

Emergent Design and Development

Legislative Update

December 19, 2014

The 2015 legislative year begins with the first interim committee weeks. This year, these committee meetings begin on January 5, 2015. The first two Committee weeks for Education are scheduled as follows:

Jan. 5 Senate Higher Ed at 4:00

Jan. 6 House Ed. Appropriations Subcommittee at 8:30 and House Choice and Innovation subcommittee at 2:00

Jan. 7 Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education at 10:00, House Higher Education and Workforce Subcommittee at 10:00, House K-12 Subcommittee at 1:30, Senate Education PreK-12 at 2:30, and House Appropriations Committee at 4:00

Jan. 8 House Education Committee at 8:30 and Senate Appropriations at 1:00

Jan. 20 Senate Higher Education at 3:30 and House Education Appropriations Subcommittee at 4:00

Jan. 21 Senate Education Prek-12 at 9:00, House Higher Education and Workforce Subcommittee at 10:00, and House Choice and Innovation Subcommittee at 2:00

Jan. 22 House K-12 Subcommittee at 9:00, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education at 10:30, Senate Appropriations at 1:00, and House Appropriations Committee at 3:30

Jan. 23 House Education Committee at 8:30

GOOD NEWS

The surplus for next year's state budget is nearing \$1 billion, giving lawmakers more room to bankroll their priorities as well as Gov. Rick Scott's call for additional tax cuts and record per-student school funding. (Source: Orlando Sentinel) This would mean that the Legislature could fund or even exceed the Governor's recommendation for the highest per student funding in history.

BILLS

One hundred sixty-four bills have already been filed. Twenty-five of them impact may directly impact education in some way. (Other bills may change in a way that they ultimately include or impact education.) Most will not pass and some will not even be heard. It is very early to predict the type of bills that will have traction. Public opinion regarding the misuse or over reliance upon testing will force

the whole assessment issue and we expect several bills in this area. Curriculum and instruction always is addressed in some way. The issue of assigned school personnel carrying guns will be heard again. Financial Literacy will again be an issue. We can be sure that vouchers and charters will be addressed.

This is a partial list of bills directly impacting public education. The easiest way to view these bills is to click on Online Sunshine and go to the House of Representatives site. They have both House and Senate bills listed. Click on Bills and scroll to the bill of interest.

HB 1 - Texting While Driving

HB 9 - Use of a Wireless Communications Device While Operating a Motor Vehicle

HB 11 - Care of Children

HB 19 - School Safety (designated school official to be armed)

HB 29 - Financial Literacy Instruction in Public Schools

HB 35 - Resident Status for Tuition Purposes

HB 37 - Voluntary Contributions for Public Education Facilities

HB 41 - Hazardous Walking Conditions

HB 47 - State Minimum Wage

HB 55 - Children and Youth Cabinet

HB 59 - Student Data Privacy

HB 61 - Charter Schools

HB 63 - Public-Private Partnerships

HB 65 - Public Records & Public Meetings/Public-Private Partnerships

HB 77 - Patriotic Film Screening

HB 85 - Public School Instruction

SB 92 - High School Graduation Requirements

SB 96 - Patriotic Film Screening

HB 99 - Juvenile Civil Citations

SR 106 - Financial Literacy Month

SB 118 - Voluntary Contributions for Public Education Facilities

SB 126 - Social Media Privacy

SB 148 - Resident Status for Tuition Purposes

SB 154 - Hazardous Walking Conditions

SB 180 - School Safety

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

I want to thank Joy Frank of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents for compiling these lists. Please note – if you care about the Legislature’s interest in education, or if you want to ensure that the Legislature receives and understands the condition of education in Florida, invite your local representative to visit your school or program.

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