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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
01/15/2016	.	
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Appropriations Subcommittee on Education (Gaetz) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause
and insert:

Section 1. Section 1011.6202, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

1011.6202 Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative.—The
Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative is created within
the Department of Education. The purpose of the pilot program is
to provide the highly effective principal of a participating



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11 school with increased autonomy and authority to operate his or
12 her school in a way that produces significant improvements in
13 student achievement and school management while complying with
14 constitutional requirements. The State Board of Education may,
15 upon approval of a principal autonomy proposal, enter into a
16 performance contract with up to three district school boards for
17 participation in the pilot program.

18 (1) PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS.—A Florida school
19 district may submit to the state board for approval a principal
20 autonomy proposal that exchanges statutory and rule exemptions
21 for an agreement to meet performance goals established in the
22 proposal. If approved by the state board, the school district
23 shall be eligible to participate in the pilot program for 3
24 years. At the end of the 3 years, the performance of all
25 participating schools in the school district shall be evaluated.

26 (2) PRINCIPAL AUTONOMY PROPOSAL.—

27 (a) To participate in the pilot program, a school district
28 must:

29 1. Identify three middle or high schools that received at
30 least two school grades of "D" or "F" pursuant to s. 1008.34
31 during the previous 3 school years.

32 2. Identify three principals who have earned a highly
33 effective rating on the prior year's performance evaluation
34 pursuant to s. 1012.34, one of whom shall be assigned to each of
35 the participating schools.

36 3. Describe the current financial and administrative
37 management of each participating school; identify the areas in
38 which each school principal will have increased fiscal and
39 administrative autonomy, including the authority and



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40 responsibilities provided in s. 1012.28(8); and identify the
41 areas in which each participating school will continue to follow
42 district school board fiscal and administrative policies.

43 4. Explain the methods used to identify the educational
44 strengths and needs of the participating school's students and
45 identify how student achievement can be improved.

46 5. Establish performance goals for student achievement, as
47 defined in s. 1008.34(1), and explain how the increased autonomy
48 of principals will help participating schools improve student
49 achievement and school management.

50 6. Provide each participating school's mission and a
51 description of its student population.

52 (b) The state board shall establish criteria, which must
53 include the criteria listed in paragraph (a), for the approval
54 of a principal autonomy proposal.

55 (c) A school district must submit its principal autonomy
56 proposal to the state board for approval by December 1 in order
57 to begin participation in the subsequent school year. By
58 February 28 of the school year in which the proposal is
59 submitted, the state board shall notify the district school
60 board in writing whether the proposal is approved.

61 (3) EXEMPTION FROM LAWS.—

62 (a) With the exception of those laws listed in paragraph
63 (b), a participating school is exempt from the provisions of
64 chapters 1000-1013 and rules of the state board that implement
65 those exempt provisions.

66 (b) A participating school shall comply with the provisions
67 of chapters 1000-1013, and rules of the state board that
68 implement those provisions, pertaining to the following:



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69 1. Those laws relating to the election and compensation of
70 district school board members, the election or appointment and
71 compensation of district school superintendents, public meetings
72 and public records requirements, financial disclosure, and
73 conflicts of interest.

74 2. Those laws relating to the student assessment program
75 and school grading system, including chapter 1008.

76 3. Those laws relating to the provision of services to
77 students with disabilities.

78 4. Those laws relating to civil rights, including s.
79 1000.05, relating to discrimination.

80 5. Those laws relating to student health, safety, and
81 welfare.

82 6. Section 1001.42(4)(f), relating to the uniform opening
83 date for public schools.

84 7. Section 1003.03, governing maximum class size, except
85 that the calculation for compliance pursuant to s. 1003.03 is
86 the average at the school level for a participating school.

87 8. Sections 1012.22(1)(c) and 1012.27(2), relating to
88 compensation and salary schedules.

89 9. Section 1012.33(5), relating to workforce reductions for
90 annual contracts for instructional personnel. This subparagraph
91 does not apply to at-will employees.

92 10. Section 1012.335, relating to annual contracts for
93 instructional personnel hired on or after July 1, 2011. This
94 subparagraph does not apply to at-will employees.

95 11. Section 1012.34, relating to personnel evaluation
96 procedures and criteria.

97 12. Those laws pertaining to educational facilities,



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98 including chapter 1013, except that s. 1013.20, relating to
99 covered walkways for relocatables, and s. 1013.21, relating to
100 the use of relocatable facilities exceeding 20 years of age, are
101 eligible for exemption.

102 13. Those laws pertaining to participating school
103 districts, including this section and ss. 1011.69(2) and
104 1012.28(8).

