

Emergent Design and Development Inc.

Legislative Update

October 13, 2011

Please visit our new website

www.emergentdesignanddevelopment.com

Subscribe to our blog, review legislative happenings and stay up-to-date on education news in Florida!

We have just finished the 2nd Committee week of the Legislative Session. There are only 4 committee weeks left. Currently much of the educational activities have centered on presentations by the DOE on the implementation of the laws that passed last year or activities related to the implementation of Race To The Top.

NCLB WAIVERS

With many states expressing a desire to see changes in NCLB and the realization that no school district is on pace to reach the goal of 100% proficiency in Mathematics and Reading by 2014, the USDOE has announced the opportunity for state waivers.

The proposal allows states to be eligible for waivers from No Child Left Behind in exchange for certain reforms. These reforms have already been addressed by Florida in Legislation or in RTTT. They include changing the way educators are evaluated, establishing standards that prepare students for college and careers, state developed differentiated recognition of schools, and support of effective instruction and leadership. Thirty-seven states, including Florida, have already applied for the waiver.

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/secletter/110923.html> (flexibility letter from Sec. Duncan)

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/fact_sheet_bringing_flexibility_and_focus_to_education_law_0.pdf

PUBLIC EDUCATION CAPITAL OUTLAY FUNDS

PECO funds are disappearing in the education budget. The money that is used to bond this program is shrinking. Economists predict that the fund will drop by \$267 million this year and by \$410 million next year. As a result, there is a possibility that the state will not be able to bond for PECO and this could mean that there is no state money for school construction, renovation, or repair.

STATE OF THE STATES REPORT

The USDOE has released an extensive “state of the states” report. The report dissects test results into sub-groups including sex, race, disabilities, and grade level. In 10 of these groupings, Florida scored in the top ten of states. Most of these top ten finishes were centered on grade 4 math and reading and grade 8 math and reading. Florida fell among the bottom ten states in 4 year graduation rates, according to the report. Click on the report and go to tables and maps for further information.

<http://www.ed.gov/blog/2011/09/newly-released-state-by-state-snapshot-of-educational-performance/>

THE PRESIDENTS PLAN FOR THE ECONOMY AND EDUCATION

The average public school building is 40 years old. In the proposed American Jobs Act, the President proposes to invest \$30 billion to repair and modernize public schools and community colleges. He also proposed an additional \$30 billion to keep educators facing potential layoffs or furloughs on the job.

The President’s bill would modernize 35,000 schools. Some school districts in Florida, have received notice concerning specific schools which would be affected by this proposal. Since many of Florida’s school are fairly new, it is hard to predict exactly how many schools would be impacted here.

Federal projections indicate that as many as 300,000 construction jobs would be created. However, currently it does not appear that this proposal will pass Congress, since it failed on the initial vote in the Senate (50-49). It is sure to be brought up at a later date for another vote in the Senate.

<http://www.ed.gov/blog/2011/09the-presidents-plan-for-the-economy-and-education-2>

STEM EDUCATION

At a time that Florida is seeking to increase the student enrollment in STEM educational programs, the Federal Budget points a different way. In the draft budget released by the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee, one of the proposed cuts is \$175 million for Math and Science partnerships. Other cuts are; Foreign Language Ed. (\$27 million), American History grants (\$47 million), Economic Ed. (\$1.4 million) and Civic Ed. (\$1.2 million)

Currently the House is not funding new Race to the Top initiatives, eliminates Americorps, prevents the U.S.DOE from enforcing the new rules governing for-profit colleges and career schools, and eliminates the Labor program to train workers for “Green Jobs”.

TEACHER EDUCATION REFORM

The Florida Legislature and the Florida DOE are both expected to address the need for a revamp of the teacher training programs. At the same time, it appears that the U.S.DOE is also interested in addressing this issue. Secretary Arne Duncan addressed the issue in a speech released on September

30th. In his speech he indicated that a coalition of diverse groups such as NEA, Teach for America, Chiefs for Change, Council of Great City Schools, and legislators, are supporting the idea.

In the next decade 1.6 million educators will retire and be replaced by 1.6 million newly trained educators, offering an amazing opportunity to research effective practices. Secretary Duncan expressed that 62% of all new teachers reported that they were unprepared for the realities of their classroom.

Under the proposal, teacher preparation programs would be held to a clear standard of quality which would include their record in preparing and placing teachers who deliver results for Pre-K-12 students.

