Amendment No. 2

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

| ADOPTED | $-(\mathrm{Y} / \mathrm{N})$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| ADOPTED AS AMENDED | $-(\mathrm{Y} / \mathrm{N})$ |
| ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION | $-(\mathrm{Y} / \mathrm{N})$ |
| FAILED TO ADOPT | $-(\mathrm{Y} / \mathrm{N})$ |
| WITHDRAWN | $-(\mathrm{Y} / \mathrm{N})$ |
| OTHER | - |

Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Appropriations Committee Representative Latvala offered the following:

## Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove lines 656-811 and insert:
4. A scholarship of $\$ 750$ or an amount equal to the school district expenditure per student riding a school bus, whichever is greater, may be awarded to a student who is determined eligible pursuant to subparagraph (3)(a)1. or subparagraph (3)(a)2. and enrolled in a Florida public school that is different from the school to which the student was assigned or in a lab school as defined in s. 1002.32 if the school district does not provide the student with transportation to the school.
5. Upon notification from the organization on July 1 , September 1, December 1, and February 1 that an application has been approved for the progxam, the department shall vexify that 087697 - h5101-line656-Latvala2.docx

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the student is not prohibited from receiving a scholarship pursuant to subscction (6). The organization must provide the department with the documentation necessary to verify the student's participation. Upon receiving the documentation verification, the department shall transfer, from state funds only, the amount calculated pursuant to subparagraph 2. to the organization for quarterly disbursement to parents of participating students each school year in which the scholarship is in force. For a student exiting a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program who chooses to participate in the scholarship program, the amount of the Family Empowerment Scholarship calculated pursuant to subparagraph 2. must be transferred from the school district in which the student last attended a public school before commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice. When a student enters the scholarship program, the organization must receive all documentation required for the student's participation, including the private school's and the student's fee schedules, at least 30 days before the first quarterly scholarship payment is made for the student.
6. The initial payment shall be made after the organization's verification of admission acceptance, and subsequent payments shall be made upon verification of continued enrollment and attendance at the private school. Payment must be by individual warrant made payable to the student's parent or by funds transfer or any other means of payment that the department 087697 - h5101-line656-Latvala2.docx

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deems to be commercially viable or cost-effective. If the payment is made by warrant, the warrant must be delivered by the organization to the private school of the parent's choice, and the parent shall restrictively endorse the warrant to the private school. An organization shall ensure that the parent to whom the warrant is made has restrictively endorsed the warrant to the private school for deposit into the account of the private school or that the parent has approved a funds transfer before any scholarship funds are deposited.
(b)1. Scholarships for students determined eligible pursuant to paragraph (3) (b) are established for up to 20,000 students annually beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, the maximum number of students participating in the scholarship program under this section shall annually increase by 1.0 percent of the state's total exceptional student education full-time equivalent student membership enfollment, not including gifted students. An eligible student who meets any of the following requirements shall be excluded from the maximum number of students if the student:
a. Received specialized instructional services under the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s. 1002.66 during the previous school year and the student has a current IEP developed by the district local school board in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education;

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b. Is a dependent child of a member of the United States Armed Forces, a foster child, or an adopted child;
c. Spent the prior school year in attendance at a Florida public school or the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "prior school year in attendance" means that the student was enrolled and reported by:
(I) A school district for funding during either the preceding October or February full-time equivalent student membership Florida Education Finance Program surveys in kindergarten through grade 12, which includes time spent in a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program if funded under the Florida Education Finance Program;
(II) The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind during the preceding October or February full-time equivalent student membership surveys in kindergarten through grade 12;
(III) A school district for funding during the preceding October or February full-time equivalent student membership Florida Education Finance Program surveys, was at least 4 years of age when enrolled and reported, and was eligible for services under s. 1003.21(1)(e); or
(IV) Received a John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities in the 2021-2022 school year.
2. For a student who has a Level I to Level III matrix of services or a diagnosis by a physician or psychologist, the 087697 - h5101-line656-Latvala2.docx

