

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FINAL BILL ANALYSIS**

BILL #: CS/HB 337

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:

SPONSOR(S): K-12 Subcommittee; Fresen

115 Y's

0 N's

**COMPANION
BILLS:** SB 886

GOVERNOR'S ACTION: Approved

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

CS/HB 337 passed the House on April 22, 2014, and subsequently passed the Senate on April 30, 2014. The bill amends provisions relating to the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program, which provides funding for teachers to purchase supplies and materials for their classrooms.

Current law requires school districts to disburse proportionate shares of program funds to teachers by September 30 each year. The bill requires school districts to estimate each year the number of classroom teachers that will be employed by the district or a charter school in the district on September 1. If, by July 1, the district determines the number of classroom teachers, then the district and each charter school board may provide each teacher his or her proportionate share of program funds by August 1 of that year. All eligible teachers must be provided their proportionate share by no later than September 30.

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

The bill was approved by the Governor on May 12, 2014, ch. 2014-31, L.O.F., and will become effective on July 1, 2014.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF 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 each year the number of classroom teachers that will be employed by the district or a charter school in the district on September 1. If, by July 1, the district determines the number of classroom teachers, then the district and each charter school board may provide each teacher his or her proportionate share of program funds by August 1 of that year. All eligible teachers must be provided their proportionate share by no later than September 30.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

¹ The program was renamed in 2013 by CS/CS/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.

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.