

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 127 Meetings of District School Boards

SPONSOR(S): Stark

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 134

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) K-12 Subcommittee	12 Y, 0 N, As CS	Beagle	Ahearn
2) Rulemaking Oversight & Repeal Subcommittee			
3) Education Appropriations Subcommittee			
4) Education Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Florida law requires each district school board to hold at least one regular monthly meeting for the transaction of business according to a schedule arranged by the board. School board meetings must be held in the office of the district school superintendent or a room convenient to that office and regularly designated as the board meeting room. Meetings may be held at other public locations if at least 48 hours public notice is given. The law does not specify the weekdays or times in which particular meetings must be held.

The bill requires each district school board to convene at least one regular meeting per quarter during evening hours. These quarterly meetings must coincide with the school year. This change provides increased opportunity for parent and public participation in board meetings.

The bill does not have a fiscal impact on state or local governments.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2013.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

District School Board Meetings

Florida law requires each district school board to hold at least one regular meeting each month for the transaction of business according to a schedule arranged by the board.¹ School board meetings must be held in the office of the district school superintendent or a room convenient to that office and regularly designated as the board meeting room. Meetings may be held at other public locations if at least 48 hours public notice is given.² The law does not specify the weekdays or times in which particular meetings must be held.

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill requires each district school board to convene at least one regular meeting per quarter during evening hours. These quarterly meetings must coincide with the school year. This change would provide increased opportunity for parent and public participation in board meetings.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 1001.372, F.S., relating to district school board meetings; requires school boards to convene one meeting per quarter within the school year during evening hours.

Section 2. Provides that the bill takes effect July 1, 2013.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

¹ Section 1001.372(1), F.S.

² Section 1001.372(2)(a)-(b), F.S. The meeting must be noticed in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. If there is no newspaper of general circulation in the county, the meeting may be noticed by announcements over at least one radio station whose signal is generally received in the county or notice posted on the courthouse door. Section 1001.372(2)(c), F.S.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not Applicable. This bill does not appear to affect county or municipal governments.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On March 13, 2013, the K-12 Subcommittee adopted one amendment and reported HB 127 favorably as a committee substitute. The committee substitute states that the quarterly meeting required by the bill must be convened during "evening hours" rather than during "after school or evening hours." In addition, the term "hold," as in "hold a meeting," is changed to "convene." These changes were made to increase the likelihood that the quarterly meeting is held during hours accessible to working parents and the public.