

Bill No. CS/HB 701, 2nd Eng.

Amendment No. ____

1 position shall appoint a member to fill the vacancy. Each
2 appointing authority may remove his or her appointee for
3 cause, and shall remove an appointee who, without cause, fails
4 to attend three consecutive meetings. Members of the task
5 force shall serve without compensation but are entitled to
6 reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses incurred in the
7 performance of their duties as provided in section 112.061,
8 Florida Statutes.

9 (3) The task force shall hold its organizational
10 meeting by September 1, 2000; and, thereafter, shall meet at
11 the call of the chair, but shall meet at least monthly before
12 submitting its final recommendations. The task force shall be
13 chaired by a member designated by the Governor. The task
14 force shall elect a vice chair to serve in the absence of the
15 chair. The task force shall adopt procedures or bylaws
16 necessary for its efficient operation and may appoint
17 subcommittees from its membership.

18 (4) The task force shall examine the funding of the
19 state system of public schools as provided by the Florida
20 Education Finance Program created by section 236.081, Florida
21 Statutes, and implemented by the general appropriations acts.
22 The task force shall consider at least the following:

23 (a) The funding of public schools based on their
24 performance in educating students as evidenced by the
25 achieving of equitable outcomes that meet the state academic
26 achievement standards for all students.

27 (b) The relationship between state funding and local
28 funding for public schools.

29 (c) The maintenance of funding equity in the
30 allocation of dollars among school districts and schools.

31 (d) The acquisition and support of technology to

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1 assist in the instructional process.

2 (e) The funding support for parental choice in the
3 selection of educational services for children.

4 (f) The results and recommendations of public school
5 funding studies conducted by nationally recognized experts,
6 groups, and other states.

7 (5) The task force:

8 (a) Shall appoint an executive director, who shall
9 serve under its direction, supervision, and control. The
10 executive director shall be the chief administrative officer
11 of the task force. Subject to approval by the task force, the
12 executive director shall employ, direct, and control research
13 and support staff to serve the task force and its
14 subcommittees. All employees of the task force are exempt
15 from the Career Service System. The Commissioner of Education
16 shall designate personnel of the Department of Education to
17 assist the task force until its staff is employed.

18 (b) May enter into contracts or agreements with
19 nationally recognized school-finance experts to serve in a
20 consulting and advisory capacity.

21 (c) May apply for and accept funds, grants, donations,
22 expenses, in-kind services, and other valued goods or services
23 from the government of the United States or any of its
24 agencies or any other public or private sources. Funds or
25 services acquired or accepted under this paragraph must be
26 used to carry out the task force's duties and
27 responsibilities.

28 (d) Shall keep full, detailed, and accurate records
29 pursuant to chapter 119, Florida Statutes.

30 (e) By September 1, 2001, shall submit draft
31 recommendations and, by February 1, 2002, shall submit final

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1 recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate,
2 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Before
3 adopting final recommendations, the task force shall conduct
4 at least one public hearing in each of the five service
5 regions of the Department of Education.

6 (6) This section expires June 30, 2003.

7 Section 2. Section 236.081, Florida Statutes, is
8 repealed effective June 30, 2004, subject to prior review by
9 the Task Force on Public School Funding.

10 Section 3. Section 236.025, Florida Statutes, is
11 amended to read:

12 236.025 Revised funding model for exceptional student
13 education programs.--

14 (1) The revised funding model for exceptional student
15 education programs is designed to: be better for students
16 than the existing funding system by encouraging school
17 districts and schools to identify and implement educationally
18 effective instructional delivery models; simplify funding by
19 utilizing two ~~five~~ weighted cost factors and a guaranteed
20 allocation; provide fiscal support for exceptional students in
21 general education classes; be outcome driven; ~~and~~ be revenue
22 neutral; and reduce the paperwork burden associated with state
23 funding. This funding model is designed to support both
24 traditional and new service delivery models along the
25 continuum of services required for exceptional students. It is
26 the intent of the Legislature, through the General
27 Appropriations Act, to minimize the fiscal impact on school
28 districts of the implementation of this funding model.

29 (2)(a) The revised funding model uses existing basic,
30 at-risk, and vocational ~~five~~ Florida Education Finance Program
31 cost factors, two exceptional education cost factors, and a

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1 guaranteed allocation for exceptional student education
2 programs. Exceptional education cost factors are determined by
3 using a matrix of services to document the services that each
4 exceptional student will receive. The nature and intensity of
5 the services indicated on the matrix shall be consistent with
6 the services described in each exceptional student's
7 individual education plan.

8 (b) In order to generate funds using one of the two
9 weighted cost factors, a matrix of services must be completed
10 at the time of the student's initial placement into an
11 exceptional student education program and at least once every
12 3 years ~~least once each year~~ by ~~public school~~ personnel who
13 have received approved training. ~~Additionally, each time an~~
14 ~~exceptional student's individual education plan, family~~
15 ~~support plan, or education plan is reviewed, the matrix of~~
16 ~~services must also be reviewed.~~ Nothing listed in the matrix
17 shall be construed as limiting the services a school district
18 must provide in order to ensure that exceptional students are
19 provided a free, appropriate public education.

20 (c) Students identified as exceptional, in accordance
21 with chapter 6A-6, Florida Administrative Code, who do not
22 have a matrix of services as specified in paragraph (b) shall
23 generate funds on the basis of full-time-equivalent student
24 membership in the Florida Education Finance Program at the
25 same funding level per student as provided for basic students.
26 Additional funds for these exceptional students will be
27 provided through the guaranteed allocation designated in
28 subsection (3).

29 (3)(a) For students identified as exceptional who do
30 not have a matrix of services, there is created a guaranteed
31 allocation to provide these students with a free appropriate

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1 public education, in accordance with s. 230.23(4)(m) and rules
 2 of the state board, which shall be allocated annually to each
 3 school district in the amount provided in the General
 4 Appropriations Act. These funds shall be in addition to the
 5 funds appropriated on the basis of full-time-equivalent
 6 student membership in the Florida Education Finance Program,
 7 and the amount allocated for each school district shall not be
 8 recalculated during the year. These funds shall be used to
 9 provide special education and related services for exceptional
 10 students.

11 (b) The exceptional student education guaranteed
 12 allocation shall be determined annually by the Legislature
 13 based upon district's program enrollment and program costs.

14 ~~(4)(3)~~ The Department of Education shall revise its
 15 monitoring systems for exceptional student education programs
 16 to include a review of delivery of services as indicated on
 17 the matrix of services.

18 ~~(5)(4)~~ The Department of Education shall adopt
 19 ~~promulgate~~ rules necessary to implement the revised funding
 20 model.

21 ~~(5) The funding level in the 1997-1998 FEFP for~~
 22 ~~exceptional student education shall be guaranteed for 3 years~~
 23 ~~so that no district will have a financial uncertainty during~~
 24 ~~the initial implementation of the revised funding model.~~

25 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
 26 law.

27

28

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

30 And the title is amended as follows:

31 Delete everything before the enacting clause

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1 and insert:

2 A bill to be entitled
3 An act relating to public school funding;
4 creating the Task Force on Public School
5 Funding; providing for the appointment and
6 organization of the task force; specifying
7 powers and duties; specifying duties of the
8 Department of Education; requiring certain
9 reports and public hearings; repealing s.
10 236.081, F.S., relating to the Florida
11 Education Finance; amending s. 236.025, F.S.;
12 revising funding for exceptional student
13 education programs; providing an effective
14 date.

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