a) programs that are part of the one-stop delivery system under the Workforce Investment Act,<sup>17</sup> which are for individuals who are determined to have less severe impediments to employment than those served by VR programs; or (b) local extended employment programs that serve individuals who are determined to be too severely disabled to benefit from VR services.<sup>18</sup> Florida law does not reflect this federally-required exit referral procedure.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>9</sup> 34 C.F.R. § 361.5(b)(39).

<sup>10</sup> ss. 413.393, 413.405, and 413.407, F.S.

<sup>11</sup> 34 C.F.R. § 361.42(a)(2); § 413.30(4), F.S.

<sup>12</sup> 34 C.F.R. § 361.42(e) & (f).

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> 34 C.F.R. § 361.42(e); § 413.30(3), F.S.

<sup>15</sup> 34 C.F.R. § 361.42(f).

<sup>16</sup> s. 413.30(3), F.S.

<sup>17</sup> s. 445.009, F.S.

<sup>18</sup> 34 U.S.C. § 361.43(d).

<sup>19</sup> s. 413.30(6), F.S.

### **Client Records**

Under Florida and federal law, all public records related to VR clients or applicants are privileged, confidential, and exempt from public records disclosure requirements, except in specified situations. State law authorizes the disclosure of records that *do not identify* clients or applicants for research purposes and requires the director of DVR to approve such disclosure.<sup>20</sup> In contrast, federal law authorizes release of records that *contain personal information* for audit, program evaluation, and research purposes. States must require the recipient of the information to assure that the information will be used only for authorized purposes and will not reveal personally identifying information in a final product or report without informed written consent of the participant. It does not require that the state VR agency director approve such disclosure.<sup>21</sup>

### **Independent Living Program**

Section 413.371, F.S., requires the DVR to establish and maintain an Independent Living Program that will provide appropriate services to enhance the ability of persons who have severe disabilities to live independently. It also authorizes the DVR to contract with centers for independent living to provide independent living services.<sup>22</sup> Section 413.39, F.S., authorizes the DVR to administer the program to individuals with severe disabilities.

Section 413.40, F.S., provides that DVR, in carrying out the Independent Living Program, is authorized to engage in activities that include: (a) employing necessary personnel and consultants; (b) contracting with any entity, public or private, to provide independent living services; (c) providing diagnostic, medical, and psychological and other evaluation services; (d) providing training necessary for rehabilitation; (e) providing persons with financial need rehabilitation services such as personal care attendants and transportation; and (f) providing specified rehabilitation facilities. According to DVR representatives, the DVR only exercises its authority to employ necessary personnel and consultants and contract with public and private entities. The DVR is not a direct provider; rather, the DVR contracts with the centers for independent living centers for the provision of the services and facilities listed in (c) through (f).<sup>23</sup>

### **Florida Rehabilitation Council**

Section 413.405, F.S., establishes the Florida Rehabilitation Council. This section specifies the required membership on the council, provides that no member may serve more than two full terms, and specifies the council's duties. Currently, this section contains several outdated references to federal law and conflicts with governing federal law that addresses the requirements for each state's rehabilitation council.<sup>24</sup>

### **State Vocational Rehabilitation Plan**

Legislation enacted in 2002 required the DVR to develop a 5-year state plan to address improvements to, and privatization of, VR services. According to the DVR, issues arising from efforts to privatize its services caused it to be placed on "high-risk" status by the United States DOE and this one-time plan was required to resolve these issues. The plan was submitted to the

<sup>20</sup> s. 413.341(1)(b), F.S.

<sup>21</sup> 34 C.F.R. § 361.38(d).

<sup>22</sup> Centers for independent living are designated in the State Plan for Independent Living under s. 413.393, F.S.

<sup>23</sup> Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Legislative Bill Analysis (2010).

<sup>24</sup> 29 U.S.C. s. 725 and 34 C.F.R. 361.16.

