

Bill No. CS for SB 2448

Amendment No.

	<u>Senate</u>	CHAMBER ACTION	<u>House</u>
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11	Senator Sullivan moved the following amendment:		
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13	Senate Amendment (with title amendment)		
14	Delete everything after the enacting clause		
15			
16	and insert:		
17	Section 1. Section 231.315, Florida Statutes, is		
18	created to read:		
19	<u>231.315 Peer assistance and review.--</u>		
20	<u>(1) The Legislature, the education community, and the</u>		
21	<u>public expect high standards of professional practice from</u>		
22	<u>school administrators and instructional staff. To promote high</u>		
23	<u>professional standards, administrators and instructional staff</u>		
24	<u>must develop a system of shared accountability. Peer</u>		
25	<u>assistance and review is a process in which highly skilled</u>		
26	<u>instructional personnel serve in a consulting role with their</u>		
27	<u>peers to improve the quality of classroom instruction. Peer</u>		
28	<u>assistance and review allows administrators and instructional</u>		
29	<u>personnel to share the responsibility of mentoring, training,</u>		
30	<u>assisting, and reviewing the professional standards and</u>		
31	<u>practices of instructional personnel.</u>		

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1 (2) Peer assistance and review programs must meet the
2 following minimum standards:

3 (a) Program provisions must be developed through the
4 collective bargaining agreement between the teachers'
5 association and the school district.

6 (b) A joint instructional personnel and school
7 district governing body must be created with responsibility to
8 review recommendations of the consulting peer instructional
9 personnel.

10 (c) Consulting peer instructional personnel must be
11 recognized by their peers as highly skilled practitioners and
12 must be selected by their peers.

13 (d) Consulting peer instructional personnel must be
14 properly compensated and trained.

15 (e) Consulting peer instructional personnel must
16 provide assistance and review for instructional personnel with
17 the same area of expertise as the consulting peer
18 instructional personnel member.

19 (f) Consulting peer instructional personnel must not
20 be considered administrative personnel and must retain status
21 within the employees' collective bargaining unit.

22 (3) For fiscal years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, up to
23 six school districts may be selected to establish model peer
24 assistance and review programs. At least one district selected
25 must have less than 6,000 students, and at least one district
26 selected must have more than 100,000 students. Districts that
27 intend to apply for selection must submit an application to
28 the Department of Education by March 1, 2001, which includes
29 the agreement between the teachers' association and the school
30 district. By October 1, 2001, the department shall select the
31 participating districts based on the quality of their

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1 applications.

2 (4) The department shall provide technical assistance
3 to selected school districts to establish model peer
4 assistance and review programs.

5 (5) The school districts selected to establish model
6 peer assistance and review programs shall receive by December
7 1, 2001, an allocation from the department as established in
8 the General Appropriations Act.

9 (6) During the 2002-2003 fiscal year, the department
10 shall assess the results of the selected model peer assistance
11 and review programs and shall submit a report to the Governor,
12 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
13 Representatives by March 1, 2003. The report must include the
14 department's recommendation as to the continuation or
15 expansion of peer assistance and review programs.

16 Section 2. Section 231.6015, Florida Statutes, is
17 created to read:

18 231.6015 Mathematics and science teacher-education
19 program.--

20 (1) The Legislature intends to establish an inservice
21 professional development program to improve the teaching of
22 mathematics and science in the public schools of this state,
23 with an initial emphasis on students in kindergarten through
24 grade 8. The program may be conducted separately or in
25 conjunction with other inservice professional development
26 programs provided by a school district. The funds are to be
27 used to supplement but not to supplant current professional
28 development in mathematics and science education.

29 (2) As used in this section, the term "teacher" has
30 the meaning ascribed to "instructional personnel" in s.
31 236.685.

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- 1 (3) The purpose of the program is to improve the
- 2 ability of teachers to deliver instruction that:
- 3 (a) Concentrates learning on the Sunshine State
- 4 Standards and the Subject Matter Content Standards for
- 5 teachers adopted by the Education Standards Commission;
- 6 (b) Includes content in sequences designed to prepare
- 7 students for the state assessments of progress;
- 8 (c) Demonstrates its quality by improvement in
- 9 students' classroom achievement; and
- 10 (d) Identifies and challenges students who excel in
- 11 science and mathematics as well as those whose aptitude is
- 12 average or below average.
- 13 (4) The program must be designed to improve a
- 14 teacher's command of content knowledge and teaching skills. If
- 15 resources are insufficient to provide adequate instruction for
- 16 all teachers, the program design should allocate those
- 17 resources to produce a measurable, systemic change in student
- 18 learning, rather than only to reach as many teachers as
- 19 possible.
- 20 (5) The program must:
- 21 (a) Employ strategies that have proved effective;
- 22 (b) Exploit current knowledge and research on
- 23 professional staff development and standards;
- 24 (c) Include components for school board members and
- 25 administrators at the school level, school district
- 26 administration level, and state level;
- 27 (d) Involve the expertise of public and independent
- 28 universities, colleges, and community colleges in planning and
- 29 implementation;
- 30 (e) Provide for an incentive plan as authorized in s.
- 31 236.08106; and

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1 (f) Include an evaluation of effectiveness as
2 determined by the Florida Alliance for Improving Mathematics
3 and Science in Education Programs. The evaluation component of
4 the program must provide data capable of allowing an analysis
5 of the achievement of students before and after the program is
6 implemented and for an analysis of students whose teachers
7 participate in the program compared to a cohort of students
8 whose teachers do not. As much as possible, the cohort must
9 consist of students having similar demographic characteristics
10 and selected measures of academic achievement.

