2018 Legislative Session Update

Florida Educational Negotiators (FEN)
General Membership Meeting
Orlando, Florida

Friday, January 26, 2018

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Revised: January 25, 2018
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Why Have State Legislatures Become More Active Recently?

- Term limits
- Activist think tanks
- Congressional gridlock and inaction
- Partisanship versus statecraft
- Social media

The Rocket Docket

“Speed is also a factor at the state level. Bob Carragher, Senior State Affairs Advisor for the Society for Human Resource Management, calls it the ‘rocket docket.’”

Efficiency at enacting legislation can be defined in terms of the volume of bills state legislators file during a legislative session and the amount of legislation that state legislatures actually pass.

1. Factors that contribute to how efficient a state is at enacting legislation:
   - Session schedule;
   - Single-party control; and
   - Committee deadlines

However, almost all states enact a higher percentage of bills than Congress, which passed 4.4 percent of the legislation it introduced in 2015.

2. Factors in high-enacting percentage rates:
   - Bi-annual sessions;
   - Short sessions; and
   - Single-party control
### 2013 State versus Federal Bills Filed

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Data Source: Congressional Quarterly Roll Call, 2014
2016 United States State Legislation Top Topics in Bills Passed
(Retrieved from: https://www.billtrack50.com/blog/eye-candy/2016-wrap-up-political-eye-candy-style/)

2017 United States State Legislation Top Topics in Bills Passed
2017 United States Legislative Partisan Composition

2017 Legislative Partisan Composition
(Partisan control in March 2017)

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures

2017 Florida Legislative Partisan Composition by Chamber

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Prepared by: John Boyd, Director of Government & Labor Relations, Department of Human Resources
Revised: January 25, 2018
Florida Legislature's Bill Passage History, 1998-Present

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Change, 1998 to Present: 257 N/A -543 N/A -305 N/A -6 N/A -11.4% N/A
Average, 1998 to Present: 2380 N/A 680 N/A 357 N/A 13 N/A 14.4% N/A

SPAN OF YEARS: 20

"I heartily accept the motto — 'That government is best which governs least'; and I should like to see it acted up to more rapidly and systematically. Carried out, it finally amounts to this, which I also believe, — 'That government is best which governs not at all'; and when men are prepared for it, that will be the kind of government which they will have. Government is at best but an expedient; but most governments are usually, and all governments are sometimes, inexpedient."

— Henry David Thoreau, Civil Disobedience
American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC)

Rich States, Poor States: ALEC-Laffer State Economic Competitiveness Index (Tenth Edition)

Authors: Dr. Arthur B. Laffer, Stephen Moore, Jonathan Williams

(Retrieved from: https://www.alec.org/publication/rich-states-poor-states-10th-edition/)

The School District of Osceola County, Florida (SDOC)

Prepared by: John Boyd, Director of Government & Labor Relations, Department of Human Resources
Revised: January 25, 2018

Page 13 of 56
What's Hot in State Legislatures for 2018?

Author: John Haughey / November 28, 2017
Congressional Quarterly Roll Call, StateTrackers,

Whether it is tax reform, repeal-and-replace the Affordable Care Act, or awaiting the introduction and application of the proposed infrastructure plan, so much of what will happen in the 46 state legislatures that convene in 2018 depends on what happens in Washington, D.C., in December and January.

And, so much of what happens in Washington, D.C., as well as in state capitals across the country during 2018 state legislative sessions, will depend on how elected officials want to be perceived by voters in next November’s elections.

For most states, the second year of biennium sessions is dedicated to fiscal and budgetary issues. Of the 46 legislatures that will meet in 2018 — Texas, South Dakota, Montana and Nevada legislatures do not convene in even years — 38 will begin sessions in January, six in February, Louisiana in March and North Carolina on April 23.

At least 14 states have been accepting pre-filed bills since 2017 sessions adjourned. The pre-filing period for 2018 legislative sessions in nine states kicked off in November and nine more will begin accepting pre-filed bills in December. Hawaii’s pre-filing period begins in January.

Four states do not allow bill pre-filing and not all states that accept pre-filed bills post them for public review. Some wait until the first day the legislature meets to post them. In some states, pre-filed bills are submitted to committees, which post them at their discretion.

By sifting through early samples of pre-filed bills — the biggest wave still yet to come — while gleaning through gubernatorial legislative agendas, priority wish lists from professional and municipal associations, and comments from lawmakers, these 11 issues will be among key topics state legislatures across the nation will be focused on in 2018.

1. HEALTH CARE

Congressional Uncertainty Compels States to Take Action

Maine became the 32nd state to expand access to Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act when 60 percent of voters approved a November ballot measure to extend Medicaid health benefits to all low-income adults in the state. The vote is regarded as a significant precursor to how healthcare will be a top priority for state legislatures nationwide in 2018, as well as a key campaign issue in state and mid-term Congressional elections come November.

State lawmakers will be forced to address Medicaid-related uncertainty because of the Trump Administration’s campaign mandate to repeal and replace the ACA, or Obamacare. In May, the House passed The American Health Care Act (AHCA), which would slash subsidies and repeal other policies that help make health coverage affordable. The Senate has rejected the AHCA
because it would foster widespread premium hikes in 2018 and severe premium increases for older Americans by 2026, but it has not adopted its own repeal-and-replace legislation.

With straight-forward efforts to adopt an ACA replacement bill stalled, the Senate’s proposed tax reform bill could essentially dismantle Obamacare by eliminating its individual mandate — the requirement that most people “buy into” the health insurance market or face tax penalties.

As the successful Maine ballot initiative indicates, however, there is growing ground-level support for retaining the ACA or, at least, many of its significant components. As a result, state legislators nationwide will be confronted with responding to whatever Congress does by filling gaps in healthcare coverage to residents.

Under the ACA, between 2014 and 2016, Medicaid expansion was funded 100 percent — dollar for dollar — by the federal government. Beginning in 2017, states began to pick up some costs, but the federal match is still 90 percent through 2020. Maine was one of 19 “hold out” states that chose to opt out of the ACA following the 2012 Supreme Court ruling that mandatory participation was unconstitutional.

With the Trump Administration and Congress apparently determined to do away with the ACA and its generous match funding for expanding Medicaid, what Maine voters essentially approved was a mandate to state legislators to “opt into” Obamacare while it is still possible to get federal subsidies for doing so. Similar voter-initiated petition drives are underway in “red state” Idaho and Utah to get a Medicaid expansion question on their November 2018 ballots.

The political ramifications of the Maine vote and growing support for Medicaid expansion under the ACA are also becoming evident. In November’s smattering of local and state elections nationwide, voters cited healthcare as their primary concern. In Virginia, voters turned out in record numbers to support ACA-supporter Democrat Ralph Northam over Obamacare opponent Republican Ed Gillespie. According to exit polls, 78 percent of those who chose Northam said they did so because he supports expanding Medicaid.