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calculated scholarship amount for a student participating in the program must be based upon the grade level and school district in which the student would have been enrolled as the total funds per unweighted full-time equivalent in the Florida Education Finance Program for a student in the basic exceptional student education program pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c)1. and (e)1.c., plus a per full-time equivalent share of funds for all categorical programs, as funded in the General Appropriations Act, except that for the exceptional student education guaranteed allocation, as provided in s. 1011.62(1)(e)1.c. and 2., the funds must be allocated based on the school district's average exceptional student education guaranteed allocation funds per exceptional student education full-time equivalent student.
3. For a student with a Level IV or Level $V$ matrix of services, the calculated scholarship amount must be based upon the school district to which the student would have been assigned as the total funds per full-time equivalent for the Level IV or Level V exceptional student education program pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c)2.a. or b., plus a per-full time equivalent share of funds for all categorical programs, as funded in the General Appropriations Act.
4. For a student who received a Gardiner Scholarship pursuant to s. 1002.385 in the 2020-2021 school year, the amount shall be the greater of the amount calculated pursuant to 087697 - h5101-line656-Latvala2.docx

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subparagraph 2. or the amount the student received for the 20202021 school year.
5. For a student who received a John M. McKay Scholarship pursuant to s. 1002.39 in the 2020-2021 school year, the amount shall be the greater of the amount calculated pursuant to subparagraph 2. or the amount the student received for the 20202021 school year.
6. Upon notification from an organization on July 1, September 1, December 1, and February 1 that an application has ben approved for the program, the department shall verify that the student is not prohibited from receiving a scholarship pursuant to substion (6). The organization must provide the department with the documentation necessary to verify the student's participation.
7. Upon receiving the documentation verification, the department shall release, from state funds only, the student's scholarship funds to the organization, to be deposited into the student's account in four equal amounts no later than September 1, November 1, February 1, and April 1 of each school year in which the scholarship is in force.
8. Accrued interest in the student's account is in addition to, and not part of, the awarded funds. Program funds include both the awarded funds and accrued interest.
9. The organization may develop a system for payment of benefits by funds transfer, including, but not limited to, debit 087697 - h5101-line656-Latvala2.docx

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cards, electronic payment cards, or any other means of payment which the department deems to be commercially viable or costeffective. A student's scholarship award may not be reduced for debit card or electronic payment fees. Commodities or services related to the development of such a system must be procured by competitive solicitation unless they are purchased from a state term contract pursuant to s. 287.056.
10. Moneys received pursuant to this section do not constitute taxable income to the qualified student or the parent of the qualified student.

Section 5. Paragraph (j) of subsection (6), paragraph (d) of subsection (9), and paragraph (a) of subsection (11) of section 1002.395, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
1002.395 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.-
(6) OBLIGATIONS OF ELIGIBLE NONPROFIT SCHOLARSHIP-FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS.-An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization:
(j)1. May use eligible contributions received pursuant to this section and ss. 212.099, 212.1832, and 1002.40 during the state fiscal year in which such contributions are collected for administrative expenses if the organization has operated as an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization for at least the preceding 3 fiscal years and did not have any findings of material weakness or material noncompliance in its most recent audit under paragraph (m). Administrative expenses from eligible 087697 - h5101-line656-Latvala2.docx

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contributions may not exceed 3 percent of the total amount of all scholarships funded by an eligible scholarship-funding organization under this chapter. Such administrative expenses must be reasonable and necessary for the organization's management and distribution of scholarships funded under this chapter. Administrative expenses may include developing or contracting with rideshare programs or facilitating carpool strategies for recipients of a transportation scholarship. No funds authorized under this subparagraph shall be used for lobbying or political activity or expenses related to lobbying or political activity. Up to one-third of the funds authorized for administrative expenses under this subparagraph may be used for expenses related to the recruitment of contributions from taxpayers. An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may not charge an application fee.
2. Must expend for annual or partial-year scholarships an amount equal to or greater than 75 percent of the net eligible contributions remaining after administrative expenses during the state fiscal year in which such contributions are collected. No more than 25 percent of such net eligible contributions may be carried forward to the following state fiscal year. All amounts carried forward, for audit purposes, must be specifically identified for particular students, by student name and the name of the school to which the student is admitted, subject to the requirements of ss. 1002.22 and 1002.221 and 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g, 087697 - h5101-line656-Latvala2.docx

