

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Florida Teachers Lead Program
 3 Stipend; amending s. 1012.71, F.S.; extending the stipend
 4 to teachers of prekindergarten students, charter school
 5 teachers, and job-share classroom teachers; revising
 6 provisions relating to the calculation, deposit, and
 7 disbursement of stipend funds; revising definition of the
 8 term "classroom teacher" to conform; providing an
 9 effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. Section 1012.71, Florida Statutes, is amended
 14 to read:

15 1012.71 The Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend.--

16 (1) Funding for the Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend
 17 shall be as determined by the Legislature in the General
 18 Appropriations Act. Funds appropriated for the Florida Teachers
 19 Lead Program Stipend are provided to purchase classroom
 20 materials and supplies used in the instruction of students who
 21 are funded through the Florida Education Finance Program,
 22 including charter school students, in prekindergarten
 23 ~~kindergarten~~ through grade 12 of the public school system. From
 24 the funds appropriated, the Commissioner of Education shall
 25 calculate an amount for each school district by prorating the
 26 total of each school district's share of the total ~~K-12~~
 27 unweighted FTE student enrollment in prekindergarten through
 28 grade 12 that is funded through the Florida Education Finance

29 Program.

30 (2) From the funds allocated to each district, the
31 district school board shall calculate an identical amount for
32 each classroom teacher which is his or her proportionate share
33 of the amount allocated to the district for the total number of
34 classroom teachers in the district. A job-share classroom
35 teacher shall receive his or her prorated share of a regular
36 full-time classroom teacher's proportionate share of the
37 stipend. The district school board shall provide the funds no
38 later than September 30 of each year directly to each classroom
39 teacher or charter school for its classroom teachers as a
40 stipend to purchase, on behalf of the school district or charter
41 school, classroom materials and supplies to be used in the
42 instruction of students assigned to the teacher. Each classroom
43 teacher shall have sole discretion regarding which classroom
44 materials and supplies best meet the needs of the students, when
45 they are needed, and where they are acquired. The funds expended
46 by individual classroom teachers shall not be subject to state
47 or local competitive bidding requirements. Disbursement of
48 Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend funds directly to each
49 classroom teacher or charter school shall complete the school
50 district's expenditure of these funds, and disbursement of such
51 funds by the charter school to each charter school classroom
52 teacher shall complete the charter school's expenditure of these
53 funds.

54 (3) Each classroom teacher shall sign a statement
55 acknowledging receipt of the funds, agreeing to keep receipts to
56 show the expenditure of the funds used to purchase classroom

57 materials and supplies for use in the instruction of the
58 students assigned to them, and agreeing to return any unused
59 funds by the end of the regular school year. The statement to be
60 signed and dated by each classroom teacher for receipt of the
61 Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend shall include the wording:
62 "I, (Name of teacher) , am employed by the _____ County
63 District School Board or by the _____ Charter School as a
64 regular full-time or job-share classroom teacher. I acknowledge
65 that Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend funds are
66 appropriated by the Legislature for the sole purpose of
67 purchasing classroom materials and supplies to be used in the
68 instruction of students assigned to me. In accepting custody of
69 these funds, I agree to keep receipts for all expenditures. I
70 understand that if I do not keep receipts showing these funds
71 were spent to purchase classroom materials and supplies for use
72 with my students, it will be my personal responsibility to pay
73 any federal taxes due on these funds. I also agree to return any
74 unused funds to the district school board at the end of the
75 regular school year for deposit into the School Advisory Council
76 account of the school at which I was employed at the time of the
77 receipt of the funds or for deposit into the Florida Teachers
78 Lead Program account of the district in which the charter school
79 is sponsored, as applicable."

80 (4) Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend funds shall be
81 provided to each classroom teacher in addition to any other
82 funds appropriated for public school operations.

83 (5) Any unused funds which are returned to the district
84 school board shall be deposited into the School Advisory Council

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85 | account of the school at which the classroom teacher returning
86 | the funds was employed at the time of the receipt of the funds
87 | or into the Florida Teachers Lead Program account of the
88 | district in which the charter school is sponsored, as
89 | applicable.

90 | (6) For purposes of this section, the term "classroom
91 | teacher" includes certified teachers, and also includes charter
92 | school teachers, employed on or before September 1 of each year
93 | whose regular full-time or job-share ~~job~~ responsibility is the
94 | classroom instruction of students who are funded through the
95 | Florida Education Finance Program, including charter school
96 | students, in prekindergarten ~~kindergarten~~ through grade 12, and
97 | full-time media specialists and guidance counselors who serve
98 | such students. A job-share classroom teacher is a teacher who
99 | shares a full-time position with two or more other classroom
100 | teachers in kindergarten through grade 12. Only school district
101 | and charter school personnel employed in these positions are
102 | eligible for the classroom materials and supply stipend from
103 | funds appropriated to implement the provisions of this section.

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