

This week marks the first week of the 2014 Legislative session. The week began with the ceremonial joint session of the House and Senate, before which each bodies presiding officer addressed their membership before the Governor offered his State of the State address.

Senate President Gaetz and House Speaker Weatherford both offered opening comments and discussed their work plans for this session. Both of them briefly discussed educational issues and both expressed their desire to simplify the school grading system, expand career and technical education, and expand school choice and voucher program options for public school students in the state.

In his State of the State address, Governor Scott emphasized his desire to provide \$500 million dollars in tax cuts this year, to continue to grow jobs in Florida, and to invest in education.

Included in this update is a list of bills which we are monitoring on behalf of ACE and its members, not all bills covered in this update are specific to adult education but may be of interest to the organizations membership as educators, or administrators of Public school/ college facilities. (A full list of the bills we are tracking for ACE is attached as a separate pdf to this update, please retain this list for future reference since all further updates will only include the bill title and its most recent action).

The following is an over view of the bills that were heard in committee and in session this week. **(Please note that passage below indicates passage from a committee only).**

Tuesday, March 4th

In the Senate Education Committee the following bills of interest were discussed:

- **[SB 850](#) – Collegiate High School Programs by Legg – PASSED**

The bill originally required a Florida College System institution to work with each school district in its designated service area to establish a collegiate high school program. Amendments were adopted that substantially expand the scope of this bill by adding provisions relating to juvenile justice education, implementation of an early warning system based on indicators to identify students in need of additional academic support, middle grades reform initiatives, CAPE industry certifications, and other elements.

- **[PCB-SB 7060](#) – Education Accountability by Education Committee – PASSED, SUBMITTED AS COMMITTEE BILL**

This bill provides definitions for the statewide, standardized assessment program and school grading system and provides a plan, based on recommendations by DOE, for the transition to Florida's revised state standards and new assessments with respect to school grading. Two amendments offered by Senator Legg were approved: The first revises some elements to be considered in calculating high school grades; the second amendment provides a pathway for students with significant disabilities to be exempted from taking statewide standardized assessments. A third amendment by Senator Montford was not considered, in part because it was late filed. That amendment may be offered again when the bill is next considered. This bill addresses several of FSBA's 2014 Legislative Platform priorities and positions with regard to the state's performance accountability system.

In the Senate Judiciary Committee:

- **[SB 188](#) – Education Data Privacy by Hukill – TEMPORARILY POSTPONED**

This bill contains provisions to make students and their parents aware of their educational privacy rights and also prohibits the collection -- and limits the dissemination -- of certain types of information. The bill also requires the replacement of social security numbers with student identification numbers. The issue of student data privacy has raised concerns on both sides of the political aisle and has stirred debate about the appropriate procedures and protocols in the use of technology in providing education related services while safeguarding student data.

On Wednesday, March 5th**In the House Education Appropriations Subcommittee:**

- **[HB 433](#) – Educator Certification by Spano -- PASSED**
The bill provides requirements for certain instructional personnel who supervise or direct pre-service field experience; revises acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of general knowledge, subject area knowledge, and professional preparation and education competence; revises components of competency-based professional development certification and education competency program; repeals study to compare performance of certain certificate-holders; revises certain requirements for renewal or reinstatement of professional certificate.
- **[HB 851](#) – Resident Status for Tuition Purposes by Nuñez – PASSED**
The bill is related to the judgment in the Ruiz court case, its language revises certain residency requirements for tuition purposes for dependent children; prohibits denial of classification as resident for tuition purposes based on certain immigration status; revises requirements for documentation of residency and classification as resident; provides that certain persons are not classified as residents for tuition purposes but are not required to pay out-of-state fees; provides requirements for receipt of state financial aid awards or tuition assistance grants. Several competing bills have been filed on this subject and it's likely that efforts will continue to amend these bills to arrive at a compromise. *The bill was amended at this stop with language which indicates if students attended a secondary school in this state for 3 consecutive years immediately before high school graduation, apply for enrollment in an institution of higher education within 24 months after graduation, and submit an official Florida high school transcript as documentary evidence*
- **[HB 7057](#) – Career & Charter Technical Career Centers by Education – PASSED**
The bill authorizes career center and charter technical career center to offer college credit courses applicable toward specific certificates or degrees; provides process for approval to offer specific degree programs; renames and clarifies applied technology diploma program; revises and clarifies tuition and residency fees for specific workforce education programs.

In the House K-12 Subcommittee:

- **[HB 87](#) – Fine Arts Courses by McBurney -- PASSED**
The bill requires Commissioner of Education to prepare annual report relating to student access to and participation in fine arts courses and information on educators, facilities, and instruction in such courses.
- **[HB 279](#) – Public School Instruction by Hill -- PASSED**
The bill requires that instructional staff of public schools provide instruction to students about terrorist attacks occurring on September 11, 2001, and the impact of those events.