The full speech, including implementation strategies can be found at:

<http://www.ed.gov/blog/2011/09/duncan-introduces-plan-to-reform-and-improve-teacher-prep/>

FOUR DAY WORK WEEK

Marion County, in order to save money, plans to run schools only 4 days a week during the 2012-13 school year. The School Board indicated that if the financial picture improved, they would return to the normal 5 day a week program. The implementation of the 4 day plan would save the school district \$4 million a year. The impact of this move in Marion, and other districts where it may be considered, may have a positive impact on the public support for increased education funds.

NEW WEIGHTS FOR INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION FUNDING

The State Board of Education was required by law to adopt FEFP program weights for each individual certification program. Originally, all weights were established at 0.3, now the SBE has established weights of 0.1, 0.2, and 0.3, which were adopted in September. The new weights were developed based upon both the rigor of the program and its employment value.

As a result, 195 programs were evaluated, 46 were reduced to a weight of 0.1, 68 were reduced to a weight of 0.2, and 81 remained at a weight of 0.3. All Florida School Districts will face a reduction in the funding of career education as a result of these changes. The new weights will be used for funding in the 2012-13 Florida Educational Finance Program.

GOVERNOR SCOTT

Governor Scott has announced that he will run again for the position of Governor of Florida. In his announcement he indicated that he was enjoying the job.

RTTT HARD TO MEASURE GRANT AWARDS

The DOE has announced the awarding of 7 grants totaling \$20 million to four Florida school districts.

Duval : 1 award (World Languages ,French, Latin, German, Italian and sign Language)

Hillsborough : 2 awards (9-12 physical and health ed.) (career and technical education)

Miami-Dade: 2 awards (K-8 physical and health ed.) (visual arts)

Polk: 2 awards (Performing arts for chorus, drama, dance) (performing arts band and orchestra)

CASINOS

Legislation is being introduced to allow 3 resort casinos in south Florida. The proposal is to allow Miami-Dade and Broward Counties to house these destination casinos. It is believed that these casinos would inject millions into the local economy as well as be a source of tax dollars for the state of Florida. It appears that other counties will try to get aboard this opportunity. The issue was helped by the court ruling which recently opened the door to the expansion of gambling in Florida.

PREPAID TUITION

The cost of the prepaid program for Florida college tuition will increase by as much as \$4,000 when the plans go on sale Monday. This would bring the total cost of the program to \$49,293. The increase in cost reflects the increasing cost of tuition. Overall, the prepaid program has tripled in cost over the last five years.

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

NEW: The review of the NRC Framework for K-12 Science Education by the Fordham Foundation

<http://support.edexcellence.net/site/R?i=g8W--zdZtHejDEkMpc3l8Q>

Review of the new science frameworks by Paul Gross

<http://support.edexcellence.net/site/R?i=uQeT6riUKlGdgsBdgae8g>

Florida ranks 48th in aid per person from federal funds

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/florida/fl-floridians-get-less-aid-20111003,0,2954935.story>

No Florida Recession, Federal index says

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/09/29/2431253/no-florida-recession-fed-index.html>