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and the applicable rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto. Any amounts carried forward shall be expended for annual or partial-year scholarships in the following state fiscal year. No later than September 30 of each year, net eligible contributions remaining on June 30 of each year that are in excess of the 25 percent that may be carried forward shall be used to provide scholarships to eligible students or transferred to other eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations to provide scholarships for eligible students. All transferred funds must be deposited by each eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization receiving such funds into its scholarship account. All transferred amounts received by any eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization must be separately disclosed in the annual financial audit required under paragraph (m).
3. Must, before granting a scholarship for an academic year, document each scholarship student's eligibility for that academic year. A scholarship-funding organization may not grant multiyear scholarships in one approval process.

Information and documentation provided to the Department of Education and the Auditor General relating to the identity of a taxpayer that provides an eligible contribution under this section shall remain confidential at all times in accordance with s. 213.053.

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(9) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.-The Department of Education shall:
(d) Cross-check the list of participating scholarship students with the public school enrollment lists to avoid duplication and, when the Florida Education Finance Program is recalculated, adjust the amount of state funds allocated to school districts through the Florida Education Finance Program based upon the results of the cross-check.
(11) SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT AND PAYMENT.-
(a) The scholarship amount provided to any student for any single school year by an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization from eligible contributions shall be for total costs authorized under paragraph (6)(d), not to exceed annual limits, which shall be determined as follows:

1. For a student who received a scholarship in the 20182019 school year, who remains eligible, and who is enrolled in an eligible private school, the amount shall be the greater amount calculated pursuant to subparagraph 2. or a percentage of the unweighted FTE funding amount for the 2018-2019 state fiscal year and thereafter as follows:
a. Eighty-eight percent for a student enrolled in kindergarten through grade 5 .
b. Ninety-two percent for a student enrolled in grade 6 through grade 8.

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c. Ninety-six percent for a student enrolled in grade 9 through grade 12.
2. For students initially eligible in the 2019-2020 school year or thereafter, the calculated amount for a student to attend an eligible private school shall be calculated in accordance with s. 1002.394(12)(a).
3. The scholarship amount awarded to a student enrolled in a Florida public school in which a student is enrolled and that is different from the school to which the student was assigned or in a lab school as defined in s. 1002.32, must be an amount equal to the school district expenditure per student riding a school bus or is limited $\$ 750$, whichever is greater.

Section 6. Subsections (2) and (6) of section 1002.411, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
1002.411 Reading scholarship accounts.-
(2) ELIGIBILITY.-Contingent upon available funds, and on a first-come, first-served basis, each student in grades 3 through 5 who is enrolled in a Florida public school in kindergarten through grade 5 is eligible for a reading scholarship account if the student has a substantial reading deficiency identified under s. 1008.25(5)(a) or scored below a Level 3 on the grade 3 or grade 4 statewide, standardized English Language Arts (ELA) assessment in the prior school year. An eligible student who is classified as an English Language Learner and is enrolled in a program or receiving services that are specifically designed to 087697 - h5101-line656-Latvala2.docx

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> COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT Bill NO. HB $5101 \quad(2022)$

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meet the instructional needs of English Language Learner students shall receive priority.
(6) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS; PARENTAL OPTIONS.-
(a) By September 30, the school district shall notify the parent of each student in kindergarten grades 3 through grade 5 who has a substantial reading deficiency identified under s. 1008.25(5)(a) or scored below a level 3 on the statewide, standardized ELA assessment in the prior school year of the process to request and receive a reading scholarship, subject to available funds.
(b) A school district may not prohibit instructional personnel from providing services pursuant to this section on the instructional personnel's school campus outside regular work hours.

Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) and paragraph (d) of subsection (4) of section 1003.485, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
1003.485 The New Worlds Reading Initiative.-
(2) NEW WORLDS READING INITIATIVE; ADMINISTRATION.-The New Worlds Reading Initiative is established under the department to improve literacy skills and instill a love of reading by providing high-quality, free books to students in kindergarten through grade 5 who are reading below grade level.
(b) The administrator shall:

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1. Develop, in consultation with the Just Read, Florida! Office under s. 1001.215, a selection of high-quality books encompassing diverse subjects and genres for each grade level to be mailed to students in the initiative.
2. Distribute books at no cost to students as provided in paragraph (4)(c) either directly or through an agreement with a book distribution company.
3. Assist local implementation of the initiative by providing marketing materials to school districts and any partnering nonprofit organizations to assist with public awareness campaigns and other activities designed to increase family engagement and instill a love of reading in students.
4. Maintain a clearinghouse for information on national, state, and local nonprofit organizations that support efforts to improve literacy and provide books to children.
5. Develop training materials for parents of students in the initiative, including brief video training modules, which engage families in reading and assist with improving student literacy skills. The administrator shall periodically send, via text message and e-mail, tips for facilitating reading at home and hyperlinks to the video training modules.
6. Provide to teachers professional development and resources that correlate with the books provided through the initiative.

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7.6. Annually submit to the department an annual financial report that includes, at a minimum, the amount of eligible contributions received by the administrator; the amount spent on each activity required by this paragraph, including administrative expenses; and the number of students and households served under the initiative.
8.7. Maintain separate accounts for operating funds and funds for the purchase and delivery of books.
9.8. Expend eligible contributions received only for the purchase and delivery of books and to implement the requirements of this section, as well as for administrative expenses not to exceed 2 percent of total eligible contributions.

Notwithstanding s. 1002.395(6)(j)2., the administrator may carry forward up to 25 percent of eligible contributions to the following state fiscal year for purposes authorized by this subsection. Any eligible contributions in excess of the 25 percent carry forward not used to provide additional books throughout the year to eligible students shall revert to the state treasury.
10.9. Upon receipt of a contribution, provide the taxpayer that made the contribution with a certificate of contribution. A certificate of contribution must include the taxpayer's name and, if available, its federal employer identification number; the amount contributed; the date of contribution; and the name of the administrator.

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(4) ELIGIBILITY; NOTIFICATION; SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS.-
(d) Upon enrollment and at the beginning of each school year, students must be provided options for specific book topics or genres in order to maximize student interest in reading.

Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 1006.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
1006.22 Safety and health of students being transported.Maximum regard for safety and adequate protection of health are primary requirements that must be observed by district school boards in routing buses, appointing drivers, and providing and operating equipment, in accordance with all requirements of law and rules of the State Board of Education in providing transportation pursuant to s. 1006.21:
(1)(a) District school boards shall use school buses, as defined in s. 1006.25, for all regular transportation. Regular transportation or regular use means transportation of students to and from school or school-related activities that are part of a scheduled series or sequence of events to the same location. "Students" means, for the purposes of this section, students enrolled in the public schools in prekindergarten disability programs and in kindergarten through grade 12. District school boards may regularly use motor vehicles other than school buses only under the following conditions:

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1. When the transportation is for physically handicapped or isolated students and the district school board has elected to provide for the transportation of the student through written or oral contracts or agreements.
2. When the transportation is a part of a comprehensive contract for a specialized educational program between a district school board and a service provider who provides instruction, transportation, and other services.
3. When the transportation is provided through a public transit system.
4. When the transportation is for trips to and from school sites or agricultural education sites or for trips to and from agricultural education-related events or competitions, but is not for customary transportation between a student's residence and such sites.
5. When the transportation is for trips to and from school sites to allow students to participate in controlled open enrollment a carecr education program that is not offered at the high school in which such students are enrolled but is not for customary transportation between a student's residence and such sites.
(b) When the transportation of students is provided, as authorized in this subsection, in a vehicle other than a school bus that is owned, operated, rented, contracted, or leased by a

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school district or charter school, the following provisions shall apply:

