

Amendment No. 1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	<u>    </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	<u>    </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	<u>    </u>	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	<u>    </u>	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	<u>    </u>	(Y/N)
OTHER	<u>      </u>	

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1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Education & Employment  
 2 Committee

3 Representative Trabulsy offered the following:

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5 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

6 Between lines 479 and 480, insert:

7 Section 5. Section 1002.411, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 8 to read:

9 1002.411 New Worlds ~~Reading~~ Scholarship Accounts.—

10 (1) NEW WORLDS ~~READING~~ SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS.—New Worlds  
 11 ~~Reading~~ Scholarship Accounts are established to provide  
 12 educational options for students.

13 (2) ELIGIBILITY.—Contingent upon available funds, and on a  
 14 first-come, first-served basis, each student who is enrolled in  
 15 a Florida public school in kindergarten through grade 5 is  
 16 eligible for a ~~reading~~ scholarship account if the student:

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17        (a) has a substantial reading deficiency or exhibits  
18 characteristics of dyslexia identified under s. 1008.25(5)(a) or  
19 scored below a Level 3 on the statewide, standardized English  
20 Language Arts (ELA) assessment in the prior school year. An  
21 eligible student who is classified as an English Language  
22 Learner and is enrolled in a program or receiving services that  
23 are specifically designed to meet the instructional needs of  
24 English Language Learner students shall receive priority.

25        (b) has a substantial deficiency in mathematics or the  
26 characteristics of dyscalculia pursuant to s. 1008.25(6)(a), or  
27 scored below a Level 3 on the statewide, standardized  
28 Mathematics assessment in the prior school year.

29        (3) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR  
30 PARTICIPATION.—

31        (a) For an eligible student to receive a ~~reading~~  
32 scholarship account, the student's parent must:

33        1. Submit an application to an eligible nonprofit  
34 scholarship-funding organization by the deadline established by  
35 such organization; and

36        2. Submit eligible expenses to the eligible nonprofit  
37 scholarship-funding organization for reimbursement of qualifying  
38 expenditures, which may include:

39        a. Instructional materials.

40        b. Curriculum. As used in this sub-subparagraph, the term  
41 "curriculum" means a complete course of study for a particular

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42 content area or grade level, including any required supplemental  
43 materials and associated online instruction.

44 c. Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services  
45 provided by a person who holds a valid Florida educator's  
46 certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56, a person who holds a  
47 baccalaureate or graduate degree in the subject area, a person  
48 who holds an adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s.  
49 1012.57, or a person who has demonstrated a mastery of subject  
50 area knowledge pursuant to s. 1012.56(5).

51 d. Fees for summer education programs designed to improve  
52 reading, ~~or~~ literacy, or mathematics skills.

53 e. Fees for after-school education programs designed to  
54 improve reading, ~~or~~ literacy, or mathematics skills.

55  
56 A provider of any services receiving payments pursuant to this  
57 subparagraph may not share any moneys from the ~~reading~~  
58 scholarship with, or provide a refund or rebate of any moneys  
59 from such scholarship to, the parent or participating student in  
60 any manner. A parent, student, or provider of any services may  
61 not bill an insurance company, Medicaid, or any other agency for  
62 the same services that are paid for using ~~reading~~ scholarship  
63 funds.

64 (b) The parent is responsible for the payment of all  
65 eligible expenses in excess of the amount in the account in  
66 accordance with the terms agreed to between the parent and any

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67 providers and may not receive any refund or rebate of any  
68 expenditures made in accordance with paragraph (a).

69 (4) ADMINISTRATION.—An eligible nonprofit scholarship-  
70 funding organization participating in the Florida Tax Credit  
71 Scholarship Program established by s. 1002.395 may establish  
72 ~~reading~~ scholarship accounts for eligible students in accordance  
73 with the requirements of eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding  
74 organizations under this chapter.

75 (5) DEPARTMENT OBLIGATIONS.—The department shall have the  
76 same duties imposed by this chapter upon the department  
77 regarding oversight of scholarship programs administered by an  
78 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization.

79 (6) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS; PARENTAL OPTIONS.—

80 (a) By September 30, the school district shall notify the  
81 parent of each eligible student ~~in kindergarten through grade 5~~  
82 ~~who has a substantial reading deficiency identified under s.~~  
83 ~~1008.25(5)(a) or scored below a level 3 on the statewide,~~  
84 ~~standardized ELA assessment in the prior school year~~ of the  
85 process to request and receive a ~~reading~~ scholarship, subject to  
86 available funds.

87 (b) A school district may not prohibit instructional  
88 personnel from providing services pursuant to this section on  
89 the instructional personnel's school campus outside regular work  
90 hours, subject to school district policies for safety and

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91 security operations to protect students, instructional  
92 personnel, and educational facilities.

93 (7) ACCOUNT FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

94 (a) The amount of the scholarship for an eligible student  
95 shall be as provided in the General Appropriations Act.

96 (b) One hundred percent of the funds appropriated for the  
97 ~~reading~~ scholarship accounts shall be released to the department  
98 at the beginning of the first quarter of each fiscal year.

99 (c) Upon notification from the eligible nonprofit  
100 scholarship-funding organization that a student has been  
101 determined eligible for a ~~reading~~ scholarship, the department  
102 shall release the student's scholarship funds to such  
103 organization to be deposited into the student's account.

104 (d) Accrued interest in the student's account is in  
105 addition to, and not part of, the awarded funds. Account funds  
106 include both the awarded funds and accrued interest.

107 (e) The eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding  
108 organization may develop a system for payment of scholarship  
109 funds by funds transfer, including, but not limited to, debit  
110 cards, electronic payment cards, or any other means of payment  
111 that the department deems to be commercially viable or cost-  
112 effective. A student's scholarship award may not be reduced for  
113 debit card or electronic payment fees. Commodities or services  
114 related to the development of such a system shall be procured by

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115 competitive solicitation unless they are purchased from a state  
116 term contract pursuant to s. 287.056.

117 (f) Payment of the scholarship shall be made by the  
118 eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization no less  
119 frequently than on a quarterly basis.

120 (g) Moneys received pursuant to this section do not  
121 constitute taxable income to the qualified student or his or her  
122 parent.

123 (h) A student's scholarship account must be closed and any  
124 remaining funds shall revert to the state after:

125 1. Denial or revocation of scholarship eligibility by the  
126 commissioner for fraud or abuse, including, but not limited to,  
127 the student or student's parent accepting any payment, refund,  
128 or rebate, in any manner, from a provider of any services  
129 received pursuant to subsection (3); or

130 2. Three consecutive fiscal years in which an account has  
131 been inactive.

132 (8) LIABILITY.—No liability shall arise on the part of the  
133 state based on the award or use of a ~~reading~~ scholarship  
134 account.

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**T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T**

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Bill No. CS/HB 7039 (2023)

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140           Between lines 13 and 14, insert:  
141   s. 1002.411, F.S.; renaming the New Worlds Reading Scholarship  
142   Accounts; revising the eligibility for the scholarship accounts;  
143   revising eligible expenditures for the program; amending