Bill No. HB 1115 (2025)

Amendment No. 1

| 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| WITHDRAWN | (Y/N) |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 | |

| 1 | Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Education Administration |
|----|---|
| 2 | Subcommittee |
| 3 | Representative Valdés offered the following: |
| 4 | |
| 5 | Amendment (with directory and title amendments) |
| 6 | Remove lines 305-596 and insert: |
| 7 | (e) "Sponsoring entity" has the same meaning as in s. |
| 8 | 1002.33(5), provided that a state university and Florida College |
| 9 | System institution has been approved by the Department of |
| 10 | Education and has solicited applications and accepted a notice |
| 11 | of intent for a school of hope. |
| 12 | (4) ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOLS OF HOPEA hope operator |
| 13 | seeking to open a school of hope must submit a notice of intent |
| 14 | to <u>the sponsoring entity to operate a school of hope in a</u> the |
| 15 | school district in which a persistently low-performing school |
| 16 | has been identified by the State Board of Education pursuant to |
| | 201631 – h1115-lines305-596-Valdés1.docx |
| | Published On: 3/26/2025 5:31:48 PM |

Page 1 of 7

Bill No. HB 1115 (2025)

Amendment No. 1

17 subsection (10) or in which a Florida Opportunity Zone is 18 located. 19 (a) The notice of intent must include: 1. An academic focus and plan. 20 21 2. A financial plan. Goals and objectives for increasing student achievement 22 3. for the students from low-income families. 23 4. A completed or planned community outreach plan. 24 25 The organizational history of success in working with 5. 26 students with similar demographics. 27 The grade levels to be served and enrollment 6. 28 projections. 29 The proposed location or geographic area proposed for 7. the school consistent with the requirements of sub-subparagraphs 30 (1) (d) 1.a. and b. 31 32 8. A staffing plan. 33 Notwithstanding the requirements of s. 1002.33, a (b) 34 sponsoring entity school district shall enter into a 35 performance-based agreement with a hope operator to open schools 36 to serve students from persistently low-performing schools and 37 students residing in a Florida Opportunity Zone. 38 (5) PERFORMANCE-BASED AGREEMENT. - The following shall comprise the entirety of the performance-based agreement: 39 40 A requirement that any arrangement entered into to (k) borrow or otherwise secure funds for the school of hope from a 41 201631 - h1115-lines305-596-Valdés1.docx Published On: 3/26/2025 5:31:48 PM

Page 2 of 7

Bill No. HB 1115 (2025)

Amendment No. 1

42 source other than the state or a <u>sponsoring entity</u> school 43 district shall indemnify the state and the <u>sponsoring entity</u> 44 school district from any and all liability, including, but not 45 limited to, financial responsibility for the payment of the 46 principal or interest.

47 (1) A provision that any loans, bonds, or other financial
48 agreements are not obligations of the state or the <u>sponsoring</u>
49 <u>entity school district</u> but are obligations of the school of hope
50 and are payable solely from the sources of funds pledged by such
51 agreement.

52 (m) A prohibition on the pledge of credit or taxing power 53 of the state or the sponsoring entity school district.

54

(6) STATUTORY AUTHORITY.-

A school of hope or a nonprofit entity that operates 55 (a) 56 more than one school of hope through a performance-based 57 agreement with a sponsoring entity school district may be 58 designated as a local education agency by the department, if 59 requested, for the purposes of receiving federal funds and, in 60 doing so, accepts the full responsibility for all local 61 education agency requirements and the schools for which it will 62 perform local education agency responsibilities.

A nonprofit entity designated as a local education
agency may report its students to the department in accordance
with the definitions in s. 1011.61 and pursuant to the
department's procedures and timelines.

201631 - h1115-lines305-596-Valdés1.docx

Published On: 3/26/2025 5:31:48 PM

Page 3 of 7

Bill No. HB 1115 (2025)

Amendment No. 1

67 2. Students enrolled in a school established by a hope
68 operator designated as a local educational agency are not
69 eligible students for purposes of calculating the district grade
70 pursuant to s. 1008.34(5).

71 (h)1. A school of hope shall provide the sponsoring entity 72 school district with a concise, uniform, quarterly financial statement summary sheet that contains a balance sheet and a 73 statement of revenue, expenditures, and changes in fund balance. 74 75 The balance sheet and the statement of revenue, expenditures, 76 and changes in fund balance shall be in the governmental fund 77 format prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards 78 Board. Additionally, a school of hope shall comply with the 79 annual audit requirement for charter schools in s. 218.39.

