

26 WHEREAS, educational support employees engage students,
 27 keeping them connected to the larger school community and
 28 emotionally and physically healthy and safe, and

29 WHEREAS, because educational support employees are vital to
 30 the success of Florida's students, it is in the state's best
 31 interests to provide funding to ensure that the state's public
 32 schools maintain adequate staffing levels for educational
 33 support employees, NOW, THEREFORE,

34

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

36

37 Section 1. Section 1012.411, Florida Statutes, is created
 38 to read:

39 1012.411 Critical employment shortages of educational
 40 support employees.-

41 (1) By April 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, each
 42 district school superintendent must compile a list of critical
 43 employment shortages of educational support employees as defined
 44 in s. 1012.40(1), including education paraprofessionals as
 45 defined in s. 1012.01(2)(e), aggregated by position, within the
 46 school district. For purposes of this section, the term
 47 "critical employment shortage" means that at least 20 percent of
 48 a specified position is vacant and unfilled within the school
 49 district.

50 (2) Subject to legislative appropriation, each school

HB 1017

2022

51 district must fund incentives to help recruit and retain
52 educational support employees for positions with a critical
53 employment shortage.

54 (3) By December 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, each
55 district school superintendent shall provide a report to the
56 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
57 Representatives that includes a list of positions with a
58 critical employment shortage and how the school district used
59 the funding under subsection (2) to implement the required
60 incentives.

61 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
62 1012.38, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

63 1012.38 Education paraprofessional career development.—

64 (1)(a) By July 1, 2023, and subject to legislative
65 appropriation, each school district shall ~~may~~ adopt and
66 implement a program for the career development of education
67 paraprofessionals. The purpose of the program is to provide to
68 education paraprofessionals a system of career development which
69 is based upon education and training advancement, and to furnish
70 economic incentives to encourage excellence among education
71 paraprofessionals.

72 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.