

## **EMERGENT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **Legislative Update**

April 14<sup>TH</sup> 2014

The 2014 Legislative Session has passed the half-way point. The Legislature is keenly aware of the election race for Governor and they are positioning to pass legislation which favors his requests. Both Houses have passed their respective budgets and will soon go to Conference as they settle the differences in the two budgets. All items in the budget must be in total agreement before the final budget can be approved and sent to the Governor.

The Legislature will be on break from April 12th until April 21<sup>st</sup>. When they return, there will 11 days of session. To date, only two of the education bills that we are tracking have passed. Many education bills have not been heard in committee and therefore probably will not pass. There is always the chance of an educational “train” developing, which might combine several bills currently not receiving attention.

### **THE BUDGET**

This is always the big issue of the session. Both Houses have passed budgets that exceed the total amount recommended by the Governor. The House has budgeted \$75.3 Billion and the Senate \$74.2 Billion. Both Houses have still placed huge amounts of money in the reserve (rainy day) fund.

Educational items that are receiving increases in the proposed budget are: Technology, The FEFP (per student appropriation), workforce development, sparsity, instructional enhancements, and performance enhancements.

Final budget approval usually is the final day of session. The Budget is then sent to the Governor who has 15 days to approve, veto, or to veto line items, within the Budget. Because of the 72 hour rule, the Budget must be printed by April 29<sup>th</sup>, if we are to adjourn on time.

It appears that the first Conference meeting concerning the Budget will be held on April 21<sup>st</sup>. While the total Educational Appropriations are similar, there are significant differences in how the money is allocated. Major differences between the two budgets are in the following areas: Safe Schools, Supplemental Academic Instruction, DJJ Funding, Transportation, Instructional Materials, Virtual Education, Teacher Salary Allocation, Technology, and Principal Training.

### **ELECTION YEAR IMPACT**

Previously we noted that in election years we have an increase in the number of bills that are filed. This year was no exception. A total of 1,771 bills have been filed. To date, only 25 have passed both houses. If you were to total all the bills that impact early childhood, K-12, Colleges, Universities, Adult Education, Charters, Private schools , etc. , you would be addressing about 500 of these bills. Of the bills that directly impact public schools, we expect less than 60 to pass.

## **EDUCATION BILLS**

As in years past, there is more than one bill that addresses an issue. Instead of sharing with you the multitude of almost duplicate bills, we are going to address the issue by subject and then give the number of a bill that addresses the subject. When an actual bill passes we can then give specific information. We have roughly divided the bills by their impact to educators. We draw attention to the following 45 topics, realizing some of these will fail and others not listed may pass.

### **Super Important Bills**

The Budget, HB 5001

Conforming Bill, HB 5101

Implementing Bill, HB 5003

FRS Contribution, HB 5005

### **High impact bills**

Instructional Materials e.g., HB 921

Students with Disabilities e.g., SB 1512

Education Accountability e.g., SB 1642

Digital Classrooms e.g., SB 790

Middle Grades Education e.g., HB 7033

Charter Schools e.g., HB 7083

FRS Tax Balance Trust Fund e.g., SB1112

Tax Balance Program e.g., SB1114

Juvenile Justice Education e.g., HB 172

School Safety (guns for educators) e.g., HB 753

Joint Facility Usage e.g., HB 277

The Repealer Bill e.g., SB 1226

Simulation of a Weapon e.g., SB 1060

Data Privacy e.g., SB 188

Tax Credit Scholarships e.g., HB 7099

Return on Investment e.g., HB 875

School Choice e.g., HB 7167

**Not quite so high an impact**

Sales Tax Holiday or Holidays e.g., SB 792

Sexual Misconduct with Students e.g., HB 485

Employment after Retirement e.g., HB 295

Classroom Supply Program e.g., HB 337

Bright Futures Scholarships e.g., SB 566

Preference in Contract Awards e.g., SB 612

Investigation of Testing Impropriety e.g., SB 656

Education, including Cape Digital e.g., SB 850

Agricultural Industry Certifications e.g., HB 487

Hazardous Walking Conditions e.g., HB 1121

Sexual Explicit Images e.g., SB 532

Security of Personnel Investigations e.g., Sb 1524

Public Private Partnerships e.g., SB 1318

Newly Hired School Instructional Personnel e.g., SB 950

Gender Specific School Pilots e.g., SB 514

Financial Literacy e.g., SB 212

**These also could pass**

Athletic Eligibility e.g., SB 284

Maximum Class Size e.g., HB 319

Educator Certification e.g., HB 433

Background Screening for Education Certification e.g., HB 463

Public Meetings e.g., SB 718

Educational Facilities Financing e.g., SB 628

Bullying and Harassment (athletics) e.g., HB 1117

Food Distributed Free of Charge e.g., HB 23

### **SENATE CONFEREES**

The Senate has named the following Senators to the Education Appropriations Conference. Bill Galvano (Chair) Joseph Abruzzo, Dwight Bullard, Nancy Detert, John Legg, Bill Montford, Maria Sachs, David Simmons, and John Thrasher.

### **OPTHER INFORMATION OF INTEREST**

#### **Congratulations to Orange County**

The Broad Foundation announced that there are only two finalists this year for the foundation's urban education prize. The two districts are Gwinnett County (Georgia) and Orange County (Florida).

[www.broadprize.org](http://www.broadprize.org)

#### **The President Federal Education Budget for 2015 has been released.**

The Administration's request for \$69 Billion in discretionary appropriations represents an increase of 2% over this year. 75% of the funding goes to financial aid for students in college, Special Education, and High Poverty Schools. <http://www.ed.gov/budget15>

#### **Common Core, Textbooks, and Florida**

A new draft paper by USC Assistant Professor Morgan Polikoff takes an early look at what publishers are doing to align textbooks to the Common Core standards - and finds that, at least in Florida, they're not doing very well. Polikoff compared Florida's fourth grade math textbooks from major publishers and found that the Common Core-aligned books contained a sizable amount of material not related to the standards and left out on average about 15 percent of the Common Core material.