

Amendment No. ____ (for drafter's use only)

	<u>Senate</u>	CHAMBER ACTION	<u>House</u>
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ORIGINAL STAMP BELOW

11 Representative(s) Melvin, Feeney, and Wise offered the
12 following:

14 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

15 Remove from the bill: Everything after the enacting clause
16
17 and insert in lieu thereof:

18 Section 1. Section 229.604, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 229.604 Educational Technology Program.--There is
21 created the Educational Technology Program.

22 (1) DEFINITION.--As used in this section, the term
23 "educational technology" includes all technology and
24 technology-related processes used directly or indirectly for
25 instructional purposes, including:

26 (a) The use of hardware, software, networks, distance
27 learning equipment, and related devices that support teaching
28 and learning.

29 (b) Resources that allow students and teachers to
30 exchange information with others, or permit them to access,
31 retrieve, manipulate, and display information available on the

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1 Internet and elsewhere.

2 (c) Hardware, software, and processes that facilitate
3 the teaching and learning process, such as those resources
4 that support grade reporting, class scheduling, attendance
5 accounting, assessment, and similar functions.

6 (d) Endeavors relating to supporting the use of
7 technology in the classroom, such as providing technical
8 support.

9 (2) SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLANS.--Each school,
10 including schools operating for the purpose of providing
11 education services to youth in juvenile justice commitment and
12 detention facilities, must address strategies for implementing
13 educational technology in the school improvement plan which
14 has been approved by the district school board, pursuant to s.
15 230.23(16)(a). The portion of the school improvement plan
16 addressing technology must address:

17 (a) The achievement of technology capability
18 thresholds established by the Department of Education
19 according to this section.

20 (b) Safe access to the school media center or computer
21 center outside of the regular school day.

22 (c) Technical assistance for daily operations.

23 (3) DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLANS.--Each
24 district school board must submit to the Department of
25 Education, and annually update, a strategic district
26 educational technology plan as part of the district system of
27 planning and budgeting, pursuant to s. 229.555(1)(b). The
28 district educational technology plan shall be developed using
29 information from the technology plans of schools in the
30 district and the technology capability thresholds established
31 by the Department of Education. The plan shall be for a period

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1 of at least 3 years, but no more than 5 years, and the initial
2 district plan shall be submitted to the department by August
3 1, 2001. A new plan shall be submitted by August 1 in the
4 final year of the prior plan, and an update must be submitted
5 by August 1 of each of the interim years for the duration of
6 the plan. The plan shall include essential elements as
7 required by the department.

8 (4) STATE EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLAN.--The Department
9 of Education shall develop and annually update a state
10 educational technology plan, in consultation with the
11 Educational Technology Advisory Group. The state educational
12 technology plan shall:

13 (a) Include technology capability thresholds that
14 represent reasonable levels of technological capability to
15 fully integrate technology into a school in order for the
16 school to effectively utilize grade level appropriate
17 educational technology in teaching and learning. When
18 developing and updating the technology capability thresholds,
19 the department and the Educational Technology Advisory Group
20 shall take into consideration technology currently available,
21 as well as forecasted innovations in technology. The
22 technology capability thresholds shall be designed to build
23 the skills that students will need to meet the demands of
24 Florida businesses and industry. The department shall develop
25 the technology capability thresholds by January 1, 2001. By
26 January 1 each year thereafter, the capability thresholds must
27 be reviewed and updated, as appropriate.

28 (b) Address student access to technology to support
29 students' educational progress in the community, at work, at
30 school, and at home. The plan shall encourage districts and
31 schools to furnish safe access to school media centers or

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1 computer centers outside of the regular school day, and to
2 consider the design of entrances to media centers or computer
3 centers which are safely and readily accessible to the
4 community and to students for use before and after school
5 hours when planning for new construction or remodeling
6 projects.

7 (c) Address technology infrastructure, communication
8 updates, and upgrades for new and existing schools. The plan
9 shall encourage designs to accommodate future updating and
10 upgrading needs, to provide multiple technological access
11 points, and to facilitate teacher access to telephones and
12 telephone message systems.

13 (5) TECHNOLOGY SERVICES AND PRODUCTS BANK.--The
14 Department of Education shall establish a Technology Services
15 and Products Bank, which shall:

16 (a) Collect, and disseminate through an Internet site,
17 information regarding hardware, software, and technology
18 services available within the state, including, but not
19 limited to, educational applications.

20 (b) Identify outdated technology; rapid changes in
21 technology; lowest prices for hardware, software, and
22 technology services; sources of hardware, software, and
23 technology services; and fluctuations in prices of hardware,
24 software, and technology services.