Governor and presiding officers of the Legislature in 2002, and the DVR was removed from “high risk” status in October of 2003.<sup>25, 26</sup>

### **Limiting Disabilities Program**

In 1990, the Legislature established the Limiting Disabilities Program.<sup>27</sup> The purpose of the program is to provide rehabilitation services to persons who are not required to be served under federal law, but who have a limiting disability.<sup>28</sup> The program was to be state-funded, as federal VR funding may only be used to serve individuals who meet federal eligibility requirements for VR services. The program, however, was never funded by the Legislature nor implemented by the DVR.<sup>29</sup>

### **SMART SCHOOLS CLEARINGHOUSE**

In 1997, legislation, now codified in s. 1013.05, F.S., was enacted to establish the “SMART<sup>30</sup> Schools Clearinghouse” (SSC) in the Office of Educational Facilities (OEF) within the DOE.<sup>31</sup> This provision requires the SSC to assist school districts in accessing: (a) School Infrastructure Thrift (SIT) Program awards that have been granted to districts for the new construction of educational facilities; and (b) effort index grants that have been awarded to districts for the construction, renovation, or maintenance of educational facilities or to pay debt service on specified capital outlay bonds.<sup>32</sup> The section further provides that OEF shall prioritize school district SIT Program awards based on a review of the district facilities work programs and proposed construction projects.<sup>33</sup>

Multiple other sections of law provide that the SSC and OEF are jointly responsible for: (a) reviewing interlocal agreements between counties or municipalities and school districts; (b) reviewing and monitoring district educational facilities work plans; (c) validating educational plant surveys and Florida Inventory of School Houses data; (d) assisting schools in building SMART schools; and (e) reviewing and making recommendations regarding SIT award requests.<sup>34</sup>

The SSC has not been funded since 2005 and its functions have been assumed by the OEF.<sup>35</sup>

### **FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM**

In 2008, the Legislature established the Florida College System (FCS) for purposes of maximizing open access, responding to community needs for postsecondary education, and

<sup>25</sup> s. 413.206, F.S.

<sup>26</sup> Email correspondence from the Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to House staff, March 19, 2009, on file with the committee.

<sup>27</sup> s. 413.70, F.S.

<sup>28</sup> ss. 413.70 through 413.73, F.S.

<sup>29</sup> Florida Department of Education, Legislative Bill Analysis for SB 2274 (2009).

<sup>30</sup> SMART stands for “Soundly Made, Accountable, Reasonable, and Thrifty.”

<sup>31</sup> See ch. 97-384, s. 10, L.O.F. (formerly s. 235.217, F.S., now codified as s. 1013.05, F.S.).

<sup>32</sup> SIT awards have not been funded since 2004 and effort index grants have not been funded since 1997.

<sup>33</sup> s. 1013.05(2), F.S.

<sup>34</sup> ss. 163.31777, 1001.20, 1013.04, 1013.21, 1013.33, 1013.35, 1013.41, and 1013.42, F.S.

<sup>35</sup> Information provided during telephone conference with Department of Education representatives.

providing associate and baccalaureate degrees that meet the state's employment needs. The FCS is comprised of Florida's 28 public colleges that grant 2-year and 4-year academic degrees.<sup>36</sup> The 2008 legislation also created the FCS Task Force, codified in s. 1004.87, F.S., to make recommendations relating to the transition of a community college to a baccalaureate degree granting institution.<sup>37</sup> The Task Force issued its report and recommendations in December 2008, and is scheduled to be dissolved on June 30, 2010.<sup>38</sup>

Prior to 2009, Florida's 28 public colleges were referred to in statute as "junior colleges" and "community colleges."<sup>39</sup> To conform with the creation of the FCS in 2008, legislation was adopted in 2009 which renamed the "Division of Community Colleges" within the DOE as the "Division of Florida Colleges" and provided that the term "Florida colleges," along with the existing terms "community colleges" and "junior colleges," refer to Florida's 28 public colleges when used in the Florida's K-20 Education Code.<sup>40</sup> As a result, statute currently uses three terms to refer to the 28 public colleges in the FCS.

## **DUPLICATIVE AND OBSOLETE PROVISIONS**

### **Florida Schools of Excellence Commission**

Section 1002.335, F.S., establishes the Florida Schools of Excellence (FSE) Commission as an independent, state-level charter school authorizing entity. The commission has the power to: authorize and act as a sponsor of charter schools; authorize municipalities, state universities, community colleges, and regional educational consortia to act as cosponsors of charter schools; approve or deny FSE charter school applications and renew or terminate charters of FSE charter schools; and conduct facility and curriculum reviews of charter schools approved by the commission or one of its cosponsors.