NEW BILLS OF INTEREST

- HB 0001 Relating to Public School Funding** Weinstein
Public School Funding: Requires OPPAGA to conduct study to determine minimum per-student funding to meet constitutional requirements; requires report to Legislature. Effective Date: July 1, 2012
- HB 0007 Relating to Recall of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Member of Cabinet, or Legislator** Kriseman
Recall of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Member of Cabinet, or Legislator: Proposes creation of s. 8, Art. VI of State Constitution to provide for recall of Governor, Lt. Governor, member of Cabinet, or legislator; provides how process is initiated; establishes requisite number & distribution of signatures; provides for simultaneous election of successor to remainder of term; provides that if elected official is not recalled, then additional effort to recall elected official may not be initiated during remainder of term; provides for reimbursement of certain expenses. Effective Date: Not Specified
- HB 0009 Relating to Recall** Kriseman
Recall: Provides that Governor, Lieutenant Governor, member of Cabinet, or legislator may be recalled from office; requires that proponents of recall register as political committee; prescribes methods & timeframes for initiating & conducting recall; provides ballot language; provides that removal of Governor from office includes removal of Lieutenant Governor; authorizes adoption of rules. Effective Date: on the effective date of House Joint Resolution 7, or a similar joint resolution having substantially the same specific intent and purpose, if that joint resolution is approved by the electors at the general election to be held in November 2012
- HB 0019 Relating to Public School Buses** Nelson
Public School Buses: Provides for district school board policies that authorize commercial advertisements on school buses; provides policy requirements relating to reimbursement to school district, prohibited advertisements, & signage & equipment standards; requires school bus to be withdrawn from use under certain circumstances; provides for remittance & allocation of revenue. Effective Date: July 1, 2012
- HB 0021 Relating to Term Limits** Kriseman
Term Limits: Proposes amendment of s. 15, Art. III & s. 4, Art VI & creation of provision in Art. XII of State Constitution to increase length of terms of state senators to 6 years & state representatives to 4 years & limit state senators & state representatives to 12 consecutive years in office. Effective Date: Not Specified
- HB 0025 Relating to Sovereignty of the State** Caldwell
Sovereignty of the State: Proposes creation of s. 28, Art. I, asserting sovereignty of state & right to refuse to comply with unconstitutional federal mandates or certain compulsory federal legislation. Effective Date: Not Specified
- HB 0035 Relating to Allocation and Expenditure of State Lottery Revenues** Clarke-Reed
Allocation and Expenditure of State Lottery Revenues: Requires portion of Powerball net revenues to be allocated to voluntary prekindergarten education programs; provides for use of funds. Effective Date: October 1, 2012
- HB 0039 Relating to Traffic Safety** Julien
Traffic Safety: Requires person cited for moving violation while using handheld mobile telecommunications device to appear before designated official; provides additional penalties; provides duties of law enforcement officers with respect to such citations Effective Date: October 1, 2012
- HB 0041 Relating to Naming of Public Buildings and Facilities** Caldwell
Naming of Public Buildings and Facilities: Proposes creation of s. 28, Art. X of State Constitution to prohibit naming of public buildings & facilities for any person not deceased for certain period of time unless approved by four-fifths vote of governmental body enacting such designation, except that no such building or facility may be named for any public officer while that person is in public office. Effective Date: Not Specified
- HB 0053 Relating to Public Food Service Establishments** Clarke-Reed
Public Food Service Establishments: Requires public food service establishments to serve sugar-free substitutes for certain syrups, jelly, jam, marmalade, & fruit preserves & provide notice to guests of availability of such sugar-free substitutes; provides requirements for such notice. Effective Date: July 1, 2012

- HB 0055 Relating to Homestead Assessment Limitation/Senior Citizens** Nuñez
Homestead Assessment Limitation/Senior Citizens: Proposes amendment to s. 4, Art. VII of State Constitution to authorize counties & municipalities to limit assessed value of homesteads of certain low-income senior citizens. Effective Date: Not Specified
- HB 0057 Relating to Sovereignty of the State** Caldwell
Sovereignty of the State: Urges Congress to discontinue its practice of imposing federal mandates & legislation upon states which exceed scope of its constitutionally delegated powers under Tenth Amendment to U.S. Constitution & to repeal all existing compulsory federal legislation that directs states to comply or requires states to pass specific legislation in order not to lose federal funding. Effective Date: Not Specified
- HB 0071 Relating to High School Diploma Options** Smith (J)
High School Diploma Options: Requires OPPAGA, in conjunction with DOE, to conduct study on creation of high school graduation option that focuses on career-technical education & leads to career-technical education diploma; provides requirements for study with recommendations to Legislature. Effective Date: upon becoming a law
- HB 0073 Relating to Educational Plant Surveys** Jenne
Educational Plant Surveys: Authorizes extension to school district educational plant survey submission deadline; provides restrictions; provides requirements for submission of request for extension to DOE & requires department approval; provides restrictions on school district construction during extension period. Effective Date: July 1, 2012
- HB 0077 Relating to Trespassing** Davis
Trespassing: Authorizes use of purple paint marks to identify "no trespassing" area; provides requirements for marks; requires specified signage. Effective Date: July 1, 2012
- SB 0084 Relating to Offenses by Caregivers of Minor Children** Fasano
Offenses by Caregivers of Minor Children; Cites this act as "Caylee's Law;" penalizing a caregiver who willfully or by culpable negligence fails to make contact with a child under a specified age in his or her care for a certain period and to immediately report the child as missing to a law enforcement agency after that period expires without contact in certain circumstances; requiring the caregiver of a minor child to report the child's death to a law enforcement agency within a specified period in certain circumstances; requiring the caregiver of a minor child to report the location of a child's corpse to a law enforcement agency within a specified period in certain circumstances, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- SB 0086 Relating to Offenses by Caregivers of Minor Children** Sobel
Offenses by Caregivers of Minor Children; Cites this act as "Caylee's Law;" penalizing a caregiver who willfully or by culpable negligence fails to make contact with a child under a specified age in his or her care for a certain period and to immediately report the child as missing to a law enforcement agency after that period expires without contact in certain circumstances; requiring the caregiver of a minor child to report the child's death to a law enforcement agency within a specified period in certain circumstances; requiring the caregiver of a minor child to report the location of a child's corpse to a law enforcement agency within a specified period in certain circumstances, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- HB 0089 Relating to Ad Valorem Tax Exemptions** Caldwell
Ad Valorem Tax Exemptions: Provides partial ad valorem tax exemptions for nonexempt owners of real property leased or gratuitously provided to exempt entities for exclusive use for educational, scientific, religious, or charitable purposes; authorizes nonexempt owners of real property to apply for ad valorem tax exemptions relating to real property leased or gratuitously provided for educational, scientific, religious, or charitable purposes; provides eligibility criteria for partial ad valorem tax exemptions relating to real property leased or gratuitously provided for educational, scientific, religious, or charitable purposes; provides exception to profitmaking prohibition applicable to claiming ad valorem tax exemption relating to property used for specified exempt purposes. Effective Date: July 1, 2012
- SB 0092 Relating to Parole for Juvenile Offenders** Joyner
Parole for Juvenile Offenders; Cites this act as the "Graham Compliance Act;" providing that a juvenile offender who was less than 18 years of age at the time of commission of a nonhomicide offense and who is sentenced to life imprisonment is eligible for parole if the offender has been incarcerated for a minimum period; requiring an initial eligibility interview to determine whether the juvenile offender has demonstrated maturity and reform for parole; providing criteria to determine maturity and reform; providing eligibility for a reinterview after a specified period for juvenile offenders denied parole, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: upon becoming a law

