

EMERGENT DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT INC.
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
FEBRUARY 8, 2007

Governor Crist has gotten his administration off to a fast start. The special session for insurance was successful and progressed as he hoped. Whether it really solves the problem of increased insurance costs, we must wait and see.

You have no doubt read of Governor Crist's other early initiatives which deal with reducing property taxes, criminal justice, energy, the environment and limited stem cell research.

Education will be an issue with the Governor discussing changes in the FCAT, physical education every day for elementary school, increased salaries for teachers, increased dollars for Workforce Education, increased dollars for school facilities and doubling the funding for the STAR program. The Governor will be involved in the selection of a new Commissioner of Education although the position officially is chosen by the State Board of Education. Commissioner John Winn announced his retirement, effective February 27th. Chief of Staff Jeanine Blomberg has been named interim Commissioner.

Items of Interest

- ✓ Chancellor Yecke's Power Point on Florida's new standards, which she presented at the State Board of Education meeting, is available on the SBE web site (under the agenda materials for the Jan. meeting). It includes goals, timelines, and professional development timelines.
- ✓ Don't forget to visit the web site for "100 Ideas for Florida". Speaker of the House, Marco Rubio requested input from voters in order to develop this list, which is now a published book. Nine of these ideas were incorporated into the recent insurance Legislation which was approved in the special session. Over 33 of these ideas impact education. <http://100ideas.org/>
- ✓ FETC was sold to 1105 Media Inc. The sale is not expected to effect the technology conference which will continue to be held at the Orange County Convention Center. Next year's conference is expected to feature mathematics. This year's keynote speaker was Bill Nye, "The Science Guy" and he was a big hit with the audience.
- ✓ Mathematics and Science teachers will be interested in the DOE Technical and Assistance paper on required remediation for Secondary students. You can contact Todd Clark at (850) 245-0764 with questions www.firn.edu/doe/dii/
- ✓ With the increase interest in science, ASCD is promoting a new book, "Priorities in Practice: The Essentials of Science, Grades K-6."

BILLS OF INTEREST FILED THRU February 5,2007

- HB 0157 Relating to Sexual Offenders & Predators** Glorioso
Sexual Offenders & Predators; revises provisions re reporting requirements for sexual predators in transient status; provides additional restrictions for certain conditional releasees who committed sexual offenses with minors under the age of 16; revises provisions re polygraph examinations of specified probationers or community controllees who have committed specified sexual offenses, etc.
- HB 0187 Relating to Kautz Student Safety Sponsors Act** Vana
Kautz Student Safety Sponsors Act; creates "Diana Kautz Student Safety Sponsors Act"; provides for district school boards to adopt policies for private sponsorship of described seat belt assemblies on school buses; requires sponsor signs to be covered when school buses are transporting passengers who are not school students; revises requirement that students use crash protection system on school bus, etc.
- HB 0193 Relating to County Operating Budgets/Increases** Mayfield
County Operating Budgets/Increases; limits annual increases in county operating budgets; provides criteria & exception.
- HB 0215 Relating to Sales Tax/School Supplies & Clothing** Coley
Sales Tax/School Supplies & Clothing; specifies period during which sale of books, clothing, & school supplies is exempt from tax on sales, use, & other transactions; provides definitions; provides exceptions; authorizes DOR to adopt rules.
- HB 0231 Relating to Building Code Administrators & Inspectors** Carroll
Building Code Administrators & Inspectors; requires certain disciplinary records & proceedings held by DBPR to be open to public within specified time period after legal sufficiency is determined.
- HB 0263 Relating to Public Schools/Career Education** Thurston
Public Schools/Career Education; provides for pilot projects designed to blend into middle school curriculum elements of career education; provides goals of said projects; requires evaluation component; requires Council for Education Policy Research & Improvement to review said projects & provide recommendations.
- HB 0277 Relating to Students/School Attendance** Thompson (G)
Students/School Attendance; revises eligibility requirements for driving privileges; revises age for compulsory school attendance; requires school district comprehensive programs for student progression to include use of mentors & to encourage career education curriculum for certain students.
- HB 0285 Relating to District School Board Chair/Election** Richardson
District School Board Chair/Election; repeals specified provision re alternate procedure for election of district school board chairs.
- HB 0315 Relating to No Child Left Behind Act** Richardson
No Child Left Behind Act; urges Congress to reevaluate requirements of No Child Left Behind Act & to fund levels authorized in act.