11 (6) The Legislature shall determine annually in the
12 General Appropriations Act the funds to be available for this
13 program. The Technological Research and Development Authority
14 may be the fiscal agent of these funds.

15 (7) Under s. 240.149, the Florida Alliance for
16 Improving Mathematics and Science in Education Programs may
17 operate the delivery mechanisms for the program or may
18 delegate that responsibility to a school district, a
19 consortium of school districts, an academy, an area center for
20 educational enhancement, or a group operating under a charter
21 arranged by a district or consortium. The delivery mechanisms
22 may involve the expertise of science centers, and the Florida
23 Alliance for Improving Mathematics and Science and school
24 boards may arrange participation by science centers in the
25 planning and delivery of the program, including participation
26 in charter agreements, where appropriate. As used in this
27 subsection, a science center means a nonprofit organization,
28 recognized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
29 Code, which is a full member of the Association of Science and
30 Technology Centers, is accredited by the American Association
31 of Museums, and has had at least 5 years' experience providing

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1 professional development and support services to teachers
2 throughout the state. The administrators of each component of
3 the program shall work collaboratively with the Florida
4 Alliance for Improving Mathematics and Science in Education
5 Programs to plan programs and activities provided by the
6 professional development program, including follow-up support
7 for the teachers.

8 (8) Teachers participating in the program may receive
9 compensation from the school district for their participation
10 and may use successful participation in the program for
11 extension of a certificate, for adding a new certification
12 area if the district has an approved add-on certification
13 program as provided by the State Board of Education, or for
14 college credit for portions of the program which are taught by
15 full-time faculty members of postsecondary institutions. In
16 addition to a stipend for the workdays allocated to the
17 training, a teacher may be eligible for a salary bonus upon
18 successful completion of the program, under s. 236.08106.

19 (9) Delivery sites used in the program should be
20 joint-use facilities and may be on property belonging to a
21 school district; a public or independent university, college,
22 or community college; or any other group under a contract
23 approved by the alliance.

24 (10) A community college or university may report
25 full-time-equivalent students as a result of providing
26 instruction for the program if the instruction is provided
27 in-load by its own staff paid by its own resources.

28 (11) This section shall be implemented only to the
29 extent funded by the General Appropriations Act.

30 Section 3. Section 240.149, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

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1 240.149 Mathematics and science teacher-education
2 organization; responsibility for program planning and
3 implementation.--

4 (1) An organization is established to plan and
5 implement the mathematics and science teacher education
6 program created in s. 231.6015. The organization is to be
7 named the Florida Alliance for Improving Mathematics and
8 Science Teaching in Education Programs; must be recognized
9 under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and
10 registered, incorporated, organized, and operated in
11 compliance with chapter 617; and is not to be considered to be
12 a unit or entity of state government.

13 (a) The organization shall execute its
14 responsibilities independently but is assigned to the Office
15 of the Commissioner of Education for administrative purposes.

16 (b) In the interest of sound public policy, the
17 Legislature determines that the organization is subject to the
18 provisions of chapter 119 which relate to public records, and
19 to the provisions of chapter 286 which relate to public
20 meetings and records.

21 (2) A board of directors shall govern the
22 organization. The members of the board shall be appointed by
23 the Commissioner of Education from recommendations provided by
24 the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission, the Education
25 Standards Commission, the Workforce Development Board of
26 Enterprise Florida, or other public or private organizations
27 with expertise in education or technology upon invitation of
28 the commissioner.

29 (a) Four members must be employees of postsecondary
30 education institutions and must have expertise in science and
31 science education, mathematics and mathematics education, or a

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1 related technical field.

2 (b) Four members must be employees of Florida district
3 school boards; at least two of these members must be teachers.

4 (c) Four members must be from the private sector.

5 (d) One member shall serve ex officio as a
6 representative of the Department of Education. An ex officio
7 member may participate in all deliberations of the alliance
8 but may not vote.

9 (e) Members shall serve 4-year staggered terms, with
10 four of the members having initial terms of 2 years, 3 years,
11 and 4 years, respectively. The commissioner shall appoint a
12 new member to fill the remainder of a vacant, unexpired term
13 and may reappoint a member.

14 (f) Members are entitled to reimbursement for travel
15 and per diem expenses, as provided in s. 112.061.

16 (3) The board of directors shall employ a chief
17 executive officer, who shall direct and supervise the
18 administrative affairs of the board of directors. The board of
19 directors may delegate to the chief executive officer any
20 powers and duties it finds appropriate. The chief executive
21 officer may contract with or employ legal and technical
22 experts and other employees as authorized by the board of
23 directors. The chief executive officer shall administer the
24 professional development grant program assigned to the
25 organization and other finances of the organization to ensure
26 appropriate accountability and the prudent use of public and
27 private funds.

28 (4) A council is created to assist the organization
29 and to apprise decisionmakers of its activities.

