

Bill No. CS for CS for SB 1756

Amendment No. \_\_\_\_

<u>Senate</u>	CHAMBER ACTION	<u>House</u>
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Senator Dawson-White moved the following amendment:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

On page 11, line 6, through page 12, line 25, delete those lines

and insert:

229.0537 Opportunity Scholarship Program.--

(1) FINDINGS AND INTENT.--The purpose of this section is to provide enhanced opportunity for students in this state to gain the knowledge and skills necessary for postsecondary education, a technical education, or the world of work. The Legislature recognizes that the voters of the State of Florida, in the November 1998 general election, amended s. 1, Art. IX, of the Florida Constitution so as to make education a paramount duty of the state. The Legislature finds that the State Constitution requires the state to provide the opportunity to obtain a high-quality education. The Legislature further finds that a student should not be compelled, against the wishes of the student's parent or guardian, to remain in a school found by the state to be

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1 failing for 2 years in a 4-year period. The Legislature shall  
2 authorize school districts to participate in the opportunity  
3 scholarship program if they choose to do so by a  
4 super-majority vote of the school board membership. If the  
5 district chooses to participate in the program, the  
6 Legislature shall make available opportunity scholarships in  
7 order to give parents and guardians the opportunity for their  
8 children to attend a public school that is performing  
9 satisfactorily or to attend an eligible private school when  
10 the parent or guardian chooses to apply the equivalent of the  
11 public education funds generated by his or her child to the  
12 cost of tuition in the eligible private school as provided in  
13 paragraph (6)(a). Eligibility of a private school shall  
14 include the control and accountability requirements that,  
15 coupled with the exercise of parental choice, are reasonably  
16 necessary to secure the educational public purpose, as  
17 delineated in subsection (4).

18 (2) OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.--If a local  
19 school board has chosen to participate in the opportunity  
20 scholarship program, a public school student's parent or  
21 guardian may request and receive from the state an opportunity  
22 scholarship for the child to enroll in and attend a private  
23 school in accordance with the provisions of this section if:

24 (a) By assigned school attendance area or by special  
25 assignment, the student has spent the prior school year in  
26 attendance at a public school that has been designated  
27 pursuant to s. 229.57 as performance grade category "F,"  
28 failing to make adequate progress, and that has had two school  
29 years in a 4-year period of such low performance, and the  
30 student's attendance occurred during a school year in which  
31 such designation was in effect; or the parent or guardian of a

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1 student who has been in attendance elsewhere in the public  
2 school system or who is entering kindergarten or first grade  
3 has been notified that the student has been assigned to such  
4 school for the next school year;  
5 (b) The student is a Florida resident; and  
6 (c) The parent or guardian has obtained acceptance for  
7 admission of the student to a private school eligible for the  
8 program pursuant to subsection (4), and has notified the  
9 Department of Education and the school district of the request  
10 for an opportunity scholarship no later than July 1 of the  
11 first year in which the student intends to use the  
12 scholarship.

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15 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

16 And the title is amended as follows:

17 On page 1, line 7, after the semicolon,

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19 insert:

20 authorizing school districts to participate in  
21 the opportunity scholarship program by vote of  
22 the local school board;

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