- HB 0351 Relating to FCAT/Concordant Subject Area Scores** Peterman
FCAT/Concordant Subject Area Scores; provides that certain concordant subject area scores satisfy various assessment requirements concerning graduation from high school; exempts student who attains such score from taking FCAT in that subject area; provides for retention of student in accelerated 3-year graduation option who achieves certain concordant score.
- HB 0355 Relating to Teachers Lead Program Stipend/Pre-K** Vana
Teachers Lead Program Stipend/Pre-K; extends stipend to teachers of prekindergarten students.
- HB 0369 Relating to Student Preparation for FCAT** Bendross-Mindingall
Student Preparation for FCAT; provides requirements re student preparation for & administration of Fla. Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).
- HB 0379 Relating to District School Taxation/Millage** Poppell
District School Taxation/Millage; expands authorized school board millage levy funding to include payment of premiums for property & casualty insurance necessary to insure school district educational plants; limits expenditures of operating revenues.
- HB 0403 Relating to Minority Student Achievement Council** Reed
Minority Student Achievement Council; creates Minority or Underrepresented Student Achievement Council; provides for appointment & qualification of members; provides requirements for meetings; requires Education Commissioner to organize initial meeting of council; requires council to submit annual report to Governor & Legislature; requires each school board to discuss number of high school students taking advanced placement courses, etc.
- HB 0423 Relating to Florida Schools of Excellence Comm.** Schwartz
Florida Schools of Excellence Comm.; repeals provision which establishes said commission; conforms provisions
- HB 0439 Relating to Background Screen/School Volunteers** Planas
Background Screen/School Volunteers; provides background screening requirements for school & after-school program volunteers with direct student contact at private schools participating in scholarship programs; provides said requirements for school & after-school program volunteers with direct student contact at public schools.
- HB 0447 Relating to 9th grade Students/Required Information** Brisé
9th grade Students/Required Information; requires that 9th grade students receive certain instruction re value of high school education & available postsecondary options.
- HB 0451 Relating to Teacher Preparation Prog./Curricula** Proctor
Teacher Preparation Prog./Curricula; specifies uniform core curricula for persons majoring in education to be adopted by State Board of Education rule; provides applicability.
- HB 0461 Relating to High School Athletics/Drug Testing** Llorente
High School Athletics/Drug Testing; requires Florida High School Athletic Assoc. to facilitate 1-year drug testing program to randomly test certain students for anabolic steroid use; requires schools to consent to provisions of program as prerequisite for membership in organization; requires students & their parents to consent to provisions of program as prerequisite for eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics, etc.