1. The vehicle must be a passenger car or multipurpose passenger vehicle or truck, as defined in 49 C.F.R. part 571, designed to transport no more than 10 students. Students must be transported in designated seating positions and must use the occupant crash protection system provided by the manufacturer unless the student's physical condition prohibits such use.
2. An authorized vehicle may not be driven by a student on a public right-of-way. An authorized vehicle may be driven by a student on school or private property as part of the student's educational curriculum if no other student is in the vehicle.
3. The driver of an authorized vehicle transporting students must maintain a valid driver license and must comply with the requirements of the school district's locally adopted safe driver plan, which includes review of driving records for disqualifying violations.
4. The district school board or charter school must adopt a policy that addresses procedures and liability for trips under this paragraph, including a provision that school buses are to be used whenever practical and specifying consequences for violation of the policy.

Section 9. Subsection (3) is added to section 1006.27, Florida Statutes, to read:

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1006.27 Pooling of school buses and related purchases by district school boards; transportation services contracts.-
(3) The department shall develop a grant program to improve access to reliable and safe transportation for students who attend school through controlled open enrollment and to support innovative solutions that increase the efficiency of public school transportation.
(a) Grant proposals may include:

1. Transportation resource planning and sharing among school districts and local governments.
2. Developing or contracting with rideshare programs or developing carpool strategies.
3. Developing options to reduce costs and increase efficiencies while improving access to transportation options for families.
4. Developing options to address personnel challenges.
5. Expanding the use of transportation funds under ss. 1002.394, 1002.395, and 1011.68 to help cover the cost of transporting students to and from school.
(b) The department shall publish on its website, by December 31, 2023, an interim report and by December 31, 2024, a final report that includes:
6. The best practices used by grant recipients to increase transportation options for students, including any transportation barriers addressed by grant recipients.
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2. The number of students served by grant recipients including the number of students transported to a school that is different from the school to which the student is assigned.

Section 10. Subsection (5) of section 1011.68, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
1011.68 Funds for student transportation.-The annual allocation to each district for transportation to public school programs, including charter schools as provided in s. 1002.33(17)(b), of students in membership in kindergarten through grade 12 and in migrant and exceptional student programs below kindergarten shall be determined as follows:
(5) Funds allocated or apportioned for the payment of student transportation services may be used to pay for transportation of students to and from school on local general purpose transportation systems. Student transportation funds may also be used to pay for transportation of students to and from school in private passenger cars and boats when the transportation on a school bus is impractical or when the transportation is for isolated students, or students with disabilities, or to support parents or carpools, as defined by rule. Subject to the rules of the State Board of Education, each school district shall determine and report the number of assigned students using general purpose transportation private passenger cars and boats. The allocation per student must be equal to the allocation per student riding a school bus.

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## TITLEAMENDMENT

Remove lines 19-22 and insert:
the scholarship amount for students enrolled in certain public schools or lab schools; revising terminology; amending s. 1002.395, F.S.; revising duties of the department under the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program; authorizing administrative expenses to include certain contracts and strategies relating to the transportation of students; revising the scholarship amount for students enrolled in certain public schools or lab schools; amending s. 1002.411, F.S.; revising student eligibility requirements for reading scholarship accounts; providing that a school district may not prohibit instructional personnel from providing services during specified time periods; amending s. 1003.485, F.S.; requiring the administrator of the New Worlds Reading Initiative to provide specified professional development and resources to teachers; requiring students be provided with specified options upon enrollment; amending s. 1006.22, F.S.; revising the requirements for the use of motor vehicles other than school buses for the transportation of students;

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amending s. 1006.27, F.S.; requiring the department to
develop a grant program for specified purposes
relating to the transportation of students; providing
requirements for the program; requiring the department
to publish on its website an interim and final report
by specified dates; providing requirements for such
reports; amending s. 1011.68, F.S.; revising the
requirements for specified student transportation
funds to be used to pay for transportation in
specified vehicles; amending s. 1002.40, F.S.;
revising Department of Education duties under the Hope
Scholarship Program; amending s.
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