

By the Committee on Education and Senator Dyer

304-1958-99

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to personnel of the school system; creating s. 231.315, F.S.; providing for the establishment of model peer assistance and review programs; providing minimum standards; providing for technical assistance and allocations; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 231.315, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

231.315 Peer assistance and review.--

(1) The Legislature, the education community, and the public expect high standards of professional practice from school administrators and instructional staff. To promote high professional standards, administrators and instructional staff must develop a system of shared accountability. Peer assistance and review is a process in which highly skilled instructional personnel serve in a consulting role with their peers to improve the quality of classroom instruction. Peer assistance and review allows administrators and instructional personnel to share the responsibility of mentoring, training, assisting, and reviewing the professional standards and practices of instructional personnel.

(2) Peer assistance and review programs must meet the following minimum standards:

(a) Program provisions must be developed through the collective bargaining agreement between the teachers' association and the school district.

1           (b) A joint instructional personnel and school  
2 district governing body must be created with responsibility to  
3 review recommendations of the consulting peer instructional  
4 personnel.

5           (c) Consulting peer instructional personnel must be  
6 recognized by their peers as highly skilled practitioners and  
7 must be selected by their peers.

8           (d) Consulting peer instructional personnel must be  
9 properly compensated and trained.

10           (e) Consulting peer instructional personnel must  
11 provide assistance and review for instructional personnel with  
12 the same area of expertise as the consulting peer  
13 instructional personnel member.

14           (f) Consulting peer instructional personnel must not  
15 be considered administrative personnel and must retain status  
16 within the employees' collective bargaining unit.

17           (3) For fiscal years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, up to  
18 six school districts may be selected to establish model peer  
19 assistance and review programs. At least one district selected  
20 must have less than 6,000 students and at least one district  
21 selected must have more than 100,000 students. Districts that  
22 wish to apply for selection must submit an application to the  
23 Department of Education by September 1, 1999, which includes  
24 the agreement between the teachers' association and the school  
25 district. By October 1, 1999, the department shall select the  
26 participating districts based on the quality of their  
27 applications.

28           (4) The department shall provide technical assistance  
29 to selected school districts to establish model peer  
30 assistance and review programs.

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1           (5) The school districts selected to establish model  
2 peer assistance and review programs shall receive an  
3 allocation from the department as established in the General  
4 Appropriations Act.

5           (6) During the 2000-2001 fiscal year, the department  
6 shall assess the results of the selected model peer assistance  
7 and review programs and shall submit a report to the Governor,  
8 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
9 Representatives by March 1, 2001. The report must include the  
10 department's recommendation as to the continuation or  
11 expansion of peer assistance and review programs.

12           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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14                           STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
15   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
16   SB 1286

17 The Committee Substitute differs from SB 1286 in that:

18 It would not amend s. 231.600, F.S., to require school  
19 districts and the school community to assess the effectiveness  
of expenditures for professional development.

20 It would not amend s. 236.0811, F.S., to require funding as  
21 provided in the appropriations act for an extra 2 days of  
22 inservice training for all instructional personnel and  
instructional specialists.