



## Capital Office for Administrative, Accreditation & Legislative Services

Below is an update on legislation prefilled that we are tracking that may have an impact on Christian schools and the private sector. The final bill listed, is a revision, yet parallel, to the past three years of attempts to change the licensure, inspection and accountability of those programs offering early childhood services via Readiness, Child Care (before/after care) Development Block Grant funds (federal investment & involvement), VPK and of course religious exemption.

With the regular Legislative session beginning January 12, 2016 the movement of bills is at a regular pace.

### HB 31 - High School Athletics

**General Bill** by Spano (CO-SPONSORS) Ahern; Combee; Diaz, M.; Grant; Hill; Raulerson; Santiago; Stevenson; Van Zant

**High School Athletics:** Provides requirements regarding fees & contest receipts collected by FHSAA; provides that school may join FHSAA as full-time member or on per-sport basis; prohibits FHSAA from taking retributory or discriminatory action against specified schools; authorizes Commissioner of Education to identify other associations in compliance with specified provisions.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2016

**Last Event:** Now in Education Committee on Tuesday, December 01, 2015

### HB 43 - Churches or Religious Organizations

**General Bill** by Plakon and Cortes, B. (CO-SPONSORS) Baxley; Broxson; Costello; Drake; Fant; Harrison; Hill; Mayfield; Stone; Sullivan; Van Zant

**Churches or Religious Organizations:** Provides that churches or religious organizations, related organizations, or certain individuals may not be required to solemnize any marriage or provide services, accommodations, facilities, goods, or privileges for related purposes if such action would violate sincerely held religious belief; prohibits certain legal actions, penalties, or governmental sanctions against such individuals or entities.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2016

**Last Event:** Now in Judiciary Committee

### HB 45 - Prohibited Discrimination

**General Bill** by Raschein (CO-SPONSORS) Cortes, J.; Edwards; Fitzenhagen; Fullwood; Goodson; Hager; Latvala; Murphy; Narain; Peters; Pilon; Plasencia; Rader; Richardson; Rodríguez, J.; Rouson; Stark

**Prohibited Discrimination:** Creates "Florida Competitive Workforce Act"; prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation & gender identity or expression; defines terms; provides exceptions for constitutionally protected free exercise of religion.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2016

**Last Event:** Now in Economic Affairs Committee

#### SB 96 - High School Graduation Requirements

**General Bill** by Hukill (CO-SPONSORS) Sachs

**High School Graduation Requirements:** Revising the requirements for the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards to include standards for financial literacy; revising the required credits for a standard high school diploma to include one-half credit of instruction in personal financial literacy and money management and seven and one-half, rather than eight, credits of electives, etc.

**Effective Date:** 07/01/2016

**Last Event:** 08/19/15 S Referred to Education Pre-K - 12; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Appropriations

#### SB 110 - Churches or Religious Organizations

**General Bill** by Bean (CO-SPONSORS) Gaetz

**Churches or Religious Organizations:** Providing that churches or religious organizations, related organizations, or certain individuals may not be required to solemnize any marriage or provide services, accommodations, facilities, goods, or privileges for related purposes if such action would violate a sincerely held religious belief; prohibiting certain legal actions, penalties, or governmental sanctions against such individuals or entities, etc.

**Effective Date:** 07/01/2016

**Last Event:** 08/21/15 S Referred to Judiciary; Community Affairs; Rules

#### SB 120 - Prohibited Discrimination

**General Bill** by Abruzzo (CO-SPONSORS) Sobel

**Prohibited Discrimination:** Creating the "Florida Competitive Workforce Act"; revising provisions to include sexual orientation and gender identity or expression and the perception of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, handicap, or marital status as impermissible grounds for discrimination; providing an exception for constitutionally protected free exercise of religion, etc.

**Effective Date:** 07/01/2016

**Last Event:** 08/21/15 S Referred to Judiciary; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; Fiscal Policy

#### HB 125 - High School Graduation Requirements

**General Bill** by Clarke-Reed

**High School Graduation Requirements:** Requires students to earn one-half credit in health education for high school graduation; authorizes waiver for students who request to take & successfully complete health education assessment; reduces number of required credits in elective courses.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2016

**Last Event:** Now in K-12 Subcommittee

#### CS/SB 156 - After-school Programs

**General Bill** by Community Affairs and Smith (CO-SPONSORS) Stargel; Thompson

**After-school Programs:** Deleting a legislative intent provision regarding certain not-for-profit organizations and background screening for such organizations; revising the term "specified agency" to include certain divisions within the Department of Education; requiring child care personnel of the not-for-profit organizations or municipal governments to meet certain background screening requirements, etc.

