

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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1 Representative Driskell offered the following:

2
3 **Amendment**

4 Remove lines 765-918 and insert:

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

12 (b) Upon reasonable notice to the department and the
13 school district, the student's parent may remove the student

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14 from the private school and place the student in a public school
15 in accordance with this section.

16 (c) Upon reasonable notice to the department, the
17 student's parent may move the student from one participating
18 private school to another participating private school.

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

21 (a) Enrolled in a public school, including, but not
22 limited to, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind; the
23 College-Preparatory Boarding Academy; a developmental research
24 school authorized under s. 1002.32; or a charter school
25 authorized under chapter 1002;

26 (b) Enrolled in a school operating for the purpose of
27 providing educational services to youth in a Department of
28 Juvenile Justice commitment program;

29 (c) Receiving any other educational scholarship pursuant
30 to this chapter;

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

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

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

38 (6) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS.—

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39 (a) By July 15, 2019, and by April 1 of each year
40 thereafter, a school district shall inform all households within
41 the district receiving free or reduced-priced meals under the
42 National School Lunch Act of their eligibility to apply to the
43 department for a Family Empowerment Scholarship. The form of
44 such notice shall be provided by the department, and the school
45 district shall include the provided form in any normal
46 correspondence with eligible households. Such notice is limited
47 to once a year.

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

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

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

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

68 4. Provision of the required format for a private school
69 to submit information to the district for test administration
70 and enrollment purposes; and

71 5. Provision of any required assistance, monitoring, or
72 investigation at a private school.

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

81 (7) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.—The department
82 shall:

83 (a) Publish and update, as necessary, information on the
84 department website about the Family Empowerment Scholarship
85 Program, including, but not limited to, student eligibility
86 criteria, parental responsibilities, and relevant data.

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

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

94 (a) Comply with all requirements for private schools
95 participating in state school choice scholarship programs
96 pursuant to s. 1002.421.

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

104 (c)1. Annually administer or make provision for students
105 participating in the program in grades 3 through 10 to take one
106 of the nationally norm-referenced tests identified by the
107 department or to take the statewide assessments pursuant to s.
108 1008.22. Students with disabilities for whom standardized
109 testing is not appropriate are exempt from this requirement. A
110 participating private school shall report a student's scores to
111 his or her parent.

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112 2. Administer the statewide assessments pursuant to s.
113 1008.22 if the private school chooses to offer the statewide
114 assessments. A participating private school may choose to offer
115 and administer the statewide assessments to all students who
116 attend the private school in grades 3 through 10 and must submit
117 a request in writing to the department by March 1 of each year
118 in order to administer the statewide assessments in the
119 subsequent school year.

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

125
126 If a private school fails to meet the requirements of this
127 subsection or s. 1002.421, the commissioner may determine that
128 the private school is ineligible to participate in the
129 scholarship program. However, if a private school fails to meet
130 the requirements of paragraph (d), the private school is
131 ineligible to participate in any program under chapter 1002 for
132 a period of 3 years.

133 (9) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM
134 PARTICIPATION.—A parent who applies for a Family Empowerment
135 Scholarship is exercising his or her parental option to place
136 his or her child in a private school.

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

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

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

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

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

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

157 (g) If the parent requests that the student participating
158 in the program take all statewide assessments required pursuant
159 to s. 1008.22, the parent is responsible for transporting the
160 student to the assessment site designated by the school
161 district.

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

170 (i) The parent must provide reasonable notice to the
171 department that he or she is enrolling his or her student in
172 another participating private school or public school. Such
173 reasonable notice must be provided in writing and not less than
174 10 days before the dates set forth in paragraph (11)(e). Upon
175 reasonable notice, the parent may remove his or her student from
176 the private school and enroll his or her student in a public
177 school or another participating private school.

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