2. A school of hope is in compliance with subparagraph 1.
if it is operated by a nonprofit entity designated as a local
education agency and if the nonprofit submits to <u>the sponsoring</u>
entity each school district in which it operates a school of
hope:

a. A concise, uniform, quarterly financial statement
summary sheet that contains a balance sheet summarizing the
revenue, expenditures, and changes in fund balance for the
entity and for its schools of hope within the school district.

b. An annual financial audit of the nonprofit whichincludes all schools of hope it operates within this state and

201631 - h1115-lines305-596-Valdés1.docx Published On: 3/26/2025 5:31:48 PM

Page 4 of 7

Bill No. HB 1115 (2025)

Amendment No. 1

91 which complies with s. 218.39 regarding audits of a school 92 board.

93 (11) STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AUTHORITY AND OBLIGATIONS.94 Pursuant to Art. IX of the State Constitution, which prescribes
95 the duty of the State Board of Education to supervise the public
96 school system, the State Board of Education shall:

97 (b) Adopt a standard notice of intent and performance98 based agreement that must be used by hope operators and
99 <u>sponsoring entities</u> district school boards to eliminate
100 regulatory and bureaucratic barriers that delay access to high
101 quality schools for students in persistently low-performing
102 schools and students residing in Florida Opportunity Zones.

103 (c) Resolve disputes between a hope operator and a 104 sponsoring entity school district arising from a performance-105 based agreement or a contract between a charter operator and a 106 school district under the requirements of s. 1008.33. The 107 Commissioner of Education shall appoint a special magistrate who is a member of The Florida Bar in good standing and who has at 108 109 least 5 years' experience in administrative law. The special 110 magistrate shall hold hearings to determine facts relating to 111 the dispute and to render a recommended decision for resolution 112 to the State Board of Education. The recommendation may not alter in any way the provisions of the performance-based 113 114 agreement under subsection (5). The special magistrate may administer oaths and issue subpoenas on behalf of the parties to 115 201631 - h1115-lines305-596-Valdés1.docx

Published On: 3/26/2025 5:31:48 PM

Page 5 of 7

Bill No. HB 1115 (2025)

Amendment No. 1

116 the dispute or on his or her own behalf. Within 15 calendar days 117 after the close of the final hearing, the special magistrate 118 shall transmit a recommended decision to the State Board of Education and to the representatives of both parties by 119 120 registered mail, return receipt requested. The State Board of Education must approve or reject the recommended decision at its 121 122 next regularly scheduled meeting that is more than 7 calendar 123 days and no more than 30 days after the date the recommended decision is transmitted. The decision by the State Board of 124 125 Education is a final agency action that may be appealed to the District Court of Appeal, First District in accordance with s. 126 127 120.68. A charter school may recover attorney fees and costs if the State Board of Education determines that the sponsoring 128 entity school district unlawfully implemented or otherwise 129 130 impeded implementation of the performance-based agreement pursuant to this paragraph. 131 132

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DIRECTORY AMENDMENT

Remove lines 298-300 and insert:

136Section 3. Subsection (4), paragraphs (k), (1), and (m) of137subsection (5), paragraphs (a) and (h) of subsection (6), and138paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (11) of section 1002.333,

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201631 - h1115-lines305-596-Valdés1.docx

Published On: 3/26/2025 5:31:48 PM

Page 6 of 7

Bill No. HB 1115 (2025)

Amendment No. 1

| 141 | TITLE AMENDMENT |
|-----|---|
| 142 | Remove lines 7-25 and insert: |
| 143 | charter school; amending s. 1002.333, F.S.; defining |
| 144 | the term "sponsoring entity"; providing that a hope |
| 145 | operator must submit a notice of intent to open a |
| 146 | school of hope to the sponsoring entity, rather than |
| 147 | the school district; requiring the sponsoring entity, |
| 148 | rather than the school district, to enter into a |
| 149 | performance-based agreement with a hope operator; |
| 150 | requiring a school of hope to provide the sponsoring |
| 151 | entity, rather than the school district, with a |
| 152 | financial statement summary sheet; providing that |
| 153 | specified provisions relating to performance-based |
| 154 | agreements and disputes apply to sponsoring entities, |
| 155 | rather than to district school boards and school |
| 156 | districts; providing an effective date. |

201631 - h1115-lines305-596-Valdés1.docx Published On: 3/26/2025 5:31:48 PM

Page 7 of 7