In this fluid and uncertain scenario, here is a roundup of some 2018 healthcare priorities and pre-filed bills being circulated in state capitals:

2. TAX REFORM
States Bracing for 2018 Impact in Wake of Anticipated Late-2017 Adoption of Federal Tax Bills

State legislatures are braced for the fallout from federal tax reform bills that call for eliminating state and local tax (SALT) deductions, lowering corporate tax rates, doing away with estate taxes, and dissolving the tax-free status of municipal bonds. President Donald Trump has submitted a series of tax-reform proposals, and the House and Senate are pondering their own tax bills, which are expected to be adopted, in one form or another, as early as December.

The bottom line is no matter what versions of these bills are adopted, state and local governments will likely be dealing with potential hits to their revenue collection capacities, further
aggravating budgets already stressed by the Trump Administration’s campaign to repeal-and-replace the Affordable Care Act that is manifesting in House and Senate bills that would leave states solely responsible for subsidizing Medicaid costs for millions of state residents.

* SALT: State and local taxes have been deductible since the inception of the federal income tax in 1913. Eliminating the SALT deduction would generate an estimated $1.3 trillion in revenue over 10 years for the federal government but, many fear, would put state and local governments in some of the nation’s most populous states in a difficult financial — and political — position.

By offsetting some of the burden of state taxes, the SALT deduction is an indirect federal subsidy to state and local governments. For example, a $100 increase in state income taxes costs a taxpayer in the 35-percent federal income tax bracket $65 — essentially, the $100 increase minus $35 saved in federal taxes. Many legislators and local government officials fear that if voters believe state taxes are too high without the SALT deduction, it could force them to make further cuts in already stressed budgets.

Eliminating the SALT deduction would affect taxpayers in high-income and high-tax states more than other states. Taxpayers in seven states — California, New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Texas, Pennsylvania and Florida — claim more than half of the national value of the deduction. These are also the six most populous states with New Jersey the 11th most populous.

★ Lowering the corporate tax rate: Forty-four states levy a corporate income tax, but they do not generate a significant contribution to state budgets. While lowering the corporate tax rate would not directly affect states, a proposed territorial tax system under which U.S. multinational corporations would pay no U.S. taxes on their foreign income, has many state officials alarmed because they fear it would encourage companies to ship jobs, capital, and profits overseas.

★ Eliminating the federal estate tax: Fourteen states and the District of Columbia have an estate tax, although Delaware and New Jersey will repeal their estate taxes in 2018. If the federal estate tax is repealed, estates will no longer be able claim a federal deduction for state estate taxes.

★ Restructuring municipal bonds: Among local and state governments’ most valuable tools for financing improvements is the tax-exempt municipal bond. The Houser bill’s elimination of the tax-free status of the Build America Bonds (BABs) program could increase borrowing costs for state and local governments by as much as 35 percent without tax-exempt bonds, making it more expensive to build schools, repave roads or clean waterways. BABs were created under an economic stimulus law that allowed municipal issuers to sell for a limited time taxable debt with the federal government contributing 35 percent of interest costs. Between April 2009 and the end of 2010, $181.5 billion of BABs were sold in 2,351 issues, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Congress could protect the subsidy if it exempts the deficit it generates — the CBO estimates it would be $1.5 trillion over the next 10 years — from sequestration. Without the subsidy, the subsequent increase in the federal standard deduction could cause immediate revenue problems for eight states — Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont — because they
tie their deduction standard to the federal standard, meaning a federal increase would automatically trigger an increase the state deduction.

3. BUDGETS

Revenue Collections Fell Below Projections in 33 States in 2017

Forty-six states begin their fiscal year (FY) on July 1. New York’s fiscal year begins on April 1, Texas begins its fiscal year on Sept. 1, and Alabama and Michigan begin on Oct. 1. In November, Connecticut became the last state to adopt formally a FY 2018 budget, more than four months after its fiscal year began.

Even for states that adopt biennium budgets, federal tax reform proposals and efforts to repeal-and-replace the Affordable Care Act could present dramatic challenges for state lawmakers in FY 2019. The fallout from these Congressional actions could force revisions of existing budgets and difficult choices for legislators in 2018 sessions.

The National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBC) calculates that revenue collections fell below forecasts in 33 states in fiscal 2017 and projects state general-fund revenues will grow by 3.1 percent in fiscal year 2018. The NASBC estimates that general-fund spending on Medicaid will increase by 4.3 percent — a percentage that will grow considerably if the ACA is replaced with current proposals in the House.

4. THE OPIOID CRISIS

States Will Continue To Focus On Opioid-Related Regulation In 2018

According to CQ State Track, state legislators have adopted more than 1,300 bills related to opioid regulation and overdose prevention since 2015. Nearly 200 of about 700 proposed bills were adopted in 2017.

State lawmakers are expected to see more bills in 2018 related to Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMP), Naloxone — a “rescue drug” that reverses overdoses — guidelines to prescribing limits, training, education, pain clinic regulations, non-opioid directives for patients, taxes on opioids, abuse-deterrent formulations of opioids, and drug “take-back” programs or days to collect unused pills.

Florida: Republican Gov. Rick Scott in September announced he will propose $50 million in initiatives in 2018 to combat opioid abuse.

Scott’s proposed legislation will include: Placing a three-day limit on prescribed opioids, unless strict conditions are met for a seven-day supply; requiring all healthcare professionals that prescribe or dispense medication to participate in the Florida Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, a statewide database that monitors controlled substance prescriptions; and additional reforms to fight unlicensed pain management clinics, require continuing education courses on responsibly prescribing opioids, and create new opportunities for federal grant funding.
5. MARIJUANA

Five States Vying To Become First To Legalize Recreational Marijuana by Legislative Act

There is a good chance that sometime in 2018, recreational marijuana will be legalized by state lawmakers through legislative action rather than via a voter-initiated ballot measure. The only question is which state will be the first to do so. Among the candidates: Vermont, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware, or even Illinois.

Technically, Vermont achieved that distinction in 2017 when the state legislature passed a legalization measure that was vetoed by Democratic Gov. Phil Scott because he wanted to study further the effects recreational marijuana use could have on public safety and state tax revenue. Scott accompanied his veto by vowing he would sign a tweaked bill into law if presented one in 2018 and, apparently, state legislators are amenable to doing just that.

At least two states — Michigan and North Dakota — are expected to present voters with ballot measures to legalize marijuana in November 2018. There is an outside chance Ohio voters could also see a legalization ballot proposal. Kentucky legislators will consider legalizing medicinal marijuana while Utah voters are expected to see a November ballot measure seeking to make medicinal marijuana available.

Right now, recreational marijuana is legal in Colorado, Washington, California, Nevada, Maine, Massachusetts, Alaska, Oregon, and the District of Columbia while 29 states have legalized medicinal marijuana.

6. EDUCATION FUNDING

With Tax Reform and Healthcare Rattling Budgets, Finding Money for Education Will Be a 2018 Challenge

States are struggling to balance budgets even without the additional burdens lawmakers may be presented with once federal tax reform bills are adopted and, if Congressional Republicans and the Trump Administration have their way, the Affordable Care Act is repealed and replaced.

