

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 Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

BILL: SB 7050

INTRODUCER: Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee

SUBJECT: Digital Classrooms

DATE: April 1, 2015

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
	<u>Peacock</u>	<u>McVaney</u>		GO SPB 7050 as introduced
1.	<u>Sikes</u>	<u>Elwell</u>	<u>AED</u>	Pre-meeting
2.	_____	_____	<u>AP</u>	_____

I. Summary:

SB 7050 requires the Agency for State Technology (AST) to establish and publish information technology architecture standards for purposes of implementing digital classrooms plans by July 1, 2016. The bill requires AST to collaborate with the Department of Education (DOE or department) and the Department of Management Services (DMS) to identify certain state contract procurement options for services that support such standards and to identify certain shared services available through the State Data Center to facilitate the implementation of school district digital classrooms plans.

The bill also requires AST's annual assessment of DOE to include a review of specified issues with respect to school district digital classrooms plans and to provide planning assistance to address and reduce issues identified by the assessment. AST must provide the assessment to DOE by December 1, 2016, and annually thereafter. The bill authorizes AST to contract for assistance with the annual assessment if needed.

The bill requires that, if the DOE determines the administration of online assessments after January 1, 2015, does not comply with the minimum assessment protocols and requirements established by the department, the department will contract with an independent, auditing entity that has expertise in the area to evaluate the extent of the noncompliance and provide recommendations to remediate the noncompliance in future administrations of online assessments.

The bill appropriates \$9,993,566 from the General Revenue Fund to AST to conduct its duties required under this legislation. According to information provided by AST, the requirements specified in the bill will cost an estimated \$11.5 million. This cost is derived primarily from the staff augmentation that AST, or the contracted organization, will require to fulfill the technology assessment and audit responsibilities outlined in the bill.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

II. Present Situation:

Agency for State Technology

The AST was created by HB 7073 with an effective date of July 1, 2014.¹ The executive director of AST is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The duties and responsibilities of AST include:²

- Developing and publishing information technology (IT) policy for management of the state's IT resources.
- Establishing and publishing IT architecture standards.
- Establishing project management and oversight standards with which state agencies must comply when implementing IT projects.
- Performing project oversight on all state IT projects with total costs of \$10 million or more.
- Identifying opportunities for standardization and consolidation of IT services that support common business functions and operations.
- Establishing best practices for procurement of IT products in collaboration with DMS.
- Participating with DMS in evaluating, conducting and negotiating competitive solicitations for state term contracts for IT commodities, consultant services, or staff augmentation contractual services.
- Collaborating with DMS in IT resource acquisition planning.
- Developing standards for IT reports and updates.
- Upon request, assisting state agencies in development of IT related legislative budget requests.
- Conducting annual assessments of state agencies to determine compliance with IT standards and guidelines developed by AST.
- Providing operational management and oversight of the state data center.
- Recommending other IT services that should be designed, delivered, and managed as enterprise IT services.
- Recommending additional consolidations of agency data centers or computing facilities into the state data center.
- In consultation with state agencies, proposing methodology for identifying and collecting current and planned IT expenditure data at the state agency level.
- Performing project oversight on any cabinet agency IT project that has a total project cost of \$25 million or more and impacts one or more other agencies.
- Consulting with departments regarding risks and other effects for IT projects implemented by an agency that must be connected to or accommodated by an IT system administered by a cabinet agency.
- Reporting annually to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House regarding state IT standards or policies that conflict with federal regulations or requirements.

¹ Chapter 2014-221, Laws of Florida.

² Section 282.0051, F.S.

Florida Digital Classrooms Allocation

In 2014, the Legislature elevated policy and funding for technology-enhanced classroom teaching and learning by creating the Florida digital classrooms allocation to support efforts and strategies of school districts and public schools in integrating technology into classroom instruction to improve student performance outcomes.³ The DOE has adopted a Strategic Technology Plan that establishes the general parameters for digital classrooms which are used by the district school boards to adopt their district digital classrooms plan.⁴

For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the Legislature appropriated \$40 million to school districts to support digital classrooms.⁵ A minimum of \$250,000 was provided to each school district and the remaining balance was allocated based on each district's share of the state's total unweighted student enrollment.⁶

