

By Senator Stewart

13-01399-18

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship
3 Program; amending s. 1002.421, F.S.; revising the
4 fiscal responsibility requirements for a private
5 school that receives funds under the Florida Tax
6 Credit Scholarship Program; providing qualification
7 requirements for school administrators who are
8 employed at such schools; providing an effective date.

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10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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12 Section 1. Paragraphs (f) and (h) of subsection (2) of
13 section 1002.421, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

14 1002.421 Accountability of private schools participating in
15 state school choice scholarship programs.—

16 (2) A private school participating in a scholarship program
17 must be a Florida private school as defined in s. 1002.01(2),
18 must be registered in accordance with s. 1002.42, and must:

19 (f) Demonstrate fiscal soundness and accountability by:

20 1. Being in operation for at least 3 school years or
21 obtaining a surety bond or letter of credit for the amount equal
22 to the scholarship funds for any quarter and filing the surety
23 bond or letter of credit with the department;;

24 2. Requiring the parent of each scholarship student to
25 personally restrictively endorse the scholarship warrant to the
26 school. The school may not act as attorney in fact for the
27 parent of a scholarship student under the authority of a power
28 of attorney executed by such parent, or under any other
29 authority, to endorse scholarship warrants on behalf of such

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30 parent; ~~and~~.

31 3. For the operator of the private school, not having filed
32 for bankruptcy within the last 5 years.

33 (h) Employ or contract with teachers and school
34 administrators who hold baccalaureate or higher degrees; ~~or~~ have
35 at least 3 years of teaching or administrative experience, as
36 appropriate, in public or private schools; ~~or~~ or have special
37 skills, knowledge, or expertise that qualifies them to provide
38 instruction in subjects taught or to fulfil his or her
39 administrative duties.

40 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.