**Effective Date:** Upon becoming a law

**Last Event:** 12/03/15 S Now in Education Pre-K - 12

#### CS/HB 229 - Bullying and Harassment Policies in Schools

**General Bill** by K-12 Subcommittee and Geller

**Bullying and Harassment Policies in Schools:** Requires school districts to review their bullying & harassment policies at specified intervals, school principals to implement district's bullying and harassment policy at school & integrate it with specified programs; requires policy to include procedure for reports of alleged acts of bullying & list of authorized bullying & harassment programs.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2016

**Last Event:** Now in Education Appropriations Subcommittee

#### SB 268 - Bullying and Harassment Policies in Schools

**General Bill** by Ring

**Bullying and Harassment Policies in Schools:** Requiring school districts to revise their bullying and harassment policy at specified intervals; requiring the policy to include mandatory reporting procedures and a list of authorized programs that provide bullying and harassment identification, prevention, and response instruction, etc.

**Effective Date:** 07/01/2016

**Last Event:** 09/17/15 S Referred to Education Pre-K - 12; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Fiscal Policy

#### HB 343 - Public K-12 Education

**General Bill** by Jones, M.

**Public K-12 Education:** Provides short title for ch. 2010-217, Laws of Florida, relating to requirements for health education curricula & district school board policies on teen dating violence & abuse.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2016

**Last Event:** Now in K-12 Subcommittee

#### HB 353 - Discrimination in Employment Screening

**General Bill** by Powell (CO-SPONSORS) Berman; Bracy

**Discrimination in Employment Screening:** Prohibits public employer from inquiring into or considering applicant's criminal history on initial employment application unless required to do so by law.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2016

**Last Event:** Now in Criminal Justice Subcommittee

#### HB 367 - Opportunity Scholarship Program

**General Bill** by Fullwood

**Opportunity Scholarship Program:** Provides that student being promoted to grade 6 or grade 9 may not receive opportunity scholarship if middle school or high school to which student is assigned meets specified criteria.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2016

**Last Event:** Now in K-12 Subcommittee

#### HB 377 - Exceptional Student Education

**General Bill** by Harrell

**Exceptional Student Education:** Defines term "dyslexia"; establishes Dyslexia Choice Academy Pilot Project within DOE; requires DOE to consult with Duval County School Board to provide mentoring services; provides for school district participation; provides Dyslexia Choice Academy, school district, DOE, & legislative funding requirements; provides for rulemaking.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2016

**Last Event:** Now in K-12 Subcommittee

#### HB 401 - Protection of Religious Freedom

**General Bill** by Gonzalez (CO-SPONSORS) Costello; Fant

**Protection of Religious Freedom:** Provides immunity from liability for health care facility, health care provider, person, closely held organization, religious institution, business owned or operated by religious institution, or private child-placing agency that refuses to perform certain actions that would be contrary to religious or moral convictions or policies.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2016

**Last Event:** Now in Civil Justice Subcommittee

#### SB 406 - Playground Safety

**General Bill** by Sobel

**Playground Safety:** Citing this act as the "Playground Safety Act"; requiring certain new and existing playgrounds to comply with specified safety standards and guidelines; authorizing counties and municipalities to require permits and charge fees for the construction or renovation of certain playgrounds, etc.

**Effective Date:** 01/01/2017

**Last Event:** 10/09/15 S Referred to Education Pre-K - 12; Community Affairs; Fiscal Policy

#### SB 448 - Discrimination in Employment Screening

**General Bill** by Clemens (CO-SPONSORS) Joyner; Thompson

**Discrimination in Employment Screening:** Prohibiting a public employer from inquiring into or considering an applicant's criminal history on an initial employment application unless required to do so by law, etc.

**Effective Date:** 07/01/2016

**Last Event:** 10/09/15 S Referred to Commerce and Tourism; Judiciary; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; Fiscal Policy

#### SB 452 - Seclusion and Restraint of Students with Disabilities in Public Schools

**General Bill** by Flores

**Seclusion and Restraint of Students with Disabilities in Public Schools:** Providing requirements for the use of manual physical restraint by school personnel; requiring each school to ensure medical evaluation of a student after the student is manually physically restrained; prohibiting school personnel from placing a student in seclusion; requiring that each school district develop policies and procedures governing the authorized use of manual physical restraint, personnel authorized to use such restraint, training procedures, analysis of data, and the reduction of the use of manual physical restraint, etc.

