



Capital Office for Administrative & Legislative Services

January 21, 2018

TO: All FACCS Administrators
FROM: Dr. Howard G. Burke, Executive Director
RE: Capital Update

Entering the third week of the Florida Legislative Session up for Committee discussion will be several bills aimed at modifying requirements for home education programs & their revised accountability to the State and local District Superintendents.

... Legislation aimed at private schools (faith-based and secular) that participate in any of the Corporate Tax Credit (Step-Up for Students), McKay Scholarships, Gardiner Scholarships as expanding in proposed legislation; add to that the new HOPE Scholarships at the K-12 level;

...Major changes are in store for those offering School Readiness under the Child Care Development Block Grant expansion of 20% incentive funding...requiring use of Gold Seal designation and to be developed satisfaction of a newly established recognition of accrediting associations via what the (DCF)Department determines to be best-practices in addition to enhanced Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten programs added assessment (pre/post) reporting, etc.

...With all the above there are untold significant strings along with increased accountability for all of the noted options. REMEMBER: Since the inception of the various scholarship opportunities FACCS has strongly recommended schools NOT engaged extensively (beyond 10% of your student population) in any of the programs, especially those with funds derived from State and Federal dollars (McKay, Gardiner & HOPE).

Additionally there are several additional considerations, specifically if the backers of CHOICE scholarships receive their increased revenues from new income streams that will potentially entangle church-related and faith-based schools in constitutionally prohibited areas. As a FYI the current CTS Program receives approximately 60% of their funds from beverage sales taxes (alcohol, etc.) which is their best source of a monthly income stream as all other CTS options account for undependable consistent revenue sources. Thus the move toward funding formulas much like that of the public school sector will potentially accelerate court battles and open a "Pandora's Box," of accountability to the Florida Department of Education/Office of School Choice, Department of Revenue, and so forth. A wise administrator will take initiative to back-off the acceptance of so many scholarship recipients or possibly ultimately forfeit the autonomy of their ministry mission, philosophy, autonomy, curriculum, financial services, selection of employees/faculty, use of self-determined assessment for attaining student achievement and much more. Bottom line is unless your faculty and all academic personnel are graduates of a recognized regionally accredited college or university & likewise recognized by the United States Department of Education you are not under the current language of legislative direction going to be able to retain or employ graduates of Christian colleges and universities that do not meet such mandate....and that is just some of the questionable direction.

Review the listing of legislative proposals below and consider the society and culture we are living in and add the issues under discussion of: conceal carry on school, college or church sites, sexual orientation, gender neutral, transgender considerations, LGBT issues, discriminatory and what could become criminalized practices which are being adamantly pursued, and so forth and it may be a wake-up call as this is a so-called Republican controlled Legislative and Executive Branch.

FL H 1**Author:** [Donalds \(R\)](#)**Title:** Hope Scholarship Program**Location:** House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee**Summary:** Establishes the Hope Scholarship Program; relates to students subjected to bullying or harassment; provides certain program eligibility requirements; prohibits the payment of a scholarship under certain circumstances; requires a school principal to investigate a report of physical violence or emotional abuse; provides for parent and student responsibilities for program participation; provides guidelines for the funding of payments; provides a scholarship funding tax credit.**2.FL H 113****Author:** [Combee \(R\)](#)**Title:** Concealed Weapons and Firearms in Multiuse Facilities**Location:** House Criminal Justice Subcommittee**Summary:** Relates to concealed weapons and firearms in multiuse facilities; provides that a person licensed to carry a concealed weapon and concealed firearm is not prohibited by specified laws from carrying such on the property of certain institutions.**3.FL H 211****Author:** [Geller \(D\)](#)**Title:** Crimes Evidencing Prejudice**Location:** House Criminal Justice Subcommittee**Summary:** Relates to crimes evidencing prejudice; provides for reclassification of offenses if the commission of the offenses evidences prejudice towards the victim in whole or in part on specified grounds; provides for reclassification of offenses evidencing prejudice based on the gender or gender identity of the victim; defines the term gender identity; requires grounds for reclassification of crimes to include prejudice based on a disability of the victim.**4.FL H 305****Author:** [Antone \(D\)](#)**Title:** Child Care Facility Vehicles**Location:** House Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee**Summary:** Relates to child care facilities; requires vehicles used by child care facilities and large family child care homes to be equipped with a reliable alarm system that prompts the driver to inspect the vehicle for children before exiting the vehicle; requires the Department of Children and Families to adopt minimum safety standards and maintain a list of approved alarm systems.**5.FL H 347****Author:** [Diamond \(D\)](#)**Title:** Prohibited Discrimination**Location:** House Commerce Committee**Summary:** Relates to prohibited discrimination; creates the Florida Competitive Workforce Act; adds sexual orientation and gender identity as impermissible grounds for discrimination in public lodging establishments and public food service establishments; provides an exception for constitutionally protected free exercise of religion.**6.FL H 399****Author:** [Mariano \(R\)](#)**Title:** John McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities**Location:** House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee**Summary:** Relates to the John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program; authorizes a parent to request an individual education plan meeting and reevaluation from the school district for specified purposes; authorizes a school district to change a matrix of services for a student as a result of an individual education plan reevaluation.