Section 1002.335, F.S., was held facially unconstitutional by the First District Court of Appeals in 2008. The Court held that the law was in direct conflict with Art. IX, s. 4 of the Florida Constitution, which empowers local school boards with the authority to "operate, control and supervise all free public schools within the school district."<sup>41</sup>

### **Secondary School Improvement Award Program**

Section 1003.413(5), F.S., which was enacted in 2006, directs the Commissioner of Education to create and implement the Secondary School Improvement Award Program to reward public secondary schools that demonstrate continuous student academic improvement and show the greatest gains in student academic achievement in reading and mathematics. The program was not funded and therefore not implemented.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> See s. 2, ch. 2008-52, L.O.F.; s. 1001.60, F.S.

<sup>37</sup> s. 1004.87(3), F.S.

<sup>38</sup> s. 1004.87(8), F.S.; The Florida College System Task Force, *The Florida College System: Assuring Postsecondary Access That Supports Florida's Future* (December 2008) available at <http://www.fldoe.org/CC/pdf/CollegeSystemFinalReport.pdf>.

<sup>39</sup> Section 1004.66, F.S., provides that the terms "community college" and "junior college" are interchangeable.

<sup>40</sup> See ch. 2009-228, L.O.F.; ss. 20.15(3) and 1001.21(3), F.S.

<sup>41</sup> *Duval County School Board v. State Board of Education*, 998 So. 2d 641 (Fla. 1<sup>st</sup> DCA 2008).

<sup>42</sup> Email correspondence from the Department of Education, Office of Governmental Relations, March 31, 2010.

### **Academic Performance-Based Charter School Districts**

Section 1003.62, F.S., authorizes academic performance-based charter school districts, which are school districts that have entered into certain performance contracts with the State Board of Education (SBE). The contracts exempt the districts from rules and statutes specified by the SBE in exchange for the districts' agreement to comply with stated performance goals.<sup>43</sup> Such performance contracts were first authorized by legislation establishing the Charter School District Pilot Program in 1999. Under this authority, the SBE initially selected four school districts to participate in the program.<sup>44</sup>

The program's pilot status was removed in 2003 and the SBE was authorized, at its discretion, to designate any district in the state as an "academic performance-based charter school district" if at least 50 percent of the district's schools received an "A" or "B" grade and other eligibility standards were satisfied.<sup>45</sup> The 2003 legislation and subsequent legislation in 2007 created a "grandfather clause" to continue the authority for the four pilot program charter districts until July 1, 2010.<sup>46</sup> After that date, the four districts must conform to the standards required for other districts.<sup>47</sup> As of July 2009, the SBE has not designated any district as an academic performance-based charter school district under the standards of the 2003 statewide program.<sup>48</sup>

In 2007, the Legislature created s. 1003.621, F.S., to authorize academically high-performing school districts.<sup>49</sup> Similar to s. 1003.62, F.S., this section authorizes districts meeting specified eligibility standards to be exempt from certain statutes. Unlike s. 1003.62, F.S., this section: (a) specifies higher eligibility standards for designation as an academically high-performing school district, e.g., the district's school grade average must be an "A" for two consecutive years; (b) requires, rather than permits, the SBE to designate a district meeting the specified eligibility standards as an academically high-performing school district; and (c) specifies the statutes from which an academically high-performing school district is exempt, rather than leaving the determination of those exemptions to the discretion of the SBE.<sup>50</sup> Twenty-one school districts have been designated as academically high-performing school districts for the 2009-2010 school year.<sup>51</sup>

### **Deregulated Public Schools Pilot Program**

Section 1003.63, F.S., originally enacted in 1998, authorized a deregulated public schools pilot program. The program provides that schools earning an "A" or improving at least two letter grades are eligible to have the same flexibility and accountability afforded charter schools; i.e., deregulated public schools may be exempted from all statutes of the K-20 Florida Education Code except those pertaining to civil rights; public records and meetings; student health, safety, and welfare; and certain budgetary and financial matters. To become a deregulated public

<sup>43</sup> s. 1003.62, F.S.

<sup>44</sup> Senate Committee on Education Pre-K - 12, Bill Analysis for CS/SB 2092 (2007).

