

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education

BILL: SB 886

INTRODUCER: Senator Montford

SUBJECT: Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program

DATE: March 10, 2014

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Letarte	Klebacha	ED	Pre-meeting
2.			AED	
3.			AP	

I. Summary:

SB 886 revises provisions of the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program providing flexibility for school districts to distribute funds to classroom teachers sooner for the purchase of supplemental materials and supplies for public school students assigned to them.

The bill requires school districts to determine, by July 1st of each year, the expected number of classroom teachers to be employed by the district or a charter school in the district on September 1st of each year. If, by July 1st, a classroom teacher is expected to be employed on September 1st, the district school board and each charter school board may distribute the teacher's proportionate share of funds to the teacher by August 1st. If a teacher's expected employment status is determined after July 1st, the district school board and charter school board must provide the teacher with the teacher's proportionate share of funds by September 30th, which is the current distribution date.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2014.

II. Present Situation:

The Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program

The Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program (Program) provides funds for classroom teachers to purchase supplemental materials and supplies for public school students assigned to them.¹ Program funds are appropriated by the Legislature in the General Appropriations Act and distributed to each school district by the Commissioner of Education based on each district's unweighted full-time equivalent student enrollment.² The district school

¹ Section 1012.71, F.S.

² Section 1012.71(2), F.S. Funds from the Program may not be used to purchase equipment. *Id.*

board calculates and distributes each classroom teacher's proportionate share of funds by September 30th of each year.³ A signed statement acknowledging receipt of the funds is required of each classroom teacher.⁴ Additionally, a teacher must keep receipts for at least four years to show that funds were spent in accordance with Program requirements.⁵ Any unused funds must be returned to the district school board at the end of the school year.⁶ The 2013 General Appropriations Act appropriated \$45,286,750 to the Program.⁷

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 886 revises provisions of the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program providing flexibility for school districts to distribute funds to classroom teachers sooner for the of purchase supplemental materials and supplies for public school students assigned to them.

The bill requires school districts, by July 1st of each year, to determine the expected number of classroom teachers who will be employed by the district or a charter school in the district on September 1st. As of July 1st, if a teacher is expected to be employed by a school district or a charter school in the district on September 1st, the district school board and each charter school board may provide the teacher with the teacher's proportionate share of funds by August 1st. If a teacher's expected employment is determined after July 1st, the district school board and each charter school board must provide the teacher with the teacher's proportionate share of funds by September 30th, which is the current date for distribution of funds from the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2014.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

³ Section 1012.71(3), F.S. The funds are distributed by any appropriate means as determined by the district school board. *Id.*

⁴ Section 1012.71(4), F.S.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.* “[F]unds that are returned to the district board shall be deposited into the school advisory council account of the school at which the classroom teacher returning the funds was employed when that teacher received the funds or deposited into the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program account of the school district in which a charter school is sponsored, as applicable.” *Id.*

⁷ Specific Appropriation 87, s. 2, ch. 2013-40, L.O.F. (providing the amount appropriated to the Teachers Lead Program under Specific Appropriations 7 and 87); *see also* Specific Appropriation 7, s. 1 ch. 2013-40, L.O.F. The Program was originally named the Florida Teachers Lead Program and was renamed the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program in 2013. Section 10, ch. 2013-185, L.O.F.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 1012.71 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.