Among states’ biggest expenses and, therefore, most likely targets for budget-cutting are their school systems, which many legislatures already have difficulty adequately funding. Below are just a smattering of pre-filed bills and legislative priorities related to education funding being discussed in some state capitals:

7. PENSION PLANS

Keeping Promises to Retiring Workers While Recruiting Replacements Proving a Challenge

Legislators in many states are being confronted with funding pension plans guaranteed to state workers that are running out of money while also trying to offer competitive salaries and benefits to ensure state agencies have qualified employees. Among initiatives and bills that have been filled for 2018:
8. GUNS
Wave of Gun-Control Bills Has Not Materialized — Yet

More than 1,600 firearms-related bills were filed in state legislatures across the nation in 2017. Following mass shootings in Las Vegas, Texas and California, a wave of gun-control legislation is expected to be introduced in 2018. However, most pre-filed bills generally seek to expand gun-owners’ rights. Below is a smattering of early submissions:

9. INFRASTRUCTURE
States Increasingly Likely To Pass Gas Sales Tax Hikes to Help Pay For Road Projects

The fact that seven states — Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Michigan, Nebraska, North Carolina and Pennsylvania — increased their gas sales taxes in 2017 to help fund road maintenance and transportation improvement initiatives is an indication that infrastructure spending will be a continual priority in 2018 and beyond for state legislators nationwide.

But with President Donald Trump’s $1 trillion infrastructure plan, which leverages private and public capital to upgrade roads, bridges, airports, tunnels and other infrastructure nationwide, stalled, many state legislatures are in a wait-and-see mode, delaying committed to large projects until they determine the best way to merge state and federal revenues to get the most bang for the buck.

Florida: Pre-filed SB 572 would oversee aspects of high-speed rail.

10. GAMBLING/LOTTERIES

Florida: Voters In Charge Committee, the sponsors of a Voter Control of Gambling Amendment announced in October that it had gathered nearly 200,000 petitions while raising $1.55 million from contributions by Walt Disney World and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The proposed amendment needs 766,200 signatures; it has 391,783 verified signers so far.

11. IMMIGRATION
At Least Three Proposed Bans on ‘Sanctuary Cities’ Already Proposed

The Presidential election of immigration hardliner Donald Trump and 33 Republican Governors combined with GOP control of 33 both legislative chambers in 32 states, induced a wave of immigration-related laws and regulations in 2017. Expect the trend to continue in 2018.

Florida: House Speaker Richard Corcoran is expected to propose a bill opposing ‘sanctuary cities.’
A Cautionary Disclaimer

The following review is:
• a synthesis of the efforts of several state education organizations and lobbyists; and
• a brief summary that contains highlights from several major bills that the Florida Legislature passed, and the Governor signed into law.

This summary document is not:
• exhaustive;
• inclusive of every single bill that was passed; or
• comprehensive of the entire contents of the bills addressed herein.

As a result, more bills and/ or details than those within this document may interest you.

“I don’t, I say, I don’t, like the way this is going. ... I keep my feathers numbered for just such an occasion.”

– Foghorn Leghorn
(Looney Tunes, Warner Brothers Entertainment, Inc.)
Review of the 2017 Regular Session of the Florida Legislature

★ The 2017 Regular Session of the Florida Legislature began on Tuesday, March 07, 2017, was originally scheduled to end on Friday, May 05, 2017, but was extended and finally adjourned sine die on Monday, May 08, 2017.

★ During the 2017 Regular Session of the Florida Legislature, our legislators have filed 3,052 bills (e.g., 2,102 in the House; 950 in the Senate) for the Regular Session.

★ Of these bills filed, SDOC tracked 1,120 bills (e.g., 637 in the House; 483 in the Senate) that may have potentially affected our local educators, students, and parents.

★ A total of 249 bills passed both chambers of the Florida Legislature. Of these, the Governor vetoed 11.

★ Several bills became omnibus bills, or "trains," related to education policymaking. An omnibus bill is a proposed law that packages together multiple legal measures on diverse or unrelated topics into a single document that is voted upon as a single item. Omnibus is a Latin term that means "for everything." The length and scope of omnibus bills limit the time and opportunities for in-depth analysis and debate. Often, omnibus bills are the vehicle used to pass controversial amendments. Therefore, some observers consider omnibus bills problematic.

★ Remember that in order for a bill to become law in Florida, companion versions of each bill filed in the legislature must:
  ✓ clear several committees in both the House and Senate chambers,
  ✓ be read three times in both chambers,
  ✓ pass votes taken in both chambers,
  ✓ survive the joint conference committee if any language differs in each chamber's version of the bill, and
  ✓ receive the governor's signature.

★ Therefore, each bill is statistically more likely not to become law.
### 2017 Florida Legislative Bill Top Topics by Rank

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Bill Titles</th>
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<td>Licenses to Carry Concealed Weapons or Firearms</td>
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<td>Restoration of Civil Rights</td>
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<td>State Group Insurance Program</td>
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<td>Traffic Infraction Detectors</td>
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Which Major Education Bills Did Pass?

Wordle of House Bill 7069 (http://www.wordle.net/create)

HB 7069 - Best and Brightest Teachers and Principals -- Revises Florida Best & Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program; creates Florida Best & Brightest Principal Scholarship Program; provides for funding, eligibility criteria, award requirements, & school district & DOE duties; requires school districts to provide certain school principals with specified additional authority & responsibilities; defines term "school district."

However, a summary of the conforming bill as amended by the Senate’s Conference Committee Report is below. Red font identifies items that are effective immediately upon becoming law (e.g., Governor’s signature, etc.). The remainder of items becomes effective on July 01, 2017.

The State Board of Education is in the process of related rulemaking.

- **Charter Schools:** Modifies the following charter school provisions: open enrollment procedures, standard application and charter contract, administrative fees, reporting requirements and the calculation and authorized uses of charter school capital outlay, and requires school districts to share local millage revenue with charter schools.

- **High-Performing Charter Schools:** Authorizes a high-performing charter school to establish more than one charter school in any year if it operates in the area of a persistently low-performing school, serves students from that school, allows a high-performing charter school system to replicate its schools in any school district in the state, and specifies application requirements.
• **School Improvement:**
  o Modifies early warning system
  o Provides that educational emergency exists when a school district has one or more schools with grade of “D” or “F” and requires a school district to enter memorandum of understanding addressing instructional personnel and principal autonomy in an educational emergency
  o Prohibits district school board from awarding an annual employment contract under specified circumstances.
  o Requires that, unless the SBE grants the school district an additional year of implementation because it determines the school is likely to improve to a “C” or higher, a school that does not earn a “C” or higher after implementation, must select a turnaround option
  o Limits the turnaround options for “D” and “F” schools

• **Title I Funding Distribution:** Specifies that after providing Title I funds to schools above the 75% poverty threshold, a school district must distribute remaining Title I funds directly to all eligible schools.

