

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Education Pre-K - 12 Committee

BILL: CS/SB 1914

INTRODUCER: Education Pre-K - 12 Committee and Senator Detert

SUBJECT: School District Paperwork Reduction

DATE: March 26, 2009

REVISED: _____

| ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION |
|-------------|----------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1. Carrouth | Matthews | ED | Fav/CS |
| 2. _____ | _____ | EA | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ | WPSC | _____ |
| 4. _____ | _____ | RC | _____ |
| 5. _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 6. _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Please see Section VIII. for Additional Information:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| A. COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE..... | <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> | Statement of Substantial Changes |
| B. AMENDMENTS..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Technical amendments were recommended |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Amendments were recommended |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Significant amendments were recommended |

I. Summary:

The bill deletes the requirement for school districts to designate a teacher to serve as a district representative to recommend methods to reduce paperwork and reporting burdens.

The Commissioner of Education would review data and paperwork reporting required of the school districts and recommend to districts whenever feasible the elimination or consolidation of reporting requirements.

This bill substantially amends sections 1001.42 and 1008.31 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

The 2005 Legislature created the Paper Reduction Task Force¹ to recommend ways to minimize the paperwork burden placed on school districts. The Paper Reduction Task Force met three

¹ ch. 2005-31, L.O.F. The task force consisted of the Commissioner of Education, three members appointed by the President of the Senate, three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, three individuals appointed by the Governor, and three teachers appointed by the Commissioner of Education.

times, solicited input from educators, and collaborated to develop recommendations, two of which included:

- Requiring school districts to establish a task force to reduce the paper and electronic reporting requirements that affect school districts; and
- Requiring the DOE to review the annual reports and progress of each school district task force and, based on such information, provide its recommendations to school districts for the reduction, elimination, revision, or consolidation of paper and electronic reporting requirements.²

As a result of the Task Force recommendations, the 2006 Legislature enacted several recommendations of the task force, including the appointment of a classroom teacher to speak on behalf of paper and data reduction at the district level.³ However, implementation of those provisions has become cumbersome and may in fact result in additional paperwork burdens.⁴

In an effort to effectively address the paperwork and reporting burdens of the school districts, the Commissioner of Education has initiated a process for the continual review of data collection and reporting required of the districts with a focus on eliminating or consolidating reporting burdens or duplication of data collection. Additionally, the Department of Education will provide specific reporting information and assistance to school district so that reports and data collection activities can be streamlined, consolidated, and eliminated when possible.⁵

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill deletes the requirement for school districts to designate a teacher to serve as a district representative to gather input from colleagues and recommend methods to reduce paperwork and data reporting burdens.

Under the bill, the Commissioner of Education would review data and paperwork reporting by the school districts and recommend to districts specific data collection and reports which can be eliminated or consolidated.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

² Report on the Recommendations of the Paper Reduction Task Force, February 2006, readable at: http://www.fldoe.org/paperreduction/pdfs/PRTF_Report.pdf

³ ch. 2006-74, L.O.F.

⁴ Meeting of paperwork reduction internal review members, Department of Education, March 23, 2009.

⁵ Eligibility for certain state and federal funding is contingent upon collection of school and district reports and data currently required at the state level.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

School districts could see a reduction in personnel hours if data collection and reporting activities were consolidated or eliminated.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Education Pre-K-12 on March 26, 2009:

The committee substitute:

- Deletes the requirement for school districts to designate a teacher to serve as a district representative to gather input from colleagues and recommend methods to reduce paperwork and data reporting burdens.
- Requires the Commissioner of Education to review data and paperwork reporting by the school districts and recommend to districts specific data collection and reports which can be eliminated or consolidated.

B. Amendments:

None.