Florida Senate - 2007

By Senator Wilson

33-1618A-07

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to teaching students in grades
3	1 through 3 in public elementary schools;
4	creating s. 1008.26, F.S.; requiring that
5	certain students who are enrolled in a public
6	elementary school and reading below grade level
7	be placed into an intensive reading lab;
8	specifying criteria for an intensive reading
9	lab; providing for oversight of the progress of
10	students assigned to a lab; encouraging the
11	principal of a school where reading labs are
12	required to ask for donations to secure
13	instructional materials; requiring a principal
14	of a public school where students in grades 1
15	through 3 are enrolled to create, by hiring or
16	training, a team of teachers for those grades
17	having expertise in specified areas; specifying
18	requirements concerning how to train certain
19	teachers to teach reading; requiring the
20	principal to assign teachers on the team for a
21	specified time to classes of students in grades
22	1 through 3; providing an effective date.
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24	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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26	Section 1. Section 1008.26, Florida Statutes, is
27	created to read:
28	1008.26 Reading by grade 4
29	(1) Each student who is entering kindergarten, first
30	grade, second grade, or third grade must be assessed as to his
31	or her proficiency in the subject of reading as defined by the
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1	Sunshine State Standards. Each student who is reading below
2	grade level must be placed into an intensive reading lab that:
3	<u>(a) Has a student-teacher ratio of not more than 5</u>
4	students per one full-time equivalent teacher.
5	(b) Is staffed at all times by a teacher who is
6	certified under s. 1012.56 and has expertise in the area of
7	teaching reading skills to students in kindergarten through
8	grade 3.
9	(c) Provides the student, for 2 hours each school day,
10	with tutoring and remediation so that the student learns to
11	read at grade level.
12	(2) Each student assigned to an intensive reading lab
13	must be reassessed in the middle and at the end of each school
14	year and if the student is reading at or above his or her
15	grade level, the student's assignment to the intensive reading
16	lab shall be terminated.
17	(3) The principal of each public school where an
18	intensive reading lab is required under subsection (1) is
19	encouraged to ask persons, particularly persons who may
20	qualify for an income tax deduction or credit under federal
21	tax law, to donate funds for the school to buy instructional
22	materials, such as books or computer technology or software,
23	for use by the students assigned to the lab, or to donate such
24	materials.
25	(4)(a) The principal of each public school in which
26	students in grades 1 through 3 are enrolled shall, by hiring
27	teachers or securing training for teachers already hired,
28	create a team of teachers for grades 1 through 3 which
29	includes a nearly equal distribution of teachers having
30	expertise in each of the following areas:
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1 Teaching reading to students in grades 1 through 3. 2 At least one-third of the team must have this expertise. 3 2. Teaching science and math to students in grades 1 4 through 3. 5 Teaching social science to students in grades 1 3. 6 through 3. 7 8 If training is required so that a teacher can develop expertise in the area of teaching reading to students in 9 10 grades 1 through 3, the training must be provided outside the regular school day. 11 12 (b) After July 1, 2009, the principal shall assign 13 teachers so that each school day at least one teacher in each of the areas of expertise described in paragraph (a) visits 14 and teaches for a minimum of 2 hours in the classroom of each 15 student enrolled in grades 1 through 3. Before July 1, 2009, 16 17 the principal is encouraged to make such assignments. 18 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007. 19 20 21 SENATE SUMMARY 22 Requires that certain students who are enrolled in a public elementary school and reading below grade level be 23 assigned to an intensive reading lab. Specifies criteria for the lab. Provides for oversight of the progress of 2.4 students assigned to a reading lab. Encourages principals of schools where reading labs are required to ask for 25 donations to secure instructional materials. Requires principals of public schools where students in grades 1 through 3 are enrolled to create, by hiring or training, 26 a team of teachers for those grades having expertise in 27 specified areas. Specifies requirements concerning the training of certain teachers to teach reading. Requires 28 the principal to assign teachers on the team for a specified time to classes of students in those grades. 29 30 31

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