



Capital Office for Administrative, Accreditation & Legislative Services

March 3, 2015

TO: All FACCS Administrators
FROM: Dr. Howard G. Burke, Executive Director
RE: Florida 2015 Legislative Session Capital Report

Today as the 2015 Legislative Session begins and proceeds for the next 10 weeks it is appropriate to understand the pre-filed legislation that will have significant or cross-over impact for Christian Schools and the non-public community in the State. To expedite that process you will find below a comprehensive listing of House and Senate Bills, their sponsors, location and a brief summary of the general details of the legislation.

A complete presentation was provided in detail at the FACCS Administrator's Conference last Thursday. Due to the comprehensive changes that are taking place in areas that will impact your employment practices, required and enhanced screening and background procedures, educational and assessment challenges, transitioning CHOICE programs, and massive change in the area of early childhood & other academic concerns you are encouraged to review the details carefully.

Having spent two hours discussing the radical changes for every participant offering programs serving children from birth to eighteen, that detail will not be reproduced herein as without the **historical background** fully comprehended as presented a school administrator does not have the insight to what "religious exemption" under FS. 402.316 and "nonpublic school exclusion" from licensure under FS. 402.3025 were enshrined in State Statute to protect. The fact is having written the statutory language in 1973 and now 42+ years later the changes within ministries is so sweeping due to the open acceptance of vouchers, scholarships, school readiness funding, state/federal/local dollars, separation of corporate structure, etc., there is no comparison of then and now. With that reflection realistically one should not expect the privilege of indulgence without accountability to the funding providers.

The result of such willingness to access said opportunities carries a double-edged sword that is now about to fall upon religious (faith-based) early childhood and Christian, parochial, or non-public, private school programs. Because of such open acceptance of state infused funding it has become illogical to argue we need not be accountable to such a fearful master. Be advised the extensive legislation (SB 7006) has already passed unanimously in both the Florida House and Senate Education Committees during Interim Committee meetings since the November election through this date. (See Number 33 below.)

The one up-side of the legislation is if you do not participate in any state/federal funding options this legislation leaves intact the present 'religious exemption.' That is if you meet the level of "substantial compliance" under Chapter 65c-22 which parallels the historical FACCS Health, Safety and Sanitation Minimum Standards.

Additionally we have added language to the legislation that preserves ministry autonomy (related to ELC's, OEL, DCF engagement); there can be no infringement on curriculum choice, no required provision of unemployment compensation insurance, limitations on inspection fees and uniform multi-agency combined single inspections (quarterly in an abbreviated format) are to be uniform, and additional safeguards for those that remain accessing the State options like School Readiness, the VPK Program & Gold Seal provisions. The bottom line as the Chair of House K-12 Committee put it, "If you take one dollar of state money you need to be accountable to the state."

Other initiatives in this session will impact participants of the McKay and Corporate Tax Scholarships, Personal Learning Savings Accounts, changing academic credits & electives, use of PSAT/SAT ACT, the FHSAA and its operation, the broadening of Civil Rights in employment practice (criminal records, sexual orientation, gender identity & gender perception; playground safety inspections, transportation safety requirements, concealed weapons on campus, opening and closing dates for schools, dual enrollment participants, Bright Futures, homebound instruction, and so forth as you may read below.

1. FL H 11

Similar: FL S 250
Author: Pilon (R)
Coauthor: Rader (D) , Kerner (D) , Lee L (D) , Magar (R) , Powell (D) , Pritchett (D) , Santiago (R) , Burton (R) , DuBose (D) , Jones S (D) , Eagle (R) , Perry (R) , Rehwinkel Vasil (D) , Van Zant (R) , Williams A (D) , Ahern (R) , Berman (D) , Boyd J (R) , Costello (R) , Moraitis (R) , Narain (D)
Title: Care of Children
Disposition: Pending
Location: House Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee
Summary: Relates to care of children; exempts certain membership organizations from licensing requirements and minimum standards for child care facilities; provides screening requirements for organization employees under certain circumstances; relates to after-school programs and delinquency programs that are facility-based or school based.

2. FL H 19

Similar: FL S 180
Author: Steube (R)
Coauthor: Renuart (R) , Smith J (R) , Diaz M (R) , Eagle (R) , Raburn (R)
Title: School Safety
Disposition: Pending
Location: House K-12 Subcommittee
Summary: Relates to school safety; permits school superintendent, with approval of the school board, to authorize school safety designee to carry concealed weapon or firearm on school property; provides requirements for school safety designees; provides exception to prohibition on possession of firearms or other specified devices on school property or other specified areas; provides for fingerprint processing and retention; requires that fees be borne by school safety designee or school.