<sup>45</sup> s. 24, ch. 2003-391, L.O.F.

<sup>46</sup> s. 24, ch. 2003-391, L.O.F. (continuing authority until July 1, 2007) and s. 8, ch. 2007-234, L.O.F. (continuing authority until July 1, 2010).

<sup>47</sup> s. 8, ch. 07-234, L.O.F., *codified as* §1003.62(7), F.S. (2007).

<sup>48</sup> Telephone interview with Florida Department of Education, Bureau of School Improvement staff.

<sup>49</sup> s. 1, ch. 2007-194, L.O.F.

<sup>50</sup> s. 1003.621(1) and (2), F.S.

<sup>51</sup> Florida Department of Education, Academically High-Performing School Districts 2009-2010 Eligibility Status *available at* [www.fldoe.org/board/meetings/2009\\_09\\_15/academ.pdf](http://www.fldoe.org/board/meetings/2009_09_15/academ.pdf).

school, the district school board must approve a proposal that is developed by the school principal and the school advisory council, that is supported by at least 50 percent of the teachers at the school, and that has demonstrated parental support.<sup>52</sup>

### **Campus Crime Reporting**

Section 1006.67, F.S., requires each postsecondary institution to prepare an annual report of campus crime statistics for submission to the DOE. The data for these reports may be taken from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Annual Report. Additionally, each postsecondary institution must prepare an annual report of campus crime statistics for the most recent 3-year period for submission to the DOE. The institution must give notice that the report for the 3-year period is available upon request. The Commissioner of Education must submit both annual reports to the presiding officers of the Legislature.

The federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act<sup>53</sup> requires all postsecondary institutions participating in Title IV student financial aid programs to disclose campus crime statistics and security information for the most recent three years. This act is enforced by the U.S. DOE and each institution must submit the information to the Secretary of Education on an annual basis.

### **Unfunded Financial Assistance Programs**

Section 1009.96, F.S., states that all new and existing financial assistance programs authorized under chapter 1009, F.S., which are not funded for three consecutive years after enactment, must stand repealed. The following program appears to meet the criteria:

- The Certified Education Paraprofessional Welfare Transition Program, codified in s. 1009.64, F.S., was established in 1995<sup>54</sup> to provide education and employment for recipients of public assistance who are certified to work in schools that, because of the high proportion of economically disadvantaged children enrolled, are at risk of poor performance on traditional measures of achievement. The program is administered by the DOE, Department of Children and Family Services, and the Agency for Workforce Innovation. No record was found of the program ever receiving funds through the General Appropriations Act.<sup>55</sup>

Additionally, the DOE<sup>56</sup> identified the Occupational Therapist or Physical Therapist Critical Shortage (OT/PT-CS) Program, which is established in ss. 1009.63 through 1009.634, F.S., as having last received appropriated funds in the 2001-2002 General Appropriations Act.<sup>57</sup> The program consists of the following three loan forgiveness, scholarship loan, and tuition reimbursement programs:<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> s. 1003.63(6), F.S.

<sup>53</sup> 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f).

<sup>54</sup> ch. 95-392, L.O.F.

<sup>55</sup> Education Policy Council Analysis of House Bill 7037, dated February 17, 2010.

<sup>56</sup> Email from the Florida Department of Education, Governmental Relations staff (Oct. 15, 2009).

<sup>57</sup> Specific Appropriation 37B, § 2, ch. 2001-367, L.O.F.

<sup>58</sup> The Department of Education may still be receiving loan payments for some of these programs.



- The Critical Occupational Therapist or Physical Therapist Shortage Loan Forgiveness Program, codified in s. 1009.632, F.S., was established to provide repayment toward loans received by graduates of postsecondary occupational therapy or physical therapy programs who initiate employment in the public schools of this state.
- The Critical Occupational Therapist or Physical Therapist Shortage Scholarship Loan Program, codified at s. 1009.633, F.S., was established to provide a scholarship loan program for students who are in therapy assistant programs or an upper division or higher level occupational therapist or physical therapist educational program and who intend to be employed by Florida's public school system for three years. Credit for repayment of the loan and interest is granted for each full year of employment by the public schools of this state.
- The Critical Occupational Therapist or Physical Therapist Shortage Tuition Reimbursement Program, codified in s. 1009.634, F.S., was established to provide tuition reimbursement for approved courses taken by therapists and therapy assistants employed by the public school system in order to improve their skills and knowledge.

