

**STORAGE NAME:** h1815a.ed

**DATE:** April 26, 2000

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
AS REVISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS  
ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 1815

**RELATING TO:** Florida School for Science and Technology

**SPONSOR(S):** Representative Posey

**TIED BILL(S):** None

**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:**

- (1) EDUCATION K-12 YEAS 9 NAYS 1
  - (2) EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS YEAS 12 NAYS 0
  - (3)
  - (4)
  - (5)
- 

**I. SUMMARY:**

The Technological Research and Development Authority (TRDA) sponsors programs that enhance education, space research and economic development. Several states support public residential high schools that specialize in mathematics and science. However, there are currently no residential public high schools in Florida that specialize in advanced teaching of mathematics, science and technology.

HB 1815 establishes a Florida School for Science and Technology for eligible public school students in grades 9 through 12 throughout the state. The school is a statewide residential public school located in Brevard County. Students are required to pay a fee for room and board. The School is exempt from chapters 230 through 239 relating to curriculum and operations, with the exception of those statutes concerning civil rights and student health, safety and welfare. The School offers accelerated programs in math, science and technology and is operated and administrated by the Technological Research and Development Authority (TRDA). The TRDA must appoint a board of trustees to whom the TRDA may delegate certain operational or administrative responsibilities. The TRDA is the fiscal agent of the school and receives FEFP and categorical funding for enrolled students in the same manner that a district school board does for a traditional public school. Additional funding for the school must come from state appropriations, private contributions and endowments, and reasonable student fees for room and board. The bill requires that funding for the residential component of the School be annually provided in the General Appropriations Act.

According to TRDA representatives, the operational cost per student is estimated at \$20,000 per year; therefore, with a student population of 500, the annual recurring expenditure is estimated at \$10 million. Public school formula funds would provide roughly 20 to 25% of the \$10 million for the school's educational program. TRDA representatives anticipate a one time start-up expenditure of \$22 million is needed to acquire facilities.

The bill establishes an effective date of July 1, 2000.

A substitute "strike-all" amendment adopted by the Committee on Education Appropriations and traveling with the bill, modifies the original bill in the following manner:

- establishes the school for eligible 11th and 12th grade public school students statewide and for summer programs for elementary and secondary school students and teachers
- removes the requirement for students to pay a fee for room and board
- reestablishes TRDA as a statewide independent special district
- appropriates \$250,000 from General Revenue for planning
- removes FEFP and categorical funding provisions
- exempts the school from Chapters 230 to 235 of the school code relating to curriculum and operations
- does not exempt the school from federal education law, include exceptional student education
- requires participation in the statewide assessment program and adherence to state accountability requirements
- requires a development plan
- requires the school to develop policies that ensure equal access and diversity

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- |                                   |                              |  |   |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. <u>Less Government</u>         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 2. <u>Lower Taxes</u>             | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. <u>Individual Freedom</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. <u>Personal Responsibility</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. <u>Family Empowerment</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

The bill requires the Technological Research and Development Authority (TRDA) to appoint a board of trustees that *may* be delegated operational or administrative authority for the Florida School for Science and Technology.

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

The Technological Research and Development Authority (TRDA), created by chapter 87-455, L.O.F., sponsors programs that enhance education, space research and economic development. Through TRDA, Florida's public school teachers and students get hands-on experience with new technologies that can be incorporated into math, science and technology curricula.

There are currently several residential public schools that specialize in teaching math, science and technology to high school students in the United States including: the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts, and the *North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics*. According to Mr. David Stein, Community Relations Director of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (NCSSM), during the first decade of operation, the school produced more than 750 National Merit finalists, more than any other school in the nation. NCSSM's graduation rate is nearly 100% (excluding those students who withdraw because they are homesick or are expelled for disciplinary reasons). There is great competition to recruit NCSSM graduates; however, approximately 75-80% of NCSSM graduates stay close and attend one of the region's three universities.

The NCSSM enables juniors and seniors to continue to meet the state's curriculum requirements for high school graduation, while advancing on to higher levels of mathematics and science than that offered at regular public high schools. NCSSM has a competitive admissions system by congressional district to ensure a diverse student population. There are no minimum eligibility criteria; however, the average SAT score of students admitted is 1340. Among the items that Mr. Stein indicated are considered for NCSSM student eligibility are: essays, SAT scores, interviews, cumulative GPA, and previous school records. Students attending NCSSM pay no fees for tuition, room and board, or activities.

Florida has several school districts with mathematics, science and/or technology focused magnet schools; however, there is no statewide residential public high school specializing in math, science and technology.

**C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:**

HB 1815 establishes a Florida School for Science and Technology (School) for public high school students who meet the school's eligibility requirements. The Florida School for Science and Technology is a statewide residential public school located in Brevard County that offers accelerated programs in math, science and technology to public school students in grades 9 through 12 throughout the state. The Technological Research and Development Authority (TRDA) is responsible for the administration and operation of the school. TRDA must appoint a board of trustees for the school and may delegate responsibilities for the operation and administration of the school, including: appointing a director of the school, determining a reasonable student fee for room and board, determining student eligibility requirements, or establishing a student application process.