25 (c) Serve as a clearinghouse of information regarding
26 software research and development project proposals. Work
27 products produced as a result of publicly funded research and
28 development projects shall be reported to the Technology
29 Services and Products Bank for inclusion in the information
30 clearinghouse.

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1 The Technology Services and Products Bank may not prohibit a
2 school or district school board from selecting specific
3 technology services or products or from independently
4 obtaining the lowest price. A school or a district school
5 board may select the technology solution that most closely
6 aligns with its educational technology plan, the educational
7 philosophy of the school or district school board, and the
8 technology capability thresholds established by the Department
9 of Education.

10 (6) TECHNOLOGY FUNDING.--Beginning with the 2001-2002
11 school year, district school boards shall distribute to
12 schools the funds received for public school technology on the
13 basis of the educational technology component of the school
14 improvement plan pursuant to s. 230.23(16) and this section.
15 To receive funding, a proposed project must be in a school
16 that has achieved the appropriate technology capability
17 threshold for the proposed project, and the proposed project
18 must be consistent with both the district educational
19 technology plan and the state educational technology plan. In
20 addition, the proposal must describe how the project will
21 assist in improving student performance. Preference for
22 funding shall be given to schools that are designated as
23 performance grade category "D" or "F," pursuant to s. 229.57.
24 Preference may be given to a school that has matched the
25 request with other funds and private sector contributions to
26 the maximum extent possible.

27 (7) REPORTS.--Beginning January 1, 2001, the
28 Commissioner of Education shall make an annual report to the
29 Legislature within 60 days prior to the beginning of the
30 regular legislative session. The report shall include:

31 (a) A summary of the status of the Educational

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1 Technology Program, including a description of the technology
2 capability thresholds developed according to this section, and
3 the status of school achievement of the capability thresholds.

4 (b) Recommendations to improve the efficiency and
5 promote the utilization of educational technology.

6 (8) EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY GROUP.--There is
7 created the Educational Technology Advisory Group which shall
8 advise the Department of Education in developing and annually
9 updating the state educational technology plan according to
10 this section. The advisory group shall consist of the
11 following 10 members, who shall not be elected officials:

12 (a) Three members appointed by the Governor, one of
13 whom shall serve as chair of the study group, and one of whom
14 shall be a principal from a school that is active in the area
15 of technology.

16 (b) Three members appointed by the Commissioner of
17 Education, one of whom shall be a teacher who is actively
18 engaged in integrating educational technology into daily
19 teaching and learning.

20 (c) Two members appointed by the President of the
21 Senate.

22 (d) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House
23 of Representatives.

24
25 Each member must possess knowledge, skills, or experience
26 relating to technology. The Governor, the Commissioner of
27 Education, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
28 House of Representatives must each appoint one member who has
29 substantial business experience in the private sector relating
30 to the technology industry. Each appointed member of the
31 advisory group shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing

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1 official. Members of the advisory group shall serve without
2 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for per diem and travel
3 in accordance with s. 112.061. A student selected by the
4 superintendent of schools of the district in which the
5 advisory group is meeting may be invited to attend and observe
6 the meeting. The advisory group shall meet at the call of the
7 commissioner. The location of each meeting of the advisory
8 group may vary and shall be determined by the commissioner.

9 Section 2. Section 229.05371, Florida Statutes, is
10 amended to read:

11 229.05371 ~~Pilot program~~ Scholarships to public or
12 private school of choice for students with disabilities.--

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

27 (a) To be eligible to participate in the ~~pilot~~
28 program, a private school must meet all requirements of s.
29 229.0537(4), except for the accreditation requirements of s.
30 229.0537(4)(f). For purposes of the ~~pilot~~ program,
31 notification under s. 229.0537(4)(b) must be separate from the

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1 notification under the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

2 (b) The school district ~~that participates in the pilot~~
3 ~~program~~ must comply with the requirements in s.
4 229.0537(3)(a)2., (c), and (d).

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

9 (d) To be eligible for a scholarship under the ~~pilot~~
10 program, a student or parent must:

11 1. Comply with the eligibility criteria in s.
12 229.0537(2)(b) and all provisions of s. 229.0537 which apply
13 to students with disabilities;

14 2. For the school year immediately prior to the year
15 in which the scholarship will be in effect, have documented
16 the student's failure to meet specific performance levels
17 identified in the individual education plan; or, absent
18 specific performance levels identified in the individual
19 education plan, the student must have performed below grade
20 level on state or local assessments and the parent must
21 believe that the student is not progressing adequately toward
22 the goals in the individual education plan; and

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

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

31 Section 3. Section 239.515, Florida Statutes, is

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1 created to read:

2 239.515 College Fast Start Program.--

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

25 (2) As used in this section:

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

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

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1 (3) To apply to participate in the College Fast Start
2 Program, a potential program participant must submit a
3 proposal to the Florida Governor's Alliance for the Employment
4 of Disabled Citizens. Each proposal must contain the following
5 information:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 3. To develop collaboration with the STARS program.