7.FL H 433**Author:** [Henry \(D\)](#)**Title:** Discrimination in Employment Screening**Location:** House Commerce Committee**Summary:** Relates to discrimination in employment screening; prohibits an employer from inquiring into or considering an applicants criminal history on an initial employment application unless otherwise required to do so by law; provides an effective date.**8.FL H 621****Author:** [Rommel \(R\)](#)**Title:** School Safety**Location:** House PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee**Summary:** Relates to school safety; provides legislative intent; provides an exception to a prohibition on possessing firearms or other specified devices on school property or other specified areas for authorized concealed weapon or firearm licensees who are designated by school principals or district school superintendents; provides requirements for designees.**9.FL H 731****Author:** [Sullivan \(R\)](#)**Title:** Home Education**Location:** House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee**Summary:** Relates to home education; specifies that a home education program is not a school district program and is registered with the district school superintendent only for the purpose of complying with the states attendance requirements; revises the content requirements of a notice of enrollment of a student in a home education program.**10.FL H 829****Author:** [Plasencia \(R\)](#)**Title:** Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program**Committee:** House PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee**Hearing:** 01/23/2018 9:00 am, Mashburn Hall (306 HOB)**Summary:** Relates to the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program; provides that specified eligibility requirements do not apply to students in certain grades beginning in a specified school year; revises student eligibility criteria; provides for the calculation of the scholarship amount for students diagnosed with a disability by certain physicians or psychologists; provides for the adjustment of the scholarship amount under certain circumstances.**11.FL H 951****Author:** [Fischer \(R\)](#)**Title:** Education**Committee:** House PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee**Hearing:** 01/23/2018 1:00 pm, Reed Hall (102 HOB)**Summary:** Relates to education; requires certain assessment results be provided to parents within a specified timeframe; requires the Office of Early Learning to aggregate specified assessment results to be distributed to certain entities and posted on the offices website within a specified timeframe; authorizes certain students to reenroll in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.**Status:** 01/19/2018 In HOUSE. On Committee agenda 01/23/18.**12.FL H 1045****Author:** [Pigman \(R\)](#)**Title:** Immunization Registry**Location:** House Health Quality Subcommittee

Summary: Relates to immunization registry; revises provisions relating to the communicable disease prevention and control programs under the Department of Health; provides requirements for electronic availability of immunization records; requires certain health care practitioners to submit and update data in the immunization registry; requires the department to adopt rules.

13.FL H 1079

Author: [Burton \(R\)](#)

Title: Child Welfare

Location: HOUSE

Summary: Relates to child welfare; requires the Department of Children and Families to establish rules and procedures for granting exemptions from criminal history and certain other records checks required for persons being considered for placement of a child; defines the term severe disability and providing an exemption from fingerprint requirements for adult household members with severe disabilities.

