

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 16, 1998 Revised: _____

Subject: Education - Accountability Commission

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

I. Summary:

The Committee Substitute revises the makeup of school advisory councils at vocational-technical and adult education centers, removing the requirement that they include parents as members. The bill requires all postsecondary institution to work toward the goal of providing professional teachers and staff.

The bill takes effect upon becoming a law.

This bill substantially amends sections 24.121, 229.58, and 229.591, Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

School advisory councils (SAC's) are an important component of Florida's school improvement and accountability system. Section 229.58, F.S., requires the school board to establish a SAC for each school in the district, but gives smaller school districts (those with fewer than 10,000 students) the option of establishing a district advisory council. Each SAC assists in preparing and evaluating the school's improvement plan and provides any assistance requested by the principal in preparing the school's annual budget. School improvement plans are locally developed, school-specific plans for achieving the state education goals and student performance standards. Section 229.58(2), F.S., specifies that no SAC shall have any of the powers and duties now reserved by law to the school board.

Each SAC must be composed of the school's principal and an appropriately balanced number of teachers, education support employees, students, parents, and other business and community members who are representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school. Performance reviews conducted by the Office of the Auditor General in 1993-94 and by

the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Governmental Accountability (OPPAGA) in 1995-96 found persistent problems in SAC memberships. The 1995-96 performance review looked at school improvement efforts in 14 school districts. In one-third of the SACs reviewed, 50 percent of the SAC members were new to the councils. Almost half of the SACs reviewed did not include all statutorily required membership groups, such as business/community members and education support employees. About one-third did not reflect the school community's racial and ethnic diversity. Sixty-three percent were dominated by school employees and 78 percent were dominated by school district employees. Legislation passed during the 1997 legislative session required each SAC to draw a majority of its membership from individuals who are not school board employees.

The Legislature annually appropriates funds for SACs to use for school improvement. From the school district's lump sum allocation of lottery funds, the school board must allocate \$10 per FTE student (in FY 1997-98) for uses determined by each school's advisory council or by the school's parent advisory committee, if there is no school advisory council.

Section 230.23(16), F.S., requires district school boards to annually approve and require implementation of a school improvement plan for each school in the district. Section 24.121, F.S., prohibits the release of funds from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund to any school district in which one or more schools do not have an approved school improvement plan pursuant to s. 230.23(16), F.S. This provision took effect July 1, 1993, and in conjunction with the requirement of s. 230.23(16), F.S., for the annual approval of school improvement plans, has been interpreted by districts and the Department of Education (DOE) to mean that school improvement plans must annually be approved by July 1.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 229.58, F.S., relating to the membership of school advisory councils, to revise the makeup of school advisory councils at vocational-technical and adult education centers, removing the requirement that they include parents as members.

The bill amends s. 24.121, F.S., relating to the allocation of revenues and expenditures of funds for public education, deleting an obsolete date. The provision of law initially took effect July 1, 1993, and in conjunction with the requirement of s. 230.23(16), F.S., for the annual approval of school improvement plans, has been interpreted by districts and the DOE to mean that school improvement plans must annually be approved by July 1.

The bill amends s. 229.591, F.S., to require all postsecondary institution to work toward the goal of providing professional teachers and staff.

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.