Appropriations Subcommittee on Education (Ring) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment to Amendment (587488) (with title amendment)

Between lines 435 and 436 insert:

Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (12) of section 1011.62, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each district for operation of schools is not determined in the
(12) FLORIDA DIGITAL CLASSROOMS ALLOCATION.—

(b) Each district school board shall adopt a district digital classrooms plan that meets the unique needs of students, schools, and personnel and submit the plan for approval to the Department of Education. In addition, each district school board must, at a minimum, seek input from the district’s instructional, curriculum, and information technology staff to develop the district digital classrooms plan. The district’s plan must be within the general parameters established in the Florida digital classrooms plan pursuant to s. 1001.20. In addition, if the district participates in federal technology initiatives and grant programs, the district digital classrooms plan must include a plan for meeting requirements of such initiatives and grant programs. Funds allocated under this subsection must be used to support implementation of district digital classrooms plans. By October 1, 2014, and by March 1 of each year thereafter, on a date determined by the department, each district school board shall submit to the department, in a format prescribed by the department, a digital classrooms plan. At a minimum, such plan must include, and be annually updated to reflect, the following:

1. Measurable student performance outcomes. Outcomes related to student performance, including outcomes for students with disabilities, must be tied to the efforts and strategies to improve outcomes related to student performance by integrating technology in classroom teaching and learning. Results of the
outcomes shall be reported at least annually for the current school year and subsequent 3 years and be accompanied by an independent evaluation and validation of the reported results.

2. Digital learning and technology infrastructure purchases and operational activities. Such purchases and activities must be tied to the measurable outcomes under subparagraph 1., including, but not limited to, connectivity, broadband access, wireless capacity, Internet speed, and data security, all of which must meet or exceed minimum requirements and protocols established by the department. For each year that the district uses funds for infrastructure, a third-party, independent evaluation of the district’s technology inventory and infrastructure needs must accompany the district’s plan.

3. Professional development purchases and operational activities. Such purchases and activities must be tied to the measurable outcomes under subparagraph 1., including, but not limited to, using technology in the classroom and improving digital literacy and competency.

4. Digital tool purchases and operational activities. Such purchases and activities must be tied to the measurable outcomes under subparagraph 1., including, but not limited to, competency-based credentials that measure and demonstrate digital competency and certifications; third-party assessments that demonstrate acquired knowledge and use of digital applications; and devices that meet or exceed minimum requirements and protocols established by the department.

5. Online assessment-related purchases and operational activities. Such purchases and activities must be tied to the measurable outcomes under subparagraph 1., including, but not
limited to, expanding the capacity to administer assessments and compatibility with minimum assessment protocols and requirements established by the department. If the administration of online assessments after January 1, 2015, does not comply with the minimum assessment protocols and requirements established by the department, the department shall contract with an independent, auditing entity that has expertise in the area of the noncompliance to evaluate the extent of the noncompliance and provide recommendations to remediate the noncompliance in future administrations of online assessments.

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete line 1079
and insert:

measures to schools using turnaround options; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; requiring the Department of Education to contract with an independent, auditing entity if the administration of online assessments after a certain date does not comply with the minimum assessment protocols and requirements established by the department; requiring the auditing entity to perform certain duties; amending