- SB 0096 Relating to Commissioner of Education** Negron
Commissioner of Education; Proposing amendments to Sections 3 and 4 of Article IV and Section 2 of Article IX and the creation of a new Section in Article XII of the State Constitution to provide for the election of the Commissioner of Education and the inclusion of the commissioner as a member of the Cabinet, etc.
- SB 0098 Relating to Education** Siplin
Education; Authorizing district school boards to adopt resolutions that allow prayers of invocation or benediction at secondary school events; providing legislative intent; providing for severability, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- SB 0102 Relating to Employment Practices** Siplin
Employment Practices; Prohibiting the use of a job applicant's personal credit history as a hiring criterion; providing an exception, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- HB 0111 Relating to Career Education** Nelson
Career Education: Revises career & education planning course for middle grades promotion; provides requirements for career high school diploma; requires student & parent to agree in writing to requirements of career diploma track; specifies credit requirements, strategies for meeting instructional needs of certain students, & standards for graduation. Effective Date: upon becoming a law
- SB 0112 Relating to Public Employment Practices** Wise
Public Employment Practices; Defining the terms "applicant" and "public employer"; prohibiting a public employer from inquiring about or considering the criminal history record of an applicant for public employment until the applicant has been selected for an interview by the public employer; providing that the restriction does not prohibit a public employer from notifying an applicant that a law or the employer's policy may disqualify the applicant from employment in a particular position with the public employer; providing an exemption. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- HB 0121 Relating to Public School Student Participation in Fine Arts Courses** McBurney
Public School Student Participation in Fine Arts Courses: Revises basis for designation of school grades to include participation rate of students who are enrolled in fine arts courses. Effective Date: July 1, 2012
- SB 0122 Relating to Driver Improvement Schools and Education Programs for Driver's License Applicants** Sobel
Driver Improvement Schools and Education Programs for Driver's License Applicants; Requiring the curricula of such programs to include instruction on the risks associated with using a handheld electronic communication device while operating a motor vehicle, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- SB 0128 Relating to Minors** Altman
Minors; Requiring a parent, legal guardian, or caretaker of a minor to make reasonable efforts to notify a law enforcement agency of the disappearance of the minor within a specified period of time after the discovery that the minor has disappeared; providing criminal penalties for failing to make reasonable efforts to notify a law enforcement agency of the disappearance of the minor, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2012
- SB 0130 Relating to Minors** Altman
Minors; Requiring a parent, legal guardian, or caretaker of a minor to make reasonable efforts to notify a law enforcement agency of the death of the minor within a specified period of time after the discovery of the death of the minor; providing criminal penalties for failing to make reasonable efforts to notify a law enforcement agency of the death of the minor, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2012
- SB 0132 Relating to Trespassing** Thrasher
Trespassing; Authorizing the use of purple paint marks to identify a "no trespassing" area; providing requirements for marks; requiring specified signage, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- SB 0142 Relating to Florida Education Finance Program** Flores
Florida Education Finance Program; Requiring that the Department of Education enter into a contract with an entity located outside the state to conduct a study and review of the Florida Education Finance Program and recommend any improvements that may be necessary; requiring that the department submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$100,000 EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012