• **Schools of Hope:** Authorizes the establishment of “schools of hope” and designation of “hope operators” to provide students in areas of persistently low-performing schools with a high-quality education option.

• **Schools of Excellence Program:** Creates the Schools of Excellence Program to provide administrative flexibility to the state’s highest performing schools.

• **K-12 Student Assessments:**
  o Eliminates Algebra II EOC assessment requirement.
  o Allows completion of blended learning course to satisfy online course requirement.
  o Exempts certain students from personal fitness competency exam.
  o Requires paper-pencil ELA and math assessments for grades 3-6, no later than 2018-2019 school year.
  o Specifies reporting of assessment results to students, parents, and teachers.
  o Requires DOE to publish statewide assessments.

• **Independent Study:** Requires the Commissioner of Education to contract for an independent study of ACT/SAT as an alternative for Grade 10 ELA assessment and Algebra I EOC assessment.

• **Virtual Instruction:** Eliminates student eligibility requirements, including prior public year requirement, and clarifies that all students, including home education and private school students, are eligible to participate in virtual options throughout the state.

• **Personnel Evaluation:** Provides that use of the Value Added Model for personnel evaluation is optional.
• **Best and Brightest Teacher and Principal Scholarship Programs:** Revises eligibility for Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program and creates Florida Best and Brightest Principal Scholarship Program.

• **Teacher Certification:** Streamlines the temporary certificate application process; establishes mentorship certification pathway; requires teacher preparation curriculum to include training in evidence-based, phonics-driven reading strategies; allows mentorship activities to count toward certification renewal and requires training in evidence-based reading strategies for renewal of certain certificates.

• **Minority Teacher Scholarship Program:** Revises eligibility criteria for participation in the program (based on credit hours rather than junior year or later).

• **School Absence:** Authorizes school absence related to the treatment of autism spectrum disorder.

• **School Visitation:** Clarifies that an individual school board member may visit district-operated schools and an individual charter school governing board member may visit any charter school governed by the charter school’s governing board, at his or her pleasure.

• **Shared Use Facilities:** Establishes provisions related to promoting shared use agreements for public school playground facilities and creates task force to make recommendations.

• **Early Learning:** Defines “public school prekindergarten provider” to include a traditional public school and a charter school, establishes the Committee on Early Grade Success to develop a proposal for establishing and implementing a coordinate child assessment system for the School Readiness Program, Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, and the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, and specifies proposal requirements.

• **Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program:** Creates Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program within DOE for 3 years; establishes eligibility criteria; requires a preeminent university to evaluate effectiveness of program; expires June 30, 2020.

• **Reading Intervention:** Requires superintendent to certify that K-5 reading instruction and intervention materials comply with criteria identified by Just Read, Florida! beginning July 1, 2021.

• **Gardiner Scholarship:** Modifies Gardiner Scholarship program to expand eligibility and the authorized use of funds, and define account inactivity.

• **Career and Education Planning Course:** Eliminates the required middle grades career and education planning course.

• **Instructional Materials:** Deletes requirement that 50 percent of instructional materials allocation be used to purchase digital or electronic instructional materials.
• **College-preparatory Boarding Academy Pilot Program**: Expands the definition of eligible student for purposes of the College-Preparatory Boarding Academy Pilot Program to include a student currently enrolled in grades 5-12, if it is determined by the operator that a seat is available.

• **Recess**: Requires 20 minutes of consecutive free-play recess per day for kindergarten through grade 5 students in traditional public schools, and exempts charter schools from the specified requirements.

• **Sunscreen Use**: Allows students to possess and use sunscreen on school property without a prescription.

• **ACT Aspire test name**: Renames the ACT Aspire test to the preliminary ACT.

• **Effective Date**: Provides effective date of July 1, 2017, except as otherwise provided (for schools of hope, certain school improvement provisions, certain capital outlay funding requirements which are effective upon becoming law).

• **Funding**: Provides $413,950,000 in recurring General Revenue Funds and $5 million in non-recurring General Revenue Funds.

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**SB 374 - Postsecondary Education** -- Citing this act as the "College Competitiveness Act of 2017"; renaming the Florida College System as the Florida Community College System; creating the State Board of Community Colleges; revising the function and mission of the Florida K-20 education system; providing the primary mission of a career center operated by a district school board; establishing the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program; creating the Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship Program, etc.

**SB 436 - Religious Expression in Public Schools** -- Citing this act as the "Florida Student and School Personnel Religious Liberties Act"; Prohibiting a school district from discriminating against students, parents, or school personnel on the basis of religious viewpoints or expression; prohibiting penalty or reward for a student's religious expression in coursework, artwork, or other specified assignments; requiring a school district to comply with the federal requirements in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, etc.

**HB 989 - Instructional Materials for K-12 Public Education** -- Revises district school board responsibilities relating to review & adoption of public K-12 instructional materials; authorizes county residents to challenge use or adoption of instructional materials; revises requirements relating to public hearing for adoption of such materials; revises annual allocation for purchase of instructional materials.
Which Major Education Bills Did NOT Pass?

**SB 148 - Students Remaining on School Grounds During School Hours** -- Requiring schools in certain districts to obtain written parental consent before permitting students to leave school grounds during the lunch period, etc.  
(\textit{HB 85 - Students Remaining on School Grounds During School Hours})

**SB 104 - Computer Coding Instruction** -- Authorizing high schools to offer students opportunities to take specified computer coding courses beginning with a specified school year; providing that high schools will not be required to offer such courses; requiring the Commissioner of Education to identify the computer coding courses that satisfy two credits of sequential foreign language instruction under certain circumstances, etc.  
(\textit{HB 265 - Computer Coding Instruction})

**SB 392 - High School Graduation Requirements** -- Revising the requirements for the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards to include 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 in electives, etc.  
(\textit{HB 955 - High School Graduation Requirements})

**SB 82 - Postsecondary Education Tuition and Fee Waivers** -- Deleting a requirement that a state university, Florida College System institution, career center operated by a school district, or charter technical career center waive out-of-state fees for certain students, including certain undocumented students, who meet specified requirements, etc.
**What’s Next?**

**Shift-and-Shaft Governance**

- **Shift-and-shaft governance** is the shifting of responsibilities and/or tax burdens from the federal or state level to the local level.

- In Florida, passive shift-and-shaft governance has become the norm. Although it is often disguised as “local control,” bona fide home rule becomes illusory when prescriptive legislation chips it away.

- When local governments contact state departments for assistance in complex policy matters that state leaders have not addressed thoroughly, the response is often “That is a local decision.” The translation of such a response is: “You are on your own and will receive minimal or no support from state leaders for your local decisions when they are challenged.”

- The result is 67 different interpretations of policy that breed inconsistency across the state. Where there is inconsistency, there is inequity, and this inequity is incompatible with the democratic principles of our Constitution and republic in general and the mission of Florida’s public schools in particular.