14.FL H 1091

Author: [Grall \(R\)](#)

Title: Early Learning

Committee: House PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee

Hearing: 01/23/2018 1:00 pm, Reed Hall (102 HOB)

Summary: Relates to Early learning; revises the definition of at-risk child; revises the duties of the Office of Early Learning; provides for the development of a program assessment for school readiness providers; provides program assessment requirements; revises the standard statewide contract for providers.

Status: 01/19/2018 In HOUSE. On Committee agenda 01/23/18.

15.FL H 1129

Author: [Cortes \(R\)](#)

Title: Licensure of Child Care Programs

Location: House Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee

Summary: Relates to licensure of child care programs; requires certain organizations providing after-school child care programs to be licensed as child care facilities; defines the term after-school program; conforms provisions to changes made by the act; conforms cross- references.

16.FL H 1175

Author: [Sullivan \(R\)](#)

Title: Early Learning Coalitions

Location: House Education Committee

Summary: Relates to Early learning coalitions; authorizes an early learning coalition to refuse to contract with certain school readiness program providers.

Status: 01/19/2018 To HOUSE Committee on EDUCATION.

17.FL H 1297

Author: [Brown \(D\)](#)

Title: Early Childhood Education

Location: House PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee

Summary: Relates to early childhood education; prohibits a private prekindergarten provider from participating in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program for a specified period under certain circumstances; prohibits a private prekindergarten provider from participating in the school readiness program for a specified period under certain circumstances.

18.FL H 1365

Author: [Grall \(R\)](#)

Title: Early Learning

Location: House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee

Summary: Relates to Early learning; revises the contents of the sworn compliance statement a parent must submit under the Gardiner Scholarship program; requires the use of observation-based assessments in determining the kindergarten readiness rate; requires the Office of Early Learning to adopt an observation-based child assessment system, subject to appropriation; provides requirements for such system.

19.FL H 1419

Author: [McClure \(R\)](#)

Title: Firearms

Location: House Criminal Justice Subcommittee

Summary: Relates to firearms; authorizes a church, a synagogue, or other religious institution to allow a concealed weapons or concealed firearms licensee to carry a firearm on the property of the church, synagogue, or religious institution for certain purposes.

20.FL H 6051

Author: [Shaw \(D\)](#)

Title: Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program

Location: House Ways & Means Committee

Summary: Relates to the Tax Credit Scholarship Program; relates to a credit for contributions to eligible nonprofit scholarship funding organizations.

21.FL S 60

Author: [Hukill \(R\)](#)

Title: Tax on Sales Use and Other Transactions

Location: Senate Community Affairs Committee

Summary: Relates to the tax on sales, use, and other transactions; reduces the tax levied on rental or license fees charged for the use of real property; makes technical changes.

22.FL S 178

Author: [Garcia Re \(R\)](#)

Title: Crimes Evidencing Prejudice

Location: Senate Criminal Justice Committee

Summary: Relates to crimes evidencing prejudice; requires reclassified crimes to include actual or perceived sex, creed, or employment in specified jobs of the victims; defines the term emergency service employee.

23.FL S 274

Author: [Stargel \(R\)](#)

Title: Concealed Weapons and Firearms in Multiuse Facilities

Location: Tabled

Summary: Relates to concealed weapons and firearms in multiuse facilities; provides that a person licensed to carry a concealed weapon or concealed firearm is not prohibited by specified laws from such carrying on the property of certain institutions.

24.FL S 486

Author: [Stewart \(D\)](#)

Title: Child Care Facilities

Location: Senate Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee

Summary: Relates to child care facilities; amends the Child Safety Alarm Act; requires vehicles used by child care facilities and large family child care homes to be equipped with a reliable alarm system that prompts the driver to inspect the vehicle for children before exiting the vehicle; requires the Department of Children and Families to adopt minimum safety standards and maintain a list of approved alarm systems.