30 (a) The council shall be composed of six members who
31 represent the following governmental branches or sectors: one

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1 member of the Florida Senate appointed by the President of the
 2 Senate; one member of the Florida House of Representatives
 3 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; a
 4 representative of the Executive Office of the Governor
 5 appointed by the Governor; a representative of the Department
 6 of Education appointed by the Commissioner of Education; a
 7 representative of the Florida Community College System
 8 appointed by the executive director of the system; and a
 9 representative of the State University System appointed by the
 10 chancellor.

11 (b) The council shall meet at least 2 times a year,
 12 with one meeting conducted jointly with the board of
 13 directors.

14 (5) The Florida Alliance for Improving Mathematics and
 15 Science Teaching in Education Programs shall plan and oversee
 16 implementation of the program created by s. 231.6015 and
 17 shall:

18 (a) Establish and maintain a system of professional
 19 development programs in mathematics and science education, as
 20 provided in the General Appropriations Act.

21 (b) Provide for involvement of postsecondary education
 22 in planning and implementation.

23 (c) Produce specialized professional development
 24 program guidelines. These guidelines may include curricula and
 25 instructional methods and must assure that the programs focus
 26 on content learning, employ tested strategies, reflect the
 27 nature of science and mathematics, and base their design on
 28 current knowledge and research concerning professional
 29 development.

30 (d) Provide for the selection and preparation of staff
 31 to implement professional development in mathematics and

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1 science.

2 (e) Establish priorities that school districts and
3 centers for educational enhancement must use in selecting the
4 teachers to participate in the program. If the plan does not
5 provide for participation by all teachers of kindergarten
6 through grade 8 within a 4-year cycle, the selection
7 priorities must implement a rationale for disseminating the
8 program's benefits.

9 (f) Design strategies for providing follow-up support
10 for each participating teacher. The follow-up strategies must
11 provide for integration of the principles learned in the
12 program into the teacher's workday for at least 1 year, with
13 continuing followup for 2 additional years or more, as
14 provided in the General Appropriations Act.

15 (g) Design and oversee an incentive plan that will
16 encourage the participation of public school teachers and
17 administrators in the professional development program. The
18 incentive plan must provide for access to any merit-pay plans
19 developed by school districts and may provide for a stipend
20 and a salary bonus for participating teachers, under s.
21 236.08106. Such bonus must be in addition to the teacher's
22 regular earnings from a school district and may not be awarded
23 until a teacher has successfully completed the program and
24 demonstrated, through prescribed follow-up activities in the
25 classroom, an improvement in student achievement in
26 mathematics or science.

27 (h) Measure the effectiveness of the professional
28 development program on learning and teaching in mathematics
29 and science. This impact assessment must assure state and
30 local quality control of the improvement of mathematics and
31 science teaching.

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1 (6) By December 1, 2000, the board must submit to the
2 office of the Commissioner of Education a proposed budget for
3 implementing the program in 2001-2004. The budget must contain
4 alternative plans for the participation of 50 percent, 33
5 percent, and 25 percent of the state's teachers at the
6 elementary and middle-school levels by 2004.

7 Section 4. Subsection (8) of section 229.592, Florida
8 Statutes, is amended to read:

9 229.592 Implementation of state system of school
10 improvement and education accountability.--

11 (8) STATE BOARD.--The State Board of Education shall
12 adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement
13 a state system of school improvement and education
14 accountability and shall specify required annual reports by
15 schools and school districts. The rules must also require each
16 school to report the number and percentage of teachers who
17 have achieved certification by the National Board of
18 Professional Teaching Standards and, for schools that contain
19 a kindergarten or grade 1 through grade 8, the number and
20 proportion of teachers who have successfully completed the
21 program to improve mathematics and science teaching under s.
22 236.08106.

23 Section 5. Subsection (3) of section 231.600, Florida
24 Statutes, is amended to read:

25 231.600 School Community Professional Development
26 Act.--

27 (3) The activities designed to implement this section
28 must:

29 (a) Increase the success of educators in guiding
30 student learning and development so as to implement state and
31 local educational standards, goals, and initiatives;

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1 (b) Assist the school community in providing
2 stimulating educational activities that encourage and motivate
3 students to achieve at the highest levels and to become active
4 learners; ~~and~~

5 (c) Provide continuous support as well as temporary
6 intervention for education professionals who need improvement
7 in knowledge, skills, and performance; ~~and-~~

8 (d) Assure that teacher education programs in science,
9 mathematics, and technology education will be fully aligned
10 with the Sunshine State Standards by the implementation of the
11 statewide assessment in science authorized by s. 229.57. These
12 education programs must assure that all teachers, especially
13 teachers of kindergarten through grade 8, know and understand
14 the science and mathematics standards included in the Sunshine
15 State Standards and the Subject Matter Content Standards for
16 teachers adopted by the Education Standards Commission.

17 Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section
18 236.685, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

19 236.685 Educational funding accountability.--

20 (4)(a) The school public accountability report to
21 parents must include the number of employees in each of the
22 categories listed in subsection (3), by work location.
23 However, this does not include the number of temporary
24 substitute employees. The report must also include the number
25 and proportion of instructional personnel in kindergarten
26 through grade 8 who have achieved certification by the
27 National Board of Professional Teaching Standards or have
28 completed the program to improve mathematics and science
29 teaching in Florida under s. 236.08106.

