

By Senator Polsky

29-00381C-22

20221576__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to educational support staff; creating
3 s. 1012.08, F.S.; providing that a staff support
4 position that has over a specified amount of positions
5 vacant constitutes a critical shortage area; requiring
6 each district superintendent to compile specified
7 information by a specified date each year; requiring
8 districts to fund certain incentives; requiring
9 district superintendents to file a report with the
10 Legislature documenting certain information by a
11 specified date each year; providing an effective date.

12
13 WHEREAS, this state has a vested interest in addressing the
14 critical shortage of education support employees and
15 paraprofessionals who are valued and vital members of the
16 education workforce, who ensure that students achieve success at
17 their highest levels, and who engage students and keep them
18 connected to the larger school community. Education staff
19 professionals keep students emotionally and physically healthy
20 and safe, and

21 WHEREAS, education staff professionals are critical members
22 of the education workforce and ensure student success from
23 preschool through college, and

24 WHEREAS, it is a state priority to provide funding so that
25 districts can maintain adequate staffing of staff support
26 professionals in all of the schools in this state, NOW,
27 THEREFORE,

28
29 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

29-00381C-22

20221576__

30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

Section 1. Section 1012.08, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1012.08 Support staff critical shortage areas.-

(1) A staff support position that has over 20 percent of its available staffing positions vacant constitutes a critical shortage area.

(2) Not later than April 1 of each year, each district superintendent shall compile a listing of critical employment shortages for education support employees as defined in s. 1012.40(1)(a) and paraprofessionals as defined in s. 1012.01(2)(e) based on evidence of a shortage for each position.

(3) Each district shall fund incentives that will help retain and recruit personnel for critical shortages or hard to staff positions or worksites in support staff positions as appropriated in the General Appropriations Act.

(4) By December 1 of each year, the district superintendents shall file a report to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives with documentation of the shortage and how the funds were used.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.