

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Appropriations

BILL: CS/CS/SB 790

INTRODUCER: Appropriations Committee (Recommended by Appropriations Subcommittee on Education); Education Committee; and Senator Legg

SUBJECT: Education

DATE: March 31, 2014

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Graf</u>	<u>Klebacha</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	<u>Sikes</u>	<u>Elwell</u>	<u>AED</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
3.	<u>Elwell</u>	<u>Kynoch</u>	<u>AP</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/CS/SB 790 elevates policy and funding for technology-enhanced classroom teaching and learning by requiring a plan and establishing a funding methodology for school districts' technology and digital instruction activities and purchases, and authorizes course substitution options for students to help equip Florida's students with the skills to succeed in a competitive economy.

The bill requires the State Board of Education to develop a Florida digital classrooms plan that establishes minimum protocols and parameters for the state and districts to meet statutory requirements and timelines for instruction, learning, assessments, and accountability. The Florida Department of Education (DOE or department) may consult with qualified experts to develop the Florida digital classrooms plan.

The bill also requires school districts to develop district digital classroom plans for activities resulting from purchases for digital learning and technology infrastructure, professional development, digital tools, and online assessments to measure student performance outcomes. Each district school board must seek input from district staff to develop the district digital classrooms plan and must include the strategy for meeting requirements of federal technology initiatives and grant programs if the district participates in such initiatives and grant programs.

An independent evaluation and validation of the reported outcomes and the districts' technology inventory and infrastructure needs must accompany the school districts' digital classrooms plan. The bill requires the Auditor General to verify compliance of the use of Florida digital classrooms allocation funds by the school districts in accordance with the DOE-approved district digital classrooms plan. The Commissioner of Education must work with education practitioners of this state to support implementation of district digital classrooms plans and annually report to the Legislature and the Governor a summary of each school district's use of funds, student performance outcomes, and progress toward meeting statutory requirements and timelines.

The bill creates the Florida digital classrooms allocation within the Florida Education Finance Program to fund and support the use of technology enhancements in Florida's classrooms. The Legislature will provide an annual allocation within the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) of up to one percent of the base student allocation multiplied by the total K-12 full-time equivalent student enrollment.

Additionally, the bill authorizes public schools to establish digital classrooms to provide students opportunities to improve digital literacy and competency, and creates pathways for high school students to substitute computer programming language courses of sufficient rigor for certain courses, as approved by the commissioner, to meet high school graduation requirements.

The bill also restructures governance and functionality of online, public postsecondary student support services related to libraries, online courses, and online student advising systems.

Specifically, the bill creates the Complete Florida Plus Program (Program) within the Innovation Institute at the University of West Florida and transfers the requirements and responsibilities associated with student support services that are currently administered through the Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC) to the new Program. The bill also establishes the Florida Center for Library Automation (Center) and reassigns the duties and resources regarding online library support services that are currently administered by the FLVC to the new Center. Additionally, the bill renames the Complete Florida Degree Program as the Complete Florida Degree Initiative (Initiative) and restructures the related functions under the new Program.

SB 2500, the proposed 2014-2015 Senate General Appropriations Bill, allocates \$40 million for Florida Digital Classrooms. The bill requires each school district to receive a minimum allocation of \$250,000. In addition, SB 2500 also provides \$22.8 million for the Florida Virtual Campus.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2014.

II. Present Situation:

Technology Plan

The Bureau of Educational Technology within the Florida Department of Education (DOE or department) provides "leadership, coordination, and guidance concerning the submission, technical review, and approval of local educational technology plans as a service to school

districts.”¹ *The Essential District Technology Plan Components*, developed by the department, is intended to provide a general framework for the technology plan content.² The components include the following:³

- Mission and vision.
- General introduction/background.
- Needs assessment/goals.
- Funding plan.
- Technology acquisition plan.
- Access.
- User support plan.
- Staff training plan.
- Program evaluation.
- E-Rate Program Planning Criteria (E-Rate Plan Addendum).

