

STORAGE NAME: h4101.ei
DATE: March 20, 1998

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION INNOVATION
BILL RESEARCH & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

BILL #: HB 4101
RELATING TO: Education and Physical Education Programs and Specialist
SPONSOR(S): Representatives Byrd, Flanagan, Wise, Boyd, Warner, Peaden, and Others
COMPANION BILL(S): SB 1840 (Identical)

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:

- (1) EDUCATION INNOVATION
 - (2)
 - (3)
 - (4)
 - (5)
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I. SUMMARY:

HB 4101 increases the required credit in physical education for high school graduation from one-half credit to one credit and decreases the required elective credits from nine credits to eight and one-half credits. The effective date of this provision is July 1, 1999. Consequently, the first high school graduates required to meet the new requirements will be the graduates of 2000. The year 2000 graduates began their freshman year in high school in the 1996-1997 school year and are sophomores this year, 1997-1998. When they enter their junior year in 1998-1999, they will have two years before graduation to meet the new requirements. The new requirement for one credit in physical education could be problematic for currently enrolled upper-level students to schedule the additional one-half required credit in physical education prior to graduation. Schools and districts may need to re-align teacher assignments and schedule additional physical education classes to accommodate the change.

The bill also permits participation in interscholastic sports at the junior varsity or varsity level, but not at the freshman level, for two full seasons to satisfy the required one credit in physical education provided the student passes a personal fitness competency test developed by the department with a score of a "C" or better. The school board may not require that the one credit in physical education be taken during the 9th grade year.

The bill encourages elementary and middle schools to implement a personal fitness program approved by the Department of Education. The program is to comply with the guidelines from the American Heart Association. The department will allocate any incentive funds provided in the General Appropriations Act to schools implementing personal fitness programs.

The bill authorizes the department to allocate funds from funds provided in the General Appropriations Act to provide for an additional one-third-time position for a physical education specialist position in the department. Although the bill language indicates that this would upgrade the position to a full-time position, the part-time position currently in existence is funded by a grant and is a .75 FTE OPS. If the grant funding was discontinued, it is unclear as to how the full position will be funded.

II. SUBSTANTIVE RESEARCH:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

High school graduation requirements are outlined in s. 232.246, F.S. To graduate, a student must successfully complete 24 academic credits that meet the specified curriculum, earn a passing score on all portions of the High School Competency Test, earn a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 1.5 (or a 2.0*), on a 4.0 scale, for required courses, and meet any other requirements established by the school board.

*The 2.0 GPA is effective for students who entered the 9th grade in or after the 1997-98 school year.

Required Subject	Number of Credits
English	4
Math	3
Science	3
Social Studies	
American History	1
World History	1
Economics	.5
American Government	.5
Physical Education	.5
Practical Arts Vocational or Exploratory	.5 or 1
Performing Fine Arts	.5 or 1
Life Management Skills	.5
Total Required Credits	15
Total Elective Credits	9
TOTAL CREDITS	24

The one-half credit in physical education includes assessment, improvement, and maintenance of personal fitness. Participation in an interscholastic sport, whether at the freshman, junior varsity, or varsity level, for a full season, will satisfy the one-half credit requirement in physical education.

Although there are no statutory requirements for public schools to implement physical fitness programs, schools do have the option of initiating such programs if the local

board and administration choose to do so. The physical fitness programs that are offered in schools vary in how often the program is offered and how long the program is; the length and type of program are local decisions. Some schools have physical education teachers on staff that provide a physical education program in which students participate one to two times a week. Physical education is not a required course of study at the elementary and middle school level.

Sunshine State Standards established for physical education relate to physical education literacy, responsible physical activity behaviors, and promotion of physically active lifestyles.

Currently, there is an .75 FTE for an OPS program physical education specialist position in the Department of Education. The position is funded by a grant from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Besides funding this part-time position, the grant supports the Coordinated School Health Program Office and funds all activities related to school health education and physical education, including correlation, technical assistance, training, and dissemination of materials related to the Sunshine State Standards for Health Education and Physical Education. The physical education specialist offers technical assistance to the districts regarding physical education, curriculum activities, and adapting the Sunshine State Standards.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The bill increases the required credit in physical education for high school graduation from one-half to one. Additionally, the bill changes the requirement for elective credits from nine credits to eight and one-half credits. The first high school graduates affected by the one credit in physical education requirement will be the graduates of 2000. The year 2000 graduates began their freshman year in high school in the 1996-1997 school year and are sophomores this year, 1997-1998. When they enter their junior year in 1998-1999, they will have two years before graduation to meet the new requirement. The requirements for high school graduation which were in effect when they entered their freshman year will be changed. The new requirement could be problematic for currently enrolled upper-level students to schedule the additional one-half required credit in physical education prior to graduation. Schools and districts may need to re-align teacher assignments and schedule additional physical education classes to accommodate the change.

The bill also permits participation in interscholastic sports at the junior varsity or varsity level for two full seasons to satisfy the required one credit in physical education provided the student passes a personal fitness competency test developed by the department with a score of a "C" or better. The school board may not require that the one credit in physical education be taken during the 9th grade year.

The bill encourages elementary and middle schools to implement a personal fitness program approved by the Department of Education. The program is to comply with the guidelines from the American Heart Association. The department will allocate any incentive funds provided in the General Appropriations Act to schools implementing personal fitness programs.