25.FL S 564

Author: [Young \(R\)](#)

Title: Scholarships for Students With Disabilities

Location: SENATE

Summary: Amends the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program; provides that parents seeking an individual education plan reevaluation may request a specified meeting and evaluation from the school district; specifies that a school district may change a student's matrix of services as a result of an individual education plan reevaluation.

Status: 01/19/2018 In SENATE. Pending reference review under Rule 4.7(2).

26.FL S 702

Author: [Farmer \(D\)](#)

Title: Criminal History Records

Location: Senate Education Committee

Summary: Relates to criminal history records in applications for public employment and admission to public postsecondary educational institutions; prohibits a public employer from inquiring into or considering an applicants criminal history on an initial employment application unless required to do so by law; prohibits public postsecondary educational institutions from inquiring into or considering the criminal history of an applicant seeking admission; provides an effective date.

27.FL S 732

Author: [Baxley \(R\)](#)

Title: Home Education

Committee: Senate Education Committee

Hearing: 01/22/2018 3:30 pm, 412 Knott Building

Summary: Amends the home education program; prohibits a district school from requiring certain evidence relating to a child's age from children enrolled in specified schools and programs; revises reporting requirements for specified issues relating to compulsory school attendance; revises the standards required for a home education student to participate in extracurricular activities; prohibits dual enrollment course and program limitations for home education students; exempts certain GPA requirements.

28.FL S 1048

Author: [Baxley \(R\)](#)

Title: Firearms

Location: Senate Judiciary Committee

Summary: Relates to firearms; authorizes a church, a synagogue, or other religious institution to allow a concealed weapons or concealed firearms licensee to carry a firearm on the property of the church, synagogue, or religious institution for certain purposes.

29.FL S 1064

Author: [Baxley \(R\)](#)

Title: Dual Enrollment Programs

Location: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education

Summary: Relates to dual enrollment programs; revises the contents of a post secondary institution and private school dual enrollment articulation agreement; prohibits certain fees from being passed to the private school.

30.FL S 1080

Author: [Baxley \(R\)](#)

Title: John M. McKay Scholarships

Location: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Pre-K - 12 Education

Summary: Relates to the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program; provides that specified eligibility

requirements do not apply to students in certain grades beginning in a specified school year; revises student eligibility criteria; provides for the calculation of the scholarship amount for students diagnosed with a disability by certain physicians or psychologists; provides for the adjustment of the scholarship amount under certain circumstances.

31.FL S 1116

Author: [Simmons \(R\)](#)

Title: Emergency Alerts

Location: Senate Education Committee

Summary: Relates to emergency alerts; defines terms; authorizes a local law enforcement agency to activate the Emergency Alert System and issue a Lockdown Alert to public and private schools and child care facilities under certain circumstances.

32.FL S 1150

Author: [Steube \(R\)](#)

Title: School Readiness Program Funding

Location: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Pre-K - 12 Education

Summary: Relates to school readiness program funding; requires the Office of Early Learning to develop a formula for the allocation of funding for the school readiness program which meets certain requirements; requires the office to submit the formula to the Legislature by a specified date; requires the formula to be implemented by a specified date; requires the office to review and update the formula within a specified timeframe.

33.FL S 1172

Author: [Galvano \(R\)](#)

Title: Hope Scholarship Program

Committee: Senate Education Committee

Hearing: 01/22/2018 3:30 pm, 412 Knott Building

Summary: Relates to the Hope Scholarship Program; establishes the Hope Scholarship Program; provides the purpose of the program; provides definitions; provides eligibility requirements; prohibits the payment of a scholarship under certain circumstances; requires a school principal to investigate a report of physical violence or emotional abuse.

34.FL S 1192

Author: [Stargel \(R\)](#)

Title: Education

Location: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Pre-K - 12 Education

Summary: Relates to education; requires certain assessment results to be provided to parents within a specified timeframe; requires the Office of Early Learning to aggregate specified assessment results to be distributed to certain entities and posted on the offices website within a specified timeframe; authorizes certain students to reenroll in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program; specifies that the program be offered by a provider that has met certain criteria.

