

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: Education Committee

BILL: CS/SB 2190

SPONSOR: Education Committee and Senator Wise

SUBJECT: Florida Virtual School

DATE: April 26, 2005

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Carrouth</u>	<u>O'Farrell</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>EA</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill amends several sections of statute that presently address and make reference to the Florida Virtual School (FLVS) to include identical provisions for those school district franchises approved by the Florida Virtual School's board of trustees. The bill would allow approved district franchises to generate funding through the FEFP for students completing credits during the summer, and to enroll students in programs scheduled beyond 180 days. The bill requires school districts to adopt procedures to notify parents and students when required credits for high school graduation have been met. The bill also caps franchise courses taken beyond the 25-hour week at no more than 2 percent of a district's high school enrollment.

This bill amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 11.45, 1000.04, 1001.42, 1002.20, 1002.23, 1002.37, 1003.02, 1003.03, 1003.52, 1007.27, and 1011.61.

II. Present Situation:

Section 1002.37, F.S. establishes the Florida Virtual School for development and delivery of on-line distance learning with priority given to students in areas with limited access to advanced courses and to those pursuing accelerated access to a high school diploma. The FLVS board of trustees, appointed by the Governor, has the authority to establish criteria for and approve district franchises based upon agreements with local school boards.

The Florida Virtual School is cited in various statutes to address authority, accountability, public information and parent involvement, receipt of accurate and timely education choice options, family and school partnerships to promote rigorous coursework, FTE calculations, acceleration

mechanisms, class size reduction, juvenile justice programs, articulated acceleration programs between secondary and postsecondary institutions, and calculations associated with the FEFP.

For FLVS funding purposes, a full-time equivalent student is defined as a student who has successfully completed six credits that count toward high school graduation. A student who completes less than six credits is considered a fraction of a full-time student. Credits completed by a student through the FLVS or an approved franchise in excess of the minimum required for high school graduation are not eligible for funding.

Currently, FEFP funding for the Florida Virtual School includes funding for students earning credits completed during the summer; however, this provision is not included for the district franchises presently approved by the FLVS. Additionally, membership in programs operating for more than 180 days is limited to students enrolled in juvenile justice programs and the FLVS and does not include membership beyond 180 days for students enrolled in district franchises of the FLVS.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill would amend the following statutes related to the FLVS to include district franchises approved by the FLVS board of trustees:

- Section 11.45, F.S., which provides authority for conducting audits.
- Section 1000.04(4), F.S., which provides for the components for the delivery of public education in the state.
- Section 1001.42(15)(a), F.S., which requires district school boards to adopt procedures to notify parents and the general public of educational opportunities available through the FLVS.
- Section 1001.42(21), F.S., which requires district school boards to provide students access to enroll in and receive credit for courses through the FLVS and to provide access during and after the normal school day, including through summer enrollment.
- Section 1002.20(6)(a), F.S., which requires that parents of public school students receive timely information regarding available education options (e.g. controlled open enrollment, IB, early admissions, etc.) to include the FLVS.
- Section 1002.23(2)(d) which requires that parents be given opportunities to learn about available rigorous academic programs such as AP, dual enrollment and FLVS courses.
- Section 1002.37(4), F.S. which provides that approved school district franchises may count full time FTE students as provided in 1002.37(3)(a). This currently speaks only to students earning FTE or a fraction thereof, but does not include credits completed during the summer. The bill amends this section to include students enrolled in district franchises during the summer to earn FTE credit through the FEFP.
- Section 1003.02(1)(i), F.S., which requires parental notification at the beginning of the school year of acceleration mechanisms that include the FLVS.
- Section 1003.03(3)(b), F.S., which requires district school boards to adopt policies to encourage enrollment in the FLVS as a mechanism to meet class size reductions.
- Section 1003.52(4), F.S. which requires that students in juvenile justice programs be provided access to coursework through the FLVS.

- Section 1007.27(1), F.S. which requires that articulated acceleration mechanisms be made available to secondary and postsecondary students to shorten degree completion time and provide enhanced curricular options.
- Section 1011.61(1)(c)2., F.S. which limits membership in programs scheduled for more than 180 days to students enrolled in juvenile justice programs and the FLVS.

The substantive effects of proposed changes are primarily financial in nature. FEFP funding would be available to approved district franchises for students earning credits completed during the summer. Additionally, membership in programs operating for more than 180 days would be expanded to include district franchises of the FLVS; however this would be capped at no more than 2 percent of the district's high school FTE. Parents and students would also be notified in writing once the student has completed all course requirements for high school graduation to eliminate the possibility of students taking excess courses through the franchise that are not required for graduation.

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:

The fiscal impact is indeterminate as there is no way to estimate how many students would opt to enroll in summer school courses offered through approved district franchises.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

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

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

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