

By Senator Soto

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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to classroom materials; amending s.
 3 1012.71, F.S.; requiring district school boards to
 4 give classroom teachers debit cards that are funded
 5 through the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply
 6 Assistance Program to purchase materials and supplies
 7 before the start of the school year; providing an
 8 effective date.

10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

12 Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 1012.71, Florida
 13 Statutes, is amended to read:

14 1012.71 The Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance
 15 Program.—

16 (3) From the funds allocated to each school district and
 17 any funds received from local contributions for the Florida
 18 Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program, each ~~the~~ district
 19 school board shall issue each classroom teacher a debit card to
 20 purchase materials and supplies.

21 (a) The debit card shall be in the following amounts:

22 1. For a classroom teacher at an elementary school, at
 23 least \$250;

24 2. For a classroom teacher at a middle school, at least
 25 \$500; or

26 3. For a classroom teacher at a high school, at least \$750
 27 ~~calculate an identical amount for each classroom teacher, which~~
 28 ~~is that teacher's proportionate share of the total amount~~
 29 ~~allocated to the district from state funds and funds received~~

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30 ~~from local contributions.~~

31 (b) If additional funding is available, a district school
32 board may, at any time during the school year, provide
33 additional funds on a debit card above the minimum amounts in
34 paragraph (a).

35 (c) A job-share classroom teacher may receive a debit card
36 that has a prorated share of the amount provided to a full-time
37 classroom teacher.

38 (d) The district school board and each charter school board
39 shall provide each classroom teacher with a debit card 2 weeks
40 before the start of the school year his or her total
41 proportionate share by September 30 of each year by any means
42 determined appropriate by the district school board or charter
43 school board, including, but not limited to, direct deposit,
44 check, debit card, or purchasing card. If a debit card is used,
45 An identifier must be placed on the front of the debit card
46 which clearly indicates that the card has been issued for the
47 Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program.

48 (e) Expenditures under the program are not subject to state
49 or local competitive bidding requirements. Funds received by a
50 classroom teacher do not affect wages, hours, or terms and
51 conditions of employment and, therefore, are not subject to
52 collective bargaining. Any classroom teacher may decline receipt
53 of or return the funds without explanation or cause.

54 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.