

By Senator Villalobos

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to public education; creating
s. 236.6851, F.S.; providing for the analysis
of expenditure of funds and quality of service
for certain noninstructional services;
providing a cost-efficient alternative means to
secure services; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 236.6851, Florida Statutes, is
created to read:

236.6851 School service accountability act.--

(1) This section may be cited as the "School Service
Accountability Act."

(2) It is the purpose of this section to promote
effective and cost-efficient noninstructional services. The
Legislature believes that this effectiveness and cost
efficiency is best achieved when school districts analyze the
provision of services such as student transportation, food
services, and facilities operations and maintenance to find
the best balance between the costs associated with providing
these services and the quality of these services. When such
effectiveness and cost efficiency can be better achieved by
using private-sector providers, school districts should
contract with private-sector providers for these services. Any
resulting cost savings must be redirected to educational
services for students.

(3) Each district school board and superintendent of
schools shall periodically analyze the costs of providing
student transportation, food services, and facilities

1 operations and maintenance, as well as the level and quality
2 of each service. Based on this comparative analysis the
3 district school board shall issue requests for proposals for
4 the provision of such services. The form and substance of the
5 analysis and requests for proposal must be consistent with
6 that provided to the Department of Education by the Florida
7 School Boards Association and Florida TaxWatch. Annually, each
8 district school board shall conduct one such analysis, request
9 for proposal, or solicitation of bid in years 2002-2003,
10 2003-2004, and 2004-2005 for an individual noninstructional
11 service listed in this section. A district that currently
12 contracts with a private-sector vendor for any listed service
13 is not required to have an analysis of that service conducted
14 or to rebid that service and is exempt from this section with
15 respect to that service.

16 (4) School districts may form consortia for the
17 purpose of conducting such analysis and solicitation of bids
18 for a specific noninstructional service unless otherwise
19 prohibited by law.

20 (5) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any
21 cost savings realized by a district through the provision of
22 contracted noninstructional services shall be retained by the
23 district and be used for the improvement of educational
24 services for students. Use of cost savings earned in the
25 provision of food services is to be governed by federal
26 regulations.

27 (6) The district school board, at a regularly
28 scheduled board meeting, shall within 30 days after conclusion
29 of the bid process discuss and disclose the responses to the
30 request for proposal, including a comparison of the analysis
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- 1 required in subsection (3) with the results of the bid
2 process.
- 3 (7) The Department of Education shall provide
4 technical assistance to the districts in administering this
5 section.
- 6 (8) Annually, on January 1, all district school boards
7 shall report the results of the analysis under this section to
8 the Commissioner of Education. The report shall cover:
- 9 (a) New private contracts entered for the listed
10 noninstructional services.
- 11 (b) The anticipated cost savings associated with these
12 new contracts.
- 13 (c) The board-authorized use of the anticipated
14 savings.
- 15 (d) Actual cost savings and use of savings under prior
16 private contracts.

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

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20 SENATE SUMMARY

21 Creates the "School Service Accountability Act,"
22 requiring school districts to analyze the cost of
23 providing noninstructional school services such as
24 student transportation, food services, and facilities
25 operation and maintenance. Authorizes the use of
26 private-sector providers for those services and provides
27 for the application of cost savings. Requires the
28 Department of Education to provide technical assistance
29 to school boards. Provides for an annual report to the
30 Commissioner of Education.
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