Eligibility to participate in certain federal technology initiatives and grant programs (e.g., Enhancing Education Through Technology⁴ and E-Rate⁵ programs) requires that a local school district develop and maintain a long-range strategic district technology plan that adequately addresses prescribed planning criteria. Planning requirements and expectations vary from program to program, but many of the essential components of an effective technology planning process are consistent across programs.⁶ For the E-Rate program, the school districts submit a technology plan, which is required for the federal E-Rate application, to the DOE for approval.⁷

While participation in federal programs is optional, a majority of school districts participate to improve learning opportunities for all students, enhance technology resources needed in conjunction with existing initiatives (e.g., reading improvement), and address, in a targeted and focused way, significant challenges associated with impoverished and disadvantaged student populations.⁸

¹ Florida Department of Education, *Local School District Educational Technology Planning*, http://www.fldoe.org/BII/Instruct_Tech/Planning/local.asp (last visited Feb. 16, 2014).

² Florida Department of Education, *Local School District Educational Technology Planning*, http://www.fldoe.org/BII/Instruct_Tech/Planning/local.asp (last visited Feb. 16, 2014).

³ Florida Department of Education, *The Essential District Technology Plan Components*, available at http://www.fldoe.org/BII/Instruct_Tech/downloads/EssentialDistrictTechnologyPlanComponents.doc.

⁴ U.S. Department of Education, *Enhancing Education Through Technology (Ed-Tech) State Program*, <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/edtech/index.html> (last visited Feb. 15, 2014).

⁵ U.S. Department of Education, *E-Rate Program – Discounted Telecommunications Services*, <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oii/nonpublic/erate.html> (last visited Feb. 15, 2014). “The E-Rate technology plan describes the technologies and associated resources, both existing and planned, that will assist a school to provide educational services.” Email, Florida Department of Education, *2014 Agency Legislative Bill Analysis for SB 790* (Feb. 14, 2013), at 3, on file with the Committee on Education staff.

⁶ Florida Department of Education, *Local School District Educational Technology Planning*, http://www.fldoe.org/BII/Instruct_Tech/Planning/local.asp (last visited Feb. 16, 2014).

⁷ Email, Florida Department of Education, *2014 Agency Legislative Bill Analysis for SB 790* (Feb. 14, 2013), at 3, on file with the Committee on Education staff.

⁸ Florida Department of Education, *Local School District Educational Technology Planning*, http://www.fldoe.org/BII/Instruct_Tech/Planning/local.asp (last visited Feb. 16, 2014).

In addition to addressing federal program participation requirements, developing a strong technology planning process can assist a district with:⁹

- Establishing appropriate guidelines, standards, and policies regarding acquisition and infusion of new and emerging technologies.
- Managing complex technology infrastructure and telecommunications upgrades at schools.
- Addressing major transformations (e.g., one-to-one computing, wireless access, intensive laptop use, Internet-based instructional content delivery, and distance learning).

The department requests district school superintendents to encourage school principals and school district personnel to participate in the Florida Innovates Technology Resources Inventory which is used to annually gather school-level and school district-level technology resources inventory data.¹⁰ Schools and school districts report technology data regarding devices, bandwidth, wireless infrastructure, professional development, and computer-based assessment readiness to the department.¹¹ The department uses the technology resources inventory data to prepare annual legislative budget requests.¹² In 2013, the Legislature appropriated \$11.3 million for district bandwidth support and \$6 million for Technology transformation grants for rural districts.¹³

Requirements for Standard High School Diploma

Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2013-2014 school year, receipt of standard high school diploma requires successful completion of 24 credits, an International Baccalaureate curriculum, or an Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum.¹⁴ Credit requirements for standard high school diploma are as follows:¹⁵

- Four credits in English Language Arts (ELA) I, II, III, and IV.
- Four credits in mathematics, which must include Algebra I and geometry.
- Three credits in science including Biology I.
- Three credits in social studies, which must include one credit each in United States History and World History; and 0.5 credit each in Economics, which must include financial literacy, and United States Government.
- One credit in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or practical arts.
- One credit in physical education.
- Eight credits in electives¹⁶.