- SB 0144 Relating to Seclusion and Restraint on Students With Disabilities in Public Schools** Flores
Seclusion and Restraint on Students With Disabilities in Public Schools; Requiring that manual physical restraint be used only in an emergency when there is an imminent risk of serious injury or death to the student or others; providing restrictions on the use of manual physical restraint; prohibiting the use of manual physical restraint by school personnel who are not certified to use district-approved methods for applying restraint techniques; requiring that each school medically evaluate a student after the student is manually physically restrained; prohibiting school personnel from placing a student in seclusion; providing requirements for the use of time-out; requiring that a school district report its training and certification procedures to the Department of Education, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- SB 0150 Relating to Juvenile Justice Education Programs** Bullard (L)
Juvenile Justice Education Programs; Requiring that the Department of Education submit to the Legislature an annual report that includes student learning gains and student progression in juvenile justice education programs and details the methodology used by the department to ensure that student performance data is complete and reliable, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- SB 0156 Relating to Assessment of Residential and Nonhomestead Real Property** Latvala
Assessment of Residential and Nonhomestead Real Property; Limiting a review of changes to the assessed or taxable value of real property resulting from certain informal conferences to a review by the Department of Revenue; excluding the value of certain improvements from the assessed value of residential real property; specifying a limitation on the assessed value of residential real property; providing for application of the assessment limitations; requiring a nonrefundable filing fee for a petition to the value adjustment board; specifying additional exceptions to the assessment of homestead property at just value; specifying additional exceptions to assessment of nonhomestead property at just value; providing for the continuity and apportionment of assessment limitations on combined and divided parcels, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012, and applies to assessments beginning January 1, 2013
- SB 0162 Relating to Autism** Ring
Autism; Requiring that a physician refer a minor to an appropriate specialist for screening for autism spectrum disorder under certain circumstances; defining the term "appropriate specialist"; defining the term "direct patient access"; requiring that certain insurers and health maintenance organizations provide direct patient access to an appropriate specialist for screening for or evaluation or diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder; requiring certain insurance policies and health maintenance organization contracts to provide a minimum number of visits per year for screening for or evaluation or diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- HB 0163 Relating to Student Involvement in Educational Governance** Campbell
Student Involvement in Educational Governance: Creates Florida Educational Student Advisory Council within DOE; establishes application process for membership on council; provides for appointment, membership, terms, & meetings of council; provides council powers & duties; requires district school board to establish student advisory program & designate districtwide association of student councils; provides for election of student advisors to district school board; provides powers & duties of district school boards, district school superintendents, & association of student councils. Effective Date: upon becoming a law
- HB 0165 Relating to Education and Training Opportunities for Public Employees** Campbell
Education and Training Opportunities for Public Employees: Provides certain educational opportunities for specified local government employees; authorizes use of fee waivers for specified local government employees. Effective Date: July 1, 2012
- SB 0168 Relating to Ad Valorem Tax Exemptions** Richter
Ad Valorem Tax Exemptions; Providing partial ad valorem tax exemptions for nonexempt owners of real property leased or gratuitously provided to exempt entities for exclusive use for educational, scientific, religious, or charitable purposes; authorizing nonexempt owners of real property to apply for ad valorem tax exemptions relating to real property leased or gratuitously provided for educational, scientific, religious, or charitable purposes; providing an exception to the profitmaking prohibition applicable to claiming an ad valorem tax exemption relating to property used for specified exempt purposes, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- HB 0179 Relating to Possession of Weapons on School Property** Porth
Possession of Weapons on School Property: Prohibits possession of common pocketknife, except as authorized, at school-sponsored event or on property of any school, school bus, or school bus stop. Effective Date: July 1, 2012

