

By Representative Arza

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to pupil progression; amending
3 s. 232.245, F.S.; requiring student retention
4 when certain documented academic deficiencies
5 have not been corrected; revising criteria for
6 student retention based on reading deficiency
7 in the elementary school grades; deleting an
8 exemption; providing an effective date.

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

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12 Section 1. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 232.245,
13 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

14 232.245 Pupil progression; remedial instruction;
15 reporting requirements.--

16 (3) Each student must participate in the statewide
17 assessment tests required by s. 229.57. Each student who does
18 not meet specific levels of performance as determined by the
19 district school board in reading, writing, science, and
20 mathematics for each grade level, or who does not meet
21 specific levels of performance, determined by the Commissioner
22 of Education, on statewide assessments at selected grade
23 levels, must be provided with additional diagnostic
24 assessments to determine the nature of the student's
25 difficulty and areas of academic need. The school in which the
26 student is enrolled must develop, in consultation with the
27 student's parent or legal guardian, and must implement an
28 academic improvement plan designed to assist the student in
29 meeting state and district expectations for proficiency. Each
30 plan must include the provision of intensive remedial
31 instruction in the areas of weakness. Remedial instruction

1 provided during high school may not be in lieu of English and
2 mathematics credits required for graduation. Upon subsequent
3 evaluation, if the documented deficiency has not been
4 corrected in accordance with the academic improvement plan,
5 the student shall ~~may~~ be retained. Each student who does not
6 meet the minimum performance expectations defined by the
7 Commissioner of Education for the statewide assessment tests
8 in reading, writing, science, and mathematics must continue
9 remedial or supplemental instruction until the expectations
10 are met or the student graduates from high school or is not
11 subject to compulsory school attendance.

12 (4) Any student who exhibits substantial deficiency in
13 reading skills, based on locally determined assessments
14 conducted before the end of grade 1 or 2, or based on teacher
15 recommendation, must be given intensive reading instruction
16 immediately following the identification of the reading
17 deficiency. The student's reading proficiency must be
18 reassessed by locally determined assessment or based on
19 teacher recommendation at the beginning of the grade following
20 the intensive reading instruction, and the student must
21 continue to be given intensive reading instruction until the
22 reading deficiency is remedied. If the student's reading
23 deficiency, as determined by the locally determined assessment
24 at grades 1 and 2, ~~or by the statewide assessment at grade 3,~~
25 is not remedied by the end of grade 3 as demonstrated by
26 scoring at level 2 or higher ~~4, and if the student scores~~
27 ~~below the specific level of performance~~ on the statewide
28 assessment test in reading for grade 3, the student must be
29 retained. ~~The local school board may exempt a student from~~
30 ~~mandatory retention for good cause.~~

31 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

Revises provisions relating to student retention based on
academic performance.