⁹ Florida Department of Education, *Local School District Educational Technology Planning*, http://www.fldoe.org/BII/Instruct_Tech/Planning/local.asp (last visited Feb. 16, 2014).

¹⁰ Florida Department of Education, *Memorandum: School Technology Resources Inventory* (Oct. 11, 2013), on file with the Committee on Education staff.

¹¹ Email, Florida Department of Education, *2014 Agency Legislative Bill Analysis for SB 790* (Feb. 14, 2013), at 3, on file with the Committee on Education staff.

¹² Florida Department of Education, *Memorandum: School Technology Resources Inventory* (Oct. 11, 2013), on file with the Committee on Education staff.

¹³ Specific Appropriation 102A, ch. 2013-40, L.O.F.

¹⁴ Section 1003.4282(1)(a), F.S.

¹⁵ Section 1003.4282(3), F.S.

¹⁶ “School districts must develop and offer coordinated electives so that a student may develop knowledge and skills in his or her area of interest, such as electives with a STEM or liberal arts focus. Such electives must include opportunities for students to earn college credit, including industry-certified career education programs or series of career-themed courses that result in

Requirements regarding Foreign Language

In addition to the general requirements for high school graduation¹⁷ and standard high school diploma¹⁸, current law provides criteria for students to earn either a Scholar designation or a Merit designation on the standard high school diploma.¹⁹ The criteria for earning the Scholar designation includes, but is not limited to, earning two credits in the same foreign language.²⁰

Additionally, beginning with students initially entering a Florida College System institution or a state university in 2014-2015, coursework for an associate in arts degree must include demonstration of competency in foreign language pursuant to Florida law.²¹

Complete Florida Degree Program

In 2012, the Legislature established the Complete Florida Degree Program to recruit, recover, and retain the state's adult learners and assist them in completing an associate degree or baccalaureate degree aligned to high-wage, high-skill workforce needs.²² The program is administered by the University of West Florida (UWF), acting as the lead institution, in coordination with the Florida College System institutions, state universities, and private postsecondary institutions.²³

The Complete Florida Degree Program must:²⁴

- Provide adult learners with a single point of access to information and links to innovative online and accelerated distance learning courses, student and library support services, and electronic resources that will aid them in completing a postsecondary degree.
- Develop and implement an advising and student support system that includes the use of degree completion specialists, is based on best practices and processes, and includes academic and career support services designed specifically for adult learners.
- Use existing or develop new competency-based instructional and evaluation tools to assess prior performance, experience, and education to award college credit and reduce the time required for adults to complete degrees.
- Develop and implement an evaluation process to collect and analyze appropriate data in order to report program effectiveness.
- Develop and implement a statewide student recruitment campaign for the program.
- Identify proposed changes to the statewide computer-assisted student advising system developed by the Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC) to assist adult learners use the system.
- Use the online admissions application implemented by the FLVC.

industry certification or articulate into the award of college credit, or career education courses for which there is a statewide or local articulation agreement which lead to college credit.” Section 1003.4282(3)(g), F.S.

¹⁷ Section 1003.428

¹⁸ Section 1003.4282, F.S.

¹⁹ Section 1003.4285(1), F.S.

²⁰ Section 1003.4285(1)(a)5., F.S.

²¹ Section 1007.25(7), F.S., and Section 1007.262, F.S.

²² Section 15, ch. 2012-34, L.O.F.

²³ Section 1006.735(2), F.S.

²⁴ Section 1006.735(4)-(5), F.S.

- Use the distance learning catalog implemented by the FLVC.