3. FL H 349

Identical: FL S 688
Author: Mayfield D (R)
Coauthor: Harrell (R) , Cortes (R) , Plasencia (R) , Murphy (D) , Lee L (D) , Eagle (R) , Combee (R) , Watson B (D) , Perry (R) , Ingram (R) , Ahern (R) , Van Zant (R) , Rouson (D) , Slosberg (D) , Cortes J (D)
Title: Opening and Closing of Public Schools
Disposition: Pending
Location: House K-12 Subcommittee
Summary: Relates to opening and closing of public schools; revises requirement for uniform opening date of public schools; provides that academically high-performing school districts must comply with provisions relating to uniform opening date of public schools.

4. FL H 425

Author: McGhee (D)
Title: Education of Children With Disabilities
Disposition: Pending
Location: House K-12 Subcommittee
Summary: Relates to education of children with disabilities; provides for State Bill of Rights for Children with Disabilities & their Parents or Guardians; provides guarantees relating to free appropriate public education, least-restrictive educational environment, IEPs, procedural due process, nondiscriminatory assessment, parental participation, & data sharing.

5. FL H 477

Identical: FL S 970
Author: Sprowls (R)
Coauthor: Diaz M (R)
Title: Background Screening
Disposition: Pending
Committee: House K-12 Subcommittee
Hearing: 03/04/2015 1:30 pm, Morris Hall (17 HOB)
Summary: Relates to background screening; revises requirement relating to background screening of instructional personnel in virtual instruction programs; provides additional offenses that determine ineligibility for educator certification or employment; revises requirements for submission, retention, search, and reporting of fingerprints of educational personnel and contractual personnel; provides for Department of Law Enforcement participation in national retained print arrest notification program.

6. FL H 483

Identical: FL S 518
Author: Jones M (D)
Title: Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
Disposition: Pending
Location: House Choice & Innovation Subcommittee
Summary: Relates to voluntary prekindergarten education program; revises provisions relating to calculation of kindergarten readiness rate for Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program providers and schools; requires administration of preassessment and postassessment to students; provides assessment requirements; requires Office of Early Learning to annually report certain student growth data to State Board of Education.

7. FL H 603

Similar: FL S 530
Author: Geller (D)
Title: Bullying and Harassment Policies in Schools
Disposition: Pending
Location: House K-12 Subcommittee
Summary: Relates to bullying and harassment policies in schools; requires school districts to revise bullying & harassment policy at specified intervals; requires schools to implement policy; requires policy to include specific procedures & programs.

8. FL H 713

Similar: FL S 874
Author: Perry (R)
Title: Students Dual Enrollment Program Fee Exemptions
Disposition: Pending
Location: House Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee
Summary: Relates to dual enrollment program; exempts dual enrollment students from paying technology fees; revises provisions relating to home education students participating in dual enrollment program; authorizes instructional materials to be free of charge to students; provides requirements for private school student to participate in dual enrollment program; revises provisions relating to dual enrollment articulation agreements.

9. FL H 747

Similar: FL S 960
Author: Rooney (R)
Title: Bright Futures Scholarship Program
Disposition: Pending
Location: House Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee
Summary: Relates to State bright futures scholarship program; requires student, as prerequisite for State Academic Scholars award, State Medallion Scholars award, or State Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award, to identify social or civic issue or professional area of interest & develop plan for personal involvement in addressing issue or learning about area; prohibits student from receiving remuneration or academic credit for volunteer service work.

10. FL H 877

Similar: FL S 1450
Author: Mayfield D (R)
Title: Assessments and Accountability
Disposition: Pending
Location: HOUSE
Summary: Relates to assessments and accountability; authorizes school district to select certain assessments to administer instead of statewide, standardized assessments; provides for selection of assessments, funding, & scoring of assessments; requires State Board of Education (SBE) to ensure against certain repercussions; exempts certain students from participation in statewide, standardized assessment program; provides for administration of paper-based assessments; revises definitions relating to school /.

11. FL H 977

Similar: FL S 214
Author: Powell (D)
Title: Discrimination in Employment Screening
Disposition: Pending
Location: HOUSE
Summary: Relates to discrimination in employment screening; prohibits employer from inquiring into or considering applicant's criminal record on initial employment application unless required by law.

12. FL H 1045

Author: Burgess (R)

Title: Homebound Instruction
Disposition: Pending
Location: HOUSE
Summary: Relates to homebound instruction; defines homebound instruction; provides eligibility for certain students to receive homebound instruction, instruction requirements, & award of course credit; encourages school districts to pursue certain instruction methods; provides for rulemaking.

13. FL H 1157

Author: Bileca (R)
Title: Scholarships for Students With Disabilities
Disposition: Pending
Location: HOUSE
Summary: Relates to John M. McKay scholarships for students with disabilities program; requires parent of certain students to acknowledge receipt of information relating to John M. McKay Scholarships; requires school district to keep acknowledgment & annually provide acknowledgment to Department of Education (DOE); authorizes Department of Education (DOE) to create standard acknowledgment form; requires school districts to use standard acknowledgment form if provided by Department of Education (DOE).

