

By Senator Flores

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Gender-Specific School pilot
3 project; requiring the Department of Education to
4 administer a pilot project in certain school districts
5 in which an elementary school is designated as a
6 Gender-Specific School; providing criteria for
7 selection as a Gender-Specific School and requirements
8 for instruction and enrollment; requiring school
9 administrators and instructional personnel to
10 participate in certain professional development;
11 providing for funding for pilot project
12 implementation; requiring the Office of Program Policy
13 Analysis and Government Accountability to provide a
14 report on the academic performance of students;
15 providing an effective date.

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17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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19 Section 1. (1) The Department of Education shall administer
20 a Gender-Specific School pilot project to be implemented during
21 the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years in school districts in
22 the state. A district that has more than 100,000 kindergarten
23 through grade 12 students is eligible to participate in the
24 pilot project. A district shall submit to the department a
25 request to participate, and the department shall select five
26 districts in which one elementary school within each district
27 shall be designated as a "Gender-Specific School." A school
28 participating in the pilot project must have a student
29 enrollment of at least 350 students.

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30 (2) (a) Students in a Gender-Specific School shall be
31 separated by grade-level into boys-only classes and girls-only
32 classes during instruction in the core subject areas. For
33 classes for which a school has only one teacher for a subject
34 area, such as foreign language, the students may be combined in
35 a regular classroom setting. The students shall have
36 coeducational opportunities during school lunch periods, recess,
37 and other school activities.

38 (b) Enrollment in a Gender-Specific School is open to
39 students residing in the school district in which the school is
40 located and may not be restricted to enrollment of students
41 residing in the attendance zone served by the school. Student
42 enrollment in a school may not exceed the building capacity.

43 (3) The department shall develop a list of professional
44 development providers to assist participating schools with
45 scheduling and instructional strategies. A school district shall
46 select a professional development provider from the department's
47 list and require the school's administrative and instructional
48 personnel to participate in the professional development.

49 (4) Funds to implement the pilot project shall be
50 appropriated by the Legislature and allocated to school
51 districts by the department.

52 Section 2. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and
53 Government Accountability shall provide to the Governor, the
54 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
55 Representatives by December 31, 2016, a report comparing the
56 academic performance of students in schools participating in the
57 Gender-Specific School pilot project with the academic
58 performance of students in other public elementary schools in

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59 the district.

60 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.