

By Senator Gutman

34-503A-98

See CS/HB 175

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to education; creating a pilot
program to increase the number of school
counselors; providing for grant allocations;
requiring an evaluation; providing an effective
date.

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

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

Section 2. Funding shall be awarded to school districts through a process established and administered by the Commissioner of Education. The commissioner may select schools to receive the additional counselor grant allocation based on high student to counselor ratios and any other criteria that the school district deems appropriate in

1 addressing students' educational, behavioral, and career
2 goals.
3 Section 3. A school district involved in the 3-year
4 pilot program shall conduct an evaluation of the pilot program
5 and provide a report with recommendations to the President of
6 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by
7 December 1, 2001.
8 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, of the
9 year in which enacted.

10
11 *****

12 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

13 Creates a 3-year pilot program to provide additional
14 counselors in the public schools, based on a ratio of
15 counselors to students in the schools. Requires
16 evaluation of the pilot program with recommendations to
17 the Legislature.
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31