- SB 0200 Relating to Limited English Proficient Students** Siplin
Limited English Proficient Students; Authorizing a school district to administer a student achievement test in a student's primary language if the student is severely limited in English proficiency, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- SB 0242 Relating to Public School Funding** Dockery
Public School Funding; Requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to conduct a study to determine minimum per-student funding to meet constitutional requirements; requiring a report to the Legislature, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- HB 0253 Relating to State Employees' Prescription Drug Program** Porter
State Employees' Prescription Drug Program; Requires DMS to authorize certain pharmacies to dispense 90-day maintenance prescription medication to certain patients; specifies dispensing fee for 90-day prescription supply. Effective Date: July 1, 2012
- SB 0256 Relating to Youth and Student Athletes** Flores
Youth and Student Athletes; Requiring independent sanctioning authorities to adopt policies to inform certain officials, coaches, and youth athletes and their parents of the nature and risk of certain head injuries; requiring that a signed consent form be obtained before the youth participates in athletic practices or competitions; requiring that a youth athlete be immediately removed from an athletic activity following a suspected head injury; requiring written clearance from a medical professional before the youth resumes athletic activities; authorizing a physician to delegate the performance of medical care to a licensed or certified health care practitioner and consult with or use testing and the evaluation of cognitive functions performed by a licensed neuropsychologist, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- SB 0264 Relating to Student Discipline in Public Schools** Sobel
Student Discipline In Public Schools; Revising provisions relating to the rights of parents and public school students; prohibiting the use of corporal punishment as a form of discipline; deleting the definition of the term "corporal punishment" to conform to changes made by the act; deleting provisions relating to the authority of teachers to administer corporal punishment; revising the duties of district school boards and the code of student conduct relating to the control and discipline of students; deleting provisions relating to the authority of principals to administer corporal punishment, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- HB 0273 Relating to Student Safety** Kiar
Student Safety: Requires district school board policies to list emergency response agencies that are responsible for notifying school district of emergencies; requires emergency response agencies to notify private schools in school district under certain circumstances. Effective Date: July 1, 2012
- SB 0280 Relating to County Government Funding** Fasano
County Government Funding; Providing circumstances under which a board of county commissioners may use certain revenues to reduce the proposed millage rate for ad valorem taxes; defining the term "eligible county"; specifying that county eligibility must be determined annually and exercised for a limited time; prohibiting the use of certain revenues for such purposes, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: upon becoming a law
- HB 0285 Relating to Sick Leave for School District Employees** Harrell
Sick Leave for School District Employees: Authorizes district school system to provide policy allowing donation of accrued sick leave to any district employee. Effective Date: July 1, 2012
- HB 0291 Relating to Youth Athletes** Renuart
Youth Athletes: Requires independent sanctioning authority for youth athletic teams & FHSAA to adopt guidelines, bylaws, & policies relating to nature & risk of concussion & head injury in youth athletes; requires informed consent for participation in practice or competition; requires removal from practice or competition under certain circumstances & written medical clearance to return. Effective Date: July 1, 2012
- SB 0292 Relating to Effective Public Notices by Governmental Entities** Bennett
Effective Public Notices by Governmental Entities; Authorizing a local government to use its publicly accessible website for legally required advertisements and public notices; providing requirements for advertisements and public notices published on a publicly accessible website; providing that advertisements directed by law or order or decree of court to be made in a county in which no newspaper is published may be made by publication on a publicly accessible website; providing for advertisement on a publicly accessible website of a taxing authority's intent to adopt a millage rate and budget; prescribing procedures for fulfilling public disclosure system requirements with respect to the duty of a municipality to disclose costs for solid waste management, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2012