Florida Virtual Campus

In 2012, the Legislature created the FLVC by consolidating the services and resources previously provided by the Florida Distance Learning Consortium, the Florida Higher Education Distance Learning Catalog, FACTS.org, the Florida Center for Library Automation, and the College Center for Library Automation. The FLVC was established to provide access to online student and library support services and to serve as a statewide resource and clearinghouse for public postsecondary education distance learning courses and degree programs.²⁵

The primary purposes of the FLVC are to:²⁶

- Establish a single library automation system and associated resources and services for all public postsecondary education institutions to use to support their learning, teaching, and research needs.
- Provide information and access to distance learning courses and degree programs offered by the state's public postsecondary education institutions.
- Coordinate with the Florida College System (FCS) and the State University System (SUS) to identify and provide online academic support services and resources if the multi-institutional provision of such services and resources is more cost or operationally effective.

The FCS and SUS Chancellors exercise joint oversight of the FLVC and establish governance and reporting structure, administrative and operational guidelines and processes, staffing requirements, and operational budget.²⁷

The FLVC must:²⁸

- Develop and manage a library information portal and automated library management tools for use by the FCS institutions and state universities.
- Develop and manage a statewide Internet-based catalog of distance learning courses, degree programs, and resources offered by public postsecondary education institutions to assist in the coordination and collaboration of articulation and access.
- Implement a streamlined, automated, online admissions application process for undergraduate transient students.
- Develop and manage a statewide computer-assisted student advising system that will support advising, registering, and certifying students for graduation and include a degree audit and articulation component.
- Coordinate the negotiation of statewide licensing of electronic library resources and preferred pricing agreements, issue purchase orders, and enter into contracts for the acquisition of distance learning resources, student and library support services, electronic resources, and other goods and services necessary to perform its duties.

²⁵ Section 14, ch. 2012-134, L.O.F.

²⁶ Section 1006.73(1), F.S.

²⁷ Section 1006.73(2), F.S.

²⁸ Section 1006.73(5), F.S.

- Promote and provide recommendations concerning the use and distribution of open-access textbooks and education resources to reduce costs and develop and standardized process for reviewing and approving open-access textbooks.
- Provide appropriate help desk support and training and consultation services to institutions and students using the services and resources of the FLVC.
- Identify and evaluate new technologies and instructional methods that can be used to improve distance learning instruction, student learning, the efficient delivery of student support services, and the overall quality of undergraduate distance learning courses and degree programs.
- Develop and implement a plan, in consultation with the public postsecondary education institutions, which describes the services and resources available through the FLVC to encourage students to use such services and resources.

The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) reported that the FLVC has made progress toward functioning as a cohesive unit and saved approximately \$1.5 million by reducing positions and an additional \$116,586 by renegotiating leases. However, the FLVC continues to maintain three separate locations. A Tallahassee lease agreement obligates the FLVC to pay for \$2,000 square feet of space that it does not need. The FLVC maintains an \$8 million reserve balance for which the obligations are unclear.²⁹

Additionally, OPPAGA reported that the FLVC has not implemented key legislative priorities and lacks a plan for addressing key issues. These include:

- The FLVC has not taken adequate steps to advertise to students services that are available through the FLVC.
- The FLVC website is difficult to navigate and use.
- The FLVC advising system is out-of-date and relatively few students use the system.
- The FLVC distance learning catalog is functional but does not have ready access to data that is needed to fully meet the statutory requirements.
- The FCS and state university library systems continue to operate separately.³⁰

Licensing Electronic Library Resources

Florida law provides parameters for cost efficient and cost effective licensing of electronic library resources and outlines a process for identifying shared core resources among institutions that must be made available to all public postsecondary education students.³¹ The chancellors and vice chancellors of the FCS institutions and state universities must annually report to the Governor and the chairs of the legislative appropriations committee the cost savings realized as a result of the collaborative licensing process.³²

²⁹ Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, *Progress of Florida Virtual Campus*, presentation to the Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee, Florida House of Representatives (Feb. 13, 2014), available at <http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/monitordocs/Presentations/P14-19.pdf>.

³⁰ Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, *Progress of Florida Virtual Campus*, presentation to the Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee, Florida House of Representatives (Feb. 13, 2014), available at <http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/monitordocs/Presentations/P14-19.pdf>.