30 Section 7. Section 239.515, Florida Statutes, is
31 created to read:

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1 239.515 College Fast Start Program.--
2 (1) There is established a College Fast Start Program
3 to increase the number of students with disabilities in grades
4 6 through 12 who are admitted to and successfully complete an
5 associate in arts degree or an associate in science degree or
6 a workforce development program. The goal of the program is
7 the completion of a degree or occupational completion points
8 by, and placement into competitive employment of, students who
9 were identified as having a disability, in accordance with the
10 requirements of chapter 6A-6, Florida Administrative Code,
11 prior to their senior year in high school and who otherwise
12 would be unlikely to seek admission to a community college,
13 state university, or independent postsecondary vocational
14 institution without special support and recruitment efforts.
15 As part of the College Fast Start Program, the Florida
16 Governor's Alliance for the Employment of Disabled Citizens,
17 in cooperation with community colleges, independent
18 postsecondary institutions, high schools, businesses, and
19 agencies serving youth with disabilities, shall sponsor
20 programs to develop leadership skills, career counseling, and
21 motivation and shall provide grants for internships to further
22 prepare students with disabilities for postsecondary education
23 and employment opportunities.

24 (2) As used in this section:

25 (a) "The alliance" means the Florida Governor's
26 Alliance for the Employment of Disabled Citizens.

27 (b) "Program participant" means a community college,
28 public university, independent postsecondary institution, high
29 school, agency serving youth with disabilities, or a
30 consortium of the above.

31 (3) To apply to participate in the College Fast Start

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1 Program, a potential program participant must submit a
2 proposal to the Florida Governor's Alliance for the Employment
3 of Disabled Citizens. Each proposal must contain the following
4 information:

5 (a) A statement of purpose, which includes a
6 description of the need for, and the results expected from,
7 the proposed program.

8 (b) An identification of the service area which names
9 the schools to be served and provides community and school
10 demographics on the number and types of students with
11 disabilities and the number of high school graduates within
12 the area with a disability.

13 (c) An identification of existing programs for
14 providing employment training for persons with disabilities.

15 (d) A description of the proposed training and
16 modifications needed to accommodate students who would
17 participate in the program. At least 40 percent of the
18 students participating in any one year must be in grades 6
19 through 9.

20 (e) A description of the program activities, which
21 must support the following goals:

22 1. To motivate students to pursue a postsecondary
23 education.

24 2. To develop students' basic learning and leadership
25 skills.

26 3. To develop collaboration with the STARS program.

27 (f) An evaluation component that provides for the
28 collection, maintenance, retrieval, and analysis of the data
29 required by this section.

30 (4) The alliance shall consider proposals to determine
31 which proposals to implement as programs that will strengthen

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1 the educational motivation and preparation of students with
2 disabilities to seek postsecondary education or job training.
3 In selecting proposals for approval, the alliance shall give
4 preference to:

5 (a) Proposals submitted by a postsecondary institution
6 and a business partner that include innovative approaches,
7 provide a great variety of activities, and interact with
8 business and industry in the development of the learning
9 experience.

10 (b) A program that will use institutional, federal, or
11 private resources to supplement state appropriations.

12 (c) Proposals that demonstrate commitment to the
13 program by proposing to match the grant funds equally in cash
14 or services, with cash being the preferred contribution.

15 (d) Proposals that demonstrate an interest in cultural
16 diversity and that address the unmet regional employment needs
17 of varying communities.

18 (e) A program that identifies potential student
19 participants from among students who are not already enrolled
20 in similar programs that assist students with disabilities.

21 (f) A program that includes a parental involvement
22 component.

23 (5) Program applicants that are approved to
24 participate in the program must implement procedures which
25 provide consistent contact with students from the point at
26 which the student is selected to participate in the program
27 until he or she enrolls in a postsecondary education
28 institution. These procedures must assist students in
29 selecting courses required for graduation from high school and
30 must include occupational forecasting for future job
31 availability and requirements for those positions.

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1 Institutions that participate must provide on-campus academic
2 or job training activities, job profiling and career
3 counseling activities during summer vacation, and
4 opportunities for interacting with business leaders and
5 employers, mentors, tutors, or role models. Each program
6 participant is encouraged to use its resources to meet program
7 objectives. Each program participant must establish an
8 advisory committee composed of high school and middle school
9 personnel and business leaders to provide advice and
10 assistance in implementing the program.

11 (6) An advisory council shall review each proposal and
12 recommend to the alliance an order of priority for funding the
13 proposals. The advisory council shall consist of the following
14 10 members and shall designate a meeting facilitator from
15 among the members:

16 (a) Three persons with disabilities, appointed by the
17 Governor.

18 (b) Two representatives of private or community-based
19 organizations, one each appointed by the President of the
20 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

21 (c) One representative of the State University System,
22 appointed by the chair of the Board of Regents.

23 (d) One representative of the Community College
24 System, appointed by the chair of the State Board of Community
25 Colleges.

26 (e) One representative of the Independent Colleges and
27 Universities of Florida, appointed by the president of the
28 Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida.

