

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the Principal Autonomy Pilot
3 Program Initiative; creating s. 1011.6202, F.S.;
4 creating the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program
5 Initiative; providing a procedure for a school
6 district to participate in the pilot program;
7 providing requirements for participating school
8 districts and schools; exempting participating schools
9 from certain laws and rules; requiring principals of
10 participating schools and specified personnel to
11 participate in the University of Virginia School
12 Turnaround Program; providing for the term of
13 participation in the pilot program; providing for
14 renewal or revocation of authorization to participate
15 in the pilot program; providing for reporting,
16 funding, eligibility requirements for certain funding,
17 and rulemaking; amending s. 1011.69, F.S.; requiring
18 participating district school boards to allocate a
19 specified percentage of certain funds to participating
20 schools; amending s. 1012.28, F.S.; providing
21 additional authority and responsibilities of the
22 principal of a participating school; providing an
23 effective date.

24
25 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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27 Section 1. Section 1011.6202, Florida Statutes, is created
 28 to read:

29 1011.6202 Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative.—The
 30 Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative is created within
 31 the Department of Education. The purpose of the pilot program is
 32 to provide the highly effective principal of a participating
 33 school with increased autonomy and authority to operate his or
 34 her school in a way that produces significant improvements in
 35 student achievement and school management while complying with
 36 constitutional requirements. The State Board of Education may,
 37 upon approval of a principal autonomy proposal, enter into a
 38 performance contract with up to three district school boards for
 39 participation in the pilot program.

40 (1) PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS.—A Florida school
 41 district may submit to the state board for approval a principal
 42 autonomy proposal that exchanges statutory and rule exemptions
 43 for an agreement to meet performance goals established in the
 44 proposal. If approved by the state board, the school district
 45 shall be eligible to participate in the pilot program for 3
 46 years. At the end of the 3 years, the performance of all
 47 participating schools in the school district shall be evaluated.

48 (2) PRINCIPAL AUTONOMY PROPOSAL.—

49 (a) To participate in the pilot program, a school district
 50 must:

51 1. Identify three middle or high schools that received at
 52 least two school grades of "D" or "F" pursuant to s. 1008.34

53 during the previous 3 school years.

54 2. Identify three principals who have earned a highly
55 effective rating on the prior year's performance evaluation
56 pursuant to s. 1012.34, one of whom shall be assigned to each of
57 the participating schools.

58 3. Describe the current financial and administrative
59 management of each participating school; identify the areas in
60 which each school principal will have increased fiscal and
61 administrative autonomy, including the authority and
62 responsibilities provided in s. 1012.28(8); and identify the
63 areas in which each participating school will continue to follow
64 district school board fiscal and administrative policies.

65 4. Explain the methods used to identify the educational
66 strengths and needs of the participating school's students and
67 identify how student achievement can be improved.

68 5. Establish performance goals for student achievement, as
69 defined in s. 1008.34(1), and explain how the increased autonomy
70 of principals will help participating schools improve student
71 achievement and school management.

72 6. Provide each participating school's mission and a
73 description of its student population.

74 (b) The state board shall establish criteria, which must
75 include the criteria listed in paragraph (a), for the approval
76 of a principal autonomy proposal.

77 (c) A school district must submit its principal autonomy
78 proposal to the state board for approval by December 1 in order

79 to begin participation in the subsequent school year. By
 80 February 28 of the school year in which the proposal is
 81 submitted, the state board shall notify the district school
 82 board in writing whether the proposal is approved.

83 (3) EXEMPTION FROM LAWS.—

84 (a) With the exception of those laws listed in paragraph
 85 (b), a participating school district is exempt from the
 86 provisions of chapters 1000-1013 and rules of the state board
 87 that implement those exempt provisions.

88 (b) A participating school district shall comply with the
 89 provisions of chapters 1000-1013, and rules of the state board
 90 that implement those provisions, pertaining to the following:

91 1. Those laws relating to the election and compensation of
 92 district school board members, the election or appointment and
 93 compensation of district school superintendents, public meetings
 94 and public records requirements, financial disclosure, and
 95 conflicts of interest.

96 2. Those laws relating to the student assessment program
 97 and school grading system, including chapter 1008.

98 3. Those laws relating to the provision of services to
 99 students with disabilities.

100 4. Those laws relating to civil rights, including s.
 101 1000.05, relating to discrimination.

102 5. Those laws relating to student health, safety, and
 103 welfare.

104 6. Section 1001.42(4)(f), relating to the uniform opening

105 date for public schools.

106 7. Section 1003.03, governing maximum class size, except
107 that the calculation for compliance pursuant to s. 1003.03 is
108 the average at the school level for a participating school.

109 8. Sections 1012.22(1)(c) and 1012.27(2), relating to
110 compensation and salary schedules.

111 9. Section 1012.33(5), relating to workforce reductions
112 for annual contracts for instructional personnel. This
113 subparagraph does not apply to at-will employees.

114 10. Section 1012.335, relating to annual contracts for
115 instructional personnel hired on or after July 1, 2011. This
116 subparagraph does not apply to at-will employees.

