

By the Committee on Education and Senator Gutman

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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 for middle and high school students 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

1 criteria that the school district deems appropriate in
2 addressing students' educational, behavioral, and career
3 goals.

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

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

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12 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
13 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
14 SB 904

15 The Committee Substitute differs from Senate Bill 904 in that
16 it would restrict the pilot projects so that additional
17 counselors could be provided only to middle and high schools.
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