

By the Committees on Appropriations; Education; and Senators Wasserman Schultz and Bullard

309-2691-04

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Florida Virtual School; amending s. 1002.37, F.S., relating to the Florida Virtual School; authorizing a pilot program to contract with a private virtual school in Florida; providing requirements relating to accreditation, curriculum, reporting, fees, and payment; requiring a report; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (8) is added to section 1002.37, Florida Statutes, to read:

1002.37 The Florida Virtual School.--

(8) The Florida Virtual School, on a pilot basis, may contract with a Florida-based private virtual school that is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and that is an approved franchise of the Florida Virtual School to provide instruction for up to 60 high school course credits in any fiscal year. The contract shall be limited to courses for students who need to enroll in a virtual course for high school credit that cannot be provided in a timely manner by the Florida Virtual School or by the public school district in which the student lives.

(a) Any such contract shall provide for at least the following:

1. The Florida Virtual School shall be responsible for ensuring that each course meets the same educational program requirements, including curriculum, instructional materials,

1 and instructor qualifications as if the course were provided
2 by the Florida Virtual School.

3 2. Each course provided under such contract shall be
4 reported to the Department of Education in the same manner and
5 with the same information as required for each course provided
6 by the Florida Virtual School. Each such course shall be
7 eligible for funding to be provided to the Florida Virtual
8 School in the same manner as for courses provided by the
9 Florida Virtual School.

10 3. The private provider may not charge a fee of any
11 kind for a course provided under contract with the Florida
12 Virtual School.

13 4. Payment to the private provider for such course
14 shall be based on successful course completion in the same
15 manner as courses provided by the Florida Virtual School and
16 the amount paid under the contract may not exceed the amount
17 the Florida Virtual School receives for same course.

18 5. The Florida Virtual School shall determine other
19 requirements that are necessary to support student outcomes,
20 to expand services not otherwise available, and to adequately
21 document the contract and the pilot.

22 (b) The Florida Virtual School shall report the
23 results of the pilot to the President of the Senate and the
24 Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than March 1
25 of each year in which the pilot is conducted.

26 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
27 law.

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
CS for SB 1458

- Authorizes the Florida Virtual School(FVS), on a pilot basis, to contract with a private Florida-based virtual school to provide instruction for up to 60 high school course credits in any fiscal year.
- Requires that any private virtual school party to a contract under the bill be accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and be an approved franchise of the FVS.
- Limits contracts between private virtual schools and the FVS to courses for students who need to enroll in a virtual course for high school credit that cannot be provided in a timely manner by the FVS or by the public school district in which the student lives.
- Provides other required provisions for the contracts authorized by the bill.
- Provide that each course provided under these contracts would be eligible for funding to the FVS in the same manner as for courses provided by the FVS.
- Requires the FVS to pay private school providers based on course completions.
- Prohibits private schools from charging a fee for the courses provided under the contract with the FVS.