- HB 0297 Relating to Public Employment Practices** Jones (M)
Public Employment Practices: Defines terms "applicant" & "public employer"; prohibits public employer from inquiring into or considering criminal history record of applicant for public employment until applicant has been selected for interview by public employer; provides that restriction does not prohibit public employer from notifying applicant that law or employer's policy may disqualify applicant from employment in particular position with public employer; provides exemption. Effective Date: July 1, 2012
- SB 0298 Relating to High School Diploma Options** Oelrich
High School Diploma Options; Requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, in conjunction with the Department of Education, to conduct a study on the creation of a high school graduation option that focuses on career-technical education and leads to a career-technical education diploma; providing requirements for the study with recommendations to the Legislature, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: upon becoming a law
- HB 0299 Relating to Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving** Pilon
Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving: Creates "Florida Ban on Texting While Driving Law"; prohibits operation of motor vehicle while using wireless communications device for certain purposes; provides exceptions; specifies information that is admissible as evidence of violation; provides for enforcement as secondary action; provides for points to be assessed against driver's license for unlawful use of wireless communications device resulting in crash. Effective Date: October 1, 2012
- HB 0303 Relating to Employment Practices** Rogers
Employment Practices: Prohibits use of job applicant's personal credit history as hiring criterion; provides exception. Effective Date: July 1, 2012
- HB 0305 Relating to Commissioner of Education** Albritton
Commissioner of Education: Proposes amendments to ss. 3 & 4, Art. IV and s. 2, Art. IX & creation of new section in Art. XII of State Constitution to provide for statewide election of Commissioner of Education & inclusion of commissioner as member of Cabinet; provides for commissioner to supervise state education system in manner provided by law; provides that Governor & Cabinet will constitute State Board of Education; includes commissioner as member of Board of Trustees of Internal Improvement Trust Fund & Land Acquisition Trust Fund & as component of head of Department of Law Enforcement. Effective Date: Not Specified
- SB 0314 Relating to Ad Valorem Taxation** Simmons
Ad Valorem Taxation; Proposing amendments to the State Constitution to allow the Legislature by general law to prohibit increases in the assessed value of homestead and specified nonhomestead property if the just value of the property decreases, reduce the limitation on annual assessment increases applicable to nonhomestead real property, provide an additional homestead exemption for owners of homestead property, authorize the Legislature to adjust the amount of the exemption, provide that the additional exemption is to be reduced by the difference between the just value and the assessed value, delay a future repeal of provisions limiting annual assessment increases for specified nonhomestead real property, and provide effective dates, etc.
- HB 0317 Relating to Education** Van Zant
Education: Authorizes district school boards to adopt resolutions that allow prayers of invocation or benediction at secondary school events. Effective Date: July 1, 2012
- SB 0318 Relating to Statewide K-12 Education Commission** Fasano
Statewide K-12 Education Commission; Creating the Statewide K-12 Education Commission within the Department of Education; providing purposes; providing for terms, membership, and meetings; providing that members are entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses, subject to appropriations provided in the General Appropriations Act; providing duties; requiring that the commission submit a report to the Governor, Legislature, and State Board of Education by a specified date each year, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- HB 0331 Relating to Career and Adult Education** Patronis
Career and Adult Education: Requires Next Generation Sunshine State Standards to include financial literacy in core curricular content of economics; includes study of financial literacy in public school required instruction; provides that credit requirement in economics for high school graduation includes instruction in financial literacy; replaces term "vocational-preparatory" instruction with term "applied academics for adult education" instruction with respect to adult general education; conforms provisions relating to career education programs; authorizes district school boards & Florida College System institution boards of trustees to vary certain intended learning outcomes; deletes certain courses as priorities in provision of

adult education program academic services; requires students entering adult general education programs to complete "Action Steps to Employment" activities. Effective Date: July 1, 2012

- SB 0338 Relating to Public School Student Participation in Fine Arts Courses** Detert
Public School Student Participation in Fine Arts Courses; Revising the basis for the designation of school grades to include the participation rate of students who are enrolled in fine arts courses, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- SB 0344 Relating to Public School Buses** Montford
Public School Buses; Providing for district school board policies that authorize commercial advertisements on school buses; providing policy requirements relating to reimbursement to the school district, prohibited advertisements, and signage and equipment standards; requiring a school bus to be withdrawn from use under certain circumstances; providing for the remittance and allocation of revenue, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- SB 0348 Relating to Public School Buses** Wise
Public School Buses; Providing for district school board policies that authorize commercial advertisements on school buses; providing policy requirements relating to reimbursement to the school district, prohibited advertisements, and signage and equipment standards; requiring a school bus to be withdrawn from use under certain circumstances; providing for the remittance and allocation of revenue, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- SB 0350 Relating to Voter Education Programs** Braynon
Voter Education Programs; Requiring that each supervisor of elections conduct an annual voter registration and education program in each public high school in the county; providing requirements, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- SB 0356 Relating to Possession of Weapons on School Property** Ring
Possession of Weapons on School Property; Prohibiting possession of a common pocketknife, except as authorized, at a school-sponsored event or on the property of any school, school bus, or school bus stop; providing criminal penalties; reenacting a provision relating to the offense severity ranking chart of the Criminal Punishment Code, to incorporate the amendments made to s. 790.115, F.S., in a reference thereto, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- SB 0368 Relating to Local Government** Gaetz (D)
Local Government; Clarifying that certain assessments must be approved by a majority vote of specified voting electors; authorizing a financial emergency review board for a local governmental entity or district school board to consult with other governmental entities for the consolidation of all administrative direction and support services; authorizing the Governor or Commissioner of Education to require a local governmental entity or district school board to develop a plan implementing the consolidation, sourcing, or discontinuance of all administrative direction and support services; providing that the members of the governing body of a local governmental entity or the members of a district school board who fail to resolve a state of financial emergency are subject to suspension or removal from office, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- SB 0394 Relating to Virtual Instruction Courses For Students With Disabilities** Margolis
Virtual Instruction Courses for Students With Disabilities; Requiring that each virtual instruction program provide virtual courses in accessible formats for students with disabilities which are compatible with assistive technology products and assistive listening systems, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- SB 0416 Relating to Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving** Detert
Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving; Creating the "Florida Ban on Texting While Driving Law"; prohibiting the operation of a motor vehicle while using a wireless communications device for certain purposes; specifying information that is admissible as evidence of a violation; providing penalties; providing for enforcement as a secondary action; providing for points to be assessed against a driver's license for the unlawful use of a wireless communications device resulting in a crash, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2012
- SB 0420 Relating to Career and Education Planning** Smith (C)
Career and Education Planning; Revising the general requirements for middle grades promotion to require that a course in career and education planning explore the Florida Career Clusters; deleting a provision that requires the Department of Education to develop course frameworks and professional development materials for a career exploration and education planning course, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012

