

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE  
EMERGENT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT  
JANUARY 23, 2006**

Happy New Year, now that it has actually begun. We are rapidly approaching the opening of the 2006 Legislative Session. The Official Calendar reflects the magnitude of the work to be done over the next few weeks.

January 23-27	Interim Committee Meetings
February 6-10	Interim Committee Meetings
February 13-17	Interim Committee Meetings
February 20-24	Interim Committee Meetings
March 7, 2006	Opening Day of 2006 Session

**BUDGET INFORMATION**

The Governor has not yet released his budget recommendation for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. We have some indication that the budget will be released the week of January 30-February 3. We will update you as soon as we receive the data.

☞ Due to increased revenue, it is hopeful that School Districts will receive additional dollars. This may come with relief in the areas of Transportation, Reading, Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO), and Supplemental Academic Instruction.

☞ There are expectations that there will be more dollars for Districts to use for salary negotiations.

☞ The Governor has requested a significant (\$239 million) budget item for the recruitment and retention of teachers in light of Florida's anticipated shortage of 31,000 teachers.

**LEGISLATIVE ITEMS OF INCREASED INTEREST**

As we follow proposed legislation and listen to discussions at Committee Meetings, certain items seem to be gaining in importance. Among these are:

☞ Co-teaching--several bills have been filed which will enable this practice to continue.

☞ The 65% amendment (class size reduction repeal)--these issues are joined as the result of polling of the public to find a way for voters to be willing to vote for the repeal of class size reduction. The "devil is in the detail" of what expenses are included as the 65% classroom allowable expenses.

☞ Tax relief--possibly in the areas of local required effort and there is discussion regarding an additional tax free week for all purchases up to \$5000.

- ☞ Jessica Lunsford Law (changes)--FDLE will maintain One fingerprint data base which will be used by all districts.
- ☞ Opportunity Scholarships--The Legislature will address and try to find ways to re-establish this program within law or go to the voters for a constitutional amendment.
- ☞ Affordable Housing (for Educators)--We will find more information during the Governor's press conference.
- ☞ Teacher Recruitment and Retention--see next section.
- ☞ Differentiated Pay for Educators--this would be a program which would address both high needs subject areas and performance pay.
- ☞ Opening Dates for Schools--I expect some compromise, maybe toward the middle of August or a date approved by a super majority of the School Board.
- ☞ High School Reform--The high school reform committee report will be out very shortly and the recommendations will appear in the A+ bill. Check the high school reform link on the Doe web site.
- ☞ Middle School Reform (Junior High) Same as above.
- ☞ Center for Mathematics and Science Research--Recommended by the Commission on the Future of Space and Aeronautics in Florida. This would be similar to the Florida Center for Reading Research.

## **RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF TEACHERS**

Projections remain at the 31,000 level for the number of additional classroom teachers that Florida will need to open school in the fall of 2006.

On Tuesday, January 17, the DOE unveiled their official plan at the State Board of Education meeting held in Orlando. Among the strategies discussed were:

- ☞ A nationwide campaign paid for by the Florida Education Foundation.
- ☞ Target areas where they are experiencing declining enrollment.
- ☞ Encourage and implement beginning teacher support groups.
- ☞ New training programs for principals to mentor and support new teachers.
- ☞ Incentives for all teachers (increased pay).

On Monday, January 23, 2006, the Governor reinforced the importance of this initiative, and added several additional incentives, including:

- ☞ Teacher Recruitment Incentive Fund. (\$40 million, requires match by districts) This can be used for; signing bonuses, housing or down payment assistance, critical shortage recruitment, training, or loan forgiveness.
- ☞ Laptop computers for every Florida teacher.

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR INPUT--REMINDER**

Pre-k-12 Chairman Representative Ralph Arza has requested that teachers and others interested in education be notified of the opportunity to submit and post ideas which will assist in forming the Legislative Agenda for the next 6 years. These ideas will be published in a book. You may submit your ideas through the following website: [www.100ideas.org](http://www.100ideas.org)

### **NEW BILLS FILED SINCE THE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE OF DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>**

#### **HCI1 by Choice & Innovation**

**PCB CI 06-01 -- K-8 Virtual Schools** – Proposed Committee bill on K-8 Virtual Schools. To be introduced at 1/26/06 Choice and Innovation Committee meeting

#### **HCJ3 by Criminal Justice**

**PCB CRJU 06-03--Criminal Background Screening for Contractual School Personnel – Proposed Committee bill dealing with** Criminal Background Screening for Contractual School Personnel. On Committee agenda-- Criminal Justice (JC), 01/25/06

#### **HB 0015 by Flores**

**Sales Tax Exemption/Textbooks;** exempts certain textbooks from tax on sales, use, & other transactions; provides definitions. Amends 212.08.

