

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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1 Representative Driskell offered the following:

2
3 **Substitute Amendment for Amendment (726247)**

4 Remove lines 765-918 and insert:

5 If a scholarship student returns to a public school, at the time
6 the student returns to the district, the school district in
7 which the student's public school is located shall receive the
8 student's remaining scholarship funds from the program as
9 calculated from the last date of the student's enrollment in the
10 private school. However, if a student enters a Department of
11 Juvenile Justice detention center for a period of no more than
12 21 days, the student is not considered to have returned to a
13 public school for that purpose.

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14 (b) The parent must provide reasonable notice to the
15 department that he or she is enrolling his or her student in
16 another participating private school or public school. Such
17 reasonable notice must be provided in writing and not less than
18 10 days before the dates set forth in paragraph (11)(e). Upon
19 reasonable notice, the parent may remove his or her student from
20 the private school and enroll his or her student in a public
21 school or another participating private school. Such reasonable
22 notice must be provided in writing not less than 10 days before
23 the dates set forth in paragraph (11)(e).

24 (5) SCHOLARSHIP PROHIBITIONS.—A student is not eligible
25 for a Family Empowerment Scholarship while he or she is:

26 (a) Enrolled in a public school, including, but not
27 limited to, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind; the
28 College-Preparatory Boarding Academy; a developmental research
29 school authorized under s. 1002.32; or a charter school
30 authorized under chapter 1002;

31 (b) Enrolled in a school operating for the purpose of
32 providing educational services to youth in a Department of
33 Juvenile Justice commitment program;

34 (c) Receiving any other educational scholarship pursuant
35 to this chapter;

36 (d) Participating in a home education program as defined
37 in s. 1002.01(1);

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38 (e) Participating in a private tutoring program pursuant
39 to s. 1002.43; or

40 (f) Participating in a virtual school, correspondence
41 school, or distance learning program that receives state funding
42 pursuant to the student's participation.

43 (6) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS.—

44 (a) By July 15, 2019, and by April 1 of each year
45 thereafter, the department shall inform all households receiving
46 free or reduced-priced meals under the National School Lunch Act
47 of their eligibility to apply to the department for a Family
48 Empowerment Scholarship. The form of such notice shall be
49 provided by the department to eligible households. Such notice
50 is limited to once a year.

51 (b) The school district in which a participating student
52 resides must notify the student and his or her parent about the
53 locations and times to take all statewide assessments under s.
54 1008.22 if the student chooses to participate in such
55 assessments. Upon the request of the department, a school
56 district shall coordinate with the department to provide to a
57 participating private school the statewide assessments
58 administered under s. 1008.22 and any related materials for
59 administering the assessments. For a student who participates in
60 the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program whose parent requests
61 that the student take the statewide assessments under s.
62 1008.22, the district in which the student attends a private

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63 school shall provide locations and times to take all statewide
64 assessments. A school district is responsible for implementing
65 test administrations at a participating private school,
66 including the:

67 1. Provision of training for private school staff on test
68 security and assessment administration procedures;

69 2. Distribution of testing materials to a private school;

70 3. Retrieval of testing materials from a private school;

71 4. Provision of the required format for a private school
72 to submit information to the district for test administration
73 and enrollment purposes; and

74 5. Provision of any required assistance, monitoring, or
75 investigation at a private school.

76 (c) Each school district must publish information about
77 the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program on the district's
78 website homepage. At a minimum, the published information must
79 include a website link to the Family Empowerment Scholarship
80 Program published on the Department of Education website as well
81 as a telephone number and e-mail that students and parents may
82 use to contact relevant personnel in the school district to
83 obtain information about the scholarship.

84 (7) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.—The department
85 shall:

86 (a) Publish and update, as necessary, information on the
87 department website about the Family Empowerment Scholarship

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88 Program, including, but not limited to, student eligibility
89 criteria, parental responsibilities, and relevant data.

90 (b) Cross-check the list of participating scholarship
91 students with the public school enrollment lists before each
92 scholarship payment to avoid duplication.

93 (8) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—To be
94 eligible to participate in the Family Empowerment Scholarship
95 Program, a private school may be sectarian or nonsectarian and
96 must:

97 (a) Comply with all requirements for private schools
98 participating in state school choice scholarship programs
99 pursuant to s. 1002.421.

100 (b) Provide to the department all documentation required
101 for a student's participation, including the private school's
102 and student's fee schedules, at least 30 days before any
103 quarterly scholarship payment is made for the student pursuant
104 to paragraph (11) (f). A student is not eligible to receive a
105 quarterly scholarship payment if the private school fails to
106 meet this deadline.

107 (c)1. Annually administer or make provision for students
108 participating in the program in grades 3 through 10 to take one
109 of the nationally norm-referenced tests identified by the
110 department or to take the statewide assessments pursuant to s.
111 1008.22. Students with disabilities for whom standardized
112 testing is not appropriate are exempt from this requirement. A

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113 participating private school shall report a student's scores to
114 his or her parent.

115 2. Administer the statewide assessments pursuant to s.
116 1008.22 if the private school chooses to offer the statewide
117 assessments. A participating private school may choose to offer
118 and administer the statewide assessments to all students who
119 attend the private school in grades 3 through 10 and must submit
120 a request in writing to the department by March 1 of each year
121 in order to administer the statewide assessments in the
122 subsequent school year.

123 (d) Provide complete student records, including any
124 standardized test scores, to the student's receiving school
125 within 3 business days. Student records may not be withheld as a
126 result of an outstanding student obligation, including a
127 financial obligation.

128
129 If a private school fails to meet the requirements of this
130 subsection or s. 1002.421, the commissioner may determine that
131 the private school is ineligible to participate in the
132 scholarship program. However, if a private school fails to meet
133 the requirements of paragraph (d), the private school is
134 ineligible to participate in any program under chapter 1002 for
135 a period of 3 years.

136 (9) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM
137 PARTICIPATION.—A parent who applies for a Family Empowerment

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138 Scholarship is exercising his or her parental option to place
139 his or her child in a private school.

140 (a) The parent must select the private school and apply
141 for the admission of his or her student.

142 (b) The parent must request the scholarship at least 60
143 days before the date of the first scholarship payment.

144 (c) The parent must inform the applicable school district
145 when the parent withdraws his or her student from a public
146 school to attend an eligible private school.

147 (d) Any student participating in the program must remain
148 in attendance throughout the school year unless excused by the
149 school for illness or other good cause.

150 (e) Before enrolling in a private school, a student and
151 his or her parent or guardian must meet with the private
152 school's principal or the principal's designee to review the
153 school's academic programs and policies, customized educational
154 programs, code of student conduct, and attendance policies.

155 (f) The parent shall ensure that the student participating
156 in the scholarship program takes the norm-referenced assessment
157 offered by the private school. The parent may also choose to
158 have the student participate in the statewide assessments
159 pursuant to paragraph (6) (b).

160 (g) If the parent requests that the student participating
161 in the program take all statewide assessments required pursuant
162 to s. 1008.22, the parent is responsible for transporting the

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163 student to the assessment site designated by the school
164 district.
165 (h) Upon receipt of a scholarship warrant, the parent to
166 whom the warrant is issued must restrictively endorse the
167 warrant to the private school for deposit into the private
168 school's account. The parent may not designate any entity or
169 individual associated with the participating private school as
170 the parent's attorney in fact to endorse a scholarship warrant.
171 A participant who fails to comply with this paragraph forfeits
172 the scholarship.

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