

The Florida Senate
HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education

[2018s00088.hms]

BILL: CS/SB 88

INTRODUCER: Education Committee and Senator Hukill and others

SUBJECT: High School Graduation Requirements

DATE: March 8, 2018

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 - 872419 (body with title)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 changes the title of the bill to “academic instruction,” and changes the personal financial literacy instructional component in the bill from a mandatory requirement for high school graduation to instead require a school district to provide students the opportunity to learn personal financial literacy through a one-half credit financial literacy course. The amendment maintains the required components of such financial literacy instruction, and requires the Florida Department of Education (DOE) to identify freely available assessments or certificates that enable students to demonstrate proficiency in personal financial literacy without taking the course.

This amendment also adds to the bill, provisions related to mastery-based education and computer science instruction. Specifically, the amendment:

- Renames the Competency-Based Education Pilot Program as the Mastery-Based Education Pilot Program (mastery-based pilot) and expands participation in the mastery-based pilot to all school districts. The amendment authorizes district school boards participating in the mastery-based pilot to determine and award credit based on student’s mastery of core content and skills and to use an alternative interpretation of letter grades to measure student success in grades 6-12. The amendment provides for alternate letter grade and credit system, and requires the statewide articulation agreement to ensure fair and equitable access for high school graduates with mastery-based, nontraditional diplomas and transcripts.

- Requires middle schools and high schools to offer computer science courses and to identify such courses in the Course Code Directory and publish on the DOE’s website by July 1, 2018. The amendment provides for a bonus, subject to legislative appropriation, for effective or highly effective teachers who meet specified criteria related to a computer science credential or certification. The amendment requires the DOE to award funding, subject to legislative appropriation, to a school district or a consortium of school districts to deliver or facilitate training for educators to earn an educator certificate in computer science or specified industry certification, or to pay fees for examinations that lead to a computer science credential.