- Shift-and-shaft governance is not only the abdication of accountability but also the absence of leadership.

**House Bill 7069 – Pending Litigation**

- **Participating School Districts**
  - Bay, Broward, Dade, Duval, Hamilton, Lee, Orange, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Polk, St. Lucie, and Volusia Counties (as of this writing)
  - [https://www.palmbeachschools.org/HB7069/](https://www.palmbeachschools.org/HB7069/)

- **Possible Outcomes**
  - Total Nullification – charter school capital funding, teacher bonuses, optional VAM, prohibition of automatic contract renewal, etc.?
  - Partial Nullification – Which parts?
  - Upheld – Charter school capital funding accountability?
Best and Brightest Scholarship Programs – Pending Litigation

- Section 1012.731 – The Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program, Florida Statutes
- Section 1012.732 – The Florida Best and Brightest Principal Scholarship Program, Florida Statutes
- Florida Education Association, Jenny Cisneros, Dorothy Thomas-Dunson, Angela Ferreira, Shannel Gordon, Joy Jackson, Keysha Pinkney, and Djuna Robinson versus the Florida Department of Education, et al.
  - Age discrimination
  - Race discrimination
- Procedural due process (e.g., application, verification of eligibility, tracking, etc.)
- Safeguards against fraud
  - Classroom Teacher
  - School Principal
House Bill 7069-Related Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) Memos

- **DPS 2017-82:** Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program for FY 2017-18, Date: August 11, 2017
- **DPS 2017-85:** Recess, Date: July 14, 2017
- **DPS 2017-91:** Changes to Reading Instruction and Interventions for 2017-18, Date: October 13, 2017
- **DPS 2017-92:** House Bill 7069 Changes to School Improvement, Date: July 18, 2017
- **DPS 2017-95:** Informational Memo on House Bill 7069 Regarding Educator Certification (Chapter 2017-116, Laws of Florida), Date: August 25, 2017
- **DPS 2017-103:** House Bill 7069 Changes to School Improvement – Second Update, Date: October 27, 2017
- **DPS 2017-112:** Technical Assistance Paper Charter School Related Provisions in House Bill 7069, Date: August 11, 2017
- **DPS 2017-118:** House Bill 7069 Changes to Assessment, Accountability, and Student Progression, Date: December 29, 2017
- **DPS 2018-07:** House Bill 7069 Changes to Attendance and Residential Placement, Date: January 05, 2018
- **DPS 2018-08:** House Bill 7069 and Every Student Succeeds Act Schoolwide Plans, Date: January 05, 2018
Then What?

Practical Steps for Engaging the Florida Legislature Effectively

★ Prioritize the issues that directly affect your community.
★ Research both sides of the issues and determine who supports which side.
★ Organize your community to inform, discuss, and receive feedback on the issues.
★ Engage your community in focused legislative efforts.
★ Lobby your decision-makers at all levels of government.
★ Collaborate with other organizations to align consistent legislative efforts.
★ Thank your decision-makers for their service and support.
★ Vote.
Possible 2018 Legislative Priorities

1. Budgetary Legislative Priorities
   - Capital funding
   - Operational funding
   - Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
     ✓ Disparity in the District Cost Differential

2. Non-Budgetary and Cost-Neutral Legislative Priorities
   - Home rule
   - Regulatory flexibility
     ✓ Florida’s accountability system
     ✓ Mandatory Grade 3 retention
     ✓ Teacher certification
     ✓ Teacher evaluation
     ✓ School construction
     ✓ Paperwork reduction
   - Charter school accountability for capital funds
   - Private school accountability for Opportunity Scholarship funds

2018 Legislative Priorities of Other State Organizations

★ Florida School Board Association
   o http://fsba.org/2018-legislative-platform

★ Florida Association of District School Superintendents
   o http://www.fadss.org

★ Florida Association of School Administrators
2017-18 Legislative Priorities for Osceola Schools

Osceola’s Top Priority

1. Secure Capital Funds for Osceola’s High Growth

Issue: Osceola capital revenues have not kept pace with student enrollment needs to add and maintain adequate educational facilities. Since 2000, student enrollment has almost doubled from 31,884 to 63,031. At the start of the 2017-18 school year, Osceola schools are projected to be at 96% capacity, with 4,748 students assigned to relocatables. Osceola County is projected to grow by another 18,000 students over the next ten years.

Recommendation(s): Include designated funds for the High Growth District Capital Outlay Assistance Grant Program in Section 1013.738, Florida Statutes as an allocation in the 2018-2019 Florida Education Budget.

- Osceola’s 1.5 Mill Capital Outlay Tax
  School districts generate capital revenue by levying capital outlay taxes. By law, this tax millage is limited to 1.5 mills and is currently set at the maximum. Due to low property taxes and high student growth, Osceola faces a unique shortfall in ad valorem tax revenue generated for capital needs. Since 2007-08, Osceola’s capital outlay tax generated per student has declined from $976 down to $549, which is a 44% reduction over the ten year period.

- Osceola’s Cost Per Student Station Versus the State Average and Maximum
  Osceola maintains its record for cost-effectiveness in school construction. Since 2007, Osceola has built schools with a cost per student station that averages $5,858 less than the state average.

- Osceola’s Shortfall in Capital Funding
  - Osceola maximizes its available capital revenues and takes cost-saving measures wherever feasible yet still has a shortfall in capital funding. Osceola generates the maximum allowable for the 1.5 mill capital outlay tax, impact fees, infrastructure sales tax, and one-half cent school capital outlay surtax, yet our district is still falling behind due to deferred maintenance coupled with the expected continuance of high student growth.
  - According to the current ten-year growth projection (2016-17 through 2025-26), Osceola has over $300 million in unfunded capital needs, which include 1 high school, 2 middle schools, 2 K-8 combination schools, 3 elementary schools, 2 high school classroom wing additions, and land purchases. This projection includes all currently operating and proposed charter schools.

Contact Us!
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From Good to Great: Building a Legacy
2. Protect Osceola Taxpayers’ Investment in Educational Facilities

Issue: Osceola has leveraged capital millage revenue over the years to build schools during periods of high growth and has responsibly managed its debt service levels. In addition, Osceola has been welcoming to high-performing, quality charter schools. As a result, the implementation of House Bill 7069 in its current form will significantly impact Osceola’s capital budget by:

- further reducing limited funding to maintain current facilities and build new student stations to accommodate rapid growth in enrollment;
- increasing the cost of capital due to rating agency downgrades from the lack of certainty regarding this previously committed revenue source; and
- transferring $3 million per year to charter schools that are predominantly owned and managed by private for profit corporations.

Recommendation(s): Amend the original language of House Bill 7069 to cap capital transfers to charter schools to no more than five percent (5%) of the 1.5 capital outlay millage.

