

By Senator Posey

24-1672-04

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to public education; creating
 3 s. 1010.217, F.S.; providing legislative
 4 intent; requiring certain school boards to
 5 issue a request for information concerning
 6 school food services; creating a task force to
 7 create a cost-accounting report concerning
 8 school food services; providing for membership;
 9 providing for reports to the school districts,
 10 the Legislature, and the State Board of
 11 Education; requiring certain school districts
 12 to hold a public hearing concerning the
 13 administration of its food service program;
 14 providing an effective date.

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

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 18 Section 1. Section 1010.217, Florida Statutes, is
 19 created to read:

20 1010.217 School Food Services Accountability Act.--

21 (1) This section may be cited as the "School Food
 22 Services Accountability Act."

23 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature to promote
 24 effective and efficient noninstructional services at the
 25 lowest cost. It is further the intent of the Legislature that
 26 school food service programs be self-sufficient and not
 27 require financial support from funds that would otherwise be
 28 expended on student instruction. Accordingly, the Legislature
 29 believes that its intent is best served when school districts
 30 analyze the provision of such noninstructional services as
 31 school food services to determine the optimal balance between

1 the costs associated with providing such services and the
2 quality of the services provided. When this intent is better
3 served by private-sector providers, it is the intent of the
4 Legislature that school districts contract with such providers
5 for school food services.

6 (3) Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year, each
7 school district that has supplemented school food service
8 operations with revenues from its general fund for at least 2
9 school years in a 3-year period shall issue a request for
10 information to ascertain the availability and cost of
11 private-sector school food services. Any school district that
12 issues a request for information under this section shall
13 present responses to the request as compared with school food
14 services and costs associated with the provision of these
15 services by the school board.

16 (4) A task force is created and shall be composed of
17 the chief financial officer of the Department of Education and
18 one representative of each of the Florida Association of
19 District School Superintendents, the Florida School Boards
20 Association, the Florida Association of School Administrators,
21 Florida TaxWatch, and the private-sector school food service
22 industry, respectively. The industry representative shall be
23 appointed by the Executive Director of the Florida School
24 Boards Association. The task force shall be convened by the
25 chief financial officer of the Department of Education on or
26 before July 1, 2004, and annually thereafter. Members of the
27 task force are not eligible for travel or per diem under s.
28 112.061.

29 (5) The task force shall:
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1 (a) Create a cost-accounting format and report to be
2 used by all districts for determining the direct and indirect
3 costs of providing school food services.

4 (b) Create a cost-accounting format and report to be
5 used by all districts for comparing district school food
6 service costs with the corresponding costs if these services
7 were to be performed by a private-sector provider.

8 (c) Prepare an annual report to be submitted to the
9 Legislature and the State Board of Education by October 1 of
10 each year that delineates the school food service expenditures
11 in each school district, including a narrative description of
12 the extent to which school food services are self-supporting.
13 During the annual meeting the task force shall also adopt any
14 necessary modifications to the format and report used by
15 school districts.

16 (6) Each school district required to issue a request
17 for information under this section shall review the responses
18 to the request in a public hearing. The report presented to
19 the board shall include the total cost of providing food
20 services by the school district and by each private-sector
21 respondent to the request. In addition, the report shall
22 delineate each of the component costs, including indirect
23 costs, associated with the provision of school food services
24 by the school district and each of the private-sector
25 respondents. For the purposes of the report, indirect costs
26 include, but are not limited to, utilities, waste removal,
27 pest control, insurance, storage and distribution, printing,
28 administration of payroll, purchasing, human resources,
29 accounts payable, and accounts receivable. Based on this
30 report, the school district shall determine whether to issue a
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1 request for proposals to administer the district school food
2 service program based on the best interests of the district.

3 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
4 law.

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7 SENATE SUMMARY

8 Provides legislative intent regarding school food service
9 programs. Requires certain school boards to issue a
10 request for information for school food services. Creates
11 a task force to prepare an annual cost-accounting report
12 for school food services. Specifies certain information
13 to be contained in the annual report.
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