

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 87 Fine Arts Courses
SPONSOR(S): McBurney and others
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 420

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) K-12 Subcommittee	11 Y, 0 N	Brink	Ahearn
2) Education Appropriations Subcommittee	12 Y, 0 N	Ward	Heflin
3) Education Committee	16 Y, 0 N	Brink	Mizereck

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to prepare an annual report that includes information, based on annual reporting by schools, regarding student access to, and participation in, fine arts courses; the number and certification status of educators providing arts instruction; educational facilities designed and classroom space equipped for fine arts instruction; and the manner in which schools are providing the core curricular content for fine arts established in the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards. The report must be posted on the Department of Education's website and updated annually.

The bill defines fine arts courses, for purposes of the annual report, to include visual arts, music, dance, and theatre courses.

The bill has an indeterminate fiscal impact on state and local governments. See Fiscal Analysis and Economic Impact Statement.

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

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

High school students are required to earn one credit in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or a practical arts course that incorporates artistic content and techniques of creativity and imagination.¹ Eligible practical arts courses are identified in the Course Code Directory.² In addition, the state's academic standards are required to include standards for instruction for visual and performing arts. Such standards must include specific curricular content and include distinct grade level expectations for the core content knowledge and skills that a student is expected to have acquired by each individual grade level from kindergarten through grade five. The standards for grades six through 12 may be organized by grade clusters of more than one grade level.³

Some studies have indicated a correlation between instruction in fine and performing arts and student achievement in core academic subjects, including reading.⁴

The Commissioner of Education (commissioner) is required to file various annual reports relating to certain aspects of public K-12 education in Florida. For example, the commissioner must annually report statewide assessment results for the state, school districts, and schools. The annual report must describe the performance of each public school and its major student populations, and include the percent of students performing at or above grade level and making a year's worth of progress in reading and mathematics.⁵ However, no reporting requirements exist with respect to instruction in fine or performing arts.

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill requires the commissioner to prepare an annual report that includes information, based on annual reporting by schools, regarding student access to, and participation in, fine arts courses; the number and certification status of educators providing arts instruction; educational facilities designed and classroom space equipped for fine arts instruction; and the manner in which schools are providing the core curricular content for fine arts established in the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards. The report must be posted on the Department of Education's website and updated annually.

The bill defines fine arts courses, for purposes of the annual report, to include visual arts, music, dance, and theatre courses.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Creates s. 1003.4995, F.S., requiring the Commissioner of Education to prepare an annual report relating to student access to and participation in fine arts courses and information on educators, facilities, and instruction in such courses.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2014.

¹ Section 1003.4282(2)(a)5., F.S.

² Florida Department of Education, Course Code Directory and Instruction Personnel Assignments, available at <https://www.fl DOE.org/articulation/CCD/files/PACourses1314.pdf>.

³ Section 1003.41(2)(e), F.S.

⁴ See, e.g., The President's Committee on the Arts and The Arts Education Partnership, *Champions of Change: The Impact of the Arts on Learning* (1999), available at <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/champions/pdfs/ChampsReport.pdf>; James S. Catterall, et al, National Endowment for the Arts, *The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth: Findings from Four Longitudinal Studies* (2012), available at <http://www.nea.gov/research/Arts-At-Risk-Youth.pdf>.

⁵ Section 1008.34(1), F.S.

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:

There are indeterminable costs associated with the requirement for both the school district and the DOE as this required information is not currently collected and a standardized reporting tool to collect this required information and generate the report will be necessary.

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:

The bill requires the annual report prepared by the commissioner to include a description of “student access to . . . fine arts courses” It is unclear what “student access to fine arts courses” means or whether data on such information could be reported.

The bill requires a report to be posted on the DOE’s website and updated annually, but does not identify a specific date.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

None.