Bill No. HB 5101 (2022)

Amendment No. 2

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE	ACTION
ADOPTED	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	(Y/N)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 <u>or an amount equal to the school</u> <u>district expenditure per student riding a school bus, whichever</u> <u>is greater, may be awarded to a student who is determined</u> 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.

14 5. Upon notification from the organization on July 1, 15 September 1, December 1, and February 1 that an application has 16 been approved for the program, the department shall verify that 087697 - h5101-line656-Latvala2.docx

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17 the student is not prohibited from receiving a scholarship 18 pursuant to subsection (6). The organization must provide the 19 department with the documentation necessary to verify the 20 student's participation. Upon receiving the documentation 21 verification, the department shall transfer, from state funds 22 only, the amount calculated pursuant to subparagraph 2. to the 23 organization for quarterly disbursement to parents of participating students each school year in which the scholarship 24 25 is in force. For a student exiting a Department of Juvenile 26 Justice commitment program who chooses to participate in the scholarship program, the amount of the Family Empowerment 27 28 Scholarship calculated pursuant to subparagraph 2. must be 29 transferred from the school district in which the student last 30 attended a public school before commitment to the Department of 31 Juvenile Justice. When a student enters the scholarship program, 32 the organization must receive all documentation required for the student's participation, including the private school's and the 33 student's fee schedules, at least 30 days before the first 34 35 quarterly scholarship payment is made for the student.

36 6. The initial payment shall be made after the 37 organization's verification of admission acceptance, and 38 subsequent payments shall be made upon verification of continued 39 enrollment and attendance at the private school. Payment must be 40 by individual warrant made payable to the student's parent or by 41 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 42 43 payment is made by warrant, the warrant must be delivered by the 44 organization to the private school of the parent's choice, and 45 the parent shall restrictively endorse the warrant to the 46 private school. An organization shall ensure that the parent to 47 whom the warrant is made has restrictively endorsed the warrant 48 to the private school for deposit into the account of the private school or that the parent has approved a funds transfer 49 50 before any scholarship funds are deposited.

51 Scholarships for students determined eligible (b)1. 52 pursuant to paragraph (3) (b) are established for up to 20,000 53 students annually beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. 54 Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, the maximum number of 55 students participating in the scholarship program under this 56 section shall annually increase by 1.0 percent of the state's 57 total exceptional student education full-time equivalent student 58 membership enrollment, not including gifted students. An 59 eligible student who meets any of the following requirements 60 shall be excluded from the maximum number of students if the 61 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 <u>district</u> local school board in
accordance with rules of the State Board of Education;

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67 Is a dependent child of a member of the United States b. 68 Armed Forces, a foster child, or an adopted child; 69 Spent the prior school year in attendance at a Florida с. 70 public school or the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. 71 For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "prior school year 72 in attendance" means that the student was enrolled and reported 73 by: 74 A school district for funding during either the (I) 75 preceding October or February full-time equivalent student 76 membership Florida Education Finance Program surveys in 77 kindergarten through grade 12, which includes time spent in a 78 Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program if funded 79 under the Florida Education Finance Program; 80 (II)The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind during 81 the preceding October or February full-time equivalent student 82 membership surveys in kindergarten through grade 12; 83 A school district for funding during the preceding (III) 84 October or February full-time equivalent student membership 85 Florida Education Finance Program surveys, was at least 4 years 86 of age when enrolled and reported, and was eligible for services under s. 1003.21(1)(e); or 87 (IV) Received a John M. McKay Scholarship for Students 88 89 with Disabilities in the 2021-2022 school year. For a student who has a Level I to Level III matrix of 90 2. 91 services or a diagnosis by a physician or psychologist, the

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92 calculated scholarship amount for a student participating in the 93 program must be based upon the grade level and school district 94 in which the student would have been enrolled as the total funds 95 per unweighted full-time equivalent in the Florida Education 96 Finance Program for a student in the basic exceptional student 97 education program pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c)1. and (e)1.c., 98 plus a per full-time equivalent share of funds for all 99 categorical programs, as funded in the General Appropriations 100 Act, except that for the exceptional student education 101 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 102 103 average exceptional student education guaranteed allocation 104 funds per exceptional student education full-time equivalent 105 student.

