By Senator Berman

31-00413-21   2021200__

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 1                    A bill to be entitled
 2          An act relating to student retention; authorizing a
 3          parent to request that his or her student be retained
 4          in a grade level for a specified school year;
 5          requiring such request to be submitted in a specified
 6          manner; requiring school district superintendents to
 7          grant such requests if they are timely received;
 8          authorizing school district superintendents to grant
 9          requests that are not timely received; requiring
10          school districts to administer a certain assessment to
11          specified students; requiring such students to
12          participate in the assessment; clarifying that
13          specified students may qualify for midyear promotion;
14          authorizing a parent to request such promotion or to
15          request that his or her student continue to be
16          retained; requiring school districts to approve such
17          requests; requiring school districts to report certain
18          data to the Department of Education by a specified
19          date; providing for future repeal; providing an
20          effective date.
21
22     Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
23
24          Section 1. Notwithstanding s. 1008.25, Florida Statutes, a
25     parent may choose to retain his or her K-12 public school
26     student in the grade level to which the student was assigned at
27     the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year for the 2021-2022
28     school year.
29          (1) A parent who wishes for his or her student to be
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30 retained under this act shall submit a retention request in

31 writing to the school district superintendent. Only requests

32 received by the superintendent on or before June 1, 2021, must

33 be considered. A school district superintendent who timely

34 receives such a request shall grant the request. A school

35 district superintendent who receives such a written request

36 after the deadline for receipt may grant the request upon his or

37 her discretion.

38   (2) School districts shall administer a midyear assessment

39 to a student retained pursuant to this act. Such assessment

40 shall evaluate the student's progression to mastery of the

41 standards imposed under s. 1003.41, Florida Statutes. A student

42 retained pursuant to this act shall participate in such midyear

43 assessment, the statewide, standardized assessments administered

44 under s. 1008.22, Florida Statutes, and any other statewide

45 educational tests required by law.

46   (3) A student for whom a parent requests retention may

47 qualify for whole-grade promotion, midyear promotion, or

48 subject-matter acceleration pursuant to s. 1002.3105, Florida

49 Statutes, during the 2021-2022 school year. In such case, the

50 parent may request that the school district promote his or her

51 student accordingly or that his or her student be retained

52 pursuant to the parent's retention request. School districts

53 shall grant all such requests.

54   (4) By June 1, 2022, school districts shall report to the

55 Department of Education the number of students retained pursuant

56 to this act for all or part of the 2021-2022 school year.

57   (5) This act shall stand repealed on June 30, 2022, unless

58 reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the

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59 | <u>Legislature.</u>

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