14. FL H 1177

Compare: FL H 1241 , FL S 616 , FL S 1544
Identical: FL S 774
Author: Dudley (D)
Title: Education Accountability
Disposition: Pending
Location: HOUSE
Summary: Relates to education accountability; provides that English Language Arts (ELA) & Mathematics online assessments may not be fully implemented until certain technology infrastructure, connectivity, & capacity have been tested, verified, & certified as ready; specifies that, for purpose of student assessment program, state & local student assessment programs must use minimum amount of testing necessary; provides that PSAT, SAT, & act are tests that may be accepted in lieu of common placement test to assess /.

15. FL H 7017

Similar: FL S 7006
Author: House Education Committee
Coauthor: O'Toole (R)
Title: Early Learning
Disposition: Pending
Location: HOUSE
Summary: Relates to Early learning; includes large family child care homes in local zoning regulation requirements; revises certain minimum standards for child care facilities & requirements for certain personnel; provides for inspection of programs regulated by Department of Children and Families (DCF); provides exemptions from child care facility licensing standards; revises restrictions on residential property insurance coverage to include coverage for large family child care homes & Child Care /.

16. FL S 92

Compare: FL H 29
Author: Hukill (R)
Coauthor: Latvala (R) , Margolis (D) , Sachs (D) , Bradley (R) , Simpson (R)
Title: High School Graduation Requirements
Disposition: Pending
Location: Senate Education Pre-K - 12 Committee
Summary: Relates to high school graduation requirements; revises the requirements for the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards to include standards for financial literacy; revises the required credits for a standard high school diploma to include specified credits of instruction in personal financial literacy and money management and credits of electives.

17. FL S 156

Similar: FL H 33
Author: Abruzzo (D)
Coauthor: Ring (D) , Bullard D (D)
Title: Prohibited Discrimination
Disposition: Pending
Location: Senate Judiciary Committee
Summary: Relates to prohibited discrimination; creates the State Competitive Workforce Act; revises 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; adds sexual orientation and gender identity or expression as impermissible grounds for discrimination.

18. FL S 180

Similar: FL H 19
Author: Evers (R)
Title: School Safety
Disposition: Pending
Location: Senate Criminal Justice Committee
Summary: Relates to school safety; permits a school superintendent, with approval of the school board, to authorize a school safety designee to carry a concealed weapon or firearm on school property; requires school boards to formulate policies and procedures for managing active-shooter and hostage situations; permits district school boards to commission one or more school safety officers on each school campus.

19. FL S 214

Similar: FL H 977
Author: Clemens (D)
Coauthor: Smith C (D) , Bullard D (D)
Title: Discrimination In Employment Screening
Disposition: Pending
Location: Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee
Summary: Relates to discrimination in employment screening; prohibits an employer from inquiring into or considering an applicant's criminal history on an initial employment application unless required to

do so by law.

20. FL S 250

Similar: FL H 11
Author: Smith C (D)
Coauthor: Margolis (D) , Hays (R) , Stargel (R) , Simpson (R)
Title: Child Care Facilities
Disposition: Pending
Committee: Senate Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee
Hearing: 03/05/2015 9:00 am, 301 Senate Office Building
Summary: Relates to child care facilities; requires that certain membership organizations conduct level 2 background screening for child care personnel; requires such organizations to demonstrate compliance upon request; excludes certain membership organizations from the definition of the term child care facility.

21. FL S 370

Author: Soto (D)
Title: Students With Disabilities Occupational Training
Disposition: Pending
Location: Senate Education Pre-K - 12 Committee
Summary: Relates to students with disabilities; requires occupational skills training be incorporated into an individual education plan for students with disabilities.

22. FL S 504

Author: Sobel (D)
Title: Playground Safety
Disposition: Pending
Location: Senate Education Pre-K - 12 Committee
Summary: Relates to playground safety.

23. FL S 518

Identical: FL H 483
Author: Gibson A (D)
Coauthor: Gaetz D (R)
Title: Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
Disposition: Pending
Location: Senate Education Pre-K - 12 Committee
Summary: Relates to voluntary prekindergarten education program; revises provisions relating to calculation of the kindergarten readiness rate for Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program providers and schools; requires the administration of a preassessment and postassessment to students based upon adopted performance standards.

24. FL S 530

Similar: FL H 603
Author: Ring (D)

Title: School Bullying and Harassment Policies
Disposition: Pending
Location: Senate Education Pre-K - 12 Committee
Summary: Relates to bullying and harassment policies in schools; requires school districts to revise their bullying and harassment policies at specified intervals; specifies that a school district policy require a school to implement the policy in a certain manner and integrate it with the school's bullying prevention and intervention program.