105 (4) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—Each participating school
106 district shall require that the principal of each participating
107 school, a three-member leadership team from each participating
108 school, and district personnel working with each participating
109 school complete a nationally recognized school turnaround
110 program which focuses on improving leadership, instructional
111 infrastructure, talent management, and differentiated support
112 and accountability. The required personnel must enroll in the
113 school turnaround program upon acceptance into the pilot
114 program.

115 (5) TERM OF PARTICIPATION.—The state board shall authorize
116 a school district to participate in the pilot program for a
117 period of 3 years commencing with approval of the principal
118 autonomy proposal. Authorization to participate in the pilot
119 program may be renewed upon action of the state board. The state
120 board may revoke authorization to participate in the pilot
121 program if the school district fails to meet the requirements of
122 this section during the 3-year period.

123 (6) REPORTING.—Each participating school district shall
124 submit an annual report to the state board. The state board
125 shall annually report on the implementation of the Principal
126 Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative. Upon completion of the pilot



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127 program's first 3-year term, the Commissioner of Education shall
128 submit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
129 House of Representatives by December 1 a full evaluation of the
130 effectiveness of the pilot program.

131 (7) FUNDING.—The Legislature may appropriate funding to the
132 department in the General Appropriations Act for the costs of
133 the pilot program, including administrative costs and enrollment
134 costs for the school turnaround program, and an additional
135 scholarship to each participating principal to be used at his or
136 her school.

137 (8) RULEMAKING.—The State Board of Education shall adopt
138 rules to administer this section.

139 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 1011.69, Florida
140 Statutes, is amended to read:

141 1011.69 Equity in School-Level Funding Act.—

142 (2) Beginning in the 2003-2004 fiscal year, district school
143 boards shall allocate to schools within the district an average
144 of 90 percent of the funds generated by all schools and
145 guarantee that each school receives at least 80 percent of the
146 funds generated by that school based upon the Florida Education
147 Finance Program as provided in s. 1011.62 and the General
148 Appropriations Act, including gross state and local funds,
149 discretionary lottery funds, and funds from the school
150 district's current operating discretionary millage levy. A
151 school participating in the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program
152 Initiative under s. 1011.6202 shall be guaranteed an allocation
153 of at least 90 percent of the funds generated by that school.

154 Total funding for each school shall be recalculated during the
155 year to reflect the revised calculations under the Florida



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156 Education Finance Program by the state and the actual weighted
157 full-time equivalent students reported by the school during the
158 full-time equivalent student survey periods designated by the
159 Commissioner of Education. If the district school board is
160 providing programs or services to students funded by federal
161 funds, any eligible students enrolled in the schools in the
162 district shall be provided federal funds.

163 Section 3. Subsection (8) is added to section 1012.28,
164 Florida Statutes, to read:

165 1012.28 Public school personnel; duties of school
166 principals.-

167 (8) The principal of a school participating in the
168 Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative under s. 1011.6202
169 has the following additional authority and responsibilities:

170 (a) In addition to the authority provided in subsection
171 (6), the authority to select qualified instructional personnel
172 for placement or to refuse to accept the placement or transfer
173 of instructional personnel by the district school
174 superintendent. Placement of instructional personnel at a
175 participating school in a participating school district does not
176 affect the employee's status as a school district employee.

177 (b) The authority to deploy financial resources to school
178 programs at the principal's discretion to help improve student
179 achievement, as defined in s. 1008.34(1), and meet performance
180 goals identified in the principal autonomy proposal submitted
181 pursuant to s. 1011.6202.

182 (c) To annually provide to the district school
183 superintendent and the district school board a budget for the
184 operation of the participating school that identifies how funds



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185 provided pursuant to s. 1011.69(2) are allocated. The school
186 district shall include the budget in the annual report provided
187 to the State Board of Education pursuant to s. 1011.6202(6).

188 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.

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190 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

191 And the title is amended as follows:

192 Delete everything before the enacting clause
193 and insert:

194 A bill to be entitled
195 An act relating to the Principal Autonomy Pilot
196 Program Initiative; creating s. 1011.6202, F.S.;
197 creating the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program
198 Initiative; providing a procedure for a school
199 district to participate in the pilot program;
200 providing requirements for participating school
201 districts and schools; exempting participating schools
202 from certain laws and rules; requiring principals of
203 participating schools and specified personnel to
204 complete a nationally recognized school turnaround
205 program; providing for the term of participation in
206 the pilot program; providing for renewal or revocation
207 of authorization to participate in the pilot program;
208 providing for reporting, funding, and rulemaking;
209 amending s. 1011.69, F.S.; requiring participating
210 district school boards to allocate a specified
211 percentage of certain funds to participating schools;
212 amending s. 1012.28, F.S.; providing additional
213 authority and responsibilities of the principal of a



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participating school; providing an effective date.