#### **HB 0513 by Bilirakis**

**Career & Professional Academies;** provides types of career & professional academies; requires DOE to establish Career High-Skill Occupational Initiative for Career Education (CHOICE) project as competitive process for designation of school district participants & CHOICE academies; requires district school board student progression plans to provide for substitution of certain courses for credit requirements for high school graduation, etc. Amends FS. EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2006.

#### **HB 0535 by Bogdanoff**

**School Safety/Bullying & Harassment;** prohibits bullying & harassment during education programs & activities, on school buses, or through use of data or computer software accessed through computer systems of certain educational institutions; requires each school district to adopt policy prohibiting same; requires DOE approval of school district's policy & compliance with reporting procedures as prerequisites to receipt of safe school funds, etc. Creates 1006.147.

**HB 0557 by Kendrick**

**District School Tax;** includes health, property, & casualty insurance costs as authorized uses of school district millage; authorizes school districts meeting certain class size requirements to use revenues generated by district school tax for specified purposes. Amends 1011.71

**HB 0569 by Kreegel**

**Athletic Trainers/Licensure;** revises requirements for licensure as athletic trainer; provides that person employed as apprentice trainer or athletic trainer is not exempt from specified provisions; deletes classification of first responder in school district's athletic injuries prevention & treatment program; requires that athletic trainer employed by school district be licensed as athletic trainer, etc. Amends 468.707, .711, .723, 1012.46.

**HB 0593 by Coley**

**Educational Loan Marketing;** creates Educational Loan Marketing Corporation of Florida, Inc., to provide services as secondary student loan market; authorizes corporation to borrow through public bonds & private financial sources; provides uses of proceeds of corporation; requires corporation to submit business plan to DOE; requires revenues of corporation to be used for providing secondary student loan market services, etc. Creates 1009.9997.

**HB 0629 by Zapata**

**School Food Service Program/Fructose;** requires district school board plans to eliminate sale or use of products containing high-fructose corn syrup from school food service programs & on school grounds; requires DOE approval of plans, monitoring of plan implementation, & reporting. Amends 1006.06.

**HB 0659 by Arza**

**FRS/DROP/Grades K-12 Personnel;** increases period of time in which members of system who are employed as administrative personnel in grades K-12 may participate in Deferred Retirement Option Program; provides declaration of important state interest. Amends 121.091.

**HB 0665 by Troutman**

**Fla. Virtual School/SEARCH Program;** establishes Students Earning Additional Recovery Credits & Honors (SEARCH) Program to provide opportunities for students to recover credits needed for graduation or to earn honors course credit or other course credit; provides eligibility requirements for participation by school district operating virtual school that is approved franchise of Fla. Virtual School; provides limitation on school district funding, etc. Amends 1002.37.

**HB 0679 by Sobel**

**Schools/Health-related Education;** requires each school district to submit to DOE, by specified deadline, copies of district's school wellness policy & physical education policy; requires DOE to provide model school wellness policy & nutrition guidelines &

prescribe minimum contents thereof; encourages said districts to provide physical education for specified amount of time; requires schools to provide certain information to students' parents or guardians, etc. Amends FS.

**HB 0689 by Glorioso**

**Sales Tax/Schools/Construction;** provides exemption from tax on sales, use, & other transactions for tangible personal property sold to contractor directly employed by or as agent of United States Government or state or local government when such property becomes part of prekindergarten or elementary school owned by governmental entity under specified conditions; provides duties of governmental entities, contractors, & sellers re documentation & recordkeeping, etc. Amends 212.08.

**HB 0695 by Sorensen**

**State Travel/Private Vehicle/Mileage;** prescribes rate for calculating mileage reimbursement when privately owned vehicles are used for official travel by state employees & public officers. Amends 112.061.

**SB 1150 by Pruitt**

**Class Size/Classroom Instruction;** constitutional amendment to revise class size requirements to provide that they shall be based on school district average number of students who are assigned to each teacher in specified grades; to authorize, in exceptional circumstances, school district to request from Governor temporary waiver of class size requirements or 65-percent classroom instruction expenditure requirement, etc. Amends s. 1, Art. IX.

**SB 1152 by Haridopolos**

**McKay Scholarships/Disabilities;** revises definition of term "students with disabilities"; revises student eligibility requirements for receipt of scholarship; revises provisions re scholarship funding & payment; provides funding & payment requirements for former Florida School for Deaf & Blind students & for students exiting Juvenile Justice Dept. program. Amends 1002.39.