25. FL S 602

Compare: FL H 723
Author: Gaetz D (R)
Coauthor: Galvano (R)
Title: Students With Disabilities
Disposition: Pending
Committee: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education
Hearing: 03/04/2015 10:00 am, 412 Knott Building
Summary: Relates to students with disabilities; revises scholarship application deadlines and guidelines; requires authorized program funds to support the student's educational needs; provides future repeal of provisions pertaining to an implementation schedule of notification and eligibility timelines; authorizes a prepaid college plan to be purchased, accounted for, used, and terminated under certain circumstances.

Status: 02/02/2015 PREFILED.
02/05/2015 To SENATE Committee on EDUCATION PRE-K - 12.
02/05/2015 Referred to SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE on EDUCATION.
02/05/2015 Referred to SENATE Committee on APPROPRIATIONS.
02/09/2015 In SENATE. On Committee agenda 02/18/2015.
02/18/2015 From SENATE Committee on EDUCATION PRE-K - 12: Reported favorably.
02/19/2015 To SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE on EDUCATION.
02/27/2015 In SENATE. On Committee agenda 03/04/2015.
Votes: 02/18/2015 Senate Education Pre-K - 12 Committee P 10-0

26. FL S 624

Identical: FL H 303
Author: Thompson G (D)
Coauthor: Smith C (D)
Title: High School Interscholastic Athletic Program
Disposition: Pending
Location: Senate Finance and Tax Committee
Summary: Relates to funding for high school interscholastic athletic programs; levies a surcharge on the admission charges for professional sporting events; provides that certain admissions are exempt from the surcharge; provides for deposit and use of surcharge proceeds for high school interscholastic athletic programs.

27. FL S 688

Identical: FL H 349
Author: Montford (D)
Title: Opening and Closing of Public Schools
Disposition: Pending

Committee: Senate Education Pre-K - 12 Committee
Hearing: 03/04/2015 3:30 pm, 412 Knott Building
Summary: Relates to opening and closing of public schools; revises a requirement for the uniform opening date of public schools; provides that academically high-performing school districts must comply with provisions relating to the uniform opening date of public schools.

28. FL S 774

Compare: FL H 1241 , FL S 616 , FL S 1544
Identical: FL H 1177
Author: Montford (D)
Title: Education Accountability
Disposition: Pending
Location: Senate Education Pre-K - 12 Committee
Summary: Relates to education accountability.

29. FL S 874

Similar: FL H 713
Author: Stargel (R)
Title: Dual Enrollment Program
Disposition: Pending
Location: Senate Education Pre-K - 12 Committee
Summary: Relates to dual enrollment program; exempts dual enrollment students from paying certain fees, including technology fees; deletes the requirement that a home education secondary student be responsible for his or her own instructional materials in order to participate in the dual enrollment program; authorizes certain instructional materials to be made available free of charge to dual enrollment students in public high schools, home education programs, and private schools.

30. FL S 970

Identical: FL H 477
Author: Stargel (R)
Title: Background Screening
Disposition: Pending
Location: Senate Education Pre-K - 12 Committee
Summary: Relates to background screening.

31. FL S 1480

Author: Stargel (R)
Title: Student Extracurricular Activities
Disposition: Pending
Location: SENATE
Summary: Relates to student extracurricular activities.

32. FL S 1546

Author: Flores (R)
Title: Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Disposition: Pending
Location: SENATE
Summary: Relates to the State bright futures scholarship program.

33. FL S 7006

Similar: FL H 7017
Author: Senate Education Pre-K - 12 Committee
Coauthor: Legg (R)
Title: Early Learning
Disposition: Pending
Location: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
Summary: Relates to early learning; changes certain family day care, terms and requirements; revises requirements for nonpublic schools delivering voluntary prekindergarten education programs, school readiness programs and certain licensing and certification; revises restrictions on residential property insurance; authorizes district school board or charter school governing board to adopt policies related to public kindergarten; requires a literacy study on the impact of certain program participants.

Status: 01/22/2015 PREFILED.
01/22/2015 Originally filed as SPB 7006
02/05/2015 To SENATE Committee on COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.
02/05/2015 Referred to SENATE Committee on APPROPRIATIONS.
02/09/2015 In SENATE. On Committee agenda 02/17/2015.
02/17/2015 From SENATE Committee on COMMUNITY AFFAIRS: Reported favorably with substitute.
02/17/2015 In SENATE. Pending reference review under Rule 4.7(2).
02/20/2015 Withdrawn from SENATE Committee on APPROPRIATIONS.
02/20/2015 To SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.
02/20/2015 Referred to SENATE Committee on APPROPRIATIONS.
Votes: 02/17/2015 Senate Community Affairs Committee P 6-0

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