3. Reform Florida’s District Cost Differential (DCD) Formula

Issue: As a result of the current formula used to calculate the DCD, Osceola’s taxpayers have sent $67,586,779 to wealthier districts over the past twenty years. During 2017-18, Osceola taxpayers will lose an additional $4,772,676 to other school districts. These tax dollars belong in Osceola County and could go to increase salaries to help with the recruitment and retention of high quality teachers, along with offering more enriching academic programs for the students of Osceola County.

Recommendation(s):

- Support the joint study commissioned by Senate President Joe Negron at the request of Senator Dorothy Hukill and conducted by the Florida Legislature’s Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) and Office of Economic & Demographic Research (EDR).
- Amend Section 101.1.62, Florida Statutes (FS) to apply the findings of the joint OPPAGA/EDR study by adjusting the formula used to calculate the DCD in order to ensure that school districts with lower tax bases receive their fair share of education funding without losing funds to school districts with higher tax bases.
- Establish a long-term plan to make Florida’s public education system world-class with adequate and stable funding for hiring and retaining high quality educators.

4. Remove Barriers to Recruiting High Quality Teachers

Issue: Florida’s teacher certification laws and regulations require teachers to pass the General Knowledge Test within the teacher’s first year of employment, and far too few alternatives exist to provide Florida’s educators with reasonable options to meet this requirement. Prior to the 2000-2001 school year, teachers had up to three (3) years to complete this certification requirement. At the close of the 2016-17 school year, this requirement cost Osceola sixty-six (66) new teachers despite our best efforts to induct, mentor, tutor, and retain them.

Recommendation(s):

- Amend Florida’s certification laws and regulations to permit the following flexible revenue-neutral options:
  - Permit an advanced degree to satisfy the General Knowledge Test requirement.
  - Expand the window for completion of the General Knowledge Test requirement from one (1) to three (3) school years.
  - Require the Florida Department of Education to:
    - Determine additional concordant scores from other nationally recognized rigorous standardized tests (e.g., ACT, SAT, ASVAB, CLAST, PRAXIS, GMAT, LSAT, USMLE, etc.) to satisfy the General Knowledge Test requirement; and
  - Repeal state laws that prohibit teachers from using the following to satisfy the General Knowledge requirement:
    - GRE scores obtained prior to July 01, 2015; and
    - General Knowledge Test scores over ten (10) years old.
How to Lobby Your Decision-Makers for Osceola’s Public Schools

Why Lobby?

Special interests outside Florida and big corporations have deep pockets, hire full-time lobbyists, and monopolize your legislators’ schedules so much they struggle to listen to their constituents. Lobbyists spend their days influencing lawmakers and members of the executive branch to introduce, create, or change laws. Corporations have their own lobbyists who work on behalf of individual companies. Lobbyists for foreign governments and businesses work on behalf of foreign countries. Nonprofit and special interest lobbyists work on behalf of various organizations and causes. Association lobbyists represent industries, trades, and professions. Full-time free-lance lobbyists work on behalf of any clients who hire them.

Osceola Schools Fast Facts

- In 2013, Florida ranked 40th out of 50 states in per student educational expenditures adjusted for regional cost differences; in 2011, Florida had ranked 36th (Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT).
  - Florida = $9,231
  - United States National Average = $11,841

- In 2016, Florida’s Free and Reduced Lunch rate was 60%; Osceola’s was 65%.
  (Source: Florida Department of Education)

- In 2016, Osceola received 2.15% of state education funding but had 2.24% of Florida’s entire student enrollment. (Source: Florida Department of Education)
  - Osceola = $ 432,662,406, or $432.6 Million
  - Florida = $ 20,172,159,643, or $20.2 Billion
  - Osceola = 63,031 students
  - Florida = 2,816,824 students

- That 0.09% difference was still $18,722,343, or $18.7 Million, that Osceola schools did NOT receive for our students.

Now is the time for Osceola parents, students, and advocates of public education to be their own lobbyists, to act, and to be heard.

Tools for positive change are included in this document.
Ten Smart Steps for Parents, Students, and Others to be Heard

1. Find out who your legislators are, their committee assignments, and their positions and voting histories on issues important to you.

   State Representatives
   http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/representatives.aspx

   State Senators
   http://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/

2. Be aware of the legislative calendar and how a bill becomes a law.

   Session Dates
   o http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/FileStores/Web/HouseContent/Approved/ClerksOffice/ImportantLegislativeDates.pdf

   House Calendars and Schedules
   o http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/HouseSchedule/houseschedule.aspx?sui=z3bzbgq97drw=-

   Senate Calendars and Schedules
   o http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Calendars

   How a Bill Becomes a Law (House)

   How a Bill Becomes a Law (Senate)

3. Find and join groups who share your focus and who work for the same goals.

   Examples may include, but are not limited to, the Florida Parent-Teacher Association, Florida Education Association, Fund Education Now, and Whole Child Education, etc.

4. Write a letter or e-mail to your legislator.

   Tips for writing an effective letter and an example are included in this document.
5. Follow-up your letter or e-mail with a phone call to your legislator.

- Before you call, plan your message carefully.
- Organize your thoughts, and make notes to help you keep focus.
- Discuss only one issue per phone call.

6. Visit your legislator in person.

- If possible, call or write in advance to make an appointment.
- If your legislator is not available, request to meet with his or her legislative assistant.
- Before your visit, plan your message carefully.
- Prepare a one-page fact sheet about your message for your legislator to help him or her remember what you present. The first page of this document includes one example.

General Tips for Visits with Decision-Makers

- Contact your legislator about a particular issue before the Legislature takes action on it.
- Make sure you understand the legislative process to help you express your ideas effectively.
- Explain to your legislator how you think current laws (or a particular bill, if it becomes law) will affect your children, your business, your community, and you.
- Be polite and reasonable, even if you disagree strongly with your legislator.
- Suggest a course of action and offer assistance.
- Keep your message positive, and focus on children.
7. Follow bills in committee, and read how your legislator voted.

- The Legislative Tracking system allows users to
  - create a free account,
  - subscribe to specific bills and committees and
  - receive automatic updates on any changes to them throughout the legislative process.

   **Legislative Tracking Sign-Up**

   **Legislative Tracking Log-In**
   - [http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/MyHouse/login.aspx](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/MyHouse/login.aspx)

8. Keep writing, calling, and visiting your legislators to keep your message visible.

9. Show your appreciation for lawmakers who listen to you (e.g., thank you notes), and politely express your disappointment with those who do not.

