

The Florida Senate  
**HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY**

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BILL: CS/SB 2092  
INTRODUCER: Committee on Education Pre-K - 12 and Senator Deutch  
SUBJECT: Charter School Districts  
PREPARED BY: Senate Committee on Education Pre-K - 12  
DATE: May 3, 2007

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**I. Amendments Contained in Message:**

**House Amendment 1 – 709567 to CS/SB 2092 (body with title)**

**House Amendment 2 – 268789 to CS/SB 2092 (body with title)**

**II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:**

**House Amendment 1** implements the following revisions:

Department of Education Reorganization

The Division of Finance and Operations and the Division of Workforce Education are created. Previously, workforce education was under the jurisdiction of the Division of Community Colleges. Additionally, the Commissioner is authorized to organize and assign staff and functions in the Department of Education in a manner that meets legislative intent and promotes efficiency and accountability.

Elected Superintendent Salary

The salaries of elected district school superintendents are increased to match the salaries of sheriffs in the counties. The base salary schedule is revised to increase the salaries by approximately \$10,000.

School Board Member Salary

School board member salaries are revised in a manner that may result in some member salaries being reduced slightly and some increased slightly in the nature of several hundred dollars. Additionally, school boards would no longer vote on their salaries and pay increases would occur automatically without a public hearing.

Charter Schools

Good cause is restored as a requirement in law for a sponsor of a charter school to deny a charter application. Charter school must operate for at least three years, rather than two years, and demonstrate exemplary academic programming and fiscal management to get a 15-year charter renewal. The governing body of the charter school must participate in governance training approved by the Department of Education. Finally, charter schools are exempted from

assessments for special benefits. This provision applies retroactively to July 1, 1996. These assessments may be recurring, and depending on the magnitude may implicate unfunded mandate concerns. The provision is also silent on whether the special assessments would be required to be refunded, thereby potentially creating an unknown fiscal impact.

#### High School Graduation Requirements

Speech and debate is specifically referenced as meeting the one credit requirement in fine or performing arts. Additionally, the option to use participation in an interscholastic sport, marching band, dance, and Reserve Officer Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) may be used under certain circumstances to satisfy the physical education one-credit requirement. Participation in ROTC may also be used to satisfy the one-credit requirement of fine and performing arts under certain circumstances. Finally, the grade forgiveness and credit recovery provisions for high school and middle school students are revised to allow credit recovery and grade point revisions for certain students who receive a grade of “D” or “F” in an initial course and receive at least a “C” grade in the same or comparable course that is earned subsequently.

#### Juvenile Justice commitment facilities

Assessments of students sent directly to commitment facilities are revised to occur within the first 10 school days, rather than the week of, the student’s commitment. This provision is designed to ensure that a student’s assessment is not compromised by the stress created by the commitment to the facility.

#### Charter School Districts

The charter school district pilot program is extended until July 1, 2010, for Palm Beach, Hillsborough, Orange, and Volusia County. Without an extension, the pilot program would end in Palm Beach and Orange.

**House Amendment 2** amends the provisions of the newly created merit award program in s. 1012.225, F.S., to provide for payment to those outstanding performers who retired after qualifying for the award of a merit-based pay supplement.