

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 1033 Public School Classroom Teachers

SPONSOR(S): Choice & Innovation Subcommittee, Fresen

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Choice & Innovation Subcommittee	13 Y, 0 N, As CS	Ammel	Fudge
2) Appropriations Committee	25 Y, 0 N	Heflin	Leznoff
3) Education Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill renames the Florida Teachers Lead Program to The Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program and allows districts flexibility in distributing funds to eligible teachers each year. If a debit card is the mode of distribution, it requires a specific identifier on the front of the debit card. It encourages the Department of Education and district school boards to enter into public-private partnerships in order to generate more funds for the assistance program.

This bill has no fiscal impact on state or local governments.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2013.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

The Florida Teachers Lead Program was established in 1997 to provide eligible classroom teachers with funds to assist teaching and learning in the classroom.¹ The funds are allocated in the General Appropriations Act and may be used to purchase classroom materials and supplies to supplement those otherwise available to classroom teachers. The amount available to each teacher was \$250 for the 1998 school year. Funds may not be used to purchase equipment.² Districts must distribute funds to their classroom teachers by September 30 each year, using any means determined appropriate by the district school board, including, but not limited to, direct deposit, check, debit card, or purchasing card.³ In a recent survey conducted by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents, 2 of the 38 districts that responded indicated that they only used debit cards for their teachers who did not have bank accounts.⁴

Teachers must sign a statement acknowledging receipt of the funds, keep receipts for no less than 4 years to demonstrate compliance with expenditure requirements, and return any unused funds to the district school board at the end of the school year. Funds returned to the district shall be deposited into the school advisory council account of the school at which the classroom teacher returning the funds was employed when the teacher received the funds or deposited into the Florida Teachers Lead Program account of the school district in which a charter school is sponsored, as applicable.⁵

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill renames the Florida Teachers Lead Program to The Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program and continues to allow districts flexibility in distributing funds to teachers. If debit cards are used, the debit cards must have an identifier on the front indicating the card has been issued specifically for this program. It encourages the Department of Education and school districts to enter into public-private partnerships in an effort to generate more funds for the program and removes an obsolete provision in the statute referencing a pilot program to determine the feasibility of managing the program through a centralized electronic system. No districts volunteered to participate in the pilot program.⁶

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 1012.71, F.S., renaming The Florida Teachers Lead Program to the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program; requiring an identifier on debit cards indicating the program for which they are issued; encouraging public-private partnerships to generate additional funds for the program; and deleting an obsolete provision.

Section 2. Amends s. 1012.05, F.S., to conform to the new program name.

Section 3. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2013.

¹ Section 18, ch. 97-384, L.O.F.

² Section 1012.71(2), F.S.

³ Section 1012.71(3), F.S.

⁴ Email, Florida Association of District School Superintendents (Feb. 26, 2013).

⁵ Section 1012.17(4), F.S.

⁶ Email, Florida Department of Education, Office of Funding and Financial Reporting (March 6, 2013).

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not Applicable. This bill does not appear to affect county or municipal governments.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On March 12, 2013, the Choice & Innovation Subcommittee reported the proposed committee substitute to HB 1033 favorably as a committee substitute. The proposed committee substitute reinstated all dissemination options for districts to allow them more flexibility and to minimize costs associated with instituting debit cards. This analysis is drafted to the committee substitute as passed by the Choice & Innovation Subcommittee.