106 3. For a student with a Level IV or Level V matrix of 107 services, the calculated scholarship amount must be based upon 108 the school district to which the student would have been 109 assigned as the total funds per full-time equivalent for the Level IV or Level V exceptional student education program 110 111 pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c)2.a. or b., plus a per-full time 112 equivalent share of funds for all categorical programs, as funded in the General Appropriations Act. 113

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

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117 subparagraph 2. or the amount the student received for the 2020-118 2021 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 2020-2021 school year.

6. Upon notification from an organization on July 1, September 1, December 1, and February 1 that an application has been approved for the program, the department shall verify that the student is not prohibited from receiving a scholarship pursuant to subsection (6). The organization must provide the department with the documentation necessary to verify the student's participation.

131 7. Upon receiving the documentation verification, the 132 department shall release, from state funds only, the student's 133 scholarship funds to the organization, to be deposited into the 134 student's account in four equal amounts no later than September 135 1, November 1, February 1, and April 1 of each school year in 136 which the scholarship is in force.

137 8. Accrued interest in the student's account is in
138 addition to, and not part of, the awarded funds. Program funds
139 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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142 cards, electronic payment cards, or any other means of payment 143 which the department deems to be commercially viable or cost-144 effective. A student's scholarship award may not be reduced for 145 debit card or electronic payment fees. Commodities or services 146 related to the development of such a system must be procured by 147 competitive solicitation unless they are purchased from a state 148 term contract pursuant to s. 287.056.

149 10. Moneys received pursuant to this section do not 150 constitute taxable income to the qualified student or the parent 151 of the qualified student.

152 Section 5. Paragraph (j) of subsection (6), paragraph (d) 153 of subsection (9), and paragraph (a) of subsection (11) of 154 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:

159 (j)1. May use eligible contributions received pursuant to 160 this section and ss. 212.099, 212.1832, and 1002.40 during the state fiscal year in which such contributions are collected for 161 162 administrative expenses if the organization has operated as an 163 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization for at least 164 the preceding 3 fiscal years and did not have any findings of 165 material weakness or material noncompliance in its most recent audit under paragraph (m). Administrative expenses from eligible 166 087697 - h5101-line656-Latvala2.docx

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167 contributions may not exceed 3 percent of the total amount of all scholarships funded by an eligible scholarship-funding 168 169 organization under this chapter. Such administrative expenses 170 must be reasonable and necessary for the organization's 171 management and distribution of scholarships funded under this 172 chapter. Administrative expenses may include developing or 173 contracting with rideshare programs or facilitating carpool 174 strategies for recipients of a transportation scholarship. No 175 funds authorized under this subparagraph shall be used for 176 lobbying or political activity or expenses related to lobbying or political activity. Up to one-third of the funds authorized 177 178 for administrative expenses under this subparagraph may be used 179 for expenses related to the recruitment of contributions from 180 taxpayers. An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding 181 organization may not charge an application fee.

182 2. Must expend for annual or partial-year scholarships an 183 amount equal to or greater than 75 percent of the net eligible contributions remaining after administrative expenses during the 184 185 state fiscal year in which such contributions are collected. No 186 more than 25 percent of such net eligible contributions may be carried forward to the following state fiscal year. All amounts 187 carried forward, for audit purposes, must be specifically 188 189 identified for particular students, by student name and the name 190 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. 1232q, 191

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192 and the applicable rules and regulations issued pursuant 193 thereto. Any amounts carried forward shall be expended for 194 annual or partial-year scholarships in the following state 195 fiscal year. No later than September 30 of each year, net 196 eligible contributions remaining on June 30 of each year that 197 are in excess of the 25 percent that may be carried forward 198 shall be used to provide scholarships to eligible students or 199 transferred to other eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding 200 organizations to provide scholarships for eligible students. All 201 transferred funds must be deposited by each eligible nonprofit 202 scholarship-funding organization receiving such funds into its 203 scholarship account. All transferred amounts received by any 204 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization must be 205 separately disclosed in the annual financial audit required 206 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.