State Digital Classrooms Plan

The Office of Technology and Information Services, within DOE, is responsible for developing a 5-year strategic plan (state plan) that must:⁷

- Describe how technology will be integrated into classroom teaching and learning to improve student performance outcomes and prepare students to be digital learners.
- Establish minimum technology requirements that include specifications for hardware, software, devices, networking, security, and bandwidth capacity and guidelines for the ratio of students per device.
- Establish minimum requirements for professional development opportunities and training to assist district instructional personnel staff with integrating technology into classroom teaching.
- Identify the types of digital tools and resources that can assist district instructional personnel and staff in management, assessment, and monitoring of student learning and performance.

DOE must update the state plan annually by January 1st.⁸

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 282.0051, F.S., to require the Agency for State Technology (AST) to establish and publish information technology architecture standards, by July 1, 2016, that address issues relating to the implementation of the digital classrooms plans including, but not limited to, the following:

- Device recommendations.

³ Section 1011.62(12)(a), F.S.

⁴ *DOE Digital Classrooms Plan*, <http://www.fldoe.org/about-us/division-of-technology-info-services/bureau-of-edu-tech.shtml> (last visited March 6, 2015); Also, see ss. 1001.20(4) and 1011.62(12)(b), F.S. DOE has provided a technical assistance memo and guidance document regarding digital classrooms to school districts. See, *DOE Digital Classrooms Plan (DCP) and Allocation*, <http://www.fldoe.org/about-us/division-of-technology-info-services/bureau-of-edu-tech.shtml> (last visited March 9, 2015).

⁵ Specific Appropriation 96, s. 2, ch. 2014-51, LO.F.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Section 1001.20(4)(a)1., F.S.

⁸ *Id.*

- Security requirements.
- Connectivity requirements.
- Browser expectations.

The bill also requires AST to collaborate with the DOE and the DMS to identify:

- State term contract procurement options available to school districts that provide information technology commodities, consultant services, or staff augmentation contractual services that support the information technology architecture standards applicable to digital classrooms.
- Shared services available to school districts through the State Data Center to facilitate the implementation of school district digital classrooms plans.

Additionally, the bill requires AST to include the following in its annual assessment of DOE:

- A review each school district's digital classrooms plan submitted to DOE under s. 1011.62(12), F.S., to determine the school district's compliance with the information technology architecture standards adopted and to ensure accuracy of the school district's information technology resources inventory as submitted to DOE's Technology Resources Inventory System.
- Planning assistance to DOE, school districts, and public schools to address and reduce any issues identified by the annual assessments.

The bill authorizes AST to contract with one or more independent, third-party professional organizations if assistance with the annual assessment is needed. AST is required to provide the assessment to DOE by December 1, 2016, and annually thereafter.

The bill also provides that within 60 days after notification by DOE that a school district is not in compliance with the information technology architecture standards, the school district must either become compliant, obtain an exemption from compliance from DOE or procure services through AST or DMS to achieve compliance.

Section 2 amends s. 1011.62(12)(b), F.S., to require that, if the DOE determines the administration of online assessments after January 1, 2015, does not comply with the minimum assessment protocols and requirements established by the department, the department will contract with an independent, auditing entity that has expertise in the area to evaluate the extent of the noncompliance and provide recommendations to remediate the noncompliance in future administrations of online assessments.

Section 3 amends s. 282.00515, F.S., to make conforming changes regarding duties of cabinet agencies to adopt standards established in s. 282.0051(2)(a), (3), and (8), F.S., as required by this bill.

Section 4 appropriates \$9,993,566 from the General Revenue Fund to AST to conduct the agency's duties under s. 282.0051(10)(b) and (c), F.S.

Section 5 provides an effective date of July 1, 2015.

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:

SB 7050 appropriates \$9,993,566 from the General Revenue Fund to the Agency for State Technology (AST) to conduct its duties required by this legislation. According to information provided by AST, the requirements specified in the bill will cost an estimated \$11.5 million. This cost is derived primarily from the staff augmentation that AST, or the contracted organization, will require to fulfill the technology assessment and audit responsibilities outlined in the bill.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends sections 282.0051, 282.00515 and 1011.62 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.

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