29 (f) One representative of a public school district,
30 appointed by the Commissioner of Education.

31 (g) One representative of the Postsecondary Education

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1 Planning Commission, appointed by the chair of the commission.

2

3 Each member shall be appointed for a 3-year, staggered term of
4 office. Members may serve no more than two consecutive terms.

5 A vacancy must be filled with a person of the same status as
6 the original appointee who shall serve for the remainder of
7 the term. Members are entitled to per diem and travel expenses
8 as provided in s. 112.061 while performing council duties.

9 (7) The College Fast Start Program shall be
10 implemented to the extent funded in the Annual General
11 Appropriations Act. Approved programs must be funded
12 competitively according to the following methodology:

13 (a) Eighty percent of funds appropriated annually to
14 the College Fast Start Program must be distributed as grants
15 to projects that include, at the minimum:

- 16 1. A summer business internship program.
- 17 2. A minimum number of hours of academic instructional
18 and developmental activities, career counseling, and personal
19 counseling.

20 (b) The remaining 20 percent of funds appropriated
21 annually may be used by the Florida Governor's Alliance for
22 the Employment of Disabled Citizens for college preparatory
23 leadership training programs.

24 (c) Subject to legislative appropriations, funds for
25 the continuation of projects that satisfy the minimum
26 requirements shall be increased each year by the same
27 percentage as the rate of inflation. Projects funded for 3
28 consecutive years must have a cumulative institutional cash
29 match of not less than 50 percent of the total cost of the
30 project over the 3-year period. Any College Fast Start Program
31 operating for 3 years which does not provide the minimum 50

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1 percent institutional cash match shall not be considered for
2 continued funding.

3 (8) On or before February 15 of each year, each
4 participant or consortium of participants shall submit to the
5 alliance an interim report of program expenditures and
6 participant information as requested by the alliance.

7 (9) On or before October 15 of each year, each program
8 participant shall submit to the alliance an end-of-the-year
9 report on the effectiveness of its participation in the
10 program during the preceding fiscal year. The end-of-the-year
11 report must include, without limitation:

12 (a) An itemization of program expenditures by funding
13 category, including: state grant funds, institutional
14 matching contributions disaggregated by cash and in-kind
15 services, and outside funding sources disaggregated by cash
16 and in-kind services.

17 (b) The number of students participating by grade
18 level, gender, race, and disability.

19 (c) The student identification number and social
20 security number, if available, the name of the public school
21 attended, and the gender, ethnicity, grade level, and grade
22 point average of each student participant at the time of entry
23 into the program.

24 (d) The grade point average, grade, and promotion
25 status of each student participant at the end of the academic
26 year and notification of suspension or expulsion of a
27 participant, if applicable.

28 (e) The number and percentage of high school
29 participants who satisfactorily complete 2 sequential years of
30 a foreign language and Levels 2 and 3 mathematics and science
31 courses.

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1 (f) The number and percentage of participants eligible
2 for high school graduation who receive a standard high school
3 diploma or a high school equivalency diploma pursuant to s.
4 229.814.

5 (g) The number and percentage of 12th grade
6 participants who are accepted for enrollment and who enroll in
7 a postsecondary institution and the program of study in which
8 they are enrolled.

9 (h) The number of participants who receive
10 scholarships, grant aid, and work-study awards.

11 (i) The number and percentage of participants who
12 enroll in a public postsecondary institution and who fail to
13 achieve a passing score, as defined in State Board of
14 Education rule, on college placement tests pursuant to s.
15 240.117.

16 (j) The number and percentage of participants who
17 enroll in a postsecondary institution and have a minimum
18 cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its
19 equivalent, by the end of the second semester.

20 (k) A statement of how the program addresses the three
21 program goals identified in paragraph (3)(e).

22 (l) A brief description and analysis of program
23 characteristics and activities critical to program success.

24 (m) A description of the cooperation received from
25 other units, organizations, businesses, or agencies.

26 (n) An explanation of the program's outcomes,
27 including data related to student performance on the measures
28 provided for in paragraph (3)(f).

29
30 The Postsecondary Education Planning Commission, in
31 consultation with the alliance and the Department of

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1 Education, shall develop specifications and procedures for the
2 collection and transmission of the data.

3 (10) By February 15 of each year, the alliance shall
4 submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the
5 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Commissioner
6 of Education a report that evaluates the effectiveness of the
7 College Fast Start Program. The report must be based upon
8 information provided by program participants, the Board of
9 Regents, the State Board of Community Colleges, and the
10 Division of Workforce Development pursuant to subsections (1)
11 and (7). To the extent feasible, the performance of College
12 Fast Start Program participants must be compared to the
13 performance of comparable cohorts of students in public school
14 and postsecondary education.

15 Section 8. (1) The Legislature finds that it is in
16 the public interest to provide for the reenactment by general
17 law of a Technological Research and Development Authority
18 created by chapter 87-455, Laws of Florida, and to extend its
19 powers and duties beyond Brevard County. The Technological
20 Research and Development Authority shall promote scientific
21 research and development in Florida, with the goal of
22 establishing Florida as a center for high technology and
23 economic development to serve the public good.

24 (2) There is created and incorporated the
25 Technological Research and Development Authority.

