



March 12, 2018

**TO: All FACCS Administrators**  
**FROM: Dr. Howard G. Burke, FACCS Executive Director**  
**RE: Capital Update Governor Signed HB 7055**

**Sunday afternoon Governor Rick Scott signed the comprehensive HB 7055  
(available on the FACCS web site).**

For your consideration the Bill and related component legislation is provided:

**FL H 7055**      **COMPARE:**      FL H 1, FL H 11, FL H 29, FL H 323, FL H 495, FL H 699, FL H 777, FL H 827, FL H 845, FL H 949, FL H 1035, FL H 1191, FL H 1391, FL H 1431, FL H 5001, FL H 5101, FL H 6051, FL H 7003, FL H 7073, FL H 7101, FL S 436, FL S 732, FL S 1064, FL S 1090, FL S 1152, FL S 1172, FL S 1198, FL S 1534, FL S 1566, FL S 1616, FL S 1618, FL S 1746, FL S 1804, FL S 1820, FL S 1848, FL S 1884, FL S 2500, FL S 7026

**AUTHOR:**      Education Committee  
**TITLE:**      Florida Sales Tax Credit Scholarship Program  
**ENACTED:**      03/11/2018  
**DISPOSITION:**      **Enacted**  
**LOCATION:**      **Signed by Governor**  
**SUMMARY:**  
Relates to education; relates to sales tax credit scholarship program; authorizes the Commissioner of Education to coordinate resources during an emergency; revises the duties and responsibilities of superintendents relating to the organization of schools; requires school districts to provide charter schools access to certain property on the same basis as public schools.

As reported in the ***FACCS Capital Update March 5, 2018***, the final version of HB 7055 **deleted all of the objectionable language** *in relation to teacher qualifications & post-secondary degree credentials; publication of said credentials with multiple updates and actions to different State parties, modified proposed intrusive employment practices (This*

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*is especially important due to the recent 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals Ruling last week on “transgender and sexual orientation” non-discrimination in employment practices.), eliminated enhanced curricular mandates and open public access and complaint process; allows for multiple means of accommodating annual nationally norm-referenced assessments; and eliminated unacceptable significant financial and employee documentation that would cause an unquestioned loss of privacy for both a Christian school and their staff due to public open Sunshine Law requirements with the FDOE & Office of School Choice. Further there was an elimination of accelerated professional development expectations not in keeping with current policy; deletion of a host of repetitive verbiage tailored to each of the various scholarships combined covered in the 183 page Bill; not to mention the ultimate loss of considerable school autonomy.*

**Additionally Lines 3511-3514 struck the provision that has created untold problems for private school students seeking to access *equitable dual enrollment options*.**

The actual language removed from Florida Statute: **“6. A provision stating whether the private school will compensate the postsecondary institution for the standard tuition rate per credit hour for each dual enrollment course taken by its students.”**

**By deleting the statutory language it will prohibit tuition reimbursement to be made by the Christian or private school offering Dual Enrollment to desiring students when signing articulation agreements with public colleges and universities.** Thus, there is a long due return to policies that were available equitably for private school students equal to that of the public sector which was forfeited in 2013 by a FDOE reinterpretation of statutory process when developing inter-institutional articulation agreements attributed to an FDOE Technical Assistance Paper’s (TAP) and subsequent selective college practices.

Other elements in the Education Committee Substitute:

- Creates a stable funding source for students with special needs, currently on a waiting list for the Gardiner Scholarship Program, through a credit for commercial lease taxes. An additional \$25 million was allocated for this scholarship for children with special needs, bringing total funding for the program to approximately \$128.3 million. The additional funding will allow the program to meet rising demand. There are approximately 1,300 students on the waiting list for the scholarships and thousands more have expressed interest.
  - Authorizes Learning Coalitions to refuse to contract with VPK or School Readiness providers that have been cited for a Class I Health and Safety violation. BTW, the VPK scholarship amount for the school-year program will retain current funding levels at \$2,437 per child.
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- Establishment of a Reading Scholarship ensuring that interventions for struggling readers are delivered by qualified teachers.
- Enhanced reasonable background screening expectation procedures for “owner/operator, principal and superintendents.
- Combination of financial expectations (\$250,000) for CPA review purposes
- Instruction in CPR for students beginning at the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Additional investigative options and audit of new or existing school CHOICE participants that may be suspected of fraud activity; providing actions and appeals process.
- Establishes Schools of Hope options & accountability expectations for qualified students
- Provides for means of student assessments and available alternatives for students in Grades 3 and above.
- Provides for general information on faculty, curriculum offered, etc. to inquiring parents & departmental inquiry.
- Requires parents and students to be in compliance with all written school policies and procedures
- Eliminates nepotism and illegitimate transfer of schools to specified groups or individuals.
- Funding formulas for each specified scholarship are outlined with allocations.

The Regular Session of the Florida Legislature closed (*sine die*) shortly after 4:00 P.M. (yesterday) on Sunday, March 11. The session was extended two days beyond its March 9th scheduled end to resolve an impasse over hospital spending between the House and the Senate. The House and Senate chambers approved an \$88.7 billion state budget for fiscal year 2018-2019.

