

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: CS/SB 1640

SPONSOR: Education Committee and Senator Clary

SUBJECT: Professional Development Academies

DATE: April 16, 2001 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>White</u>	<u>O'Farrell</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
2.	<u>McKee</u>	<u>Hickam</u>	<u>AED</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
3.	_____	_____	<u>AP</u>	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This Committee Substitute authorizes a regional education consortium to apply for a grant to create professional development academies without providing a match or creating a steering committee; all other applicants must match state funding with an equal or greater amount from private sources.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2001.

The bill amends s. 231.6135, F.S.

II. Present Situation:

The 2000 Legislature appropriated \$36 million for the professional development of teachers (Specific Appropriation 83 of the General Appropriations Act). The federal government provides additional funds as grants to school districts (Eisenhower Title II). Professional development programs for teachers are delivered in each school district and through a network of six area Teacher Education Centers.

Private foundations, notably the Annenberg Foundation and the Carnegie Foundation, also have funded some initiatives. In most districts, the state and federal funding represents by far the major effort, with local funds provided in comparatively small amounts.

In January of 1999, the Education Standards Commission adopted the Subject Matter Content Standards for Teachers, a guide to align the content of professional development programs with the Sunshine State Standards for students.

Two Professional Development Academies were separately and specifically funded by name in 1999:

- \$ The Schultz Center in Jacksonville is funded at \$4 million with matching funds. This academy was previously called East Coast Leadership Institute.
- \$ The Polk County Leadership Academy is funded up to \$2 million with matching funds.

Section 231.6135, F.S.

This law provides for a network of professional development academies in each region of the state to be operated in partnership with area businesses to develop and deliver high-quality training programs. The 1999 Legislature appropriated \$10 million for the program, and the 2000 Legislature re-appropriated the funds. No agency applied for the funds and they have not been spent.

The statute requires the commissioner to allocate funds appropriated for the academies unless otherwise provided in the General Appropriations Act. To be eligible for startup funds, an academy must:

- \$ Be established by at least one district school board, members of the business community, and postsecondary education institutions. College credits may be awarded.
- \$ Demonstrate the ability to provide high-quality trainers and training and appropriate follow up and coaching to improve student performance.
- \$ Be operated under contract with public partners, governed by an independent board of directors including as members: at least one superintendent and one school board chair, the president of the collective bargaining unit representing the majority of the region's teachers, and three others who are not employees or elected or appointed officials of the district.
- \$ Be financed during the first year by an equal or greater match from private funding sources and demonstrate the ability to be self-supporting within 1 year.
- \$ Own or lease a facility to deliver training on-site and through distance learning and other technology-based delivery systems.
- \$ Provide professional development services for participating school districts and provide professional development services to other school districts, private schools, and individuals on a fee-for-services basis.

Regional Education Consortia

Section 228.0857, F.S., *Regional consortium service organizations*, authorizes school districts with 20,000 or fewer unweighted full-time equivalent students to enter into a cooperative agreement and form a consortium to provide education services. At least three of the following services must be provided:

- Teacher education centers
- Health insurance
- Risk management insurance
- Staff development
- Purchasing
- Planning and accountability
- Exceptional student education
- Environmental education
- Federal grant procurement and coordination
- Data processing

The three regional consortia are:

- Heartland Educational Consortium, Lake Placid

- Northeast Florida Educational Consortium, Palatka
- Panhandle Area Educational Consortium, Chipley

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The legislation under consideration authorizes regional education consortia to qualify for a grant to create professional development academies without providing matching funds from private sources or creating a board of directors with specified membership. Consortia will not be exempt from the requirement that the academies must be self-supporting after 1 year.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

If funds were provided, the three regional education consortia could receive grants to start up academies as required in s. 231.6135, F.S., without the requirement of matching funds from private sources and without establishing a steering committee. After the first year, they must be self-supporting.

The Senate General Appropriations Bill for FY 2001-02 re-appropriates the unencumbered balance of funds provided for Teaching Academies in FY 1999-00, and earmarks those funds for the Panhandle Area Education Consortium. As of April 16, 2001, \$4 million of the 1999-00 funds remained unencumbered.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