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

#### Terminology

The bill amends the following statutes to conform to terminology in federal law:

- Sections 413.20(27), 413.30(5) and (6), F.S., to replace the term "Individualized Written Rehabilitation Program" with the term "Individualized Plan for Employment."
- Sections 413.20(12), (26), and (27), 413.30(2) and (8), 413.371, 413.393(1)(c), and 413.40, F.S., to replace the term "severe" disability with the term "significant" disability.
- Sections 413.30(7) and 413.341, F.S., to replace the term "client" with the term "eligible individual."
- Section 413.20(18), F.S., which defines "personal assistance services," to add the omitted provision contained in the federal definition.
- Sections 413.393(1), 413.405(1)(a) and (9)(f) and (g), and 413.407(1)(a), F.S., to consistently use the term "Florida Independent Living Council."

#### Trial Work Experiences

The bill conforms s. 413.30(3), F.S., to federal law by requiring the DVR to use trial work experiences before denying eligibility for VR services. Trial work experiences may include supported employment, on-the-job training, or other work experiences. The bill also authorizes the DVR to conduct an extended evaluation, under the following limited circumstances, before denying eligibility for VR services: (a) when the individual cannot take advantage of trial work experiences; or (b) when options for trial work experiences have been exhausted.

#### Required Referrals

The bill amends s. 413.30(6), F.S., to require the DVR to refer individuals who have been determined ineligible for VR services to services that are part of the one-stop delivery system under s. 445.009, F.S., or local extended employment providers. The bill's provisions are identical to the federal requirement.

**Client Records**

The bill amends s. 413.341(1)(b), F.S., to authorize the disclosure of records that contain personally identifying information in the same manner as federal law, i.e., the bill authorizes such disclosure for the purposes of audit, program evaluation, and research. Further, the bill specifies that all personally identifying information released under the paragraph remains privileged, confidential, and exempt and may not be released to third parties.

**Independent Living Program**

The bill repeals s. 413.39, F.S., which authorizes the DVR to administer the Independent Living Program because it is substantively duplicative of s. 413.371, F.S. The bill amends s. 413.371, F.S., as discussed above, to replace the term, “severe” with the term “significant” and it deletes the text authorizing the DVR to contract with the centers for independent living. This deleted provision is moved to s. 413.40, F.S., which addresses the DVR’s powers regarding employment and contracting for the program. The bill also amends that section to delete the DVR’s authority to directly provide specified services and facilities for the Independent Living Program, but retains existing law that authorizes the DVR to employ consultants or personnel or contract for those services and facilities.

**Florida Rehabilitation Council**

The bill amends s. 413.405, F.S., establishing the Florida Rehabilitation Council, in order to correct outdated cross-references and conform its requirements to governing federal law. Specifically, the bill amends provisions relating to council membership to require, as in federal law, that: (a) at least one member be the director of the client assistance program; (b) one or more members be representatives of individuals with disabilities who have difficulty representing themselves due to their disabilities; and (c) at least one member be the director of a VR Services Project for American Indians with Disabilities, if this state participates in one or more such projects. The bill also specifies, in conformity with federal law, that: (a) DOE employees may only serve as nonvoting members; (b) only the representatives of the client assistance program and VR Services Project for American Indians with Disabilities may serve more than two full terms; and (c) an additional duty of the council is to review and analyze consumer satisfaction with employment outcomes of individuals receiving VR services.

**State Vocational Rehabilitation Plan**

The bill repeals s. 413.206, F.S., which required the DVR to submit a one-time, 5-year plan in November 2002. Having fulfilled these requirements, this statute serves no purpose.

**Limiting Disabilities Program**

The bill repeals ss. 413.70, 413.72, and 413.73, F.S., relating to the Limiting Disabilities Program, as such program was never funded or implemented. The bill also amends s. 413.20, F.S., to delete the definitions of “limiting disability,” “program,” “rehabilitation,” “rehabilitation service,” and “transitional living facility” because these definitions relate only to the repealed program and, as such, are no longer necessary.

