

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 55 District School Board Policies and Procedures

SPONSOR(S): Reed and others

TIED BILLS: IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 206

	REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1)	PreK-12 Policy Committee	12 Y, 0 N, As CS	Beagle	Ahearn
2)	Policy Council	17 Y, 0 N	Varn	Ciccone
3)	Education Policy Council			
4)				
5)				

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Florida law does not currently require or encourage school districts to conduct “Academic Scholarship Signing Day” assemblies or activities. School assemblies are generally regulated by district school board policy. Guidelines for student assemblies must be included in district-adopted student codes of conduct.

The Committee Substitute for House Bill 55 encourages district school boards to adopt policies for designating the third Tuesday in April each year as “Academic Scholarship Signing Day.” The purpose of Academic Scholarship Signing Day is to recognize high school seniors who have been awarded postsecondary academic scholarships. School boards may authorize assemblies or other events for this purpose. Students may sign actual or ceremonial documents signifying acceptance of the scholarship. A school board may encourage holding these events for the entire student body to reinforce the importance of academic success.

The bill does not have a fiscal impact on state or local governments.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2010.

HOUSE PRINCIPLES

Members are encouraged to evaluate proposed legislation in light of the following guiding principles of the House of Representatives

- Balance the state budget.
- Create a legal and regulatory environment that fosters economic growth and job creation.
- Lower the tax burden on families and businesses.
- Reverse or restrain the growth of government.
- Promote public safety.
- Promote educational accountability, excellence, and choice.
- Foster respect for the family and for innocent human life.
- Protect Florida's natural beauty.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Florida law does not currently require or encourage school districts to conduct "Academic Scholarship Signing Day" assemblies or activities. Student assemblies are generally regulated by district school board policy. Guidelines for student assemblies must be included in district-adopted student codes of conduct.¹

Effect of Proposed Changes

The effect of the proposed changes of Committee Substitute for House Bill 55 is to encourage district school boards to recognize high school seniors who have been awarded postsecondary academic scholarships. CS/HB 55 encourages school boards to adopt policies designating the third Tuesday in April each year as "Academic Scholarship Signing Day." School boards may authorize assemblies or other events for this purpose. Students may sign actual or ceremonial documents signifying acceptance of the scholarship. A school board may encourage holding these events for the entire student body to reinforce the importance of academic success.

Academic Scholarship Signing Day is modeled after "letter of intent" signing activities conducted by many U.S. high schools to celebrate a student athlete's acceptance of a college athletic scholarship.² The purpose of Academic Scholarship Signing Day is to recognize academic achievement with similar fanfare.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 1001.43, F.S.; encouraging district school boards to recognize Academic Scholarship Signing Day.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2010.

¹ Section 1006.07(2)(c), F.S.

² The National Collegiate Athletic Association, National Letter of Intent, *Signing Dates*, <http://www.ncaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/nli/NLI/Home/> (last visited Mar. 4, 2010).

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The bill does not require a city or county to expend funds or to take any action requiring the expenditure of funds.

The bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate.

The bill does not reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On March 10, 2010, the PreK-12 Policy Committee adopted one amendment to HB 55. The difference between the CS and the HB is as follows:

The CS authorizes district school boards to encourage holding Academic Scholarship Signing Day assemblies for the entire student body, whereas the HB authorized boards to encourage holding such assemblies for freshmen and sophomores.

The bill was reported favorably as a Committee Substitute. The analysis reflects the Committee Substitute