

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 337 Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program

SPONSOR(S): K-12 Subcommittee; Fresen

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 886

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) K-12 Subcommittee	11 Y, 0 N, As CS	Brink	Ahearn
2) Appropriations Committee	23 Y, 0 N	Heflin	Leznoff
3) Education Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program (Program) provides funding for teachers to purchase supplies and materials for their classrooms.

The bill requires school districts to estimate by July 1 each year the number of classroom teachers expected to be employed by the district or a charter school in the district, and thus eligible to receive funds through the Program, on September 1.

The bill establishes an earlier, optional date by which Program funds may be disbursed to classroom teachers depending on when the teachers are determined to be eligible by the school district. The district may distribute by August 1 proportionate shares of Program funds to classroom teachers determined to be eligible as of July 1. For teachers who are determined eligible after July 1, or if the district elects not to disburse funds by August 1, the proportionate shares of Program funds must be disbursed by September 30.

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

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2014.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

The Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program (Program), previously known as the Florida Teachers Lead Program,¹ was established in 1997 to provide eligible classroom teachers with funds to purchase classroom materials and supplies to supplement materials and supplies otherwise available to the teachers.² The funds are set annually by the General Appropriations Act and disbursed to each district by the Commissioner of Education based on each district's proportionate share of the state's total unweighted FTE student enrollment.³ Program funds may not be used to purchase equipment.⁴

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.⁵ The funds must be distributed in identically proportionate shares to each teacher, as determined by the district school board or charter school board.⁶ If debit cards are used, the cards must have an identifier on the front indicating the card has been issued specifically for this program.⁷

Teachers must sign a statement acknowledging receipt of the funds, keep receipts for no less than four 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 must be deposited into the school advisory council account of the school at which the classroom teacher was employed when the teacher received the funds or, in the case of a charter school, deposited into the district's Program account of the school district in which the charter school is sponsored.⁸ The 2013-2014 General Appropriations Act appropriated \$45,286,750 to be disbursed through the Program.⁹

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill requires school districts to estimate by July 1 each year the number of classroom teachers that will be employed by the district or a charter school in the district, and thus eligible to receive Program funds, on September 1. If, as of July 1, a classroom teacher is estimated to be employed on September 1, the district may provide the teacher his or her proportionate share by August 1 of that year. For teachers who are determined eligible by the district after July 1, or if the district elects not to disburse funds by August 1, the proportionate shares of Program funds must be disbursed by September 30.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 1012.71, revising the date for program funding distribution.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2013.

¹ The program was renamed in 2013 under SB 1664, s. 10, ch. 2013-185, L.O.F.

² Section 18, ch. 97-384, L.O.F.

³ Section 1012.71(2), F.S.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Section 1012.71(3), F.S.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Section 1012.17(4), F.S.

⁹ Specific Appropriations 7 and 87, s. 2, ch. 2013-40, L.O.F.

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 January 14, 2014, the K-12 Subcommittee adopted one amendment to HB 337 and reported the bill favorably as a committee substitute. The amendment removes the requirement that districts disburse Program funds by August 1 to teachers determined to be eligible as of July 1 and instead provides districts the option of the earlier disbursement.