

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: SB 886

INTRODUCER: Senator Montford

SUBJECT: Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program

DATE: April 24, 2014

REVISED: _____

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

I. Summary:

SB 886 revises provisions of the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program (Program) and provides flexibility for school districts to distribute funds to classroom teachers sooner for the purchase of supplemental materials and supplies.

The bill requires school districts to calculate an identical amount from the funds available to the school districts for the program for each classroom teacher to be employed by the district or a charter school in the district on September 1st of each year. The district school board and each charter school board may provide a classroom teacher his or her proportional share of program funds by August 1st, if determined eligible for program funds by July 1st. A teacher determined eligible for Program funds after July 1st must be provided with his or her proportional share of Program funds by September 30th. At present, program funds must be disbursed by September 30th.

This bill does not affect the total funds allocated for the Program and does not have a fiscal impact to the state.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2014.

II. Present Situation:

The Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program

The Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program (Program) provides funds for classroom teachers to purchase supplemental materials and supplies for public school students assigned to them.¹ Program funds are appropriated by the Legislature in the General

¹ Section 1012.71, F.S.

Appropriations Act and distributed to each school district by the Commissioner of Education based on each district's unweighted full-time equivalent student enrollment.² The district school board calculates and distributes each classroom teacher's proportionate share of funds by September 30th of each year.³

A signed statement acknowledging receipt of the funds is required of each classroom teacher.⁴ Additionally, a teacher must keep receipts for at least four years to show that funds were spent in accordance with Program requirements.⁵ Any unused funds must be returned to the district school board at the end of the school year.⁶

Senate Bill 2500, the 2014-2015 proposed General Appropriations Bill, appropriates \$45,286,750 to the Program, which is the same as the 2013-2014 fiscal year appropriation.⁷

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill revises provisions of the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program to allow school districts to have the flexibility to distribute funds to classroom teachers sooner for the purchase of supplemental materials and supplies for public school students assigned to them.

The bill requires school districts to calculate an identical amount from the funds available to the school districts for the program for each classroom teacher who will be employed by the district or a charter school in the district on September 1st. As of July 1st, if a teacher is expected to be employed by a school district or a charter school in the district on September 1st, the district school board and each charter school board may provide the teacher with the teacher's proportionate share of funds by August 1st. If a teacher's expected employment is determined after July 1st, the district school board and each charter school board must provide the teacher with the teacher's proportionate share of funds by September 30th. At present, funds from the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program must be distributed by September 30th.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2014.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

² Section 1012.71(2), F.S. Funds from the Program may not be used to purchase equipment. *Id.*

³ Section 1012.71(3), F.S. The funds are distributed by any appropriate means as determined by the district school board. *Id.*

⁴ Section 1012.71(4), F.S.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.* "[F]unds that are returned to the district board shall be deposited into the school advisory council account of the school at which the classroom teacher returning the funds was employed when that teacher received the funds or deposited into the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program account of the school district in which a charter school is sponsored, as applicable." *Id.*

⁷ Specific Appropriation 87, s. 2, ch. 2013-40, L.O.F. (providing the amount appropriated to the Teachers Lead Program under Specific Appropriations 7 and 87); *see also* Specific Appropriation 7, s. 1 ch. 2013-40, L.O.F. The Program was originally named the Florida Teachers Lead Program and was renamed the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program in 2013. Section 10, ch. 2013-185, L.O.F.

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:

SB 886 does not have a fiscal impact to the state.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 1012.71 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.