

By the Committee on Governmental Rules & Regulations and  
Representative Ryan

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to teacher training centers;  
3           creating s. 231.6015, F.S., relating to teacher  
4           training centers; providing legislative intent;  
5           defining terms; establishing procedures for  
6           center approval; providing for funding;  
7           requiring each teacher training center to be  
8           operated by a board of directors; providing  
9           membership requirements and duties; requiring  
10          the adoption of rules; requiring an annual  
11          report; providing an effective date.

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

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15           Section 1. Section 231.6015, Florida Statutes, is  
16          created to read:

17           231.6015 Teacher training centers.--In order to  
18 provide the school districts and teachers of the state with an  
19 opportunity to develop systematic, ongoing inservice training  
20 programs, to assure the dissemination and application of  
21 educational research developments to classroom instruction,  
22 and to develop new curricula and curricular materials  
23 specifically designed to meet the educational needs of the  
24 students served, the Commissioner of Education shall, from  
25 funds appropriated for this purpose and subject to the  
26 procedures established in this section, provide funds to  
27 school boards to plan, establish, and operate teacher training  
28 centers.

29           (1) As used in this section, the term:

30           (a) "Teacher training center" means any site  
31 established by a school board, or consortium of school boards,

- 1 pursuant to this section to provide professional support  
2 services to teachers within the state in order to:
- 3 1. Assist teachers in diagnosing learning needs,  
4 experimenting with the use of multiple instructional  
5 approaches, assessing student outcomes, assessing staff  
6 development needs and plans, and training other school  
7 personnel in effective pedagogical approaches.
  - 8 2. Provide demonstration and training sites where  
9 instructional personnel are trained specifically in the use of  
10 computers as teaching aides and as delivery systems.
  - 11 3. Develop and produce curricula and curricular  
12 material designed to meet the educational needs of the  
13 students being served through the application of educational  
14 research, and new or improved teaching methods, practices, and  
15 techniques.
  - 16 4. Provide training to enable teachers to improve  
17 skills in order to meet the educational needs of the pupils  
18 they serve.
  - 19 5. Provide a location for collaboration and the  
20 sharing of resources, ideas, methods, and approaches related  
21 to classroom instruction and management.
  - 22 6. Retrain teachers and other education personnel to  
23 become better qualified to teach in rapidly evolving, high  
24 technology disciplines including mathematics, science, and  
25 computer technology.
- 26 (b) "Site" means the location or locations where the  
27 curriculum development and training activities of the teacher  
28 training center take place.
- 29 (2) Pursuant to this section and State Board of  
30 Education rule, any school board, or consortium of school  
31 boards, requesting funds for the planning, establishment, or

1 operation of a teacher training center shall apply to the  
2 Commissioner of Education. The State Board of Education shall  
3 adopt rules which establish criteria and standards by which  
4 each application shall be evaluated which shall be limited to  
5 the following:

6 (a) Compliance with requirements set forth in law.

7 (b) The extent of participation by the teacher  
8 training center board in the preparation of the application.

9 (c) The strength of linkages with institutions of  
10 higher education and with other cultural and educational  
11 institutions which provide learning technology inservice  
12 training.

13 (d) Whether the proposed cost is reasonable in  
14 relation to expected outcomes.

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16 The commissioner shall review each application and recommend  
17 to the state board the approval of those centers meeting the  
18 requirements of this section; however, the regional  
19 distribution of sites may be considered as a factor in  
20 recommendation for approval. Based on the recommendations of  
21 the commissioner, the state board shall approve the  
22 establishment of teacher training centers. The state board  
23 must notify the applicant of reasons for denial of an  
24 application. A school district may submit a revised  
25 application for further consideration by the commissioner and  
26 the state board.

27 (3) The State Board of Education shall provide funding  
28 for the planning, establishment, or operation of a teacher  
29 training center to each school board, or consortium of school  
30 boards, whose application is approved according to subsection  
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1 (2), to the extent specifically provided annually by the  
2 Legislature in the General Appropriations Act.  
3 (4) Each teacher training center shall be operated by  
4 a board of directors, the powers and duties of which shall  
5 include conducting training needs assessments; formulating  
6 policy; employing a center director and staff or consultants;  
7 conducting training activities including workshops, seminars,  
8 and teacher "exchanges"; developing a budget and controlling  
9 the expenditure of funds; making recommendations for  
10 subcontracting to secure technical and other kinds of  
11 assistance; and managing and supervising the activities of the  
12 teacher training center. Each board must include:  
13 (a) A majority of members who are elementary and  
14 secondary school teachers representative of teachers served by  
15 the training center.  
16 (b) Individuals designated by the school board.  
17 (c) At least one individual designated by the  
18 institutions of higher education located in the area served by  
19 the center.  
20 (d) At least one parent of an elementary or secondary  
21 pupil.  
22 (e) At least one representative of a business or  
23 industry.  
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25 The board of directors shall elect a chairperson from its  
26 membership by majority vote.  
27 (5) By January 1, annually, the board of directors of  
28 each teacher training center shall submit to the Commissioner  
29 of Education a report which includes a summary of the  
30 activities of the teacher training center and an evaluation of  
31 the effectiveness of these activities in providing

1 high-quality, cost-effective inservice professional  
2 development.

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