

By Senator Diaz-Balart

37-1189-00

See HB 891

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Florida Teachers Lead
3 Program; amending s. 24.115, F.S.; requiring
4 the transfer of unclaimed lottery prize money
5 to the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund to
6 support the Florida Teachers Lead Program;
7 amending s. 24.121, F.S.; revising provisions
8 relating to the deposit of funds to the
9 Educational Enhancement Trust Fund to include
10 unclaimed lottery prize money; amending s.
11 231.67, F.S., relating to the Florida Teachers
12 Lead Program; removing obsolete language
13 relating to an appropriation; providing intent;
14 including unclaimed lottery prize money in
15 funds to be distributed by the Commissioner of
16 Education; revising the method of distribution
17 of funds; revising the definition of "classroom
18 teacher" for purposes of this section;
19 providing an effective date.

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

23 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 24.115, Florida
24 Statutes, is amended to read:

25 24.115 Payment of prizes.--

26 (2) All unclaimed prize money shall be transferred to
27 the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund to support the Florida
28 Teachers Lead Program pursuant to s. 231.67 ~~added to the pool~~
29 ~~from which future prizes are to be awarded or used for special~~
30 ~~prize promotions.~~

1 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 24.121, Florida
2 Statutes, is amended to read:

3 24.121 Allocation of revenues and expenditure of funds
4 for public education.--

5 (2) Each fiscal year, at least 38 percent of the gross
6 revenue from the sale of lottery tickets and other earned
7 revenue, excluding application processing fees, and all
8 unclaimed lottery prize money pursuant to s. 24.115(2) shall
9 be deposited in the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund, which
10 is hereby created in the State Treasury to be administered by
11 the Department of Education. The Department of the Lottery
12 shall transfer moneys to the Educational Enhancement Trust
13 Fund at least once each quarter. Funds in the Educational
14 Enhancement Trust Fund shall be used to the benefit of public
15 education in accordance with the provisions of this act.
16 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a maximum of \$180
17 million of lottery revenues transferred to the Educational
18 Enhancement Trust Fund in fiscal year 1997-1998 and for 30
19 years thereafter shall be reserved as needed and used to meet
20 the requirements of the documents authorizing the bonds issued
21 by the state pursuant to s. 235.187 or s. 235.2195 or
22 distributed to school districts for the Classrooms First
23 Program as provided in s. 235.187. Such lottery revenues are
24 hereby pledged to the payment of debt service on bonds issued
25 by the state pursuant to s. 235.187 or s. 235.2195. Debt
26 service payable on bonds issued by the state pursuant to s.
27 235.187 or s. 235.2195 shall be payable from the first lottery
28 revenues transferred to the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund
29 in each fiscal year. Amounts distributable to school districts
30 that request the issuance of bonds pursuant to s. 235.187(3)
31 are hereby pledged to such bonds pursuant to s. 11(d), Art.

1 VII of the State Constitution. The amounts distributed through
2 the Classrooms First Program shall equal \$145 million in each
3 fiscal year. These funds are intended to provide up to \$2.5
4 billion for public school facilities.

5 Section 3. Section 231.67, Florida Statutes, is
6 amended to read:

7 231.67 The Florida Teachers Lead Program
8 established.--

9 (1) ~~There is hereby appropriated from the General~~
10 ~~Revenue Fund to the Department of Education the sum of \$31.5~~
11 ~~million for~~ The Florida Teachers Lead Program is established
12 to provide funds for classroom teachers to purchase supplies
13 to assist teaching in the classroom. From all unclaimed
14 lottery prize money from prior year lottery operations
15 transferred to the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund pursuant
16 to s. 24.115(2) and any other the funds appropriated annually
17 in the General Appropriations Act, the Commissioner of
18 Education shall calculate an amount for each school district
19 which is proportional to each district's share of the total
20 number of full-time public school classroom teachers in this
21 state.

22 (2) ~~The Florida Teachers Lead Program funds shall be~~
23 ~~deposited into each school's internal account and made~~
24 ~~available to be expended at the discretion of each classroom~~
25 ~~teacher to assist teaching and learning in the classroom. Each~~
26 ~~teacher's allocation shall remain available for the teacher's~~
27 ~~use until the full amount is expended.~~

28 (3) ~~This one-time appropriation shall be made~~
29 ~~available to each classroom teacher in the amount of \$250.~~
30 Florida Teachers Lead Program ~~These~~ funds shall be provided by
31 the district school board to each teacher as a direct stipend

1 for the purchase of classroom materials and supplies and are
2 in addition to any other funds appropriated for public school
3 operations. The expenditure of these funds shall be at the
4 sole discretion of the recipient pursuant to the purpose of
5 this section.The funds expended by individual teachers shall
6 not be subject to state or local competitive bidding
7 requirements.

8 (3)(4) For purposes of this section, the term
9 "classroom teacher" includes any full-time member of the
10 district's instructional staff of record on September 1 of
11 each year certified teachers whose full-time job
12 responsibility is the classroom instruction of students in
13 prekindergarten through grade 12 and media specialists. Only
14 school district personnel employed in these positions are
15 eligible for the Florida Teachers Lead Program.

16 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

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19 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

20
21 Requires the transfer of unclaimed lottery prize money to
22 the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund to support the
23 Florida Teachers Lead Program. Revises provisions
24 relating to the deposit of funds to the Educational
25 Enhancement Trust Fund to include unclaimed lottery prize
26 money. Revises provisions relating to the Florida
27 Teachers Lead Program. Removes obsolete language relating
28 to an appropriation. Provides intent. Includes unclaimed
29 lottery prize money in funds to be distributed by the
30 Commissioner of Education. Revises the method of
31 distribution of funds. Revises the definition of
"classroom teacher" for purposes of the program.