The bill authorizes the department to allocate funds from funds provided in the General Appropriations Act to provide for an additional one-third-time position for a physical

education specialist position in the department. Although the bill language indicates that this would upgrade the position to a full-time position, the part-time position currently in existence is funded by a grant. The bill requires that one-third of the physical education specialist position is funded through the General Appropriations Act. Additionally, according to information from the department, the current position is .75 FTE OPS. One-third-time funding of this position will not equate to a full time line position.

C. APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES:

1. Less Government:

a. Does the bill create, increase or reduce, either directly or indirectly:

(1) any authority to make rules or adjudicate disputes?

N/A

(2) any new responsibilities, obligations or work for other governmental or private organizations or individuals?

The requirement to provide a full-time position for the physical education specialist will impact the department, which currently has a .75 FTE OPS position which is funded from a grant.

Districts may need to re-align teacher assignments to accommodate the change.

(3) any entitlement to a government service or benefit?

N/A

b. If an agency or program is eliminated or reduced:

(1) what responsibilities, costs and powers are passed on to another program, agency, level of government, or private entity?

N/A

(2) what is the cost of such responsibility at the new level/agency?

N/A

(3) how is the new agency accountable to the people governed?

N/A

2. Lower Taxes:

a. Does the bill increase anyone's taxes?

N/A

b. Does the bill require or authorize an increase in any fees?

N/A

c. Does the bill reduce total taxes, both rates and revenues?

N/A

d. Does the bill reduce total fees, both rates and revenues?

N/A

e. Does the bill authorize any fee or tax increase by any local government?

N/A

3. Personal Responsibility:

a. Does the bill reduce or eliminate an entitlement to government services or subsidy?

N/A

b. Do the beneficiaries of the legislation directly pay any portion of the cost of implementation and operation?

N/A

4. Individual Freedom:

a. Does the bill increase the allowable options of individuals or private organizations/associations to conduct their own affairs?

N/A

- b. Does the bill prohibit, or create new government interference with, any presently lawful activity?

N/A

5. Family Empowerment:

- a. If the bill purports to provide services to families or children:

- (1) Who evaluates the family's needs?

N/A

- (2) Who makes the decisions?

N/A

- (3) Are private alternatives permitted?

N/A

- (4) Are families required to participate in a program?

N/A

- (5) Are families penalized for not participating in a program?

N/A

- b. Does the bill directly affect the legal rights and obligations between family members?

N/A

- c. If the bill creates or changes a program providing services to families or children, in which of the following does the bill vest control of the program, either through direct participation or appointment authority:

- (1) parents and guardians?

N/A

(2) service providers?

District will align teacher assignments to accommodate the requirement for one credit in physical education, versus one-half, and eight and one-half elective credits, versus nine .

The Department of Education will be required to provide a full-time physical education position from funds provided in the General Appropriations Act.

(3) government employees/agencies?

N/A

D. STATUTE(S) AFFECTED:

Amends Section 232.246, Florida Statutes; Creates Section 233.0616.

E. SECTION-BY-SECTION RESEARCH:

Section 1 Names the act the "1998 Personal Fitness Education Act."

Section 2 Amends s. 232.246, F.S., requiring one, rather than one-half, credit in physical education for high school graduation. Allows two full seasons of junior or varsity level interscholastic sports to satisfy the one credit requirement if the student passes a competency test developed by the Department of Education on personal fitness with a score of "C" or better. Provides that the school board may not require that the one credit in physical education be taken during the 9th grade year.

Changes the requirement for elective courses from nine to eight and one-half.

Section 3 Creates s. 233.0616, F.S., to encourage elementary and middle schools to implement a personal fitness program, approved by the department, that complies with American Heart Association guidelines. Requires Department of Education to allocate incentive funds provided in the General Appropriations Act to schools implementing personal fitness programs.

Section 4 Requires the Department of Education to allocate funds provided in the General Appropriations Act for an additional one-third-time position to upgrade the physical education specialist position in the department from a two-thirds time position to a full-time position.

Section 5 Provides an effective date of July 1 of the year in which enacted.

III. FISCAL RESEARCH & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE AGENCIES/STATE FUNDS:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

N/A

2. Recurring Effects:

The current .75 FTE program specialist in physical education is funded through elective use of OPS funds. One-third-time funding of this position, from funds in the General Appropriations Act, will not equate to a full time position. According to the Department of Education, salary, benefits and expenses of a full-time program specialist IV position will cost about \$75,000.

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

N/A

4. Total Revenues and Expenditures:

See above.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS A WHOLE:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

N/A

2. Recurring Effects:

N/A

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

N/A

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

1. Direct Private Sector Costs:

N/A

2. Direct Private Sector Benefits:

N/A

3. Effects on Competition, Private Enterprise and Employment Markets:

N/A

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

Although the districts may need to re-align teacher assignments to accommodate the changed requirements from one-half credit to one credit in physical education and from nine credits to eight and one-half credits in electives, the fiscal impact will be minimal.

The funding for the program specialist at the department and the funding for incentive funds for elementary schools and middle schools to implement personal fitness programs are dependent upon financing in the General Appropriations Act.

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to expend funds.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not reduce the authority of counties or municipalities to raise revenue.

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties and municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

N/A

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

N/A

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PAGE 10

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION INNOVATION:

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