- HB 0463 Relating to Pub. Rec./Drug Test/HS Athletics** Llorente
 Pub. Rec./Drug Test/HS Athletics; exempts from public records requirements findings of drug test administered to student by testing agency with which Fla. High School Athletics Assoc. has contracted; exempts from public meetings requirements meeting at which challenge or appeal is made; provides for future review & repeal; provides statement of public necessity.
- HB 0465 Relating to Corporate Income Tax Credit Program** Legg
 Corporate Income Tax Credit Program; provides that students placed in foster care are eligible for participation in Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program.
- HB 0471 Relating to Gaming Approval/Countywide** Robaina
 Gaming Approval/Countywide; constitutional amendment to authorize gaming in counties that approve gaming by countywide referendum; provides requirements for gaming facilities; provides for regulation & taxation by general law.
- HB 0491 Relating to Veterans' Tuition Assistance Act** Scionti
 Veterans' Tuition Assistance Act; requires state universities & community colleges to waive percentage of in-state tuition rate for veterans; provides definition.
- SB 0498 Relating to Building Permits** Saunders (B)
 Building Permits [EPCC]; clarifies provisions requiring that applicant for said permit record notice of commencement before permit is issued if contract involves greater than specified amount of money; revises requirements for notice that appears on permit card & on application for said permit; authorizes authority that issues said permits to accept notices of commencement in electronic format, etc.
- SB 0510 Relating to Motor Fuel Tax** Bennett
 Motor Fuel Tax [EPCC]; authorizes counties to adopt ordinance adjusting rate of ninth-cent fuel tax or local option fuel tax based on percentage change in Consumer Price Index; provides requirements for imposing rate change; requires that county furnish copy of ordinance to DOR; requires DOR to notify specified entities that engage in transfer of motor fuel of change in tax rate, etc.
- HB 0557 Relating to Exceptional Disabled Student/Educ.** Randolph
 Exceptional Disabled Student/Educ.; provides responsibility for cost of providing educational services to exceptional student with disability who receives such services in school district other than his or her assigned school district.
- HB 0561 Relating to Human Papillomavirus (HPV)/Schools** Homan
 Human Papillomavirus (HPV)/Schools; requires public & private middle schools in state to provide to certain students & their parents or guardians information re HPV, its vaccine, & cervical cancer; prohibits certain students from admission into school without providing evidence of vaccination for HPV; requires DOE, in consultation with DOH, to prescribe content of information re connection between HPV & cervical cancer & availability of vaccine preventing HPV, etc.
- SB 0564 Relating to Children & Youth Cabinet Act** Rich
 Children & Youth Cabinet Act [SPCC]; creates Children & Youth Cabinet; provides legislative intent; provides organization, membership, & duties & responsibilities of cabinet; provides for advisory board; requires cabinet to prepare annual report.
- SB 0568 Relating to FRS/Regular Class Benefits** Jones
 FRS/Regular Class Benefits [RPCC]; provides for calculation of retirement benefits payable to Regular Class members; provides for funding benefit increases for Regular Class members; provides finding of important state interest.

- HB 0569 Relating to Construction Education Program** Aubuchon
Construction Education Program; creates Construction Education Scholarship Program to award scholarships to eligible students who enroll in construction-related postsecondary education programs; requires DOE to administer said program; creates Construction Education Scholarship Board to assist in establishment & implementation of scholarship program; provides student eligibility criteria, etc.
- SB 0570 Relating to Keeping Children Safe Act** Rich
Keeping Children Safe Act [SPCC]; creates said act; prohibits certain persons from visiting or contacting child without hearing & court order; requires that any order of visitation with child who is in temporary custody or permanent custody of DCFS be issued in conformity with specified provision; requires Fla. Family Visitation Network to develop standards for supervised visitation programs in order to ensure safety of children in each program, etc.
- SB 0574 Relating to District School Taxation/Millage** Bennett
District School Taxation/Millage [SPCC]; expands authorized uses of revenues from specified levy of school board millage to include payment of premiums for property & casualty insurance necessary to insure school district educational plants; limits uses of operating funds made available through such expenditures of those revenues; deletes obsolete provision.
- HB 0575 Relating to Bullying/Harassment/Schools** Thompson (N)
Bullying/Harassment/Schools; cites act as "Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for All Students Act"; 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 DOE approval of school district's policy & school district compliance with reporting procedures as prerequisites to receipt of safe schools funds, etc.
- SB 0576 Relating to Impact Fees** Bennett
Impact Fees [RPCC]; revises requirements that local government or special district must meet in adopting said fee; specifies additional requirements concerning application of credits against & payment of such fee.
- SB 0578 Relating to Direct-support Organizations** Bennett
Direct-support Organizations [RPCC]; creates direct-support organization for Century Commission for Sustainable Florida & another for Commission on Human Relations; provides for contracts between each direct-support organization & commission it serves; provides for use of property of each commission by its direct-support organization; provides for deposit of moneys into specified accounts; provides for dissolution of said organizations, etc.
- HB 0579 Relating to Ad Valorem Taxation/Public Education** Anderson
Ad Valorem Taxation/Public Education; extends maximum duration of voted ad valorem millage for school district operations.
- HB 0581 Relating to Student Voter Education/HS Seniors** Bendross-Mindingall
Student Voter Education/HS Seniors; requires district school boards & county supervisors of elections to cooperate to provide program of voter education for high school seniors; provides guidelines for content of educational program; requires that program of voter education be conducted during school hours.

