

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

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

Date: April 14, 1998 Revised: _____

Subject: School Board Powers (RAB)

	<u>Analyst</u>	<u>Staff Director</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	O'Farrell	O'Farrell	ED	Favorable/CS
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

The bill would provide specific statutory authority for local school boards to adopt rules in several areas affecting the governance and operation of school districts.

This bill substantially amends section 230.23 and creates section 230.23005 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

During the 1996 Legislative Session, a comprehensive rewrite of the Florida Administrative Procedures Act was adopted as CS/SBs 2290 & 2288. Among many other changes, the revised APA modified the standards which authorize rulemaking and included provision for periodic review of rules by agencies with rulemaking authority.

In the past, a number of court decisions held that a rule did not exceed the legislative grant of rulemaking authority if it was reasonably related to the stated purpose of the enabling legislation. Additionally, it was accepted that a rule was valid when it implemented general legislative intent or policy. Agencies had wide discretion to adopt rules whether the statutory basis for a rule was clearly conferred or implied from the enabling statute.

Section 120.536, F.S., effectively overturned this line of cases and imposed a much stricter standard for rulemaking authority. Under the new APA, existing rules and proposed rules must **implement, interpret, or make specific** the particular powers and duties granted by the enabling statute. It is important to note that the revised APA is not intended to eliminate administrative rules or even to discourage rulemaking, but to ensure that administrative rules are no broader than the enabling statute. A grant of rulemaking authority by the Legislature is necessary but not

enough by itself for an agency to adopt a rule. Likewise, agencies need more than a statement of general legislative intent for implementing a rule. Rules must be based on specific grants of powers and not address subjects on which the Legislature was silent.

In order to temporarily shield a rule or portion of a rule from challenge under the new provisions, agencies were to report rules which they believed did not meet the new criteria by October 1, 1997.

The Joint Administrative Procedures Committee (JAPC) reports that some 5,850 rules or portions of rules were reported as exceeding the agency's rulemaking authority under s. 120.536(1), F.S. Of these, 3,610 rules were identified by various local school boards, whose rules are not contained in the FAC. However, 2,240 rules contained in the FAC were reported by various agencies as exceeding statutory authority for rulemaking under s. 120.536, F.S.

Section 120.536(2), F.S., also lays out the second step in the process, that of legislative review. The subsection provides:

The Legislature shall, at the 1998 Regular Session, consider whether specific legislation authorizing the identified rules, or portions thereof, should be enacted. By January 1, 1999, each agency shall initiate proceedings pursuant to s. 120.54 to repeal each rule, or portion thereof, identified as exceeding the rulemaking authority permitted by this section for which authorizing legislation does not exist.

Thus, during the 1998 Legislative Session, each agency has the responsibility to bring forward legislative proposals, as appropriate, which will provide statutory authorization for existing rules or portions thereof which the agency deems necessary but which currently exceed the agencies' rulemaking authority. The Legislature is directed to consider whether such legislation authorizing the identified rules should be enacted.

According to the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee (JAPC), there are 3500-3600 grants of rulemaking authority contained in the Florida Statutes falling roughly into two categories: specific grants and general grants. Most of them are specific grants of authority, that is, the grant of authority is found coupled in a sentence with a specific power or duty of the agency. General grants of rulemaking authority authorize rulemaking in the context of the agency's mission or as it pertains to the stated purpose of the enabling legislation. Most agencies have a general grant of rulemaking authority and numerous specific grants of rulemaking authority. In most cases, it appears that existing rules exceed statutory authority because a "specific law to be implemented" is missing from the statute, not a legislative grant of rulemaking authority. Local school boards are no exception.

Section 4(b), Art. IX of the State Constitution directs county school boards to operate, control, and supervise all public schools within their school districts. Section 230.22, F.S., describes the general powers of school boards, and subsection (2) gives boards the authority to adopt rules that will supplement those adopted by the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of

Education and that will, in the local board's opinion, contribute to the efficient and orderly operation of the district school system. Section 230.23, F.S., provides a more extensive and detailed description of school boards' powers and duties ranging from the requirement to maintain records and the minutes of meetings to the directive to implement a system of school improvement and accountability. Some portions of this law contain very specific instructions for board actions. For example, s. 230.23(6)(c)1, F.S., directs school boards to adopt rules for the control, discipline, in-school suspension, suspension, and expulsion of students.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The legislation would grant local school boards authority to adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of s. 230.23, F.S., which lists and describes school board powers and duties. The bill also creates a new section of law, s. 230.23005, F.S., which would give school boards supplemental powers and duties in well described areas of school district management and operation, and provide the specific rule making authority necessary to satisfy the provisions of s. 120.536, F.S. The new section does provide; however, that rules adopted under its authority cannot be inconsistent with the provisions of ch. 228 through ch. 235 of the Florida Statutes.

The new section addresses the following areas of school district management and operation:

- Student Management
- Fiscal Management
- Instructional Aids
- Facilities Management
- School Community Relations
- Legal Issue
- First Aid and Emergencies
- Student Assessment and Affairs
- Administrative Support Service
- School Board Governance and Operation
- Personnel

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.