

The Florida Senate
HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education Pre-K -12

[2024s07002.hms.ed]

BILL: CS/SB 7002

INTRODUCER: Fiscal Policy Committee; Education Pre-K - 12 Committee; and Senators Hutson and Osgood

SUBJECT: Deregulation of Public Schools/School District Finance and Budgets, Facilities, and Administration and Oversight

DATE: February 28, 2024

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment – 568137 (body with title)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment – 568137 removes from the Senate bill those provisions that:

- Standardize school board rulemaking procedures with local procedural requirements instead of the requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act.
- Clarify State Board of Education (SBE) rulemaking authority.
- Require the Department of Education (DOE) to provide guidance on the interpretation of statutory compliance by school boards.
- Repeal requirement for employment of an internal financial auditor for large districts.
- Repeal requirement for financial reports in student handbooks.
- Repeal requirements to share unused district school board property with charter schools.
- Remove specified compliance plans for districts exceeding class size limits.
- Clarify that online service providers are bound by Florida online safety law, which does not require that school boards include any specific legal provision in contracts with online service providers.
- Require the DOE to communicate directly with charter schools instead of district school boards about charter school financial reports.
- Include in requirements for short-term leases ancillary plants and auxiliary facilities.
- Repeal the requirement for school board budget graphical representations.
- Modify requirements related to make-up days resulting from an emergency.
- Authorize school districts to prioritize Title 1 expenditures for communities with the highest percentage of low income families and to use the funds for recruitment and retention of qualified teachers.
- Authorize school boards to use capital outlay millage revenue on various additional types of plant facilities.
- Expand the use of revenue from sale or lease of district school board airspace.
- Remove requirements related to the development of local facilities plans.
- Remove minimum timeframes for facility lease terms.

- Repeal the requirement to employ an architect on projects over \$50,000.

The House amendment modifies provisions in the Senate bill that:

- Restore the cap that was removed in the bill on expenditures from insurance and vehicles from capital outlay millage revenue, but increases the cap from \$175 to \$200 per full-time equivalent student.
- Restore a prohibition on district purchases of transportation materials removed in the bill, but provides a process to request flexibility from the DOE.
- Restore cost per student station limits that were removed in the bill, but suspends them until 2028.
- Restore the cap on day labor contracts per project, but increases the cap from \$280,000 per project to \$600,000.

The House amendment adds to the Senate bill the following provisions from CS/SB 7000, which:

- Require the SBE to develop strategies to improve critical teacher shortage areas.
- Authorize consideration of advanced degrees in determining salary adjustments.
- Provide that collective bargaining may not prevent a school board from its legal duties.
- Modify the personnel that may be assigned to a low-performing school by defining what constitutes an inexperienced teacher.
- Authorize the SAT, ACT, or CLT test to satisfy the General Knowledge exam requirement for professional teacher certification.
- Provide certification and exam fee waivers for certain exceptional student education teachers.
- Authorize the Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation to develop a professional learning system.

The House amendment does not include the following provisions that were included in CS/SB 7000, which:

- Repeal requirements between grandfathered and performance salary schedules and for longevity.
- Establish a 10-year professional certificate subject to specified eligibility criteria.
- Establish a discretionary multiyear personnel contract subject to specified eligibility and timeframes.
- Require a union representative to appear before the SBE if the superintendent is called to explain an impasse.
- Provide a school district greater authority over district personnel evaluation systems.
- Remove specified occupational requirements for hiring career education teachers.
- Expand eligibility for individuals to enter teacher apprenticeship programs.
- Authorize local school boards to issue temporary teaching certificates.

The House amendment also adds to the Senate bill a provision clarifying that certain requirements for teacher candidates must be completed prior to participating in field experiences.