

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to educational facilities; creating s.
 3 1013.441, F.S.; establishing the Green Schools Pilot
 4 Project to enable selected school districts to comply with
 5 certain building certification standards; providing for an
 6 application and selection process for participation in the
 7 pilot project; providing minimum requirements for
 8 participation; establishing the Green Schools Grant
 9 Program through which funds shall be made available to
 10 participating school districts; providing an appropriation
 11 and specifying that funds shall not revert; requiring
 12 reporting; providing an effective date.

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

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 16 Section 1. Section 1013.441, Florida Statutes, is created
 17 to read:

18 1013.441 Green Schools Pilot Project.--

19 (1) The Legislature recognizes that it is both cost
 20 effective and healthy for citizens and the environment to build
 21 schools that maximize low water usage and the use of energy
 22 efficiencies, renewable energy, and recycling technologies. As
 23 such, there is established the Green Schools Pilot Project to
 24 create a program for selected school districts to utilize
 25 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver-
 26 level or better building certification standards in new
 27 educational building construction projects and, where feasible,
 28 in educational building renovation projects.

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29 (2) LEED building certification standards are defined by
30 the U.S. Green Building Council and address the total impact
31 that new buildings have on the environment so as to maximize
32 their energy efficiency and to minimize their adverse
33 environmental impacts.

34 (3) The Department of Education in consultation with the
35 Florida Energy Office shall develop by August 1, 2007, an
36 application process for school districts to participate in the
37 pilot project. A maximum of three school districts shall be
38 selected by the State Board of Education by January 1, 2008, to
39 participate in the pilot project. One school district shall be
40 in a county with a population of 1 million or more residents;
41 one school district shall be in a county with a population of
42 250,000 to 999,999 residents; and one school district shall be
43 in a county with a population under 250,000 residents. School
44 districts selected to participate in the pilot project shall, to
45 the greatest extent possible, represent geographically different
46 regions of the state.

47 (4) At a minimum, each school district selected to
48 participate in the pilot project must build one complete school
49 to the LEED silver-level or better building certification
50 standards. Schools built to such building certification
51 standards shall be designated as "Green Schools."

52 (5) The Green Schools Grant Program is established in the
53 Department of Education through which funds appropriated by the
54 Legislature shall be allocated to school districts selected for
55 participation in the pilot project.

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56 (6) There is hereby appropriated from the General Revenue
57 Fund to the Department of Education for fiscal year 2007-2008
58 the sum of \$3.5 million to cover the additional costs of
59 building one elementary school, one middle school, and one high
60 school to the LEED silver-level or better building certification
61 standards. The Legislature may appropriate funds to cover
62 additional costs to meet the LEED silver-level or better
63 building certification standards for other school construction
64 projects of a participating school district. Notwithstanding s.
65 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, undisbursed balances of
66 appropriations for the Green Schools Grant Program shall not
67 revert to the General Revenue Fund but shall be retained by the
68 Department of Education to be used for the purposes of this
69 section.

70 (7) School districts selected for participation in the
71 pilot project shall deliver to the Governor, the President of
72 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a
73 report on the effects Green Schools have had on student
74 performance and health, operational costs, energy consumption,
75 and the environment. This report shall be submitted by July 1 of
76 the year after a Green School has been in full operation for a
77 period of 3 years.

78 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.