³¹ Section 1006.72, F.S.

³² Section 1006.72(7), F.S.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill creates the Florida digital classrooms plan and allocation to establish a targeted and purposeful approach to technology enhancements in Florida's classrooms to improve student performance outcomes. The bill ties technology-enhanced classroom teaching and learning to measurable student performance outcomes and requires an independent evaluation of the school districts' outcomes and technology inventory and infrastructure needs, which the districts must report to the department. Consequently, the school districts must document how technology enhancements effect performance of students. In addition, the bill authorizes public schools to promote digital literacy and competency in Florida's schools, which will help equip Florida's students with skills to succeed in a competitive economy.

Florida Digital Classrooms Plan

The bill requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt a targeted and purposeful Florida digital classrooms plan, which must establish the minimum protocols, parameters, and requirements, pursuant to Florida law, for district-level infrastructure, school-level infrastructure, and digital tools that accommodate statutory requirements and timelines for instruction, learning, assessments, and accountability. The department may consult with qualified experts to develop the Florida digital classrooms plan. The Florida digital classrooms plan must be updated annually, and must encompass the current academic year and the subsequent five academic years. The Florida digital classrooms plan must also specify the criteria for annual approval of the districts' digital classrooms plan, thus providing the school districts long-term goals and expectations within statewide technology and accountability frameworks and timelines.

District Digital Classrooms Plan

The bill requires each district school board to use the general parameters established in the Florida digital classrooms plan to adopt a district digital classrooms plan that may include unique components specific to the needs of individual schools and school districts. By permitting the customization of district digital classrooms plan to local needs, the bill promotes local control of targeted and purposeful technology enhancements in Florida's classrooms. However, to receive the Florida digital classrooms allocation funds, each school district must fulfill certain requirements. Each school district must:

- Attach to the district's digital classrooms plan, an independent evaluation of the district's student performance outcomes, technology inventory, and infrastructure needs.
- Submit to the Department of Education (DOE or department), the district digital classrooms plan in a format prescribed by the department, by October 1, 2014 (for implementation of the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget) and by March 1 (prior to legislative session) of each year thereafter, for approval. At a minimum, the district digital classrooms plan must be updated annually to include the following:
 - Measurable student performance outcomes which must be tied to improving student performance outcomes, including outcomes for students with disabilities, through the implementation of the district's digital classrooms plan for the current school year and subsequent three years. Results of the outcomes must be verified by an independent evaluation and reported at least annually.

- Digital learning and technology infrastructure purchases and operational activities which must be tied to the measurable student performance outcomes. The purchases and activities, which must include, but not be limited to, connectivity, broadband access, wireless capacity, Internet speed, and data security, must meet the minimum requirements and protocols established by the department. If a school district uses Florida digital classrooms allocation funds for infrastructure, the district's technology inventory and infrastructure must be verified by an independent evaluation annually and submitted to the department along with the district's digital classrooms plan.
- Professional development purchases and operational activities which must be tied to the measurable student performance outcomes. The purchases and activities must include, but not be limited to, using technology in the classroom and improving digital literacy and competency.
- Digital tool purchases and operational activities which must be tied to the measurable student performance outcomes. The purchases and activities, which must include, but not be limited to:
 - Competency-based credentials, which must measure and demonstrate digital competency and certifications;
 - Third-party assessments, which demonstrate acquired knowledge and use of digital applications; and
 - Devices that meet or exceed the minimum requirements and protocols established by the department.
- Online assessment-related purchases and operational activities which must be tied to measurable student performance outcomes. The purchases and activities, which must include, but not be limited to, expanding capacity to administer assessments and compatibility with the minimum requirements and protocols established by the department.

Each district school board must seek input from, at a minimum, the district's instructional, curriculum, and information technology staff to develop the district digital classrooms plan. If a school district participates in federal technology initiatives and grant programs, the district digital classrooms plan must include the plan for meeting requirements of such initiatives and grant programs.