35.FL S 1236

Author: [Baxley \(R\)](#)

Title: School Safety

Location: Senate Education Committee

Summary: Relates to school safety; provides legislative intent; provides an exception to a prohibition on possessing firearms or other specified devices on school property or other specified areas for authorized concealed weapon or firearm licensees who are designated by school principals or district school superintendents; provides requirements for designees.

36.FL S 1254

Author: [Passidomo \(R\)](#)

Title: Early Learning

Location: Senate Education Committee

Summary: Relates to early learning; requires a parent with custody of a child to be verified as a victim of domestic violence by a certified domestic violence center before his or her child is considered an at-risk child; revises the duties of the Office of Early Learning; revises the requirements for the offices annual analysis of the states Early learning activities.

37.FL S 1520

Author: [Hutson \(R\)](#)

Title: Licensure of Child Care Programs

Location: Senate Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee

Summary: Relates to licensure of child care programs; requires certain organizations offering child care through after-school programs to be licensed as child care facilities; defines the term after school program; conforms provisions to changes made by the act; conforms cross-references.

38.FL S 1532

Author: [Stargel \(R\)](#)

Title: Early Learning Coalitions

Location: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Pre-K - 12 Education

Summary: Relates to early learning coalitions; authorizes an early learning coalition to refuse to contract with certain school readiness program providers.

39.FL S 1546

Author: [Simmons \(R\)](#)

Title: Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program

Location: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Pre-K - 12 Education

Summary: Relates to the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program; defines the term nonprofit provider; revises the prekindergarten program options available to certain parents to include a specified in-home, technology-based program; authorizes each Early learning coalition to administer an in-home, technology-based academic prekindergarten program as part of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

40.FL S 1614

Author: [Hukill \(R\)](#)

Title: Education

Location: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Pre-K - 12 Education

Summary: Relates to education; requires the Department of Education to suspend specified payments to private schools that fail, rather than knowingly fail, to meet certain scholarship program accountability standards; provides that the failure of, rather than the inability of, private schools to meet such standards constitutes the basis for ineligibility for participation in a scholarship program.

41.FL S 1680

Author: [Montford \(D\)](#)

Title: Immunization Registry

Committee: Senate Health Policy Committee

Hearing: 01/23/2018 3:30 pm, Pat Thomas Committee Room, 412 Knott Building

Summary: Relates to immunization registry; revises provisions relating to the communicable disease prevention and control programs under the Department of Health; deletes a provision that allows the parent or guardian of a child to refuse to have the child included in the immunization registry; provides requirements for electronic availability of, rather than transfer of, immunization records.

42.FL S 1738

Author: [Stewart \(D\)](#)

Title: Early Childhood Education

Location: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Pre-K - 12 Education

Summary: Relates to early childhood education; prohibits a private prekindergarten provider from participating in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program for a specified period under certain circumstances; authorizes an early learning coalition to revoke the eligibility of a school readiness program provider to participate in the school readiness program for a specified period under certain circumstances.

43.FL S 1756

Author: [Simmons \(R\)](#)

Title: School Accountability

Committee: Senate Education Committee

Hearing: 01/22/2018 3:30 pm, 412 Knott Building

Summary: Relates to school accountability; revises the private schools to which the Department of Education is required to provide technical assistance and authorized staff; updates terminology; revises requirements for private schools that participate in the Gardiner Scholarship Program.

44.FL S 1822

Author: [Hukill \(R\)](#)

Title: Early Childhood Learning

Location: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Pre-K - 12 Education

Summary: Relates to early childhood learning; requires the Office of Early Learning to adopt an observation-based child assessment system that contains specified elements, under certain circumstances; requires each Early learning coalition to implement a specified age-appropriate observation based assessment for certain children, rather than a preassessment and postassessment; conforms provisions to changes made by the act.

45.FL S 1848

Author: [Farmer \(D\)](#)

Title: Tax Credit Scholarship Program

Location: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Pre-K - 12 Education

Summary: Relates to the Tax Credit Scholarship Program; relates to a credit for contributions to eligible nonprofit scholarship funding organizations; makes technical corrections.

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