212 Information and documentation provided to the Department of 213 Education and the Auditor General relating to the identity of a 214 taxpayer that provides an eligible contribution under this 215 section shall remain confidential at all times in accordance 216 with s. 213.053.

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217 (9) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS. - The Department of 218 Education shall: 219 (d) Cross-check the list of participating scholarship students with the public school enrollment lists to avoid 220 221 duplication and, when the Florida Education Finance Program is 222 recalculated, adjust the amount of state funds allocated to school districts through the Florida Education Finance Program 223 224 based upon the results of the cross-check. 225 (11)SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT AND PAYMENT.-226 The scholarship amount provided to any student for any (a) 227 single school year by an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding 228 organization from eligible contributions shall be for total 229 costs authorized under paragraph (6)(d), not to exceed annual 230 limits, which shall be determined as follows: 231 1. For a student who received a scholarship in the 2018-232 2019 school year, who remains eligible, and who is enrolled in 233 an eligible private school, the amount shall be the greater 234 amount calculated pursuant to subparagraph 2. or a percentage of 235 the unweighted FTE funding amount for the 2018-2019 state fiscal year and thereafter as follows: 236 237 Eighty-eight percent for a student enrolled in a. 238 kindergarten through grade 5. 239 b. Ninety-two percent for a student enrolled in grade 6 240 through grade 8. 087697 - h5101-line656-Latvala2.docx

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241 Ninety-six percent for a student enrolled in grade 9 с. 242 through grade 12. 243 2. For students initially eligible in the 2019-2020 school 244 year or thereafter, the calculated amount for a student to 245 attend an eligible private school shall be calculated in accordance with s. 1002.394(12)(a). 246 247 3. The scholarship amount awarded to a student enrolled in 248 a Florida public school in which a student is enrolled and that 249 is different from the school to which the student was assigned 250 or in a lab school as defined in s. 1002.32, must be an amount 251 equal to the school district expenditure per student riding a 252 school bus or is limited to \$750, whichever is greater. 253 Section 6. Subsections (2) and (6) of section 1002.411, 254 Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 255 1002.411 Reading scholarship accounts.-256 (2) ELIGIBILITY.-Contingent upon available funds, and on a 257 first-come, first-served basis, each student in grades 3 through 258 5 who is enrolled in a Florida public school in kindergarten 259 through grade 5 is eligible for a reading scholarship account if the student has a substantial reading deficiency identified 260 261 under s. 1008.25(5)(a) or scored below a Level 3 on the grade 3 262 or grade 4 statewide, standardized English Language Arts (ELA) 263 assessment in the prior school year. An eligible student who is 264 classified as an English Language Learner and is enrolled in a 265 program or receiving services that are specifically designed to 087697 - h5101-line656-Latvala2.docx Published On: 2/8/2022 7:02:12 PM

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266 meet the instructional needs of English Language Learner 267 students shall receive priority.

268

(6) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS; PARENTAL OPTIONS. -

269 (a) By September 30, the school district shall notify the 270 parent of each student in <u>kindergarten</u> grades 3 through grade 5 271 who <u>has a substantial reading deficiency identified under s.</u> 272 <u>1008.25(5)(a) or</u> scored below a level 3 on the statewide, 273 standardized ELA assessment in the prior school year of the 274 process to request and receive a reading scholarship, subject to 275 available funds.

276 (b) A school district may not prohibit instructional 277 personnel from providing services pursuant to this section on 278 the instructional personnel's school campus outside regular work 279 hours.

280 Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) and paragraph 281 (d) of subsection (4) of section 1003.485, Florida Statutes, are 282 amended to read:

283

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.

289

(b) The administrator shall:

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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.