Florida Digital Classrooms Allocation Funding

The bill creates a new categorical funding allocation in the Florida Education Finance program for the implementation of digital classrooms plans. The new Florida digital classrooms allocation will be provided annually in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) in an amount up to one percent of the base student allocation multiplied by the total K-12 full-time equivalent student enrollment or as provided in the GAA. From the Florida digital classrooms allocation, a minimum of \$100,000 is to be provided to each school district and the remaining balance is to be distributed based on each school district's proportion of the total K-12 full-time equivalent student enrollment.

Distribution of Florida digital classrooms allocation funds to a school district is contingent upon approval of the district's digital classrooms plan by the department. The district digital classrooms plan must include a formal verification of the district superintendent's approval of

the digital classrooms plan of each charter school within the district. Prior to the distribution of the Florida digital classrooms allocation funds, each district school superintendent must certify to the Commissioner of Education (commissioner) that the district digital classrooms plan supports the fidelity of implementation of the Florida digital classrooms allocation. District allocations must be recalculated during the fiscal year consistent with the periodic recalculation of the Florida Education Finance Program. School districts must provide a proportionate share of the Florida digital classrooms allocation to each charter school in the district as required for categorical programs under Florida law.³³ District digital classrooms plans will vary across districts based on each district's unique needs, and the bill further promotes local control by authorizing each school district to use a competitive process to distribute the Florida digital classrooms allocation funds to the schools within the district.

The bill also requires each school district to report to the department, beginning with the 2015-2016 fiscal year, student performance outcomes and the district's use of the Florida digital classrooms allocation funds in accordance with the DOE-approved district digital classrooms plan. Additionally, the bill requires that the Auditor General verify compliance of the use of Florida digital classrooms allocation funds by the school districts in accordance with the DOE-approved district digital classrooms plan. By October 1, beginning with the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the commissioner must provide to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, a summary of each district's use of the Florida digital classrooms allocation funds, student performance outcomes, and progress toward meeting the statutory requirements and timelines. The content and timing of the annual report is intended as a tool to help monitor program performance and inform necessary legislative policy discussions and funding adjustments.

Statewide Partnerships

The bill promotes statewide partnerships among this state's education practitioners to implement the digital classrooms plans by requiring the commissioner to support the efforts of education practitioners (e.g., superintendents, principals, and teachers) to identify and share best practices, corrective actions, and other needs.

Digital Literacy and Competency

The bill authorizes public schools to promote digital literacy and competency in Florida's schools, which will help equip Florida's students with skills to succeed in a competitive economy. Public schools may provide students the opportunities for learning computer coding and programming. Such opportunities may include:

- Instruction regarding computer coding in elementary and middle school,
- Instruction to develop computer usage and digital literacy skills in middle school, and
- Courses in computer coding and programming in high school, including opportunities to earn industry certifications related to such courses.

The bill also authorizes:

³³ Section 1002.33(17)(b), F.S.

- Elementary and middle schools to establish digital classrooms to help students improve digital literacy and competency, learn digital skills (e.g., coding, multiple media presentation, and the manipulation of multiple digital graphic images), and earn digital tools (e.g., recognitions and certifications pursuant to Florida law³⁴) and grade-appropriate, technology-related industry certifications.
- High schools to provide courses in computer programming to satisfy high school graduation requirements including, but not limited to:
 - Computer programming courses of sufficient rigor, as identified by the commissioner, such that one credit in computer programming language and earning of related industry certifications satisfies the one credit of mathematics requirement for high school graduation. Such computer programming language courses and related industry certifications must be listed in the Course Code Directory (CCD)³⁵.
 - Computer technology courses in 3D rapid prototype printing of sufficient rigor, as identified by the commissioner, such that one or more credits in such courses and earning of related industry certifications may satisfy up to two credits of the mathematics requirement for high school graduation. Such computer technology courses and related industry certifications must be listed in the CCD.
 - Computer programming language courses, at the discretion of the local district school board, such that 1 credit in a computer programming language may satisfy the one credit in physical education requirement for high school graduation.