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

31 (4) The alliance shall consider proposals to determine

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 (g) One representative of the Postsecondary Education
2 Planning Commission, appointed by the chair of the commission.

3
4 Each member shall be appointed for a 3-year, staggered term of
5 office. Members may serve no more than two consecutive terms.
6 A vacancy must be filled with a person of the same status as
7 the original appointee who shall serve for the remainder of
8 the term. Members are entitled to per diem and travel expenses
9 as provided in s. 112.061 while performing council duties.

10 (7) Funding for the College Fast Start Program shall
11 be provided annually in the General Appropriations Act. From
12 these funds, an annual allocation shall be provided to the
13 alliance to conduct the program. Approved programs must be
14 funded competitively according to the following methodology:

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

18 1. A summer business internship program.

19 2. A minimum number of hours of academic instructional
20 and developmental activities, career counseling, and personal
21 counseling.

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

26 (c) Subject to legislative appropriations, funds for
27 the continuation of projects that satisfy the minimum
28 requirements shall be increased each year by the same
29 percentage as the rate of inflation. Projects funded for 3
30 consecutive years must have a cumulative institutional cash
31 match of not less than 50 percent of the total cost of the

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1 project over the 3-year period. Any College Fast Start Program
2 operating for 3 years which does not provide the minimum 50
3 percent institutional cash match shall not be considered for
4 continued funding.

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (e) The number and percentage of high school
31 participants who satisfactorily complete 2 sequential years of

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1 a foreign language and Levels 2 and 3 mathematics and science
2 courses.

3 (f) The number and percentage of participants eligible
4 for high school graduation who receive a standard high school
5 diploma or a high school equivalency diploma pursuant to s.
6 229.814.

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

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

13 (i) The number and percentage of participants who
14 enroll in a public postsecondary institution and who fail to
15 achieve a passing score, as defined in State Board of
16 Education rule, on college placement tests pursuant to s.
17 240.117.

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

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

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

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

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

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1 The Postsecondary Education Planning Commission, in
2 consultation with the alliance and the Department of
3 Education, shall develop specifications and procedures for the
4 collection and transmission of the data.

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

17 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
18 law.

19
20
21 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

22 And the title is amended as follows:

23 On page 1, of the bill,
24 remove from the title of the bill: the entire title

25
26 and insert in lieu thereof:

27 An act relating to student educational
28 improvement; creating s. 229.604, F.S.;
29 defining the term "educational technology";
30 requiring school improvement plans to include
31 strategies for implementing educational

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1 technology; providing requirements for the
2 educational technology component of such plans;
3 requiring the development, submission, and
4 annual revision of a district educational
5 technology plan; requiring the Department of
6 Education, in consultation with the Educational
7 Technology Advisory Group, to develop and
8 annually update a state educational technology
9 plan; providing requirements for such plan;
10 requiring the development of technology
11 capability thresholds; requiring the department
12 to establish the Technology Services and
13 Products Bank; requiring the Technology
14 Services and Products Bank to perform certain
15 functions; providing requirements for the
16 distribution and use of technology funding;
17 requiring an annual report; providing
18 requirements for the contents of the report;
19 establishing the Educational Technology
20 Advisory Group; providing duties, membership,
21 reimbursement of per diem and travel expenses,
22 and meeting procedures; amending s. 229.05371,
23 F.S.; converting a pilot program for
24 scholarships for students with disabilities to
25 statewide application; establishing the College
26 Fast Start Program; providing legislative
27 intent; defining terms; providing procedures
28 for application to participate in the program;
29 providing guidelines for program approval;
30 providing requirements for approved programs;
31 requiring an advisory council to review

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1 proposals and recommend an order of priority
2 for funding; providing membership of the
3 advisory council; providing for funding of the
4 program; providing methodology for competitive
5 funding of approved programs; providing
6 requirements for the continuation of funding
7 for programs; requiring an interim report to
8 the Florida Governor's Alliance for the
9 Employment of Disabled Citizens; requiring an
10 annual end-of-the-year report to the alliance;
11 requiring the alliance and the Postsecondary
12 Education Planning Commission to develop
13 specifications and procedures for the
14 transmission of such data; requiring the
15 alliance to report to the Governor, the
16 Legislature, and the Commissioner of Education
17 annually on the effectiveness of the program;
18 providing an effective date.

19
20 WHEREAS, the most significant populations of students
21 in need of educational improvement methodologies to meet the
22 Constitutional requirement of a high quality education are
23 students with disabilities and students who lack the
24 technology foundation to succeed in school and the workplace,
25 NOW, THEREFORE,

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