117 11. Section 1012.34, relating to personnel evaluation
118 procedures and criteria.

119 12. Those laws pertaining to educational facilities,
120 including chapter 1013, except that s. 1013.20, relating to
121 covered walkways for relocatables, and s. 1013.21, relating to
122 the use of relocatable facilities exceeding 20 years of age, are
123 eligible for exemption.

124 13. Those laws pertaining to participating school
125 districts, including this section and ss. 1011.69(2) and
126 1012.28(8).

127 (4) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—Each participating school
128 district shall require that the principal of each participating
129 school, a three-member leadership team from each participating
130 school, and district personnel working with each participating

131 school complete the University of Virginia School Turnaround
132 Program. The required personnel must enroll in the University of
133 Virginia School Turnaround Program upon acceptance into the
134 pilot program. Each participating school district shall receive
135 \$100,000 from the department for participation in the University
136 of Virginia School Turnaround Program.

137 (5) TERM OF PARTICIPATION.—The state board shall authorize
138 a school district to participate in the pilot program for a
139 period of 3 years commencing with approval of the principal
140 autonomy proposal. Authorization to participate in the pilot
141 program may be renewed upon action of the state board. The state
142 board may revoke authorization to participate in the pilot
143 program if the school district fails to meet the requirements of
144 this section during the 3-year period.

145 (6) REPORTING.—Each participating school district shall
146 submit an annual report to the state board. The state board
147 shall annually report on the implementation of the Principal
148 Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative. Upon completion of the pilot
149 program's first 3-year term, the Commissioner of Education shall
150 submit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
151 House of Representatives by December 1 a full evaluation of the
152 effectiveness of the pilot program.

153 (7) FUNDING.—The Legislature shall provide an
154 appropriation to the department for the costs of the pilot
155 program, including administrative costs and enrollment costs for
156 the University of Virginia School Turnaround Program, and an

157 additional amount of \$10,000 for each participating principal in
158 each participating district as a salary supplement, a fund for
159 the principal's school to be used at the principal's discretion,
160 or both, as determined by the district. To be eligible for a
161 salary supplement under this subsection, a participating
162 principal must:

163 (a) Be rated "highly effective" as determined by the
164 principal's performance evaluation under s. 1012.34;

165 (b) Be transferred to a school that earned a grade of "F"
166 or three consecutive grades of "D" pursuant to s. 1008.34 and
167 provided additional authority and responsibilities pursuant to
168 s. 1012.28(8); and

169 (c) Have implemented a turnaround option under s.
170 1008.33(4) at a school as the school's principal. The turnaround
171 option must have resulted in the school improving by at least
172 one letter grade while he or she was serving as the school's
173 principal.

174 (8) RULEMAKING.—The State Board of Education shall adopt
175 rules to administer this section.

176 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 1011.69, Florida
177 Statutes, is amended to read:

178 1011.69 Equity in School-Level Funding Act.—

179 (2) Beginning in the 2003-2004 fiscal year, district
180 school boards shall allocate to schools within the district an
181 average of 90 percent of the funds generated by all schools and
182 guarantee that each school receives at least 80 percent, except

183 schools participating in the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program
184 Initiative under s. 1011.6202 are guaranteed to receive at least
185 90 percent, of the funds generated by that school based upon the
186 Florida Education Finance Program as provided in s. 1011.62 and
187 the General Appropriations Act, including gross state and local
188 funds, discretionary lottery funds, and funds from the school
189 district's current operating discretionary millage levy. Total
190 funding for each school shall be recalculated during the year to
191 reflect the revised calculations under the Florida Education
192 Finance Program by the state and the actual weighted full-time
193 equivalent students reported by the school during the full-time
194 equivalent student survey periods designated by the Commissioner
195 of Education. If the district school board is providing programs
196 or services to students funded by federal funds, any eligible
197 students enrolled in the schools in the district shall be
198 provided federal funds.

199 Section 3. Subsection (8) is added to section 1012.28,
200 Florida Statutes, to read:

201 1012.28 Public school personnel; duties of school
202 principals.—

203 (8) The principal of a school participating in the
204 Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative under s. 1011.6202
205 has the following additional authority and responsibilities:

206 (a) In addition to the authority provided in subsection
207 (6), the authority to select qualified instructional personnel
208 for placement or to refuse to accept the placement or transfer

209 of instructional personnel by the district school
210 superintendent. Placement of instructional personnel at a
211 participating school in a participating school district does not
212 affect the employee's status as a school district employee.

213 (b) The authority to deploy financial resources to school
214 programs at the principal's discretion to help improve student
215 achievement, as defined in s. 1008.34(1), and meet performance
216 goals identified in the principal autonomy proposal submitted
217 pursuant to s. 1011.6202.

218 (c) To annually provide to the district school
219 superintendent and the district school board a budget for the
220 operation of the participating school that identifies how funds
221 provided pursuant to s. 1011.69(2) are allocated. The school
222 district shall include the budget in the annual report provided
223 to the State Board of Education pursuant to s. 1011.6202(6).

224 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.