**Effective Date:** 07/01/2016

**Last Event:** 10/09/15 S Referred to Education Pre-K - 12; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education;

#### CS/SB 468 - Computer Coding Instruction

**General Bill** by Education Pre-K - 12 and Ring (CO-SPONSORS) Brandes

**Computer Coding Instruction:** Requiring high schools to offer computer coding courses; requiring the Commissioner of Education to identify the computer coding courses that may satisfy two credits of foreign language instruction under certain circumstances; requiring a student to earn two credits in certain computer coding courses in order to be eligible for an initial award under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, etc.

**Effective Date:** 07/01/2016

**Last Event:** 12/04/15 S Pending reference review under Rule 4.7(2) - (Committee Substitute) on Friday, December 04, 2015

#### SB 472 - Exceptional Student Education

**General Bill** by Bean

**Exceptional Student Education:** Requiring the Department of Education to establish the Dyslexia Choice Academy Pilot Project; requiring the Duval County School Board to provide mentoring services to participating school districts; providing Dyslexia Choice Academy, school district, department, and legislative funding requirements, etc.

**Effective Date:** 07/01/2016

**Last Event:** 10/21/15 S Referred to Education Pre-K - 12; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Appropriations

#### SB 480 - High School Graduation Requirements

**General Bill** by Bullard

**High School Graduation Requirements:** Requiring students to earn one-half credit in health education, independent of the physical education credit requirements, for high school graduation; authorizing a waiver for students who request to take and successfully complete a health education assessment developed by the Department of Education, etc.

**Effective Date:** 07/01/2016

**Last Event:** 10/21/15 S Referred to Education Pre-K - 12; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Appropriations

#### SB 520 - Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

**General Bill** by Lee (CO-SPONSORS) Gaetz

**Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program:** Providing that the initial award period and the renewal period for students who are unable to accept an initial award immediately after completion of high school due to a full-time religious or service obligation begin upon the completion of the religious or service obligation; requiring a student, as a prerequisite for the Florida Academic Scholars award, the Florida Medallion Scholars award, or the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award, to identify a social or civic issue or a professional area of interest and develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area, etc.

**Effective Date:** 07/01/2016

**Last Event:** 12/03/15 S Subcommittee Recommendation: CS by Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; YEAS 7 NAYS 0 on Thursday, December 03, 2015

#### SB 528 - Opportunity Scholarship Program

**General Bill** by Gibson

**Opportunity Scholarship Program:** Providing that a student being promoted to grade 6 or grade 9 may not receive an opportunity scholarship if the middle school or high school to which the student is assigned meets specified criteria, etc.

**Effective Date:** 07/01/2016

**Last Event:** 10/21/15 S Referred to Education Pre-K - 12; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Appropriations

#### SB 536 - After-school Child Care Programs

**General Bill** by Smith

**After-school Child Care Programs:** Requiring the Department of Children and Families to create a tiered after-school licensure program; requiring the department to adopt rules to implement the tiered after-school program; requiring the department to initiate rulemaking to implement the program by a certain date; requiring the department to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature by a certain date, etc.

**Effective Date:** 07/01/2016

**Last Event:** 10/26/15 S On Committee agenda-- Children, Families, and Elder Affairs, 11/04/15, 2:00 pm, 301 Senate Office Building --Temporarily Postponed

#### HB 585 - Instruction for Homebound and Hospitalized Students

**General Bill** by Burgess (CO-SPONSORS) Sprowls

**Instruction for Homebound and Hospitalized Students:** Requires school districts to provide instruction to homebound or hospitalized students; provides for student eligibility, methods of providing instruction to homebound or hospitalized students, & initiation of services.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2016

**Last Event:** Now in Education Committee on Tuesday, December 01, 2015

#### HB 669 - Educational Choice

**General Bill** by Sprowls (CO-SPONSORS) Diaz, M.

**Educational Choice:** Revises list of public & private educational choice options available to students; requires school districts to provide & publish certain information; revises controlled open enrollment process; requires school district to establish process for parent to request that his or her child be transferred to another classroom; revises components of Credit Acceleration Program.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2016

**Last Event:** Now in Choice & Innovation Subcommittee

#### SB 684 - Choice in Sports

**General Bill** by Gaetz and Stargel

**Choice in Sports:** Revising public school choice options available to students to include CAPE digital tools, CAPE industry certifications, and collegiate high school programs; requiring each district school board and charter school governing board to authorize a parent to have his or her child participate in controlled open enrollment; requiring the FHSAA to allow a school to maintain full membership in the association or to join by sport, etc.

