

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; requiring competitive procurement of
13 any insurance carrier that provides
14 state-funded liability coverage; providing for
15 the reversion of certain funds; providing an
16 effective date.

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18 WHEREAS, Article IX, section 1, of the State
19 Constitution states that "The education of children is a
20 fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida," and

21 WHEREAS, effective teachers directing orderly
22 classrooms provide the key to the best public education the
23 State of Florida can offer, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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27 Section 1. Section 231.800, Florida Statutes, is
28 created to read:

29 231.800 Florida educators professional liability
30 insurance protection.--

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

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

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

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

21 (3) In implementing line item 138A of the 2001-2002
22 General Appropriations Act, the Department of Education shall
23 administer the educator liability program. The insurance
24 carrier providing any portion of educator professional
25 liability coverage under the program which is procured with
26 state funds must be selected by a competitive process. The
27 amount of the appropriation for purchase of liability
28 insurance remaining after liability insurance is provided
29 shall revert to General Revenue unallocated.

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

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