

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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1 Representative Bucher offered the following:

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3 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

4 Remove lines 108-184 and insert:

5 (a) Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, each school
6 district in the state may offer a K-8 Virtual School Program
7 that serves students residing within the district's attendance
8 area. The purpose of the program is to make academic instruction
9 available to full-time students in kindergarten through grade 8
10 using online and distance learning technology.

11 (b) Each school district's program may consist of one or
12 more schools operated by the district or by contracted providers
13 approved by the department under subsection (2). School
14 districts may participate in multi-district contractual
15 arrangements, which may include contracts executed by a regional

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16 consortium for its member districts, for provision of the
17 schools.

18 (c) Each K-8 virtual school operated or contracted under
19 this section must have a sufficient number of students enrolled
20 in each grade to permit a school grade to be assigned to the
21 school pursuant to s. 1008.34 and State Board of Education rule.

22 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a
23 school district shall be in compliance with the requirements of
24 this section for students in grades 6 through 8 if it offers a
25 full-time, 180-day program of online academic instruction to
26 such students pursuant to a franchise agreement with the Florida
27 Virtual School under s. 1002.37. Such school district must still
28 comply with the requirements of this section for students in
29 kindergarten through grade 5.

30 (2) PROVIDER QUALIFICATIONS.--On or before March 1, 2009,
31 and annually thereafter, the department shall provide school
32 districts with a list of providers approved to contract with one
33 or more school districts or regional consortia for the operation
34 of one or more K-8 virtual schools. To be approved by the
35 department, each provider must annually document that it:

36 (a) Is nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies,
37 employment practices, and operations.

38 (b) Complies with the antidiscrimination provisions of s.
39 1000.05.

40 (c) Locates its administrative office in this state and
41 requires its administrative and instructional staff members to
42 be state residents.

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43 (d) Possesses prior, successful experience offering online
44 courses to elementary, middle, or high school students.

45 (e) Is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the
46 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Middle States
47 Association of Colleges and Schools, the North Central
48 Association of Colleges and Schools, the New England Association
49 of Schools and Colleges, or the Commission on International and
50 Trans-Regional Accreditation.

51 (f) Is capable of complying with all requirements for a K-
52 8 virtual school under this section.

53 (3) PROGRAM APPROVAL.--Each school district that chooses
54 to offer a K-8 Virtual School Program shall submit a description
55 of its proposed 2009-2010 K-8 Virtual School Program to the
56 department in a manner and by a deadline prescribed by the
57 department. Students may not be enrolled in the program until it
58 is approved by the department.

59 (4) K-8 VIRTUAL SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS.--Each K-8 virtual
60 school operated or contracted by a school district or regional
61 consortium must:

62 (a) Require all members of the school's instructional
63 staff to be certified professional educators under the
64 provisions of chapter 1012.

65 (b) Conduct background screening of all of the school's
66 employees as required by s. 1012.32.

67 (c) Align its curriculum and course content to the
68 Sunshine State Standards under s. 1003.41.

69 (d) Offer an online program of instruction that is full
70 time and of 180 days' duration.

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- 71 (e) Provide each student enrolled in the virtual school
72 with:
73 1. All necessary instructional materials.
74 2. All equipment, including, but not limited to, a
75 computer, computer monitor, and printer for each household that
76 has a student enrolled in the virtual school.
77 3. Access to or reimbursement for all Internet services
78 necessary for online delivery of instruction for each household
79 that has a student enrolled in the virtual school.
80 (f) Not require tuition or student registration fees.
81 (5) PROGRAM CAPACITY; ENROLLMENT.--
82 (a) Each school district that chooses to offer a K-8
83 Virtual School Program must

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86 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

87 Remove lines 7-11 and insert:
88 school district K-8 Virtual School Program; authorizing school
89 districts to offer a K-8 Virtual School Program; authorizing the
90 provision of specified online