- SB 0582 Relating to Sales Tax Relief/School Construction** Bennett
Sales Tax Relief/School Construction [SPCC]; exempts tangible personal property sold to certain contractors for inclusion in prekindergarten through grade 12 school construction; provides documentation & recordkeeping requirements; provides penalties.
- SB 0584 Relating to Education** Lynn
Education [FPCC]; expresses legislative intent to revise laws re education reform.
- HB 0597 Relating to Sexual Solicitation & Abuse/Internet** Bendross-Mindingall
Sexual Solicitation & Abuse/Internet; encourages parents & children to learn about incidence of sexual abuse & risks associated with online communication & urges parents to learn how to protect their children while they are online & how & where to report cases of sexual solicitation & exploitation which occur over Internet.
- HB 0609 Relating to K-20 Public Education System/Discrimination** Vana
K-20 Public Education System/Discrimination; prohibits discrimination against students & employees on basis of sexual orientation; conforms provisions.
- HB 0643 Relating to School Bus Stops/Safety** Gibson, III (H)
School Bus Stops/Safety; requires DOE to annually assess safety at school bus stops; requires each school district to submit annual report to department which includes plan to improve safety at school bus stops; requires DOE to adopt rules.
- HB 0645 Relating to Growth Management** Hays
Growth Management; revises sum appropriated for Classrooms for Kids Program; revises eligibility criteria for High Growth District Capital Outlay Assistance Grant Program; revises provisions for allocating funds provided by General Appropriations Act to Public Education Capital Outlay & Debt Service Trust Fund.
- HB 0653 Relating to Schools/Opening & Closing Dates** Kravitz
Schools/Opening & Closing Dates; amends specified provision re powers & duties of district school boards; revises requirements re policies for opening & closing dates of schools..
- HB 0659 Relating to Student Financial Assistance** Heller
Student Financial Assistance; creates Innovation Florida Scholarships for Developing High-Tech Jobs Program; provides matching grant program to award need-based scholarships to students enrolled in certified degree programs in targeted employment areas at Fla. postsecondary educational institutions; provides for issuance of awards; provides student eligibility requirements for initial & renewal awards; requires paid internship program, etc.
- SB 0660 Relating to Human Papillomavirus (HPV)/Schools** Fasano
Human Papillomavirus (HPV)/Schools; requires public & private middle schools in state to provide to certain students & their parents or guardians information re HPV, its vaccine, & cervical cancer; prohibits certain students from admission into school without providing evidence of vaccination for HPV; requires DOE, in consultation with DOH, to prescribe content of information re connection between HPV & cervical cancer & availability of vaccine preventing HPV, etc..