**SB 1158 by Haridopolos**

**Limitation on State Appropriations;** constitutional amendment to replace state revenue limitation with appropriations limitation that limits state appropriations for any fiscal year, beginning in fiscal year 2007-2008, to state appropriations for immediately preceding fiscal year plus growth adjustment, etc. Amends s. 1, Art. VII, s. 21, Art. XII.s

**SB 1160 by Haridopolos**

**Immunizations;** requires certain assisted living facilities to offer immunizations against influenza viruses & pneumococcal bacteria to residents age 65 or older; requires DOH or its designee to notify assisted living facilities by specified date of facilities' responsibilities; requires each district school board & governing authority of each private school to provide information concerning meningococcal disease & its vaccine to parents, etc. Amends FS.

**SB 1174 by Miller, Jr.**

**Schools/Child's Record/Parent Rights**; requires that DOE include in parents' guide to student achievement information about parents' rights re their child's permanent record; requires that checklist of parental actions that can strengthen parental involvement in their child's education be reviewed during parent-teacher conferences. Amends 1002.23.

**SB 1184 by Rich**

**School Health Collaborative Act**; encourages creation of comprehensive school health collaboratives to provides comprehensive school health service; provides that person who is in public-private partnership with county health dept. to form comprehensive school health collaborative acts as agent of DOH in providing school health services & enjoys limited liability; provides appropriation for demonstration project in Miami-Dade Co., etc. Amends 381.0056; creates 381.0058. APPROPRIATION: \$2,000,000.

**SB 1192 by Wilson**

**Public School Teachers/Pay Increase**; requires Legislature to fund cost-of-living increase in General Appropriations Act for teachers who teach prekindergarten through grade 12 in public school system. Creates 1011.635.

**SB 1214 by Argenziano**

**Employment After Retirement**; authorizes retirees under FRS who have been retired for 1 calendar month to receive payment from supervisors of elections for specified services; conforms cross-references. Amends 121.091,.051. of materials to minor; prohibits person in this state or in any jurisdiction from transmitting sexually oriented material or material that is harmful to minor by means of unsolicited electronic mail or computer pop-up; provides that violation of act is felony of third degree; provides criminal penalties; exempts list servers from application of act. Creates 847.01385.

**SB 1238 by Wilson**

**Mandatory School Attendance/Age**; changes age for mandatory school attendance from 16 to 18. Amends 1002.20, 1003.21,.51.

**SB 1260 by Bennett**

**Fla. School Recognition Program**; requires that faculty & staff who receive nonrecurring bonuses from school recognition awards be employed currently at school or employed at school during year of improved performance. Amends 1008.36.

**SB 1266 by Geller**

**Noninstructional Personnel/Schools**; requires DOE to limit number of said personnel that may be employed by school districts; requires that dept. classify school districts based on number of full-time equivalent students enrolled in district; requires that department establish ratios within each district classification for maximum percentage of said personnel to full-time equivalent students; limits maximum ratios that DOE may establish, etc.

**SB 1282 by Carlton**

**K-8 Virtual School Program;** establishes said program within DOE; authorizes participating schools to be for-profit or nonprofit entities; requires that instructional personnel have Florida teaching certificates; requires education plans to conform to Sunshine State Standards; requires school applicants to provide 3-year financial plan; requires participating schools to provide each student with equipment, materials, & services necessary to receive instruction, etc.

**SB 1298 by Constantine**

**District School Superintendents;** clarifies applicability of salary formula & certification programs to elected district school superintendents; authorizes participation by appointed superintendents in certification programs established by DOE. Amends 1001.47,.50.

**SB 1384 by Baker**

**School Safety/Bullying & Harassment;** prohibits bullying & harassment during education programs & activities, on school buses, or through use of data or computer software accessed through computer systems of certain educational institutions; requires each school district to adopt policy prohibiting same; requires DOE approval of school district's policy & compliance with reporting procedures as prerequisites to receipt of safe school funds, etc. Creates 1006.147.

**SB 7074 by Government Efficiency Appropriations**

**Public Documents;** requires that each state official, agency, board, & court provide to Library & Information Services Div. of Dept. of State annual list of public documents issued by official, agency, board, or court; defines term "publication" for purposes of requirement that executive agency maintain records of certain publication costs; revises form used by each state agency for purpose of purging publication mailing lists. Amends 257.05, 283.31,.55.

**SB by Government Efficiency Appropriations**

**Governmental Operations/Agency Fees;** provides legislative intent that fees charged by state agencies for providing service or regulating profession or business cover costs of service or regulatory oversight; requires that each state agency review its fees; provides criteria for review; requires that each agency, as part of its legislative budget request, provide to Governor & Legislature proposal for making service or regulatory program self-sufficient, etc. Creates 216.0236.