The bill authorizes the SBE to adopt rules to implement the bill provisions regarding Florida digital classrooms allocation and digital literacy and competency in Florida's schools.

The bill restructures governance and functionality of online public postsecondary student support services related to libraries, online courses, and online student advising systems.

Specifically, the bill creates the Complete Florida Plus Program (Program) within the Innovation Institute at the University of West Florida (UWF) and transfers the requirements and responsibilities associated with student support services that are currently administered through the Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC) to the new Program. The bill also establishes the Florida Center for Library Automation (Center) and reassigns the duties and resources regarding online library support services that are currently administered by the FLVC to the new Center. Additionally, the bill renames the Complete Florida Degree Program as the Complete Florida Degree Initiative (Initiative) and restructures the related functions under the new Program. The consolidation of duties and resources are intended to strengthen and streamline online services and resources to students pursuing higher education in Florida.

³⁴ Section 1003.4203, F.S.

³⁵ The Course Code Directory is the listing of all public preK-12 courses available for use by school districts. Programs and courses which are funded through the Florida Education Finance Program and courses or programs for which students may earn credit toward high school graduation must be listed in the CCD. The CCD maintains course listings for administration and service assignments, K-12 education, exceptional student education, career and technical education, and adult education, with details regarding appropriate teacher certification levels. The CCD provides for course information to schools, districts, and the state. Rule 6A-1.09441, F.A.C.

Complete Florida Plus Program

The bill specifies that the purpose of the Program is to:

- Facilitate degree completion of the state's adult learners through the Initiative.
- Provide information and access to distance learning courses and degree programs offered by the state's public postsecondary institutions.
- Coordinate with the Florida College System (FCS) and the State University System (SUS) to identify and provide online academic support services and resources if the multi-institutional provision of such services and resources is more cost-effective or operationally effective.

The bill repeals section 1006.73 of the Florida Statutes and transfers responsibility regarding implementation of the services and resources that are currently assigned to the FLVC to the Program and requires the Program to:

- Develop and manage a statewide Internet-based catalog of distance learning courses, degree programs, and resources offered by public postsecondary institutions to assist with the coordination and collaboration of articulation and access to postsecondary education.
- Provide a streamlined, automated, online admissions application process for undergraduate transient students who are enrolled in a public postsecondary education institution and who enroll in a course offered by a public postsecondary education institution that is not the students' degree-granting institution.
- Develop and manage a statewide computer-assisted student advising system that will support student advising and registration and certification of students for graduation and include a degree audit and articulation component.
- Identify and evaluate new technologies and instructional methods that can be used to improve distance learning instruction and professional development for faculty, student learning outcomes, student access, the delivery of student support services, the alignment of degrees to career needs, and the overall quality of postsecondary distance learning courses and degree programs.
- Provide appropriate help desk support and training and consultation services to institutions and students using the Program services.
- Coordinate the negotiation of statewide licensing of resources and preferred pricing agreements, issue purchase orders, and execute contracts for the acquisition of distance learning resources, student support services, electronic resources, and other goods and services necessary to perform Program duties.
- Develop and implement a plan, in consultation with the public postsecondary education institutions, which describes the services and resources available through the Program to encourage students to use the Program services and resources.

The bill requires transfer of all records, personnel, property, existing contracts, and unexpended balance of appropriations, allocations, grants, and other funds of the FLVC to UWF. The bill also designates UWF as the successor in interest to the FLVC and be responsible for the provision of all authorized services.

Florida Center for Library Automation

The bill establishes the Florida Center for Library Automation (Center) to provide a single library automation system and related resources and services that all public postsecondary institutions must use to support the teaching, learning, and research needs of students and faculty.

The Center must:

- Develop and manage a library information portal and automated library management tools for use by the FCS institutions and state universities.
- Coordinate the negotiation of statewide licensing of electronic library resources and preferred pricing agreements, issue purchase orders, and execute duties of the Center.
- Promote and provide recommendations concerning the use and distribution of open-access textbooks and education resources to reduce costs and work with public postsecondary education institutions to develop a standardized process for the review and approval of open-access textbooks.

