

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to private school facilities; amending
3 s. 1002.42, F.S.; providing that certain private
4 schools are considered a permitted use in certain
5 zoning districts; authorizing certain private schools
6 to operate in facilities that meet specified
7 requirements; requiring certain private schools
8 operating in such facilities to meet specified
9 standards under the Florida Fire Prevention Code;
10 requiring a local fire official to use specified fire
11 safety evaluation systems for existing private school
12 facilities; providing an effective date.

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

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16 **Section 1. Subsections (19) and (20) of section 1002.42,**
17 **Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (20) and (21),**
18 **respectively, paragraph (d) is added to present subsection (19),**
19 **and a new subsection (19) and is added to that section, to read:**

20 1002.42 Private schools.—

21 (19) LAND USE.—A private school enrolling 150 or fewer
22 students shall be considered a permitted use in a commercial or
23 mixed-use zoning district within a county or municipality
24 without rezoning or obtaining a special exception or a land use
25 change, and without complying with any mitigation requirements,

26 conditions, performance standards, ordinances, rules, codes, or
27 policies.

28 (20)-(19) FACILITIES.—

29 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a private
30 school enrolling 150 or fewer students may operate in a facility
31 that is an existing assembly, day care, mercantile, or business
32 occupancy, as defined in the Florida Fire Prevention Code. A
33 private school operating in such a facility must meet the
34 standards for existing educational occupancy requirements under
35 the Florida Fire Prevention Code. The local fire official must
36 use the fire safety evaluation systems found in NFPA 101A: Guide
37 on Alternative Approaches to Life Safety, adopted by the State
38 Fire Marshal, for existing facilities as low-cost, reasonable
39 alternatives to fire safety evaluation system standards.

40 **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.