- SB 0662 Relating to Traffic & Pedestrian Control Devices** Joyner
Traffic & Pedestrian Control Devices; requires installation of traffic & pedestrian control devices at all K-12 schools unless traffic-engineering analysis determines that devices are not necessary.
- HB 0663 Relating to Schools/Abstinence-only Instruction** Randolph
Schools/Abstinence-only Instruction; provides parental right to know re abstinence-only instruction; requires certain school principals to mail notice to parents re provision of abstinence-only instruction & right to review abstinence-only curriculum; authorizes excuse from such instruction under certain conditions; provides process for parental comment on curriculum; provides for filing of complaints & appeals & for investigation & corrective action, etc.
- HB 0675 Relating to Workforce Innovation** Heller
Workforce Innovation; authorizes regional workforce board to be direct provider of certain services, subject to approval by board of county commissioners.
- HB 0679 Relating to Commissioner of Education/Cabinet** Brisé
Commissioner of Education/Cabinet; constitutional amendment to create office of Commissioner of Education, who will be elected member of Cabinet & responsible for supervision of public education system in manner prescribed by law, & to provide effective date of January 4, 2011, for such change & for office of Commissioner of Education to be filled initially at 2010 general election.
- SB 0680 Relating to Growth Management** Dockery
Growth Management; revises sum appropriated for Classrooms for Kids Program; revises eligibility criteria for High Growth District Capital Outlay Assistance Grant Program; revises provisions for allocating funds provided by General Appropriations Act to Public Education Capital Outlay & Debt Service Trust Fund.
- SB 0688 Relating to Ad Valorem Tax/Valuing Property** Geller
Ad Valorem Tax/Valuing Property; constitutional amendment to provide for assessing at less than just value replacement homestead property of person whose previous homestead property was taken through eminent domain if claim of homestead exemption on replacement property is made within specified time, if assessed value of new homestead equals or exceeds assessed value of previous homestead, & to provide for retroactive applicability, etc.
- HB 0689 Relating to DROP/K-12 Personnel/Increase in Time** Culp
DROP/K-12 Personnel/Increase in Time; increases period of time in which members of system who are employed as certain administrative personnel in grades K-12 may participate in DROP; provides declaration of important state interest.
- SB 0704 Relating to Private Schools/FCAT/HS Diploma** Siplin
Private Schools/FCAT/HS Diploma; provides that earning passing scores on Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) or, in specified circumstances, on an equivalent standardized test is prerequisite to receiving high school diploma from private school in this state.
- SB 0730 Relating to FCAT/Concordant Subject Area Scores** Ring
FCAT/Concordant Subject Area Scores; provides that certain concordant subject area scores satisfy various assessment requirements concerning graduation from high school; exempts student who attains said score from taking FCAT in that subject area; provides for retention of student achieving certain concordant scores in accelerated 3-year graduation option.

- SB 0742 Relating to Local Government Lawsuits** Justice
Local Government Lawsuits; prohibits counties & municipalities from using tax revenues to sue other local governments.
- SB 0848 Relating to First Generation Matching Grant** Lawson Jr.
First Generation Matching Grant; changes matching fund requirements; clarifies funding based on enrollment of full-time resident undergraduates; allows funds to be carried across fiscal years.
- SB 0850 Relating to Univ. Student Fees/Technology Fee** Lawson Jr.
Univ. Student Fees/Technology Fee; authorizes state universities to charge technology fee; requires certain procedures for implementing such fee; provides limits for such fee & specifies exceptions to fee limits; provides requirements for expenditure of funds collected pursuant to fee; provides that any funds unexpended at end of fiscal year remain available for expenditure during next fiscal year
- SB 0870 Relating to Workforce Development** Diaz de la Portilla
Workforce Development; expresses legislative intent to revise laws re workforce development.
- SB 0874 Relating to Early Learning** Diaz de la Portilla
Early Learning; expresses legislative intent to revise laws re early learning.
- SB 0890 Relating to Ad Val. Tax/Limitations/Property** Posey
Ad Val. Tax/Limitations/Property; applies to all real property the limitations on annual increase in property assessments, which limitations presently apply only to homestead property..
- SB 0924 Relating to Single Gender Schools/Classes** Wise
Single Gender Schools/Classes; authorizes district school boards to establish school, class, or educational program in which enrollment is limited to pupils of a single gender; provides conditions to such authorization; requires that pupils' participation in single-gender classes be voluntary.
- SB 7008 Relating to Florida Kidcare Program** Health Policy
Florida Kidcare Program; revises various provisions of said program; revises certain requirements for screening applicants to program; provides duties of AHCA & DOH; establishes Florida Kidcare Consolidation Pilot Program within specified counties; provides for AHCA to administer said pilot program in coordination with DCFS; requires AHCA to enter into contract for evaluation of said program, etc.