

By the Council for Lifelong Learning and Representatives Farkas, Alexander, Richardson, Attkisson, Pickens, Detert, Justice, McGriff, Jordan, Mealor, Meadows, Melvin, Kilmer and Arza

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to educator professional  
3           liability insurance; creating s. 231.800, F.S.;  
4           providing legislative intent; requiring  
5           educator professional liability insurance  
6           coverage for all full-time instructional  
7           personnel; providing for specific  
8           appropriations in the General Appropriations  
9           Act; extending educator professional liability  
10          insurance coverage at cost to all part-time  
11          instructional personnel and administrative  
12          personnel; providing an effective date.

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14           WHEREAS, Article IX, section 1, of the State  
15          Constitution states that "The education of children is a  
16          fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida," and

17           WHEREAS, effective teachers directing orderly  
18          classrooms provide the key to the best public education the  
19          State of Florida can offer, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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23           Section 1.   Section 231.800, Florida Statutes, is  
24          created to read:

25           231.800 Florida educators professional liability  
26          insurance protection.--

27           (1) The Legislature intends that all the teachers in  
28          this state be protected from liability for monetary damages  
29          and the cost of defense of actions resulting from claims made  
30          against them arising out of occurrences in the course of  
31          activities in their professional capacity.

1           (2)(a) Beginning July 1, 2001, educator professional  
2 liability coverage for all instructional personnel, as defined  
3 by s. 228.041(9), who are full-time personnel, as defined by  
4 the district school board policy, shall be provided by  
5 specific appropriations under the General Appropriations Act.

6           (b) Beginning July 1, 2001, educator professional  
7 liability coverage shall be extended at cost to all  
8 instructional personnel, as defined by s. 228.041(9), who are  
9 part-time personnel, as defined by the district school board  
10 policy, and choose to participate in the state-provided  
11 program.

12           (c) Beginning July 1, 2001, educator professional  
13 liability coverage shall be extended at cost to all  
14 administrative personnel, as defined by s. 228.041(10), who  
15 choose to participate in the state-provided program.

16           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

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