

By the Committee on Education Innovation and Representative Melvin

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to deregulated public schools;
amending s. 228.0565, F.S.; providing for the
continuation of the deregulated public schools
pilot project; authorizing additional districts
to participate; revising exemptions from
statute for purposes of the pilot project;
providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (1) and paragraph (b) of
subsection (7) of section 228.0565, Florida Statutes, 1998
Supplement, are amended to read:

228.0565 Deregulated public schools.--

(1) PILOT PROGRAM.--To provide public schools the same
flexibility and accountability afforded charter schools, pilot
programs for deregulated public schools shall be conducted in
~~two large, two medium-sized, and two small school districts.~~
~~For the 1998-1999 school year, no more than six schools per~~
~~district, to include no more than two high schools, two middle~~
~~schools, and two elementary schools, may participate in the~~
~~flexibility program.~~ The following districts are authorized to
conduct pilot programs ~~program~~ in 1998-1999: Palm Beach,
Pinellas, Seminole, Leon, Walton, and Citrus Counties. The
schools and school districts which are participating in the
pilot program as of January 1, 1999, are authorized to
continue the pilot program through the 2003-2004 school year.
Lee County and Broward County are authorized to conduct the
pilot program beginning in the 1999-2000 school year through
the 2003-2004 school year.

1 (7) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.--
2 (b) A deregulated public school may, with appropriate
3 justification, request a waiver from the certification
4 requirements of chapter 231. Pursuant to s. 229.592(6), the
5 commissioner may waive requirements of chapter 231 that relate
6 to teacher certification to facilitate innovative practices
7 and to allow local school selection of educational methods.
8 ~~Teachers employed by or under contract to a deregulated public~~
9 ~~school shall be certified as required by chapter 231.A~~
10 deregulated public school may employ or contract with skilled
11 selected noncertified personnel to provide instructional
12 services or to assist instructional staff members as education
13 paraprofessionals ~~teacher aides~~ in the same manner as defined
14 in chapter 231. A deregulated public school may not employ an
15 individual to provide instructional services or to serve as an
16 education paraprofessional ~~a teacher aide~~ if the individual's
17 certification or licensure as an educator is suspended or
18 revoked by this or any other state. The qualifications of
19 teachers shall be disclosed to parents.

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

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23 HOUSE SUMMARY

24 Provides for the continuation of the deregulated public
25 schools pilot project. Authorizes additional districts to
26 participate in the pilot project. Revises exemptions from
27 statute.
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