The Center must be administered by an executive director who must be accountable to the executive director of UWF's Innovation Institute. The executive director of the Center must:

- Independently exercise all powers, duties, and functions of the Center as prescribed by law.
- Administer the operational requirements of the Center.
- Hire professional and administrative staff necessary to perform the duties of the Center.
- Keep administrative staff to the minimum necessary to administer the duties of the Center.

The bill repeals section 1006.72 of the Florida Statutes regarding licensing electronic library resources and incorporates related provisions into the Center.

The bill adds conforming references to reflect the new Program.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2014.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

CS/CS/SB 790 requires the Legislature to appropriate an amount up to one percent of the base student allocation multiplied by the total K-12 full-time equivalent student enrollment included in the FEFP calculations. SB 2500, the proposed 2014-2015 Senate General Appropriations Bill, allocates \$40 million for Florida Digital Classrooms. Each school district shall be provided with a minimum of \$250,000, with the remaining balance allocated based on the district's proportion of the total K-12 full-time equivalent student enrollment.

SB 2500 also appropriates \$22.8 million for the Florida Virtual Campus.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 1002.33, 1002.45, 1006.38, 1006.735, 1009.23, 1009.24, 1011.62, and 1011.71.

This bill creates the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 1004.448 and 1007.2616.

This bill repeals the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 1006.281, 1006.72, and 1006.73

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)**CS/CS by Appropriations on March 27, 2014:**

The committee substitute:

- Requires school districts to notify parents of virtual instruction options at the beginning of each school year.

- Permits the Florida Department of Education to contract with an independent third-party entity to conduct an annual independent verification of the district's use of funding in accordance with its digital classrooms plan.
- Creates the Complete Florida Plus Program (Program) within the Innovation Institute at the University of West Florida and transfers the requirements and responsibilities associated with student support services that are currently administered through the Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC) to the new Program.
- Establishes the Florida Center for Library Automation (Center) and reassigns the duties and resources regarding online library support services that are currently administered by the FLVC to the new Center.
- Renames the Complete Florida Degree Program as the Complete Florida Degree Initiative and restructures the related functions under the new Program.

CS by Education on February 18, 2014:

The committee substitute maintains the intent of the SB 790 with some modifications in that the committee substitute:

- Requires the State Board of Education, rather than the Commissioner of Education, to adopt the Florida digital classrooms plan.
- Authorizes the Department of Education to consult with qualified experts to develop the Florida digital classrooms plan.
- Requires school districts to seek input from, at a minimum, the districts' instructional, curriculum, and information technology staff to develop the district digital classrooms plan.
- Requires school districts to include in the district digital classrooms plan, the plan for meeting requirements of federal initiatives and grant programs if the districts participate in such initiatives and programs.
- Requires district school superintendents to certify to the commissioner that the district school board approved-district digital classrooms plan supports the fidelity of implementation of the Florida digital classrooms allocation, prior to the distribution of the Florida digital classrooms allocation funds.
- Requires the Auditor General to verify compliance of use of funds by school districts in accordance with the department-approved district digital classrooms plan.
- Authorizes, rather than requires, public schools to provide opportunities to students to learn computer coding and computer programming.
- Authorizes, rather than requires, elementary schools and middle schools to establish digital classrooms.
- Authorizes, rather than requires, high schools to provide students with opportunities to substitute computer programming language courses and computer technology courses, of sufficient rigor, as approved by the commissioner, and related industry certifications for some math and science courses to meet high school graduation requirements.
- Removes bill provisions regarding substituting computer programming language courses and related industry certifications to meet the foreign language requirement.
- Authorizes the State Board of Education to administer the bill provisions regarding the Florida digital classrooms allocation.

- Adds legislative findings and intent regarding the unique challenges faced by military families, encouraging military installation commanders, school districts, the commissioner, and the State Board of Education to work collaboratively to increase student achievement.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