10. Celebrate your victories, and “remember in November.” Vote!
Osceola Legislative Delegation

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Representative Mike LaRosa
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Florida House of Representatives (Continued)

Representative John Cortes
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Tips for Writing Effective Letters to Decision-Makers

- Type or print your letter legibly.
- Include your correct name, address, and phone number in the heading so that your legislator can respond to you.
- Address letters to members of the Florida House of Representatives as follows:
  
  The Honorable John Doe  
  (Office address)

- Address letters to members of the Florida Senate as follows:
  
  Senator Jane Doe  
  (Office address)

- Be certain you spell your legislator's name correctly and use the correct address. If you do not, you could lose your audience.
- Keep letters, email, and faxes brief. Never write more than one page. Concise written correspondence is more likely to grab and keep the reader's attention.
- Identify your issue or opinion at the beginning of the letter. Do not bury your main point under trivial text.
- Focus on one issue per letter.
- Support your opinions with facts. Your letter should inform the reader.
- Avoid abbreviations, acronyms, and technical jargon.
- For more impact, personalize each letter instead of sending the same letter to more than one legislator.
- Sign your name.
- Remember to write thank you letters to state representatives or senators who take a strong public stand in support of public education.
Sample Parent/ Community Member Letter

(Your address)
(Date)

The Honorable (Full name of representative) or Senator (Full name of senator)
(Office address)

Dear Representative or Senator (Last name of legislator),

I am a taxpayer who votes, and I am the parent of a __________ grader at __________ School in your district. I am concerned that my child is not getting a strong public education because the state does not appropriate adequate funds for public schools in Florida, especially __________ County, and imposes too much standardized testing that limits choices for my child.

Please sponsor and work to pass legislation that makes Florida’s education budget meet and exceed the national average, that returns local control to school boards, and that restores the role of parents to direct their children’s education and future.

Thank you for all that you do on behalf of our state.

Sincerely,

(Your signature)
(Your name in print)
Protocol for Face-to-Face Communications with Legislative Staff

DO...

Start off with an email requesting a meeting.

Follow up in a timely manner. Especially if you're clarifying an issue for them.

Relax. They're people too.

Be professional, transparent and genuine.

Make the issue relevant and personal to the staffer or legislator.

Stay out of the woods. The details can come later if he or she is interested.

Know ahead of time who will oppose your idea and how to respond to it.

Ask how you can help the elected official or their staff member.

Be On Time

Spend time rallying stakeholders prior to approaching the legislator.

Use what you've got. If you already know a staffer in an office, ask them who handles your issue.

Gain an ally a close friend of the member of Congress you would like to approach. Sneaky, but effective.

Need to contact Hill staffers? Try KnowLegis.

cqrollcall.com/knowlegis

Prepared by: John Boyd, Director of Government & Labor Relations, Department of Human Resources
Revised: January 25, 2018
DON’T...

Don’t intentionally mislead the staffer — explicitly or implicitly.

Don’t refer to the legislator by his/her first name, unless you are a close personal friend.

Don’t try and wine and dine a staffer to “buy” his or her time.

Don’t go to a meeting without doing your homework first.

Don’t take an issue to a member’s office if they historically have never supported that issue.

Drag on and on about your issue. Or worse, about yourself. You’re not that interesting.

Don’t try and have protracted discussions about policy. They don’t have the time.

Mix up the staffer or member’s political party. It happens!

Don’t continue to call when an email exchange will work.

Have three double vodkas before you approach a staffer at a party.

Mention the campaign or donations if you’re there to talk about your issue.

Bring up your issue if you meet the member of Congress/staffer in the supermarket. They have a right to be off the clock.

Need to contact Hill staffers? Try Knowlegis.

cqrollcall.com/knowlegis
The 2018 Regular Session of the Florida Legislature convened on Tuesday, January 09, 2018, and is scheduled to end on Friday, March 09, 2018.

Pursuant to Article III, Section 3(b), Florida Constitution, the annual regular session of the Florida Legislature begins on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of each odd-numbered year and on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March, or such other date as may be fixed by law (e.g., Senate Bill 7076, signed by the Governor on April 08, 2016), of each even-numbered year.

However, every ten years the regular session is moved to earlier in the year in order to reapportion legislative districts.

The session shall continue for sixty (60) consecutive days, which may be extended by a three-fifths vote of each chamber.

Special sessions may be called by the Governor or may be convened by joint proclamation of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Special sessions may not exceed twenty (20) days, unless extended by a three-fifths vote of each chamber.
As of Monday, January 22, 2018, 12:00 PM, our legislators have filed 3090 bills (e.g., 2134 in the House; 956 in the Senate) for the Regular Session.

This total reflects 25 new bills filed since our last update (e.g., 18 in the House; 7 in the Senate) since our last update.

Of total bills filed to date, we are presently tracking 1209 bills (e.g., 747 in the House; 462 in the Senate) that may affect our local educators, students, and parents.

At this time, there appears to be 9 general omnibus bills, or possible "trains," related to education policymaking:

- HB 951
- HB 975
- HB 6067
- SB 436
- SB 1192
- SB 1614
- SB 1616
- SB 1618
- SB 1662

An omnibus bill is a proposed law that packages together multiple legal measures on diverse or unrelated topics into a single document that is voted upon as a single item. Omnibus is a Latin term that means "for everything." The length and scope of omnibus bills limit the time and opportunities for in-depth analysis and debate. Often, omnibus bills are the vehicle used to pass controversial amendments. Therefore, some observers consider omnibus bills to be problematic.

Remember that in order for a bill to become law in Florida, companion versions of each bill filed in the legislature must:

- clear several committees (as assigned) in both the House and Senate chambers,
- be read three times in both chambers,
- pass votes taken in both chambers,
- survive the joint conference committee if any language differs in each chamber's version of the bill, and
- receive the governor's signature.

Therefore, each bill is statistically more likely not to become law.
2018-19 Budget Proposals

★ House
- Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
  - $ 506,834,09, or 2.46% increase
  - raises the Funds per FTE from $7307 to $7407 (a $100 per FTE increase)

★ Senate
- Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
  - $535.2 million, or 2.60% increase
  - raises the Funds per FTE from $7,307 to $7,417 (a $110 per FTE increase)

Proposed Bills

★ HB 75: Postsecondary Fee Waivers: Authorizes FCS institutions to waive portion of certain postsecondary fees for active duty members of U.S. Armed Forces using military tuition assistance; requires FCS institutions to report to SBE number & value of such fee waivers granted annually. Effective Date: July 1, 2018

★ SB 118: Visitation of Schools by State Legislators: Authorizing a member of the State Legislature to visit any district school in his or her legislative district, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018

★ SB 252: State Employee Higher Education Fee Waivers: Providing that credit hours eligible for tuition and fee waivers be determined on a calendar year basis, rather than per academic term, etc. Effective Date: 5/1/2018

★ SB 272: Local Tax Referenda: Revising the voter approval threshold required to pass a referendum to adopt or amend local government discretionary sales surtaxes when the referendum is held at any date other than a general election, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018

★ HB 317: Local Tax Referenda: Requires local government discretionary sales surtax referenda to be held on specified dates & approved by specified percentage of voters. Effective Date: July 1, 2018

★ SB 496: Out-of-school Suspension: Authorizing a parent to give public testimony regarding a district school board’s suspension policy at a specified meeting; requiring a district school board to review its rules authorizing suspension during a specified timeframe at a district school board meeting; requiring the board to take public testimony at the meeting, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018
SB 564:  **John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program:** Providing that parents seeking an individual education plan reevaluation may request a specified meeting and evaluation from the school district; specifying that a school district may change a student's matrix of services as a result of an individual education plan reevaluation, etc.  Effective Date: 7/1/2018