The bill exempts the School from the requirements of chapters 230 through 239 of the Florida School Code relating to curriculum and operations, except those pertaining to civil rights and student health, safety, and welfare. However, the bill specifically requires the School to comply with chapter 119, F.S., relating to public records and s. 286.011, F.S., relating to public meetings and records, public inspection, and penalties.

The bill establishes TRDA as the fiscal agent of the Florida School for Science and Technology. The School is funded by state appropriations, private contributions and endowments, and reasonable student fees for room and board. TRDA receives funds generated through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) and categorical funds by students enrolled in the school in the same manner that a district school board receives funds for traditional public schools. Funds for the residential component of the School must be included annually in the General Appropriations Act.

**D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:**

**Section 1:** Establishes the Florida School for Science and Technology, assigns responsibility for administration and operation of the school to the Technological Research and Development Authority (TRDA), requires TRDA to appoint a board of trustees, provides certain exemptions from requirements of chapters 230 through 239 of the Florida School Code relating to curriculum and operations, and provides funding for the school.

**Section 2:** Establishes an effective date of July 1, 2000.

**III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:**

**A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:**

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1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

According to TRDA representatives, the operational cost per student is estimated at \$20,000 per year; therefore, with a student population of 500, the annual recurring expenditure is estimated at \$10 million. FEFP and categorical funds would provide roughly 20 to 25% of the \$10 million for the school's educational program.

TRDA representatives estimate a one time nonrecurring expenditure of \$22 million to acquire facilities.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

According to TRDA representatives, the operational cost per student is estimated at \$20,000 per year; therefore, with a student population of 500, the annual recurring expenditure is estimated at \$10 million. FEFP and categorical funds would provide roughly 20 to 25% of the \$10 million for the schools educational program.

TRDA representatives estimate a one time nonrecurring expenditure of \$22 million to acquire facilities.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Students attending the Florida School for Science and Technology are required to pay a fee for room and board.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

Transportation fees for students to and from the school are not addressed in the bill.

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

The bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

The bill does not reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenues in the aggregate.

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

The bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

There may be constitutional issues arising from the charging of fees for room, board, and transportation to a public school student. Section 228.051, F.S., requires the state to "provide 13 consecutive years of instruction, beginning with kindergarten," which "shall constitute the uniform system of free public schools prescribed by Art. IX of the State Constitution."

Two education statutes permit the imposition of *tuition fees* on public school students. Section 228.061, F.S., authorizes district school boards to establish other schools, courses and classes which may obtain supplemental funding by charging "*tuition or matriculation fees* as may be authorized by regulations of the state board." Charter technical career centers, as authorized by s. 228.505, F.S., must be sponsored by a school board or community college and "may charge a student *tuition fee* consistent with authority granted in its charter and permitted by law."

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

A technical correction to the bill is needed to change a reference from "Academy" to "School." The Florida Department of Education (DOE) offered several suggestions for amendments to the bill which would:

- Require TRDA to develop a plan for the establishment of the Florida School for Science and Technology, including a timeline for projected stages of operation, construction, enrollment, and costs.
- Require students of the Florida School for Science and Technology to participate in state assessments.
- Require the development of enrollment policies to ensure equal access and a student body that reflects the ethnic diversity of the state student population as a whole.
- Require the Florida School for Science and Technology to comply with Federal requirements for public schools, including provisions for exceptional student education and students with disabilities.

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

On April 10, 2000, the Committee on Education K-12 passed HB 1815 with one amendment that does the following:

- establishes the school for eligible 11th and 12th grade public school students statewide and for summer programs for elementary and secondary school students and teachers,
- removes requirement for students to pay a fee for room and board,

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- appropriates \$1 million for capital outlay from the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund, and \$600,000 for operations from the General Revenue Fund, and
- reestablishes the Technological Research and Development Authority as a statewide independent special district.

On April 26, 2000, the Committee on Education Appropriations passed HB 1815 with one substitute "strike-all" amendment traveling with the bill which modifies the substance of the original bill in the following manner:

1. establishes the school for eligible 11th and 12th grade public school students statewide and for summer programs for elementary and secondary school students and teachers,
2. removes the requirement for students to pay a fee for room and board,
3. reestablishes the Technological Research and Development Authority (TRDA) as a statewide independent special district,
4. provides exemption from Chapters 230 to 235 of the Florida school code relating to curriculum and operations,
5. clarifies that the annual TRDA budget request for the school be submitted to the Department of Education,
6. provides that students enrolled in the school participate in the statewide assessment program and that the school adhere to state accountability requirements,
7. provides that the school not be exempt from federal education laws, including those relating to exceptional student education,
8. requires the school to develop policies that ensure students' equal access and racial, ethnic and cultural diversity reflecting the state's diversity,
9. requires TRDA to prepare a development plan which addresses timelines and status regarding school construction, operations, enrollment, and costs for annual submittal to the Legislature and the Commissioner,
10. removes Florida Education Finance Program and categorical funding provisions for the school and instead indicates that funding will be provided annually in the General Appropriations Act, and
11. provides a \$250,000 appropriation from General Revenue for planning, (instead of the \$600,000 for operations and \$1 million for capital outlay in the original "strike-all" amendment)

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION K-12:

Prepared by:

Raylene H. Strickler

Staff Director:

Patricia W. Levesque

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AS REVISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS:

Prepared by:

Staff Director:

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Mark Armstrong

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John Newman