



the Sunshine State Standards. Students must be able to read well in the early grades in order to succeed with the Sunshine State Standards.

To improve students' reading, the Department of Education has undertaken a reading initiative known as FLARE (Family Literacy and Reading Excellence). Over a 3-year period, the state has received \$26 million in federal funds to implement FLARE. In March 1999, the Commissioner of Education formed Florida's Reading and Family Literacy Partnership to provide leadership and statewide visibility for the reading initiative. The reading initiative informs teachers of important research findings, resources, and teaching strategies.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill requires each public elementary school to develop and implement a reading program that includes daily reading and literacy in kindergarten through grade 4. The amount of daily time to be spent on reading and literacy activities will be locally determined. The Department of Education must provide technical support to any public school that requests assistance to implement this requirement.

### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

#### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

#### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

#### **C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

### **V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**

#### **A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

#### **B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

#### **C. Government Sector Impact:**

None. The Department of Education currently provides the technical assistance required by the bill.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

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