

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: SB 2172

INTRODUCER: Committee on Education Pre-K - 12

SUBJECT: District School Board Members

DATE: April 6, 2011 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Brown	Matthews	ED	Unfavorable
2.			BC	
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

This bill caps district school board member compensation at a \$100 stipend per school board meeting and clarifies that this amount is not to be considered for retirement purposes. Total annual stipend for meetings for each school board member is limited to \$2400. Travel reimbursement would still be authorized.

This bill substantially amends sections 145.19, 1001.39 and 1001.395, of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

School Board Member Salary Calculations in Florida

School board members are paid through a formula that is based upon the county population of the district in which the member serves, as calculated in the following table:

Population Group	County Population Range (CPR) Minimum	CPR Maximum	Base Salary	Group Rate
I	0	9,999	\$5,000	\$0.08330
II	10,000	49,999	5,833	0.020830
III	50,000	99,999	6,666	0.016680
IV	100,000	199,999	7,500	0.008330
V	200,000	399,999	8,333	0.004165
VI	400,000	999,999	9,166	0.001390
VII	1,000,000		10,000	0.000000

As is reflected in the table, as the county population and correlating base salary increases, the group rate decreases.¹ Still, this generally means that larger districts provide larger salaries.

Florida law provides for base salaries to be annually adjusted based on a variety of factors.² For fiscal year 2010-2011 only, however, school board member salaries remain at either the base salary or are the district's beginning salary for a teacher with a baccalaureate degree, whichever is less, such that the annual increase authorized in s. 145.19, F.S., does not apply.³

For 2008-2009, the average salary of a school board member statewide was \$31,619, and for 2009-2010, the salary dropped to \$30,850. For 2009-2010, salaries in the state ranged from a low of \$22,300 in Liberty County to \$39,000 in Broward County for school board members.⁴

School Board Member Salaries in Other States

Through a survey commissioned by the National School Boards Association (NSBA), two-thirds of the 759 school board members who responded nationally indicated that they receive no salary for their service to the board. Almost 10 percent responded that they earn less than \$2,000 annually. Just 20 percent stated that they receive \$2,000 or more annually, and only 3.4 percent are paid \$10,000 or more. As provided above, no district in Florida paid their members less than \$20,000 annually in the past two fiscal years. Although approximately 20 percent of NSBA study participants indicated that they also receive a per-meeting stipend in addition to salary, of those that indicated that they receive stipends, it amounts to a median of just \$63 per meeting.⁵

A state-by-state legislative survey conducted originally by NSBA in 2001 and updated in 2007 revealed that a full 32 state legislatures do not authorize payment of any salary for school board member service. Only Florida is classified in the survey as a state in which school board members are paid as elected officials. A handful of states legislate the provision of health insurance or provide the opportunity to purchase group health insurance through the district. Seven states are not permitted expense reimbursement. The availability of stipends varies widely and is not capable of being reported in a meaningful fashion. Notably, even in one of the highest-cost-of-living areas of the country, New York City, board members earned just \$15,000 in 2007. The NSBA compiled the information from 45 states, with the remaining not addressing (permitting or prohibiting) school board member salaries, stipends, or reimbursements in law.⁶

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The cap of a \$100 stipend per school board meeting, at a maximum basis of \$2400 per year, would constitute the entire salary and compensation of a school board member, other than travel expense reimbursement. This represents a marked departure from the current salary of school

¹ s. 1001.395(1), F.S.

² s. 145.19, F.S.

³ s. 1001.395(3), F.S.

⁴ *Average Salaries for Selected Positions in Districts 1-67, 2008-09 and 2009-10*, 2009-10 Survey 3 data, February 8-12, 2010, as of August 13, 2010; *Average Salaries for Selected District-level Administrative Staff, 2009-10*, 2009-10 Survey 3 data, February 8-12, 2010, as of August 13, 2010.

⁵ Frederick M. Hess, National School Boards Association, *School Boards at the Dawn of the 21st Century* (pgs. 20-21, 2002).

⁶ *State Board Member Compensation*, NSBA (June 2007).

board members, although it appears to be a move towards greater consistency with the manner in which school board members serve in other states.

Travel expense reimbursement would be expected to be minimal as it is anticipated that most, if not all, meetings are sited in the district.

This bill takes effect July 1, 2011, with provisions to apply to district school board members elected or reelected in the general election of 2012 and after.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

This bill would have a positive fiscal impact on revenue as it would represent a significant reduction in costs currently expended on school board member salaries across the state. According to the Department of Education, for fiscal year 2009-2010, Florida school districts spent almost \$10.9 million in school board member salaries. If meetings were held twice a month in every district, the \$100 stipend per meeting would equate to a total cost of \$900,000 on an annual basis. Subtracting this from the current amount spent on salaries represents a savings of \$10 million.

This bill would equalize school board member pay, through the adoption of a stipend per meeting, across all districts.

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.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
