

By the Committees on Education Appropriations, Education Innovation and Representatives Rodriguez-Chomat and D. Prewitt

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to education; creating a pilot  
3           program to increase the number of school  
4           counselors, contingent upon an appropriation;  
5           providing for grant allocations; requiring an  
6           evaluation and report; providing an effective  
7           date.

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9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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11           Section 1. There is hereby created a 3-year pilot  
12 program, contingent upon the provision of a specific  
13 appropriation for this purpose, for school districts to  
14 provide additional certified school counselors for middle and  
15 high school students in the public schools. In order to  
16 positively impact school attendance, student behavior, the  
17 graduation rate, the school climate, and parent involvement;  
18 to advise students in the decisionmaking process with regard  
19 to a student's abilities, aptitudes, and interests; to better  
20 assist students in the selection of a program of study  
21 appropriate for a student's career goals; to provide guidance  
22 regarding career awareness and postsecondary educational  
23 options; and to help in the successful transition to the world  
24 of work, this funding shall be used to hire additional  
25 certified school counselors to result in a low student to  
26 counselor ratio of no greater than 300 to 1 for an individual  
27 school.

28           Section 2. Funding shall be awarded to school  
29 districts through a process established and administered by  
30 the Commissioner of Education. The commissioner may select  
31 schools to receive the additional counselor grant allocation

1 based on high student to counselor ratios and any other  
2 criteria that the school district deems appropriate in  
3 addressing students' educational, behavioral, and career  
4 goals.

5           Section 3. A school district involved in the 3-year  
6 pilot program shall conduct an evaluation of the pilot program  
7 and provide a report with recommendations to the President of  
8 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by  
9 December 1, 2001.

10           Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1 of the  
11 year in which enacted.

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