26 (3)(a) The authority shall be governed by a commission
27 of seven persons who are residents of this state. The Brevard
28 County Legislative Delegation shall nominate three candidates
29 for each of five commission vacancies, and the Governor shall
30 appoint a member of the commission from the nominees for the
31 vacancy. Further, the Governor shall select and appoint the

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1 two remaining members of the commission. The Governor shall
2 appoint each member for a term of 4 years, who shall serve
3 until his or her successor is appointed. If a vacancy occurs
4 during a member's term, the Governor shall appoint a person to
5 fill the vacancy for the remainder of the member's term. The
6 Governor may remove any member for misfeasance, malfeasance,
7 or willful neglect of duty. Each member of the authority
8 before entering upon his or her duties shall take and
9 subscribe the oath of affirmation required by the State
10 Constitution. The existing board members appointed under
11 chapter 87-455, Laws of Florida, of the existing Technology
12 Research and Development Authority law may serve the remainder
13 of their terms.

14 (b) The authority shall annually elect one of its
15 members as chair and one as vice chair and may also appoint a
16 secretary who shall serve at the pleasure of the authority.
17 The authority may also appoint such other officers as
18 necessary.

19 (4) The commission has powers and duties as follows:

20 (a) To plan and undertake a program of action that
21 promotes scientific research and development and fosters
22 public and private education.

23 (b) To contract with and support the programs of those
24 accredited educational institutions with a research capability
25 and which have main campuses within this state in the
26 furtherance of the objectives of the authority and to contract
27 with any other accredited educational institution in
28 furtherance of the objectives of the authority to establish
29 public-private partnerships and create, sponsor, and manage
30 not-for-profit entities to implement or facilitate the
31 purposes of the authority.

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1 (c) To make and manage grants and bequests, and to
2 enter into contracts and other agreements with units of
3 government and private parties for the purpose of obtaining
4 funds for projects and programs that further the objectives of
5 the authority.

6 (d) To establish an annual budget and amend the budget
7 when necessary.

8 (e) To adopt an official seal and alter it at its
9 pleasure.

10 (f) To maintain an office at such place or places in
11 Brevard County or elsewhere as it may designate.

12 (g) To sue and be sued in its own name.

13 (h) To acquire by lease, purchase, or option real and
14 personal property for any use consistent with the purposes of
15 this act.

16 (i) To employ personnel, consultants, accountants,
17 attorneys, engineers, and other experts as necessary and
18 convenient in the execution of the powers of the authority.

19 (5) If any provision of this act or the application
20 thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
21 invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications
22 of the act which can be given effect without the invalid
23 provision or application, and to this end the provisions of
24 this act are declared severable.

25 Section 9. Legislative intent.--It is the intent of
26 the Legislature to create individually governed baccalaureate
27 and master's degree oriented universities as a means of
28 increasing the number of baccalaureate degrees in the
29 community. These universities will also play a vital role in
30 addressing the state's need for a larger trained workforce and
31 in alleviating the teacher shortages facing public schools.

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1 Section 10. Baccalaureate and master's degree oriented
2 universities.--

3 (1) Baccalaureate and master's degree oriented
4 universities are as follows:

5 (a) Suncoast University in Pinellas County.

6 (b) New College in Sarasota County, which shall be
7 considered a university for purposes of this act.

8 (2) The universities will be developed using a
9 combination of new and existing facilities, with initial
10 development at locations and facilities in the state's
11 existing postsecondary education systems.

12 (3) A community college may not convert to a
13 baccalaureate and master's degree oriented university.

14 Section 11. University mission.--The mission of the
15 baccalaureate and master's degree oriented universities is to
16 provide high-quality undergraduate education at an affordable
17 price, and to promote regional and statewide economic
18 development. Initially, course offerings will be limited to
19 core programs in the liberal arts and sciences, technology,
20 and a limited number of professional programs, including
21 business and education. The role of these universities is to
22 complement, not compete with, community colleges and
23 institutions in the State University System. This role will be
24 accomplished by encouraging interinstitutional cooperation and
25 by providing upper-division undergraduate opportunities to
26 community college transfer students, particularly students
27 with associate in science degrees transferring into
28 baccalaureate programs. An additional component of the role of
29 New College will be to continue to maintain its liberal arts
30 honors program of national distinction and to continue to be
31 the honors college of the State of Florida. The emphasis at

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1 trustee may be reappointed. Three consecutive absences from
2 board meetings shall be considered a resignation.

3 (3) Members of the board of trustees shall receive no
4 salary but may receive reimbursement for expenses as provided
5 in section 112.061, Florida Statutes, including mileage to and
6 from official board meetings.

7 (4) At its first regular meeting after July 1 of each
8 year, each board of trustees shall:

9 (a) Elect a chair, whose duties shall be to preside at
10 all meetings of the board, to call special meetings thereof,
11 and to attest to actions of the board.

12 (b) Elect a vice chair, whose duty shall be to act as
13 chair during the absence or disability of the elected chair.

14 (5) The university president shall be the executive
15 officer and corporate secretary of the board of trustees as
16 well as the chief administrative officer of the university.
17 All components of the institution and all aspects of its
18 operation shall be the responsibility of the board of trustees
19 through the president.