294 2. Distribute books at no cost to students as provided in 295 paragraph (4)(c) either directly or through an agreement with a 296 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.

302 4. Maintain a clearinghouse for information on national,
303 state, and local nonprofit organizations that support efforts to
304 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.

311 <u>6. Provide to teachers professional development and</u> 312 <u>resources that correlate with the books provided through the</u> 313 initiative.

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314 <u>7.6.</u> Annually submit to the department an annual financial 315 report that includes, at a minimum, the amount of eligible 316 contributions received by the administrator; the amount spent on 317 each activity required by this paragraph, including 318 administrative expenses; and the number of students and 319 households served under the initiative.

320 <u>8.7.</u> Maintain separate accounts for operating funds and
 321 funds for the purchase and delivery of books.

322 9.8. Expend eligible contributions received only for the 323 purchase and delivery of books and to implement the requirements 324 of this section, as well as for administrative expenses not to 325 exceed 2 percent of total eligible contributions. 326 Notwithstanding s. 1002.395(6)(j)2., the administrator may carry 327 forward up to 25 percent of eligible contributions to the 328 following state fiscal year for purposes authorized by this 329 subsection. Any eligible contributions in excess of the 25 330 percent carry forward not used to provide additional books 331 throughout the year to eligible students shall revert to the 332 state treasury.

333 <u>10.9.</u> Upon receipt of a contribution, provide the taxpayer 334 that made the contribution with a certificate of contribution. A 335 certificate of contribution must include the taxpayer's name 336 and, if available, its federal employer identification number; 337 the amount contributed; the date of contribution; and the name 338 of the administrator.

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339 (4) ELIGIBILITY; NOTIFICATION; SCHOOL DISTRICT 340 OBLIGATIONS.-341 (d) Upon enrollment and at the beginning of each school 342 year, students must be provided options for specific book topics

or genres in order to maximize student interest in reading. 344 Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 1006.22, Florida 345 Statutes, is amended to read:

346 1006.22 Safety and health of students being transported.-347 Maximum regard for safety and adequate protection of health are 348 primary requirements that must be observed by district school 349 boards in routing buses, appointing drivers, and providing and 350 operating equipment, in accordance with all requirements of law 351 and rules of the State Board of Education in providing 352 transportation pursuant to s. 1006.21:

353 (1) (a) District school boards shall use school buses, as 354 defined in s. 1006.25, for all regular transportation. Regular 355 transportation or regular use means transportation of students 356 to and from school or school-related activities that are part of 357 a scheduled series or sequence of events to the same location. 358 "Students" means, for the purposes of this section, students 359 enrolled in the public schools in prekindergarten disability 360 programs and in kindergarten through grade 12. District school 361 boards may regularly use motor vehicles other than school buses 362 only under the following conditions:

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363 1. When the transportation is for physically handicapped 364 or isolated students and the district school board has elected 365 to provide for the transportation of the student through written 366 or oral contracts or agreements.

367 2. When the transportation is a part of a comprehensive 368 contract for a specialized educational program between a 369 district school board and a service provider who provides 370 instruction, transportation, and other services.

371 3. When the transportation is provided through a public372 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 <u>controlled open</u> <u>enrollment</u> a career 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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387 school district or charter school, the following provisions 388 shall apply:

389 1. The vehicle must be a passenger car or multipurpose 390 passenger vehicle or truck, as defined in 49 C.F.R. part 571, 391 designed to transport <u>no more fewer</u> than 10 students. Students 392 must be transported in designated seating positions and must use 393 the occupant crash protection system provided by the 394 manufacturer unless the student's physical condition prohibits 395 such use.

396 2. An authorized vehicle may not be driven by a student on 397 a public right-of-way. An authorized vehicle may be driven by a 398 student on school or private property as part of the student's 399 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.

405 4. The district school board or charter school must adopt 406 a policy that addresses procedures and liability for trips under 407 this paragraph, including a provision that school buses are to 408 be used whenever practical and specifying consequences for 409 violation of the policy.