**[The following is a summary of additional legislation tracked during the 2018 Session of interest to Christian education and churches.](#)**

**1.FL H 1**

**Author:** [Donalds \(R\)](#)

**Title:** Hope Scholarship Program

**Disposition:** **SEE HB 7055**

**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 323**

**Author:** [Fitzenhagen \(R\)](#)

**Title:** High School Graduation Requirements

**Disposition:** Failed

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**Summary:** Relates to high school graduation requirements; revises the requirements for the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards to include financial literacy; revises the required credits for a standard high school diploma for instruction in personal financial literacy and money management, and for electives. **SEE HB 7055**

**3.FL H 399**

**Author:** [Mariano \(R\)](#)  
**Title:** John McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities  
**Disposition:** Failed  
**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.

**4.FL H 621**

**Author:** [Rommel \(R\)](#)  
**Title:** School Safety  
**Disposition:** Failed  
**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.

**5.FL H 731**

**Author:** [Sullivan \(R\)](#)  
**Title:** Home Education  
**Disposition:** **To Governor**  
**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.

**6.FL H 827**

**Author:** [Donalds \(R\)](#)  
**Title:** Instructional Materials  
**Disposition:** **SEE HB 7055**  
**Summary:** Relates to instructional materials; requires district school boards to establish a process by which certain persons may recommend instructional materials for consideration by district instructional materials reviewers; requires a specified affidavit to include a statement that instructional materials recommended for adoption meet certain requirements.

**7.FL H 829**

**Author:** [Plasencia \(R\)](#)  
**Title:** Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program  
**Disposition:** Failed

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**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.

#### 8.FL H 951

**Author:** [Fischer \(R\)](#)  
**Title:** Education  
**Disposition:** Failed  
**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.

#### 9.FL H 1045

**Author:** [Pigman \(R\)](#)  
**Title:** Immunization Registry  
**Disposition:** Failed  
**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.

#### 10.FL H 1091

**Author:** [Grall \(R\)](#)  
**Title:** Early Learning  
**Disposition:** **To Governor**  
**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.

#### 11.FL H 1129

**Author:** [Cortes \(R\)](#)  
**Title:** Licensure of Child Care Programs  
**Disposition:** Failed  
**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.

#### 12.FL H 1175

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

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**Title:** Early Learning Coalitions  
**Disposition:** Failed  
**Summary:** Relates to early learning coalitions; authorizes an early learning coalition to refuse to contract with certain school readiness program providers.

**13.FL H 1419**

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

**Title:** Firearms  
**Disposition:** Failed  
**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.

**14.FL H 6051**

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

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

**15.FL H 7055**

**Author:** [House Education Committee](#)

**Title:** Florida Sales Tax Credit Scholarship Program  
**Disposition:** **Enacted**  
**Summary:** Relates to education; relates to sales tax credit scholarship program; authorizes the Commissioner of Education to coordinate resources during an emergency; revises the duties and responsibilities of superintendents relating to the organization of schools; requires school districts to provide charter schools access to certain property on the same basis as public schools.

**16.FL S 88**

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

**Title:** High School Graduation Requirements  
**Disposition:** Failed  
**Summary:** Relates to high school graduation requirements; revises the requirements for the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards to include financial literacy; revises the required credits of instruction in personal financial literacy and money management for a standard high school diploma.

**17.FL S 564**

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

**Title:** Scholarships for Students With Disabilities  
**Disposition:** Failed

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**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.

**18.FL S 732**

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

**Title:** Home Education

**Disposition:** **SEE HB 731 PASSED TO GOVERNOR**

**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.

**19.FL S 1048**

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

**Title:** Firearms

**Disposition:** Failed

**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 S 1064**

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

**Title:** Dual Enrollment Programs

**Disposition:** **SEE HB 7055 PASSED & SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**

**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.

**21.FL S 1080**

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

**Title:** John M. McKay Scholarships

**Disposition:** Failed

**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.

**22.FL S 1172**

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

**Title:** Hope Scholarship Program

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**Disposition:** [SEE HB 7055](#)

**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.

**23.FL S 1192**

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

**Title:** Education

**Disposition:** Failed

**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.

**24.FL S 1236**

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

**Title:** School Safety

**Disposition:** Failed

**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.

**25.FL S 1254**

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

**Title:** Early Learning

**Disposition:** Failed

**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 state's Early learning activities.

**26.FL S 1520**

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

**Title:** Licensure of Child Care Programs

**Disposition:** Failed

**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.

**27.FL S 1532**

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

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**Title:** Early Learning Coalitions

**Disposition:** Failed

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

**28.FL S 1644**

**Author:** [Lee T \(R\)](#)

**Title:** Instructional Materials

**Disposition:** Failed

**Summary:** Relates to instructional materials; requires district school board rules to include a longer public review period for student editions of recommended instructional materials; requires district school boards to establish by rule a process by which certain persons may recommend instructional materials for consideration by district instructional materials reviewers.

**29.FL S 1680**

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

**Title:** Immunization Registry

**Disposition:** Failed

**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.

**30.FL S 1756**

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

**Title:** School Accountability

**Disposition:** Failed

**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.

**31.FL S 1820**

**Author:** [Perry \(R\)](#)

**Title:** Reading Scholarship Accounts

**Disposition:** **SEE HB 7055**

**Summary:** Relates to reading scholarship accounts; establishes reading scholarship accounts for specified purposes; provides for eligibility for scholarships under the program; provides for administration; provides duties of the Department of Education; provides school district obligations; specifies options for parents; provides that maximum funding shall be specified in the General Appropriations Act; provides for payment of funds.

**ANY OTHER PARTY OR PERSONS THAN THE INTENDED RECIPIENT INDICATED WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE  
FACCS TALLAHASSEE OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE SERVICES.**

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