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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

Senator Bullard moved the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 713 - 887

and insert:

1011.6202 Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative.—The Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative is created within the Department of Education. The purpose of the pilot program initiative is to provide the highly effective principal or a highly effective group of select teachers of a participating school with increased autonomy and authority to operate their school in a way that produces significant improvements in student



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12 achievement and school management while complying with
13 constitutional requirements. The State Board of Education may,
14 upon approval of an autonomy proposal, enter into a performance
15 contract with up to seven district school boards for
16 participation in the pilot program.

17 (1) PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS.—The district school
18 boards in Broward, Duval, Escambia, Jefferson, Madison, Palm
19 Beach, Pinellas, and Seminole Counties may submit to the state
20 board for approval an autonomy proposal that exchanges statutory
21 and rule exemptions for an agreement to meet performance goals
22 established in the proposal. If approved by the state board,
23 each of these school districts shall be eligible to participate
24 in the pilot program for 3 years. At the end of the 3 years, the
25 performance of all participating schools in the school district
26 shall be evaluated.

27 (2) AUTONOMY PROPOSAL.—

28 (a) To participate in a principal or teacher autonomy pilot
29 program, a school district must:

30 1. Identify three schools that received at least two school
31 grades of "D" or "F" pursuant to s. 1008.34 during the previous
32 3 school years.

33 2. If a principal autonomy proposal is chosen, identify
34 three principals who have earned a highly effective rating on
35 the prior year's performance evaluation pursuant to s. 1012.34,
36 one of whom shall be assigned to each of the participating
37 schools.

38 3. If a teacher autonomy proposal is chosen, identify three
39 teacher groups in which each of the teachers has earned highly
40 effective performance evaluation ratings for at least 4



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41 consecutive years pursuant to s. 1012.34. A group shall be
42 assigned to each of the participating schools.

43 4. Describe the current financial and administrative
44 management of each participating school; identify the areas in
45 which each school principal or group of select teachers will
46 have increased fiscal and administrative autonomy, including the
47 authority and responsibilities provided in s. 1012.28(8); and
48 identify the areas in which each participating school will
49 continue to follow district school board fiscal and
50 administrative policies.

51 5. Explain the methods used to identify the educational
52 strengths and needs of the participating school's students and
53 identify how student achievement can be improved.

54 6. Establish performance goals for student achievement, as
55 defined in s. 1008.34(1), and explain how the increased autonomy
56 of principals or teachers will help participating schools
57 improve student achievement and school management.

58 7. Provide each participating school's mission and a
59 description of its student population.

60 (b) The state board shall establish criteria, which must
61 include the criteria listed in paragraph (a), for the approval
62 of an autonomy proposal.

63 (c) A district school board must submit its principal or
64 teacher autonomy proposal to the state board for approval by
65 December 1 in order to begin participation in the subsequent
66 school year. By February 28 of the school year in which the
67 proposal is submitted, the state board shall notify the district
68 school board in writing whether the proposal is approved.

69 (3) EXEMPTION FROM LAWS.—



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70 (a) With the exception of those laws listed in paragraph
71 (b), a participating school is exempt from the provisions of
72 chapters 1000-1013 and rules of the state board that implement
73 those exempt provisions.

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

77 1. Those laws relating to the election and compensation of
78 district school board members, the election or appointment and
79 compensation of district school superintendents, public meetings
80 and public records requirements, financial disclosure, and
81 conflicts of interest.

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

84 3. Those laws relating to the provision of services to
85 students with disabilities.

86 4. Those laws relating to civil rights, including s.
87 1000.05, relating to discrimination.

88 5. Those laws relating to student health, safety, and
89 welfare.

90 6. Section 1001.42(4)(f), relating to the uniform opening
91 date for public schools.

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

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

97 9. Section 1012.33(5), relating to workforce reductions for
98 annual contracts for instructional personnel. This subparagraph



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99 does not apply to at-will employees.

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

103 11. Section 1012.34, relating to personnel evaluation
104 procedures and criteria.

105 12. Those laws pertaining to educational facilities,
106 including chapter 1013, except that s. 1013.20, relating to
107 covered walkways for relocatables, and s. 1013.21, relating to
108 the use of relocatable facilities exceeding 20 years of age, are
109 eligible for exemption.

110 13. Those laws pertaining to participating school
111 districts, including this section and ss. 1011.69(2) and
112 1012.28(8).

