

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FINAL BILL ANALYSIS**

BILL #:	CS/CS/HB 801	FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:	
SPONSOR(S):	Education Committee, Education Appropriations Committee, Eagle and others	114 Y's	0 N's
COMPANION BILLS:	(CS/SB 154)	GOVERNOR'S ACTION:	Approved

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

CS/CS/HB 801 passed the House on April 29, 2013, and subsequently passed the Senate on the same date. The bill substitutes "certified school counselor" for the term "guidance counselor" to reflect current law requiring persons employed as school counselors to be certified.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact associated with this bill.

The bill was approved by the Governor on May 30, 2013, ch. 2013-89, L.O.F., and will become effective on July 1, 2013.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

School Counselors

Present Situation

School counselors play a significant role in school guidance and counseling programs, which are designed to promote student success through a focus on academic achievement, prevention, intervention, and advocacy.¹ They evaluate students and participate in decisions relating to the promotion, remediation, and retention of students. Effective school guidance counselors work with school administrators, faculty, students, parents, and members of the community to plan, implement, and evaluate comprehensive guidance and counseling programs. In advising students, counselors identify needs, define priorities, and determine appropriate objectives. They also determine the personnel, physical resources, programs, and activities required to best serve the student.²

School counselors are considered instructional personnel within Florida's public school system.³ To be employed as a school counselor, a person must be certified as required by law and State Board of Education (SBE) rule.⁴ To be certified in guidance and counseling, a person must hold a master's or higher degree with a graduate major in guidance and counseling or counselor education or a master's or higher degree with 30 semester hours of graduate credit in specified guidance and counseling courses.⁵

The table below indicates the number of school counselors in the Florida public school system for the year 2010-2011:

Florida School Counselors by Area					
Elementary	Middle/Jr.	Senior High	Other Type School	Career Specialist	TOTAL
1,751	1,134	2,005	433	100	5,423

Effect of Proposed Changes

This bill rephrases within the Florida Statutes the term "guidance counselor" to read "certified school counselor." This change reflects the current requirement that persons employed as school counselors hold a certificate in guidance and counseling as provided by law and SBE rule.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

¹ Florida Department of Education, Division of Workforce Development, *Florida's School Counseling and Guidance Framework: A comprehensive Student Development Model* (2001), available at <http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/pdf/guidance.pdf> (last visited March 12, 2013).

² *Id.*

³ Section 1012.01(2)(b), F.S.

⁴ Section 1012.55(1), F.S.; Rule 6A-4.0181, F.A.C.

⁵ Rule 6A-4.0181, F.A.C.

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:

This bill has no anticipated fiscal impact.