In the House Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee:

- **[HB 355](#) – Instructional Materials Affordability by Porter – PASSED WITH A CS**
The bill revises textbook affordability policies & procedures to include other instructional materials; requires policies & procedures to be adopted by Florida College System institutions & state universities; requires institution to post information on course schedule relating to required & recommended textbooks & costs; requires recommendations to Governor & Legislature to reduce student costs.
- **[HB 487](#) – Agricultural Industry Certifications by Raburn – PASSED WITH A CS**
The bill requires DOACS to annually provide to SBE & DOE industry certifications for farm occupations to be placed on industry certification funding lists; defines industry certification as part of career education programs; requires rules for implementing industry certification process for farm occupations; requires placement on funding lists to determine annual funding distributions to school districts & postsecondary institutions.
- **[HB 147](#) – Concrete Masonry Education by Caldwell – PASSED WITH A CS**
The bill designates act as "Concrete Masonry Education Act; creates Florida Concrete Masonry Education Council, Inc.; provides powers & duties of council; provides for appointment & terms of council's governing board; authorizes council to accept grants, donations, contributions, & gifts; authorizes council to make payments to other organizations; provides for collection of voluntary assessment on concrete masonry units; requires manufacturers who elect to pay assessment to commit to paying assessment for specified period; requires council to adopt bylaws.

On Thursday, March 6th

In the House Education Committee: *[This was the last committee of reference for these bills so it is now available for 2nd Reading – i.e. debate and amendment by the full House.]*

- **[HB 173](#) – Juvenile Justice Education Programs by Adkins - PASSED**
The bill revises requirements for multiagency education plan for students in juvenile justice education programs; revises requirements effective education programs for youth in DJJ programs; revises contract & cooperative agreement requirements for delivery of appropriate education services to youth in DJJ programs; revises requirements for activities to be coordinated by coordinators for juvenile justice education programs; requires that educational program shall be based on each youth's reentry plan & assessed needs; provides requirements for prevention & day-treatment juvenile justice education programs; requires progress monitoring plans for all non-exceptional student students; requires that DOE, in partnership with DJJ, ensure that school districts & juvenile justice education providers develop educational transition plans; requires DOE to establish student performance measures & program performance ratings; requires comprehensive accountability & school improvement process; provides requirements for such process.
- **[HB 195](#) – Education Data Privacy by Raburn - PASSED**
The bill revises provisions relating to remedy in circuit court with respect to education records & reports of K-12 students & parents; provides for annual notice of student & parent rights; provides limitations on collection of information & disclosure of confidential & exempt student records; revises provisions relating to submission of student social security numbers & assignment of student identification numbers. This bill addresses a controversial issue. The Senate companion bill – SB 188 – stalled in the Senate yesterday (see related news story below).
- **[HB 313](#) – Gender-Specific School Pilot Project by M. Diaz - PASSED**
The bill provides requirements for district school board when establishing gender-specific elementary, middle, or high school; requires school administrative & instructional personnel to participate in professional development; provides accountability requirements.
- **[HB 7029](#) – Code of Student Conduct by K-12 - PASSED**
The bill provides that simulating firearm or weapon while playing or wearing certain clothing or accessories is not grounds for disciplinary action or referral to criminal justice or juvenile justice system; provides criteria for determining whether certain student conduct warrants disciplinary action; provides criteria for determining appropriate consequences for conduct.
- **[HB 7031](#) – Education / Repeal / Revise / Audits by K-12 - PASSED**
The bill revises & repeals various provisions relating to education; revises course & assessment requirements for promotion to high school & for award of standard high school diploma; provides course & assessment requirements for graduation for certain cohorts of high school students transitioning to new graduation requirements; revises & conforms provisions relating to selection & purchase of instructional materials, statewide assessment program, education personnel, & educational facilities.
- The Committee also conducted a workshop on the State's development of a new Accountability System for schools. Information and a spreadsheet which summaries some of the suggested changes can be viewed starting on page 251 of [this](#) document.

In House Local & Federal Affairs Committee

- **[HB 21](#) - County Employees by Porter - PASSED**
Authorizes governing body of county to determine available benefits of county employees; provides for applicability of certain provisions relating to Florida Retirement System.

Friday, March 7th

There is no legislative committee meetings scheduled for Friday

That concludes the activities relating to bills for this week here in Tallahassee. Next week there will be a number of meetings and more hearings of bills as we continue through the committee process. At the time of this writing we do not have full agenda calendars for next week, but we do know that the [House Education Appropriations Committee](#) will be meeting on Monday and will start discussions on the budget. Included on their agenda is a discussion of 2014-15 Base Budget Spreadsheets and a Workshop on conforming bill language.

As more and more bills make it through their first hurdles of committee meetings, we will start to see activity occurring on the floors of the respective chambers and should start seeing bills pass one chamber or the other as early as next week.

In the next several weeks we expect to start hearing more about the House and Senate's 2014-2015 Budget recommendation as we get closer to starting the budgetary process. As we move forward if you have any questions, or would like to discuss any of these or other pieces of legislation contact your ACE of Florida staff.