**SMART Schools Clearinghouse**

The bill deletes obsolete references to the SSC and clarify that the SSC’s duties have been assumed by the OEF. Specifically, the bill repeals s. 1013.05, F.S., which establishes the SSC and amends ss. 163.31777, 1001.20, 1013.04, 1013.21, 1013.33, 1013.35, 1013.41, 1013.42,

1013.72, and 1013.73, F.S., to delete references to the SSC in sections specifying the joint responsibilities of the OEF and SSC. The bill also: (a) transfers the statutory language specifying the manner in which the OEF is to prioritize SIT program awards from the now repealed s. 1013.05, F.S., to s. 1013.42, F.S., which governs the SIT Program Act; and (b) amends s. 1013.72 (2), F.S., to update the cost per student station information with the most recent data.<sup>59</sup>

### **Florida College System**

The bill repeals s. 1004.87, F.S., which establishes the FCS Task Force, as the Task Force's purposes have been completed. The bill also creates an undesignated section of law that recognizes the need to conform the Florida K-20 Education Code to changes in terminology relating to community colleges made by legislation adopted in 2008 and 2009. To address this need and ensure use of a term that clearly identifies Florida's 28 public colleges, the bill directs the Division of Statutory Revision within the Office of Legislative Services to prepare a reviser's bill that will replace the terms, "community college," "junior college," and "Florida college" with the term "Florida College System institution" throughout the Education Code.

### **Florida Schools of Excellence Commission**

The bill repeals s. 1002.335, F.S., establishing the FSE Commission, as this section of law has been held unconstitutional. The bill amends s. 1002.33, F.S., to make conforming changes for the repeal.

### **Secondary School Improvement Award Program**

The bill repeals s. 1003.413(5), F.S., establishing the Secondary School Improvement Award Program, as the program was never funded or implemented.

### **Academic Performance-Based Charter School Districts**

The bill repeals s. 1003.62, F.S., which authorizes academic performance-based charter school districts. This section will be rendered obsolete as of July 1, 2010, because: (a) the authority for the four existing pilot districts expires on July 1, 2010; (b) the statute is no longer being implemented, i.e., no district has been designated by the SBE as an academic performance-based charter school district since the authorization of such districts in 2003; and (c) the section has effectively been superseded by s. 1003.621, F.S., which was more recently enacted in 2007 and which also provides statutory flexibility to high-performing districts. The bill also amends ss. 1011.69 and 1013.64, F.S., to make conforming changes for the repeal.

### **Deregulated Public Schools Pilot Program**

The bill repeals s. 1003.63, F.S., because the Legislature has not reauthorized the pilot program, which ended after the 2003-2004 school year. Due to the repeal of the program, the bill also repeals s. 1008.345(7), F.S., to make a conforming change and amends s. 1004.68(2), F.S., to conform a cross-reference.

The following school districts were authorized to conduct pilot programs: Palm Beach, Pinellas, Seminole, Lee, Leon, Walton, and Citrus. The pilot program ended after the 2003-2004 school year and was not reauthorized by the Legislature.

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<sup>59</sup> Florida Legislature, Office of Economic and Demographic Research, *Student Station Cost Factors*, <http://edr.state.fl.us/conferences/peco/station.htm> (last visited April 1, 2010).

**Campus Crime Reporting**

The bill repeals s. 1006.67, F.S., because the annual campus crime reporting requirements appear duplicative of information that must be reported under federal law. The bill also amends s. 1013.11, F.S., to make a conforming change for the repeal.

**Unfunded Financial Assistance Programs**

The bill repeals the financial assistance programs established in s. 1009.64, F.S., which appears to have never been funded since its creation in 1995. The bill also repeals the programs established in ss. 1009.63 through 1009.634, F.S., relating to the OT/PT-CS Programs, which have not been funded since Fiscal Year 2001-2002. These repeals are necessary to comply with the provisions of s. 1009.96, F.S., which provides that statutory financial aid programs that have not received funding for three consecutive years must stand repealed.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:****A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

**B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

**C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:****A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

None.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Additional Information:**

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**  
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

**Committee Substitute by Education Pre-K-12 on April 6, 2010:**

The original Senate bill contained only intent language. The summary section of this bill analysis reflects the substantive additions to the bill.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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