**Effective Date:** 07/01/2016

**Last Event:** 11/18/15 S Referred to Education Pre-K - 12; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Appropriations

#### HB 705 - Educational Interpreters for Individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Dual Sensory Impaired

**General Bill** by Berman

**Educational Interpreters for Individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Dual Sensory Impaired:** Defines term "educational interpreters" for inclusion in classification of instructional personnel; provides minimum qualifications for persons functioning as educational interpreters; provides SBE with rulemaking authority; provides duties of DOE.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2016

**Last Event:** Now in K-12 Subcommittee

## HJR 759 - Charter Schools

**Joint Resolution** by Diaz, M.

**Charter Schools:** Proposes amendment to State Constitution to require SBE to establish statewide system for approval of charter schools.

**Effective Date:** Not Specified

**Last Event:** Filed on Thursday, November 19, 2015

## HB 793 - Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

**General Bill** by O'Toole

**Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program:** Provides that initial award period & renewal period for students who are unable to accept initial award immediately after high school due to specific obligations begins upon completion of obligation; requires student, as prerequisite for certain awards, to identify social or civic issue or professional area of interest & develop specified plan.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2016

**Last Event:** Filed on Monday, November 30, 2015

## SB 806 - Instruction for Homebound and Hospitalized Students

**General Bill** by Legg

**Instruction for Homebound and Hospitalized Students:** Requiring school districts to provide instruction to homebound or hospitalized students; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules related to student eligibility, methods of providing instruction to homebound or hospitalized students, and the initiation of services; requiring each school district to enter into an agreement with certain hospitals within its district by a specified date, etc.

**Effective Date:** 07/01/2016

**Last Event:** 11/19/15 S Referred to Education Pre-K - 12; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Appropriations

## SB 824 - Dual Enrollment Program

**General Bill** by Stargel

**Dual Enrollment Program:** Exempting dual enrollment students from paying technology fees; requiring a home education secondary student to be responsible for his or her own instructional materials and transportation in order to participate in the dual enrollment program unless the articulation agreement provides otherwise; authorizing certain instructional materials to be made available free of charge to dual enrollment students in home education programs and private schools if provided for in the articulation agreement; requiring a postsecondary institution eligible to participate in the dual enrollment program to enter into an articulation agreement with certain eligible private schools, etc.

**Effective Date:** 07/01/2016

**Last Event:** 11/19/15 S Referred to Education Pre-K - 12; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Appropriations



## HB 827 - Funding for High School Interscholastic Athletic Programs

**General Bill** by Antone

**Funding for High School Interscholastic Athletic Programs:** Levies surcharge on admission charges for professional sporting events; defines "professional sporting event"; provides that certain admissions are exempt from surcharge; requires DOR to administer, collect, & enforce surcharge; provides for deposit & use of surcharge proceeds for high school interscholastic athletic programs; provides formula for allocating funds among school districts & high schools.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2016

**Last Event:** Filed on Tuesday, December 01, 2015

## HB 835 - Education

**General Bill** by Eisnaugle

**Education:** Revises provisions relating to home education programs, nonenrollment & nonattendance cases, dual enrollment programs, & Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2016

**Last Event:** Filed on Tuesday, December 01, 2015

## HB 837 - John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program

**General Bill** by Bileca

**John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program:** Provides certain students enrolled in John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program are exempt from specific provisions & scholarship awards are not subject to specified funding calculations; creates transition-to-work program for specific students enrolled in program; provides for requirements & participation.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2016

**Last Event:** Filed on Tuesday, December 01, 2015

## HB 859 - Education in Public Schools Concerning Human Sexuality

**General Bill** by Fullwood

**Education in Public Schools Concerning Human Sexuality:** Creates "Florida Healthy Adolescent Act"; requires public schools that provide information or programs relating to human sexuality to provide comprehensive, medically accurate, & factual information that is developmentally & age appropriate; provides for review of certain materials & students to be excused in certain circumstances; repeals certain health education provisions.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2016