- SB 0424 Relating to Florida Retirement System** Smith (C)
Florida Retirement System; Revising criteria for membership in the special risk class to include court deputies, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- SB 0440 Relating to Initiatives And Referenda** Bennett
Initiatives and Referenda; Authorizing a local government to retain certain initiatives or referendum processes which were in effect as of a specified date, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: upon becoming a law
- SB 0472 Relating to Student Involvement in Educational Governance** Norman
Student Involvement in Educational Governance; Cites this act as the "Student Advisory in Educational Governance Act"; creating the Florida Educational Student Advisory Council within the Department of Education; establishing an application process for membership on the council; requiring the State Board of Education to establish council regions; requiring each district school board to establish a student advisory program and designate a districtwide association of student councils; providing for the election of student advisors to the district school board, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: upon becoming a law
- SB 0474 Relating to Driving Without a Valid Driver License** Norman
Driving Without a Valid Driver License; Providing an additional fine for a violation of specified provisions relating to driving with a canceled, suspended, or revoked driver license or driving privilege; providing increased fine amounts for second or subsequent violations; providing for distribution of such fines collected; revising penalties for knowingly driving while the driver license or driving privilege is canceled, suspended, or revoked; revising procedures for impoundment or immobilization of the vehicle, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2013
- SB 0492 Relating to Education Law Repeals** Braynon
Education Law Repeals; Repealing provisions relating to school district or Florida College System institution sponsorship of athletic activities or sports similar to sports for which public postsecondary educational institutions offer scholarships, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: upon becoming a law
- SB 0494 Relating to Student Safety** Negrón
Student Safety; Requiring district school board policies to list the emergency response agencies that are responsible for notifying the school district of emergencies; requiring the emergency response agencies to notify private schools in the school district under certain circumstances, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- SB 0512 Relating to Class Size** Bogdanoff
Class Size; Deleting a provision relating to the calculation of class size categorical allocations and the reduction and reallocation of funds; deleting a provision that requires the Commissioner of Education to prepare a reallocation of funds for school districts that have met the class size requirements; deleting a provision that adds remaining funds to a school district's class size categorical allocation if the school district submits a certified plan to the commissioner, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- SB 0530 Relating to Education And Training Opportunities For Public Employees** Wise
Education and Training Opportunities for Public Employees; Providing certain educational opportunities for specified local government employees; authorizing the use of fee waivers for specified local government employees, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- SB 0534 Relating to Persons Excused from Jury Service** Sobel
Persons Excused from Jury Service; Expanding parental eligibility to be excused from jury service; authorizing a presiding judge to excuse a practicing psychologist from jury service, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012
- HB 4041 Relating to Education Law Repeals** Burgin
Education Law Repeals: Repeals provisions relating to school district or Florida College System institution sponsorship of athletic activities or sports similar to sports for which public postsecondary educational institutions offer scholarships. Effective Date: upon becoming a law
- HB 4057 Relating to Physical Education in the Public Schools** Metz
Physical Education in the Public Schools: Deletes provisions relating to requirements for physical education instruction for students in grades 6-8, reporting & auditing of student enrollment in physical education instruction, & criteria for student's waiver from participation in physical education instruction. Effective Date: July 1, 2012