113 (4) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—Each participating school
114 district shall require that the principal or select group of
115 teachers of each participating school, a three-member leadership
116 team from each participating school, and district personnel
117 working with each participating school complete a nationally
118 recognized school turnaround program which focuses on improving
119 leadership, instructional infrastructure, talent management, and
120 differentiated support and accountability. The required
121 personnel must enroll in the school turnaround program upon
122 acceptance into the pilot program.

123 (5) TERM OF PARTICIPATION.—The state board shall authorize
124 a school district to participate in the pilot program for a
125 period of 3 years commencing with approval of the autonomy
126 proposal. Authorization to participate in the pilot program may
127 be renewed upon action of the state board. The state board may



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128 revoke authorization to participate in the pilot program if the
129 school district fails to meet the requirements of this section
130 during the 3-year period.

131 (6) REPORTING.—Each participating school district shall
132 submit an annual report to the state board. The state board
133 shall annually report on the implementation of the Autonomy
134 Pilot Program Initiative. Upon completion of the pilot program's
135 first 3-year term, the Commissioner of Education shall submit to
136 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
137 Representatives by December 1 a full evaluation of the
138 effectiveness of the pilot program.

139 (7) FUNDING.—The Legislature may appropriate funding to the
140 department in the General Appropriations Act for the costs of
141 the pilot program initiative, including administrative costs and
142 enrollment costs for the school turnaround program and an
143 additional scholarship to each participating principal or select
144 group of teachers to be used at their schools.

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

147 Section 11. Subsection (2) of section 1011.69, Florida
148 Statutes, is amended to read:

149 1011.69 Equity in School-Level Funding Act.—

150 (2) Beginning in the 2003-2004 fiscal year, district school
151 boards shall allocate to schools within the district an average
152 of 90 percent of the funds generated by all schools and
153 guarantee that each school receives at least 80 percent, except
154 schools participating in an autonomy pilot program under s.
155 1011.6202 are guaranteed to receive at least 90 percent, of the
156 funds generated by that school based upon the Florida Education



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157 Finance Program as provided in s. 1011.62 and the General
158 Appropriations Act, including gross state and local funds,
159 discretionary lottery funds, and funds from the school
160 district's current operating discretionary millage levy. Total
161 funding for each school shall be recalculated during the year to
162 reflect the revised calculations under the Florida Education
163 Finance Program by the state and the actual weighted full-time
164 equivalent students reported by the school during the full-time
165 equivalent student survey periods designated by the Commissioner
166 of Education. If the district school board is providing programs
167 or services to students funded by federal funds, any eligible
168 students enrolled in the schools in the district shall be
169 provided federal funds.

170 Section 12. Subsection (8) is added to section 1012.28,
171 Florida Statutes, to read:

172 1012.28 Public school personnel; duties of school
173 principals.-

174 (8) The principal of a school or a select group of teachers
175 participating in an autonomy pilot program under s. 1011.6202
176 have the following additional authority and responsibilities:

177 (a) In addition to the authority provided in subsection
178 (6), the authority to select qualified instructional personnel
179 for placement or to refuse to accept the placement or transfer
180 of instructional personnel by the district school
181 superintendent. Placement of instructional personnel at a
182 participating school in a participating school district does not
183 affect the employee's status as a school district employee.

184 (b) The authority to deploy financial resources to school
185 programs at the principal's or the select group of teachers'



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186 discretion to help improve student achievement, as defined in s.
187 1008.34(1), and meet performance goals identified in the
188 autonomy proposal submitted

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190 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

191 And the title is amended as follows:

192 Delete lines 58 - 76

193 and insert:

194 creating s. 1011.6202, F.S.; creating the Autonomy
195 Pilot Program Initiative; providing a purpose for the
196 initiative; providing a procedure for a school
197 district to participate in the initiative; providing
198 requirements for participating school districts and
199 schools; exempting participating schools from certain
200 laws and rules; requiring principals or select groups
201 of teachers at participating schools and other
202 specified personnel to complete a nationally
203 recognized school turnaround program; providing for
204 the term of participation in a pilot program;
205 providing for renewal or revocation of authorization
206 to participate in a pilot program; providing for
207 reporting, funding, and eligibility requirements for
208 certain funding and rulemaking; amending s. 1011.69,
209 F.S.; requiring participating district school boards
210 to allocate a specified percentage of certain funds to
211 participating schools; amending s. 1012.28, F.S.;

212 providing additional authority and responsibilities of
213 the principal or select group of teachers of a