

By Senator Webster

12-1223A-01

See HB

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to school district performance;  
3           providing a short title; amending s. 229.57,  
4           F.S.; requiring the designation and publication  
5           of district performance grades; amending s.  
6           236.02, F.S.; revising minimum requirements of  
7           the Florida Education Finance Program to  
8           include minimum classroom expenditure  
9           requirements and associated reporting; creating  
10          s. 236.08102, F.S.; authorizing the Legislature  
11          to require a school district that fails to meet  
12          minimum academic performance standards to meet  
13          district minimum classroom expenditure  
14          requirements; providing for monitoring;  
15          requiring reports; amending s. 237.041, F.S.;  
16          requiring a district's annual budget to include  
17          provision for required minimum classroom  
18          expenditure requirements; amending s. 237.081,  
19          F.S.; requiring the advertisement of the  
20          tentative school district budget to include  
21          notice of minimum classroom expenditure  
22          requirements; providing an effective date.

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

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26           Section 1. Short title.--This act shall be known and  
27 may be cited as the "Dollars to the Classroom Act of 2001."

28           Section 2. Subsection (16) is added to section 229.57,  
29 Florida Statutes, to read:

30           229.57 Student assessment program.--

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1           (16) DISTRICT PERFORMANCE GRADE.--Beginning with the  
2 2000-2001 school year's student and school performance data,  
3 the annual report required by subsection (6) shall include  
4 district performance grades, which shall consist of weighted  
5 district average grades, by level, for all elementary schools,  
6 middle schools, and high schools in the district. A district's  
7 weighted average grade shall be calculated by weighting  
8 individual school grades determined pursuant to subsection (7)  
9 by school enrollment.

10           Section 3. Subsection (8) is added to section 236.02,  
11 Florida Statutes, to read:

12           236.02 Minimum requirements of the Florida Education  
13 Finance Program.--Each district which participates in the  
14 state appropriations for the Florida Education Finance Program  
15 shall provide evidence of its effort to maintain an adequate  
16 school program throughout the district and shall meet at least  
17 the following requirements:

18           (8) MINIMUM CLASSROOM EXPENDITURE  
19 REQUIREMENTS.--Comply with the minimum classroom expenditure  
20 requirements and associated reporting pursuant to s.  
21 236.08102.

22           Section 4. Section 236.08102, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24           236.08102 School district minimum classroom  
25 expenditure requirements.--

26           (1) Beginning in fiscal year 2001-2002, the  
27 Legislature may require any school district that fails to meet  
28 minimum academic performance standards to increase emphasis on  
29 classroom instruction activities using operating funds,  
30 including, but not limited to, those provided for the  
31 operation of schools pursuant to s. 236.081.

1           (2) For the purpose of implementing the provisions of  
2 this section, the Legislature shall prescribe minimum academic  
3 performance standards and minimum classroom expenditure  
4 requirements for districts not meeting such minimum academic  
5 performance standards in the General Appropriations Act.

6           (a) Minimum academic performance standards may be  
7 based on, but are not limited to, district performance grades  
8 determined pursuant to s. 229.57(16).

9           (b) School district minimum classroom expenditure  
10 requirements shall be calculated pursuant to subsection (3).

11           (3)(a) Annually the Department of Education shall  
12 calculate for each school district:

13           1. Total K-12 operating expenditures, which are  
14 defined as the amount of total general fund expenditures for  
15 K-12 programs as reported in accordance with the accounts and  
16 codes prescribed in the most recent issuance of the Department  
17 of Education publication entitled "Financial and Program Cost  
18 Accounting and Reporting for Florida Schools" and as included  
19 in the annual financial report submitted to the Commissioner  
20 of Education, less the pupil transportation revenue allocation  
21 from the state appropriation for that purpose, amounts  
22 transferred to other funds, and increases to the amount of the  
23 general fund unreserved ending fund balance when the total  
24 unreserved ending fund balance is in excess of 5 percent of  
25 the total general fund revenues.