**Last Event:** Filed on Wednesday, December 02, 2015

## HB 887 - Computer Coding Instruction

**General Bill** by Adkins

**Computer Coding Instruction:** Requires high schools to offer computer coding courses; requires Florida College System institutions & state universities to recognize the credits as foreign language

credits; requires Commissioner of Education to identify computer coding courses that may satisfy two credits of foreign language instruction; requires inclusion of certain computer coding courses in Course Code Directory; requires each district school board to submit plan for computer coding curriculum to commissioner & Legislature.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2016

**Last Event:** Filed on Thursday, December 03, 2015

#### SB 890 - Education

**General Bill** by Flores

**Education:** Establishing the State Seal of Biliteracy Program to recognize a high school graduate who has attained a high level of competency in a world language; revising eligibility for the Florida Academic Scholars award to include a student who has been awarded an Advanced Placement Capstone diploma; requiring a specified calculation of additional full-time equivalent student membership for a student who receives an Advanced Placement Capstone diploma in determining the annual operating allocation for each school district, etc.

**Effective Date:** 07/01/2016

**Last Event:** 12/03/15 S Referred to Education Pre-K - 12; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Appropriations on Thursday, December 03, 2015

#### SJR 976 - Charter Schools

**Joint Resolution** by Stargel

**Charter Schools:** Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to require the State Board of Education to direct the Department of Education to establish a statewide system for the approval of charter schools within the state, etc.

**Effective Date:** Not Specified

**Last Event:** 12/01/15 S Filed on Tuesday, December 01, 2015

#### SB 980 - Funding for High School Interscholastic Athletic Programs

**General Bill** by Thompson

**Funding for High School Interscholastic Athletic Programs:** Levying a surcharge on the charge for admission to professional sporting events; requiring the Department of Revenue to administer, collect, and enforce the surcharge; providing for deposit and use of surcharge proceeds for high school interscholastic athletic programs, etc.

**Effective Date:** 07/01/2016

**Last Event:** 12/01/15 S Filed on Tuesday, December 01, 2015

#### SB 990 - Bright Futures Scholarship Program

**General Bill** by Montford

**Bright Futures Scholarship Program:** Providing that the initial award and renewal periods for students who are unable to accept an initial award immediately after completion of high school due to a full-time religious or service obligation begin upon the completion of the religious or service obligation, etc.

**Effective Date:** 07/01/2016

**Last Event:** 12/01/15 S Filed on Tuesday, December 01, 2015

## SB 1026 - High School Athletics

**General Bill** by Simmons

**High School Athletics:** Providing requirements regarding fees and contest receipts collected by the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA); requiring the FHSAA to allow a school to join the FHSAA as a full-time member or on a per-sport basis, etc.

**Effective Date:** 07/01/2016

**Last Event:** 12/02/15 S Filed on Wednesday, December 02, 2015

## CS/HB 4013 - Blended Learning Courses

**General Bill** by Choice & Innovation Subcommittee and Diaz, M.

**Blended Learning Courses:** Deletes requirement that students in blended learning course receive online instruction in classroom setting at school.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2016

**Last Event:** CS Filed on Thursday, December 03, 2015

## HB 7053 – Child Care, Religious Exemption, Readiness & VPK

Relating to the Child Care and Development Block Grant: Expands list of entities that have access to child abuse records for approving providers of school readiness services; requires school readiness program providers to provide DCF & local licensing agencies with access for inspection purposes; requires certain child care providers to submit affidavit of compliance with licensure requirements of Ch. 402, F.S., & federal law; provides criteria for exemption from disqualification for employment with school readiness program provider; revises duties of OEL; revises provisions relating to child & parent eligibility for school readiness programs. Effective date: 7/1/2016

**Last Event:** Filed on Friday, December 04, 2015

*PRIVILEGE AND CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: DISCLAIMER: \*IACCS is a subdivision of the Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools, Inc. This e-mail is covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510-2521 and is legally privileged. The contents of this e-mail message and any attachments are intended solely for the party or parties addressed and named in this message. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, or if this message has been addressed to you in error, please immediately alert the sender by reply e-mail and then delete this message and its attachments. Do not deliver, distribute, or copy this message and or any attachments if you are not the intended recipient. Do not disclose the contents or take any action in reliance upon the information contained in this communication or any attachments. Although this E-mail and any attachments are believed to be free of any virus or other defect that might affect any computer system into which it is received and opened, it is the responsibility of the recipient to ensure that it is virus free and no responsibility is accepted by Howard G. Burke for damage arising in any way from its use.*