

# 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.)

BILL: CS/SB 1256

SPONSOR: Senator Kirkpatrick

SUBJECT: Education Accountability

DATE: April 6, 1999 REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Harkey</u>	<u>O'Farrell</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

## I. Summary:

The bill amends s. 229.58, F.S., to revise the requirements for the membership of school advisory councils. School boards are required to develop procedures to ensure balanced school advisory council membership.

The requirement that a school board develop a plan of assistance and intervention for schools that do not make adequate progress toward state goals and standards is amended to require public hearings. The requirement for a 3-year plan is changed to a requirement for a 2-year plan.

The bill takes effect July 1, 1999.

This bill substantially amends ss. 229.58, and 230.23, 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. 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.

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. Audits of school districts conducted by the Office of the Auditor General in 1997 and 1998, found problems in SAC memberships. In some districts, the SACs reviewed did not reflect the school community's racial and ethnic diversity. In others, the school board had not received enough information to know if the SACs represented the ethnic, racial, and economic community

served by the school. The problems encountered in these 1997 and 1998 reports were similar to one encountered in previous reviews by the Office of the Auditor General and by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Governmental Accountability (OPPAGA).

Section. 230.23 (16), F.S., requires district school boards to maintain a system of school improvement and education accountability. The board must approve school improvement plans and must develop a process for approval of school improvement plans presented by an individual school and its advisory council. In public hearings held around the state, the Accountability Commission heard testimony from SAC members who said the school improvement plan they approved was changed before it was submitted to the school board. The commission recommended that the SAC approve any changes so that the text of the plan that goes to the school board is the one approved by the SAC.

School boards are required to develop a 3-year plan for assistance and intervention for schools that are not making adequate progress. The commission recommended that school boards hold public hearings regarding intervention plans for schools that are failing and hold an annual public hearing to report on the progress of schools that are receiving assistance and intervention.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill amends s. 229.58, F.S., to revise the requirements for the membership of school advisory councils. Instead of requiring “an appropriately balanced number” of teachers, education support employees, students, parents, and other business and community citizens who are representative of the “ethnic, racial, and economic” community served by the school, the establishment of the council must be done “giving consideration to the school’s ethnic, racial, and economic make-up.” School boards are required to develop procedures to ensure balanced school advisory council membership.

The bill amends s. 230.23 (16), F.S., to require that a school advisory council review any revisions to a school improvement plan before the plan is submitted to the school board for approval. The school advisory council may approve or reject the revisions by majority vote. The plan must be amended according to the decision of the school advisory council before it is submitted to the school board for approval.

The requirement that a school board develop a 3-year plan of assistance and intervention for schools that do not make adequate progress toward state goals and standards is amended to change the plan to a 2-year plan and to require public hearings. A school board must hold at least one public hearing to present the provisions included in the 2-year plan and must hold annual public hearings to report on the progress of schools receiving assistance and intervention.

The bill takes effect July 1, 1999.

**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:

School boards would incur the cost of holding public hearings regarding the assistance and intervention plan for schools that were not making adequate progress.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.