THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE



Don Gaetz President of the Senate



Will Weatherford Speaker of the House of Representatives

May 1, 2013

The Honorable Don Gaetz President of the Senate

The Honorable Will Weatherford Speaker, House of Representatives

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

Your Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes of the two houses on SB 1514, 1st Eng., same being:

An act relating to education funding.

having met, and after full and free conference, do recommend to their respective houses as follows:

- 1. That the House of Representatives recede from its Amendment 319973.
- 2. That the Senate and House of Representatives adopt the Conference Committee Amendment attached hereto, and by reference made a part of this report.

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The Conference Committee Amendment for SB 1514, 1st Eng., relating to education funding, provides for the following:

- Authorizes school districts and virtual charter schools to provide virtual courses for a student in the summer for course completion when the student does not complete the virtual course by the end of the regular school year.
- Authorizes school districts and virtual charter schools to provide virtual courses for a student in the summer for credit recovery when a student has unsuccessfully completed a traditional or virtual education course during the regular school year and must re-take the course in order to be eligible to graduate with the student's class.
- Limits credits earned through the Florida Virtual School (FLVS) to 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE).
- Requires FLVS trustees to provide information for activities within the state, outside the state, and for Florida Virtual School Global.
- Allows full-time and part-time school district virtual instruction programs.
- Removes limitations to students taking virtual courses in another school district.
- Limits school districts from requiring a student to take a course outside the school day that is in addition to the student's courses for a given term or on school grounds.
- Requires the maximum value for funding a student shall be as calculated by the Department of Education (DOE).
- Requires that if the sum of courses taken by a student is greater than 1.0, the membership value shall be equally distributed to all entities providing instruction so that the student's total FTE is equal to 1.0.
- Requires school districts and the FLVS to use a common student identifier to ensure that funding and FTE can be accurately distributed to all providers of student instruction and authorizes the State Board of Education to adopt rules for this provision.
- Provides that courses delivered by the Florida Virtual School on a public school campus shall be reported only by the school district in which the student is enrolled.
- Clarifies the role and responsibility of the Florida Virtual Campus to provide online academic support services, resources, and access to distance learning courses offered by the state's public postsecondary education institutions.
- Clarifies student eligibility and funding from non-education sources for the College Preparatory Boarding Academy Pilot Program authorized in s. 1002.3305, F.S.
- Makes a technical adjustment to the reporting sequence of FTE for students enrolled in career education in grades 9-12 for accuracy and funding.
- From the funds for Supplemental Academic Instruction (SAI) and Reading allocations, extends the requirement of providing an additional hour of intensive reading instruction daily for students enrolled in the 100 lowest performing elementary schools for a third year, 2014-2015.
- Approves the 2012-2013 Class Size alternate calculation required by s. 1003.03(4), F.S., in lieu of approval by the Legislative Budget Commission.
- Require public schools to pay tuition costs from district Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) appropriations to compensate colleges and universities for dually enrolled FTE.
- Repeals the state satellite network and transfers duties and responsibilities of the satellite transponder from the DOE to WFSU.

SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ACTION (continued)

May 1, 2013

- Requires the department to publish by October 1, 2013 minimum and recommended technology requirements necessary for students to access electronic and digital instructional materials.
- Terminates the Sophomore Level Test Trust Fund relating to the College-Level Academic Skills Test.
- Renames Knott Data Center Working Capital Trust Fund to Education Working Capital Trust Fund and restates/revises the purpose.
- Continues the \$200,000 cap on state funds that may be expended for the remuneration of college and university presidents and administrative employees.
- Revises the name of Brevard Community College to Eastern Florida State College.
- Authorizes universities to enter into local development agreements with affected local governments for the purpose of negotiating mitigation of the impact of a university construction project on the local government.
- Authorizes a university board of trustees to expend reserve funds or carry forward balances from previous years' operational and programmatic appropriations for deferred maintenance needs at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.
- Notwithstanding the school district allocations for Technology Transformation Grants for Rural School Districts provided in Specific Appropriation 102A in Senate Bill 1500, the allocations shall be recalculated by the Commissioner of Education based on each eligible entity's proportionate share of unweighted FTE by July 15, 2013.
- Notwithstanding the proviso following Specific Appropriation 87 in Senate Bill 1500 concerning the teacher salary increase to provide flexibility for the distribution date.
- Changes the date for the Tuition Differential Report required in s. 1009.24(16)(e), F.S., from January 1 to February 1.