

By Representative Waters

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to education accountability;  
 3           amending s. 229.58, F.S.; revising requirements  
 4           for the composition of school advisory  
 5           councils; requiring school boards to develop  
 6           procedures to ensure balanced school advisory  
 7           council membership; providing an effective  
 8           date.

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

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 12           Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 229.58, Florida  
 13 Statutes, is amended to read:

14           229.58 District and school advisory councils.--

15           (1) ESTABLISHMENT.--

16           (a) The school board shall establish an advisory  
 17 council for each school in the district, and shall develop  
 18 procedures for the election and appointment of advisory  
 19 council members. Each school advisory council shall include in  
 20 its name the words "school advisory council." The school  
 21 advisory council shall be the sole body responsible for final  
 22 decisionmaking at the school relating to implementation of the  
 23 provisions of ss. 229.591, 229.592, and 230.23(16). A majority  
 24 of the members of each school advisory council must be persons  
 25 who are not employed by the school. Each advisory council  
 26 shall be composed of the following:

27           1. The school principal ~~and an appropriately balanced~~  
 28 ~~number of~~

29           2. Teachers, education support employees, students,  
 30 parents, and other business and community citizens who are  
 31 representative of the ~~ethnic, racial, and economic~~ community

1 served by the school, giving consideration to the school's  
2 ethnic, racial, and economic makeup.

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4 School boards shall develop procedures to ensure balanced  
5 school advisory council membership. Vocational-technical  
6 center and high school advisory councils shall include  
7 students, and middle and junior high school advisory councils  
8 may include students. School advisory councils of  
9 vocational-technical and adult education centers are not  
10 required to include parents as members.

11 (b) Council members representing teachers, education  
12 support employees, students, and parents shall be elected by  
13 their respective peer groups at the school in a fair and  
14 equitable manner as follows:

- 15 1. Teachers shall be elected by teachers.
- 16 2. Education support employees shall be elected by  
17 education support employees.
- 18 3. Students shall be elected by students.
- 19 4. Parents shall be elected by parents.

20  
21 The school board shall establish procedures for use by schools  
22 in selecting business and community members. Such procedures  
23 shall include means of ensuring wide notice of vacancies and  
24 for taking input on possible members from local business,  
25 chambers of commerce, community and civic organizations and  
26 groups, and the public at large. The school board shall review  
27 the membership composition of each advisory council. Should  
28 the school board determine that the membership elected by the  
29 school is not representative of the ethnic, racial, and  
30 economic community served by the school, the board shall  
31 appoint additional members to achieve proper representation.

1 The Commissioner of Education shall determine if schools have  
2 maximized their efforts to include on their advisory councils  
3 minority persons and persons of lower socioeconomic status.  
4 Although schools should be strongly encouraged to establish  
5 school advisory councils, any school district that has a  
6 student population of 10,000 or fewer may establish a district  
7 advisory council which shall include at least one duly elected  
8 teacher from each school in the district. For the purposes of  
9 school advisory councils and district advisory councils, the  
10 term "teacher" shall include classroom teachers, certified  
11 student services personnel, and media specialists. For  
12 purposes of this paragraph, "education support employee" means  
13 any person employed by a school who is not defined as  
14 instructional or administrative personnel pursuant to s.  
15 228.041 and whose duties require 20 or more hours in each  
16 normal working week.

17 (c)~~(b)~~ The school board may establish a district  
18 advisory council representative of the district and composed  
19 of teachers, students, parents, and other citizens or a  
20 district advisory council which may be comprised of  
21 representatives of each school advisory council. Recognized  
22 schoolwide support groups which meet all criteria established  
23 by law or rule may function as school advisory councils.

24 (d)~~(c)~~ For those schools operating for the purpose of  
25 providing educational services to youth in Department of  
26 Juvenile Justice programs, school boards may establish a  
27 district advisory council with appropriate representatives for  
28 the purpose of developing and monitoring a district school  
29 improvement plan which encompasses all such schools in the  
30 district, pursuant to s. 230.23(16)(a).

31 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

Revises requirements for the composition of school advisory councils. Requires school boards to develop procedures to ensure balanced school advisory council membership.