



576-02708-21

Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Appropriations
(Appropriations Subcommittee on Education)

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to student retention; authorizing a parent or guardian to request that his or her student be retained in a grade level for academic reasons for a specified school year; requiring that such a request be submitted in a specified manner; requiring school principals to consider such requests if they are timely received; authorizing school principals to consider requests that are not timely received; requiring a school principal that considers a request to inform the student's teachers of the request and collaboratively discuss with the parent or guardian any basis for agreement or disagreement with the request; authorizing the principal, teachers, and parent or guardian to collaborate to develop a customized 1-year education plan for the student in lieu of retaining the student; requiring a parent or guardian's decision regarding retention to control; prohibiting a retained middle school student from retaking certain classes; requiring school districts to report certain data to the Department of Education by a specified date; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Notwithstanding s. 1008.25, Florida Statutes, a parent or guardian may request that his or her K-8 public school



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28 student be retained for the 2021-2022 school year in the grade
29 level to which the student was assigned at the beginning of the
30 2020-2021 school year, provided that such request is made for
31 academic reasons.

32 (1) A parent or guardian who wishes for his or her student
33 to be retained as provided by this act must submit, in writing,
34 to the school principal a retention request that specifies the
35 academic reasons for the retention. Only requests received by
36 the principal on or before June 30, 2021, must be considered. A
37 principal may consider a request received after that date at his
38 or her discretion.

39 (2) (a) A principal who considers a retention request
40 submitted pursuant to subsection (1) shall inform the student's
41 teachers of the retention request and collaboratively discuss
42 with the parent or guardian any basis for agreement or
43 disagreement with the request.

44 (b) In lieu of retention, the principal, teachers, and
45 parent or guardian may collaborate to develop a customized 1-
46 year education plan for the student with the intent of helping
47 the student return to grade level readiness by the end of the
48 next academic year. Such plan may include, but need not be
49 limited to, supplemental educational support, services, and
50 interventions; summer education; promotion in some, but not all,
51 courses; and midyear promotion.

52 (c) The parent or guardian's decision to promote or retain
53 his or her student after discussing the retention request with
54 the principal shall control.

55 (3) A middle school student who is retained under this
56 section may be eligible to retake high school credits earned



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57 toward grade forgiveness pursuant to s. 1003.4282(5), Florida
58 Statutes, only if he or she has earned a grade of "C", "D," or
59 "F." in the class for which the credits were awarded.

60 (4) By June 30, 2022, school districts shall report to the
61 Department of Education the number of students retained pursuant
62 to this act for all or part of the 2021-2022 school year.

63 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.