HB 577:  **High School Graduation Requirements:** Authorizes student to use credit earned upon completion of apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship program to satisfy specified high school graduation requirements; requires SBE to approve & identify registered apprenticeship & preapprenticeship programs.  Effective Date: July 1, 2018

SB 654:  **Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program:** Extending the scheduled expiration of the pilot program, etc.  Effective Date: 7/1/2018

HB 887:  **Reading Instruction:** Requires certain plans to provide for certain reading interventions that meet certain criteria beginning with specified school year; requires DOE to consider award of endorsements for teaching certificate to individuals who hold specified certifications or complete specified programs; requires school districts to provide access to training sufficient to earn endorsement in reading.  Effective Date: July 1, 2018

HJR 1031:  **Limitation of Terms of Office for Members of a District School Board:** Proposes amendment to Section 4 of Article IX of State Constitution to limit terms of office for member of district school board.  Effective Date: Not Specified

SB 1056:  **Computer Science Instruction:** Requiring school districts to provide computer science courses in a specified number of schools by certain dates; providing that a charter school is not required to offer computer science courses; requiring the Florida Virtual School to offer certain computer science courses; providing funds for school districts to provide professional development for classroom teachers, etc.  Effective Date: Upon becoming a law

SB 1090:  **Enrollment of Dependent Children of Active Duty Military Personnel in the Florida Virtual School:** Requiring the Florida Virtual School to give enrollment priority to dependent children of certain active duty military personnel; authorizing the Florida Virtual School to use a specified form to determine residency and to serve specified students directly; requiring that certain dependent children of active duty military personnel be given first preference for admission to certain virtual instruction programs, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018

HB 1175:  **Early Learning Coalitions:** Authorizes early learning coalition to refuse to contract with or revoke the eligibility of certain school readiness program providers.  Effective Date: July 1, 2018

HB 1279:  **School District Accountability:** Revises duties of Auditor General; revises provisions relating to Office of Inspector General, district school boards, school district superintendents, Commission on Ethics, & DOE duties & responsibilities.  Effective Date: July 1, 2018
A bill to be entitled “an act relating to education”:

1. amending Section 1001.10, Florida Statutes, authorizing the Commissioner of Education to coordinate resources during an emergency

2. amending Section 1001.51, Florida Statutes, revising the authority of superintendents to organize schools for “instructional personnel freedom from burdensome regulations”

3. amending Section 1013.28, Florida Statutes, requiring school districts to provide charter schools access to surplus property on the same basis as public schools

4. amending Section 1008.22, Florida Statutes
   • requiring reading passages and writing prompts for ELA assessments to include social studies content
   • requiring paper assessments for specified grades in specified subjects
   • requiring published assessment items to be in a format that facilitates sharing of assessment items

5. amending Section s. 1002.33, Florida Statutes
   • clarifying the criteria for reviewing high-performing charter school system applications
   • revising requirements for charter terminations
   • revising the process for resolving contractual disputes

6. amending Section 1012.562, Florida Statutes, authorizing charter schools and charter management organizations to offer school leader preparation programs

7. amending Section 1011.6202, Florida Statutes
   • renaming the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative
   • expanding the pilot statewide
   • creating district-independent autonomous schools

8. amending Section 1007.271, Florida Statutes
   • removing requirement for home education students to provide instructional materials
   • removing requirement for provision governing compensation of postsecondary institution by a private school

9. amending Section 1012.98, Florida Statutes, requiring the Florida Department of Education to disseminate proven professional development resources that include sample course at-a-glance and unit overview templates
10. amending Section 1002.331, Florida Statutes
   • revising criteria for high-performing charter school status
   • revising provision for determining facility capacity
   • revising the number of schools that can be established by a high-performing charter school from one (1) to two (2) per year

11. amending Section 1006.07, Florida Statutes
   • revising district school board duties to include security risk assessments
   • requiring certain self-assessments to be in a specified format

12. amending Section 1012.32, Florida Statutes, requiring district school board to notify charter school of eligibility status of employees within fourteen (14) days or waive the cost of background screening

13. creating Section 1002.411, Florida Statutes
   • establishing reading scholarship accounts for specified purposes
   • providing for eligibility for scholarships under the program
   • providing for administration
   • providing duties of the Department of Education
   • providing school district obligations
   • specifying options for parents
   • providing that maximum funding shall be specified in the General Appropriations Act
   • providing for payment of funds
   • specifying that no state liability arises from the award or use of such an account

14. amending Section 1002.385, Florida Statutes
   • revising eligible expenditures for the Gardiner Scholarship
   • conforming provisions to changes by the act

15. amending Section 1002.421, Florida Statutes
   • providing private school requirements for participation in educational scholarship programs
   • providing background screening requirements and procedures for owners of private schools
   • providing that a private school is ineligible to participate in an educational scholarship program under certain circumstances
   • providing the Department of Education obligations relating to education scholarship programs
   • providing Commissioner of Education authority and responsibilities for educational scholarship programs
   • authorizing the commissioner to deny, suspend, or revoke a private school’s participation in an educational scholarship program

16. amending Section 1002.39, Florida Statutes, conforming provisions to changes by the act regarding the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program
17. amending Section 1002.395, Florida Statutes
   • conforming provisions to changes by the act regarding the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program
   • revising requirements for report of participating students

18. amending Section 1002.37, Florida Statutes, requiring school districts to provide Florida Virtual School students access to certain assessments

19. amending Section 1011.62, Florida Statutes, prohibiting bonuses to teachers who fail to maintain assessment security

20. providing an appropriation

21. providing an effective date
## Components of SDOC Legislative Update

**Excel Workbook E-Mail Attachment**

- Please e-mail John Boyd at boydj@osceola.k12.fl.us to join the mailing list.

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Point to Ponder

"NEC DEBET ESSE SUSPECTA CAESARIS CONIUNX"

-- OR --

"CAESAR'S WIFE MUST BE ABOVE SUSPICION."

In 63 BC, Roman citizens elected Julius Caesar to the position of Pontifex Maximus, the chief priest of the Roman state religion, which came with an official residence on the Via Sacra. One year later, in this official residence, Caesar’s wife Pompeia hosted the festival of the Bona Dea ("good goddess"), which no man was permitted to attend. However, a young patrician named Publius Clodius Pulcher gained admittance disguised as a woman, in an attempt to seduce Pompeia. He was caught and prosecuted for sacrilege. Caesar gave no evidence against Clodius at his trial, and he was acquitted. Nevertheless, Caesar divorced Pompeia, stating "my wife ought not even to be under suspicion." This gave rise to a proverb, sometimes expressed: "Caesar's wife must be above suspicion." This proverb is most often applied in political situations where a public official or the public official’s relative is accused of wrongdoing.