

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to certification of public school
 3 educators; providing that teachers who complete certain
 4 inservice requirements for a reading endorsement shall
 5 receive credit towards an English for Speakers of Other
 6 Languages endorsement or certification; specifying
 7 inservice requirements; creating the Reading and English
 8 for Speakers of Others Languages Inservice Requirements
 9 Task Force; providing purpose and membership; requiring a
 10 report; providing for termination; providing effective
 11 dates.

12
 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14
 15 Section 1. Teachers who complete 300 inservice hours or
 16 the equivalent for a reading endorsement shall be credited with
 17 120 inservice hours towards their English for Speakers of Other
 18 Languages (ESOL) endorsement or certification. These teachers
 19 must complete 180 inservice hours of ESOL training to become
 20 ESOL endorsed or certified. The 180 inservice hours must include
 21 the following: 60 inservice hours of applied linguistics or
 22 documented completion of such training; 60 inservice hours of
 23 methods of teaching ESOL or documented completion of such
 24 training; and 60 inservice hours of practicum/demonstration of
 25 mastery or documented completion of such training. Documentation
 26 of these inservice requirements is subject to approval by the
 27 Department of Education.

28 Section 2. Reading and English for Speakers of Other

29 Languages (ESOL) Task Force.--

30 (1) Effective upon this act becoming a law, there is
31 created the Reading and English for Speakers of Other Languages
32 (ESOL) Inservice Requirements Task Force with the purpose of
33 studying existing statutory requirements and recommending policy
34 to strengthen their components. The task force shall be composed
35 of the following 14 members:

36 (a) The Commissioner of Education, or his or her designee,
37 who shall serve as chair.

38 (b) The Director of the Florida Center for Reading
39 Research.

40 (c) Three kindergarten through grade 12 teachers, one of
41 whom shall be certified in reading, one of whom shall be
42 certified in ESOL, and one of whom shall be certified in both
43 areas. One member shall be appointed each by the Governor, the
44 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
45 Representatives.

46 (d) Three district school superintendents, one each from a
47 small, a medium, and a large school district, to be appointed by
48 the Commissioner of Education.

49 (e) A representative from the Florida Association of
50 Bilingual and ESOL Supervisors.

51 (f) A representative from the Florida Education
52 Association.

53 (g) A representative from a college or university who has
54 knowledge of teacher preparation programs for reading and ESOL.

55 (h) A representative from the Florida Association for
56 Staff Development.

57 (i) A representative from the Florida Organization of
58 Instructional Leaders.

59 (j) A representative of a statewide group that represents
60 students with disabilities.

61 (2) The members of the task force shall be appointed by
62 July 1, 2008, and shall convene the initial meeting of the task
63 force by September 1, 2008.

64 (3) The task force is assigned to the Department of
65 Education for administrative purposes. Members of the task force
66 shall serve without compensation but are entitled to per diem
67 and travel expenses under s. 112.061, Florida Statutes. Members
68 of the task force are subject to the Code of Ethics for Public
69 Officers and Employees under part III of chapter 112, Florida
70 Statutes.

71 (4) By February 1, 2009, the task force shall submit a
72 report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
73 Speaker of the House of Representatives that includes, but is
74 not limited to, information and recommendations regarding the
75 inservice requirements for reading and ESOL teachers in the
76 state.

77 (5) Upon delivery of its final report and recommendations,
78 the task force is abolished.

79 Section 3. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
80 act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2008.