410 Section 9. Subsection (3) is added to section 1006.27, 411 Florida Statutes, to read:

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412	1006.27 Pooling of school buses and related purchases by	
413	district school boards; transportation services contracts	
414	(3) The department shall develop a grant program to	
415	improve access to reliable and safe transportation for students	
416	who attend school through controlled open enrollment and to	
417	support innovative solutions that increase the efficiency of	
418	public school transportation.	
419	(a) Grant proposals may include:	
420	1. Transportation resource planning and sharing among	
421	school districts and local governments.	
422	2. Developing or contracting with rideshare programs or	
423	developing carpool strategies.	
424	3. Developing options to reduce costs and increase	
425	efficiencies while improving access to transportation options	
426	for families.	
427	4. Developing options to address personnel challenges.	
428	5. Expanding the use of transportation funds under ss.	
429	1002.394, 1002.395, and 1011.68 to help cover the cost of	
430	transporting students to and from school.	
431	(b) The department shall publish on its website, by	
432	December 31, 2023, an interim report and by December 31, 2024, a	
433	final report that includes:	
434	1. The best practices used by grant recipients to increase	
435	transportation options for students, including any	
436	transportation barriers addressed by grant recipients.	
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437 2. The number of students served by grant recipients including the number of students transported to a school that is 438 439 different from the school to which the student is assigned. 440 Section 10. Subsection (5) of section 1011.68, Florida 441 Statutes, is amended to read: 442 1011.68 Funds for student transportation.-The annual 443 allocation to each district for transportation to public school 444 programs, including charter schools as provided in s. 445 1002.33(17)(b), of students in membership in kindergarten 446 through grade 12 and in migrant and exceptional student programs 447 below kindergarten shall be determined as follows: 448 Funds allocated or apportioned for the payment of (5) 449 student transportation services may be used to pay for transportation of students to and from school on local general 450 451 purpose transportation systems. Student transportation funds may 452 also be used to pay for transportation of students to and from 453 school in private passenger cars and boats when the 454 transportation on a school bus is impractical or when the 455 transportation is for isolated students τ or students with 456 disabilities, or to support parents or carpools, as defined by rule. Subject to the rules of the State Board of Education, each 457 458 school district shall determine and report the number of 459 assigned students using general purpose transportation private 460 passenger cars and boats. The allocation per student must be equal to the allocation per student riding a school bus. 461 087697 - h5101-line656-Latvala2.docx Published On: 2/8/2022 7:02:12 PM

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463		
464		TITLE AMENDMENT
465		Remove lines 19-22 and insert:
466		the scholarship amount for students enrolled in
467		certain public schools or lab schools; revising
468		terminology; amending s. 1002.395, F.S.; revising
469		duties of the department under the Florida Tax Credit
470		Scholarship Program; authorizing administrative
471		expenses to include certain contracts and strategies
472		relating to the transportation of students; revising
473		the scholarship amount for students enrolled in
474		certain public schools or lab schools; amending s.
475		1002.411, F.S.; revising student eligibility
476		requirements for reading scholarship accounts;
477		providing that a school district may not prohibit
478		instructional personnel from providing services during
479		specified time periods; amending s. 1003.485, F.S.;
480		requiring the administrator of the New Worlds Reading
481		Initiative to provide specified professional
482		development and resources to teachers; requiring
483		students be provided with specified options upon
484		enrollment; amending s. 1006.22, F.S.; revising the
485		requirements for the use of motor vehicles other than
486		school buses for the transportation of students;
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487	amending s. 1006.27, F.S.; requiring the department to
488	develop a grant program for specified purposes
489	relating to the transportation of students; providing
490	requirements for the program; requiring the department
491	to publish on its website an interim and final report
492	by specified dates; providing requirements for such
493	reports; amending s. 1011.68, F.S.; revising the
494	requirements for specified student transportation
495	funds to be used to pay for transportation in
496	specified vehicles; amending s. 1002.40, F.S.;
497	revising Department of Education duties under the Hope
498	Scholarship Program; amending s.

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