20 (6) The board of trustees shall have the power to take
21 action without the recommendation of the president and may
22 require the president to deliver to the board all data and
23 information required by the board in the performance of its
24 duties.

25 Section 14. University board of trustees to constitute
26 a corporation.--Each baccalaureate and master's degree
27 oriented university board of trustees is constituted a body
28 corporate by the name of "The Board of Trustees of
29 _____ University at _____, Florida." In all
30 suits against the board, service of process shall be made on
31 the chair of the board or, in the absence of the chair, on

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1 another member of the board.

2 Section 15. University boards of trustees; powers and
3 duties.--

4 (1) Each university board of trustees is vested with
5 the responsibility to operate its respective university and
6 with the necessary authority for the proper operation and
7 improvement of the university in accordance with the rules of
8 the State Board of Education.

9 (2) Each university board of trustees shall adopt
10 rules, procedures, and policies consistent with law and rules
11 of the State Board of Education relating to its mission and
12 responsibilities as set forth in law, its governance,
13 personnel, budget and finance, administration, programs,
14 curriculum and instruction, buildings and grounds, travel and
15 purchasing, technology, students, contracts and grants, and
16 university property.

17 (3) The rules, procedures, and policies for the board
18 of trustees include, but are not limited to, the following:

19 (a) Each board of trustees shall appoint, suspend, or
20 remove the president of the university. The board of trustees
21 may appoint a presidential search committee.

22 (b) Each board of trustees shall have responsibility
23 for the establishment and discontinuance of program and course
24 offerings; the provision of instructional and noninstructional
25 community services; the location of classes and services
26 provided; and the dissemination of information concerning the
27 programs and services.

28 (c) Each board of trustees shall constitute the
29 contracting agent of the university. A board of trustees may,
30 when acting as a body, make contracts, sue, and be sued in the
31 name of the board of trustees.

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1 (d) Whenever the Department of Education finds it
 2 necessary for the welfare and convenience of any university to
 3 acquire private property for the use of the university, and
 4 the property cannot be acquired by agreement satisfactory to
 5 the board of trustees of the university and the parties
 6 interested in or the owners of the private property, the
 7 university board of trustees may exercise the right of eminent
 8 domain after receiving approval from the State Board of
 9 Education and may then proceed to condemn the property in the
 10 manner provided by chapters 73 and 74, Florida Statutes.

11 (e) Each board of trustees may purchase, acquire,
 12 receive, hold, own, manage, lease, sell, dispose of, and
 13 convey title to real property in the best interests of the
 14 university, subject to rules adopted by the State Board of
 15 Education.

16 (f) Each board of trustees may adopt rules,
 17 procedures, and policies related to the appointment,
 18 employment, and removal of personnel. The board shall
 19 determine the compensation, including salaries and fringe
 20 benefits, and other conditions of employment for such
 21 personnel, including the president.

22 Section 16. Universities; admission of students.--Each
 23 university shall govern admission of students, subject to this
 24 section and rules of the State Board of Education.

25 (1) Minimum academic standards for undergraduate
 26 admission to a university must require a student to complete
 27 the requirements for a standard high school diploma as
 28 prescribed by section 232.246, Florida Statutes. Among courses
 29 taken to fulfill the 24 academic credit requirement, a student
 30 must take high school courses that are adopted by the Board of
 31 Regents and recommended by the State Board of Community

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1 Colleges as college-preparatory academic courses.

2 (2) A university board of trustees may adopt rules
3 that provide for a limited number of students to be admitted
4 to the university, notwithstanding the admission requirements
5 of subsection (1), if there is evidence that the applicant is
6 expected to do successful academic work at the university. The
7 number of applicants admitted under this subsection may not
8 exceed 5 percent of the total number of freshmen who entered
9 the university the prior academic year.

10 (3) Nonresident students may be admitted to the
11 university upon such terms as the university may establish.
12 The terms shall include, but need not be limited to,
13 completion of a secondary school curriculum that includes 4
14 years of English and 3 years each of mathematics, science, and
15 social sciences. The total number of nonresident applicants
16 admitted under this subsection may not exceed 5 percent of the
17 total number of freshmen who entered the university the prior
18 academic year, except for the liberal arts honors program at
19 New College.

20 Section 17. Student fees.--

21 (1) The student per credit hour matriculation and
22 tuition fee must be the equivalent of 25 percent of the total
23 per credit hour cost of instruction as determined annually by
24 the Legislature in the General Appropriations Act.

25 (2) Each university board of trustees is authorized to
26 establish separate activity and service and health fees. When
27 duly established, the fees shall be collected as component
28 parts of the matriculation and tuition fees and shall be
29 retained by the university and paid into the separate activity
30 and service and health funds.