26           2. Expenditures for classroom instruction, which shall  
27 be the sum of the general fund expenditures for K-12  
28 instruction and instructional staff training for basic skills.

29           (b) The department shall annually calculate for each  
30 district, and for the entire state, the percentage of  
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1 classroom expenditures to total operating expenditures as  
2 calculated pursuant to subparagraphs (a)1. and 2.

3 (4) In order for the Department of Education to  
4 monitor the implementation of this section, each school  
5 district that is required to increase emphasis on classroom  
6 activities from operating funds pursuant to subsection (1)  
7 shall submit to the department the following two reports in a  
8 format determined by the department:

9 (a) An initial report, which shall include the  
10 proposed budget actions identified for increased classroom  
11 expenditures, a description of how such actions are designed  
12 to improve student achievement, and a copy of the published  
13 statement required by s. 237.081(3). This report shall be  
14 submitted within 30 days after final budget approval as  
15 provided in s. 200.065.

16 (b) A final report, prepared at the end of each fiscal  
17 year, which shall include, but is not limited to, information  
18 that clearly indicates the degree of each district's  
19 compliance or noncompliance with the requirements of this  
20 section. If not fully compliant, the district shall include a  
21 statement that has been adopted at a public hearing and signed  
22 by the district superintendent of schools and district school  
23 board members and that explains why the requirements of this  
24 section have not been met.

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26 The department shall provide annual summaries of these two  
27 reports to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
28 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

29 Section 5. Section 237.041, Florida Statutes, is  
30 amended to read:

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1           237.041 Form of annual budget required.--An annual  
2 budget is required to be prepared and adopted by the school  
3 board of each district and submitted to the Department of  
4 Education for examination each year on or before the date  
5 provided in regulations of the state board. Such annual budget  
6 shall be prepared in accordance with regulations prescribed by  
7 the state board and the provisions of s. 200.065. The annual  
8 budget submitted by each school board shall be consistent  
9 with, and contribute to, the implementation of a planned  
10 long-range school program for the district and required  
11 minimum classroom expenditure requirements pursuant to s.  
12 236.08102 and the General Appropriations Act.

13           Section 6. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 237.081,  
14 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (4) and (5),  
15 respectively, and a new subsection (3) is added to said  
16 section, to read:

17           237.081 Public hearings; budgets to be submitted to  
18 Department of Education.--

19           (3) The advertisement of a district that has been  
20 required by the Legislature to increase classroom expenditures  
21 pursuant to s. 236.08102 must include the following statement:  
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23 "This proposed budget reflects an increase in classroom  
24 expenditures as a percent of total current operating  
25 expenditures of XX percent over the (previous fiscal year)  
26 fiscal year. This increase in classroom expenditures is  
27 required by the Legislature because the district has performed  
28 below the required performance standard on XX of XX student  
29 performance standards for the (previous school year) school  
30 year. In order to achieve the legislatively required level of  
31 classroom expenditures as a percentage of total operating

1 expenditures, the proposed budget includes an increase in  
2 overall classroom expenditures of \$XX,XXX,XXX above the amount  
3 spent for this same purpose during the (previous fiscal year)  
4 fiscal year. In order to achieve improved student academic  
5 performance, this proposed increase is being budgeted for the  
6 following activities: (list activities and amounts budgeted)".

7 Section 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
8 law.

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11 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

12 Creates the "Dollars to the Classroom Act of 2001."  
13 Requires the designation and publication of district  
14 performance grades. Revises minimum requirements of the  
15 Florida Education Finance Program to include minimum  
16 classroom expenditure requirements and associated  
17 reporting. Authorizes the Legislature to require a school  
18 district that fails to meet minimum academic performance  
19 standards to meet district minimum classroom expenditure  
20 requirements. Requires monitoring and reports. Requires a  
21 district's annual budget to include provision for  
22 required minimum classroom expenditure requirements.  
23 Requires the advertisement of the tentative school  
24 district budget to include notice of minimum classroom  
25 expenditure requirements.  
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