31 Section 18. Section 229.05371, Florida Statutes, is

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1 amended to read:

2 229.05371 ~~Pilot program~~ Scholarships to public or
3 private school of choice for students with disabilities.--

4 (1) SCHOLARSHIP ~~PILOT~~ PROGRAM.--There is established a
5 ~~pilot~~ program, which is separate and distinct from the
6 Opportunity Scholarship Program, ~~in the Sarasota school~~
7 ~~district~~, to provide scholarships to a public or private
8 school of choice for students with disabilities whose academic
9 progress in at least two areas has not met expected levels for
10 the previous year, as determined by the student's individual
11 education plan. Student participation in the ~~pilot~~ program is
12 limited to 5 percent of the students with disabilities in the
13 school district during the first year, 10 percent of students
14 with disabilities during the second year, ~~and~~ 20 percent of
15 students with disabilities during the third year, and no caps
16 in subsequent years. The following applies to the ~~pilot~~
17 program:

18 (a) To be eligible to participate in the ~~pilot~~
19 program, a private school must meet all requirements of s.
20 229.0537(4), except for the accreditation requirements of s.
21 229.0537(4)(f). For purposes of the ~~pilot~~ program,
22 notification under s. 229.0537(4)(b) must be separate from the
23 notification under the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

24 (b) The school district ~~that participates in the pilot~~
25 ~~program~~ must comply with the requirements in s.
26 229.0537(3)(a)2., (c), and (d).

27 (c) The amount of the scholarship in the ~~pilot~~ program
28 shall be equal to the amount the student would have received
29 under the Florida Education Finance Program in the public
30 school to which he or she is assigned.

31 (d) To be eligible for a scholarship under the ~~pilot~~

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1 program, a student or parent must:

2 1. Comply with the eligibility criteria in s.
3 229.0537(2)(b) and all provisions of s. 229.0537 which apply
4 to students with disabilities;

5 2. For the school year immediately prior to the year
6 in which the scholarship will be in effect, have documented
7 the student's failure to meet specific performance levels
8 identified in the individual education plan; or, absent
9 specific performance levels identified in the individual
10 education plan, the student must have performed below grade
11 level on state or local assessments and the parent must
12 believe that the student is not progressing adequately toward
13 the goals in the individual education plan; and

14 3. Have requested the scholarship prior to the time at
15 which the number of valid requests exceeds the district's cap
16 for the year in which the scholarship will be awarded.

17 (2) The provisions of s. 229.0537(6) and (8) shall
18 apply to the ~~pilot~~ program authorized in this section. This
19 ~~pilot~~ program is not intended to affect the eligibility of the
20 state or school district to receive federal funds for students
21 with disabilities.

22 Section 19. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
23 law.

24
25

26 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

27 And the title is amended as follows:

28 Delete everything before the enacting clause

29
30

31 and insert:
A bill to be entitled

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1 An act relating to education; creating s.
2 231.315, F.S.; providing for the establishment
3 of model peer assistance and review programs;
4 providing for minimum standards; providing for
5 technical assistance and allocations; requiring
6 a report to the Governor, the President of the
7 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
8 Representatives; creating s. 231.6015, F.S.;
9 authorizing a mathematics and science teacher
10 education program; requiring demonstration of
11 certain uses of funds; providing a program
12 purpose, required components, and resource
13 allocation; requiring the Technological
14 Research and Development Authority to serve as
15 the fiscal agent for the program; requiring
16 collaborative planning and implementation;
17 authorizing incentives and certification;
18 creating s. 240.149, F.S.; creating a
19 nongovernmental organization to plan and
20 implement a program for mathematics and science
21 teacher education; requiring a board of
22 directors, a chief executive officer, other
23 staff, and an advisory council; providing for
24 membership, terms of office, and an
25 appointments process; providing responsibility
26 and authority to conduct certain activities;
27 requiring a budget request; amending s.
28 229.592, F.S.; requiring a report; amending s.
29 231.600, F.S.; requiring certain additions to
30 professional development programs; amending s.
31 236.685, F.S.; requiring a report to include

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1 certain information; creating s. 239.515, F.S.;

2 establishing the College Fast Start Program;

3 providing legislative intent; defining terms;

4 providing procedures for application to

5 participate in the program; providing

6 guidelines for program approval; providing

7 requirements for approved programs; requiring

8 an advisory council to review proposals and

9 recommend an order of priority for funding;

10 providing membership of the advisory council;

11 providing for funding of the program; providing

12 methodology for competitive funding of approved

13 programs; providing requirements for the

14 continuation of funding for programs; requiring

15 an interim report to the Florida Governor's

16 Alliance for the Employment of Disabled

17 Citizens; requiring an annual end-of-the-year

18 report to the alliance; requiring the alliance

19 and the Postsecondary Education Planning

20 Commission to develop specifications and

21 procedures for the transmission of such data;

22 requiring the alliance to report to the

23 Governor, the Legislature, and the Commissioner

24 of Education annually on the effectiveness of

25 the program; reenacting the Technological

26 Research and Development Authority;

27 establishing the purposes of the authority;

28 setting a commission to govern the authority;

29 prescribing the duties and responsibilities of

30 the commission and terms of office; providing a

31 procedure for the appointment of the

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1 commission; providing severability; providing
2 for student participation in the statewide
3 assessment program; providing criteria for
4 enrollment policies; providing legislative
5 intent; providing for the creation of
6 baccalaureate and master's degree oriented
7 universities; directing the Postsecondary
8 Education Planning Commission to develop an
9 operational plan; providing for the mission and
10 governance of the new universities; providing
11 for admission standards and student fees;
12 providing an appropriation; amending s.
13 229.05371, F.S.; converting a pilot program for
14 scholarships for students with disabilities to
15 statewide application; providing an effective
16 date.

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