

## **ETHICS IN EDUCATION**

### **CS/CS/CS/SB 1712 — Ethics in Education Act**

by Education Pre-K – 12 Appropriations Committee; Governmental Operations Committee; Education Pre-K – 12 Committee; and Senators Carlton, Gaetz, and Lynn

The bill establishes comprehensive changes at the state and local level regarding the screening, hiring, and termination policies for educators and the reporting procedures related to allegations of educator misconduct.

#### ***Background Screening***

Each school district, charter school, and private school that accepts scholarship students under certain state programs must to screen potential applicants for instructional personnel and school-based administrator positions by contacting previous employers, reviewing the certification history of the individual through the Department of Education certification website, and performing criminal history records checks on these individuals.

The bill establishes a list of crimes that would disqualify an individual , if convicted, from obtaining or retaining a teaching certificate or instructional employment involving direct contact with students.

#### ***Immediate Suspension and Reassignment from Classroom or School***

A school district superintendent must immediately suspend and reassign instructional personnel or school-based administrators from direct contact with students upon an allegation of misconduct involving the health, safety, or welfare of students.

#### ***Confidentiality Agreements Prohibited***

Schools are prohibited from entering into confidentiality agreements when terminating an employee when the termination is based in whole or in part on the misconduct of the individual, which affects the health, safety, or welfare of students. Schools are also prohibited from providing a reference to a prospective employer without disclosing such misconduct.

#### ***Penalties and Sanctions***

The bill includes significant financial penalties and teacher-certification sanctions for non-compliance. District school superintendents and school personnel that fail to report misconduct

of instructional personnel and school-based administrators, which affects the health, safety, or welfare of students would also be subject to certification penalties.

The bill provides that any public officer or employee convicted of certain sex-related offenses on minors within the scope of his or her duties would forfeit his or her right to any state retirement benefits, except for an individual's accumulated contributions up to the time of the conviction.

### ***Education Practices Commission***

The bill revises the membership of the Education Practices Commission to include sworn law enforcement officers, parents of public school students, and an administrator of a private school. The authority of the commission is expanded to include discipline of an educator who knowingly fails to report suspected or actual child abuse or misconduct by an educator.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

*Vote: Senate 40-0; House 118-0*

## **SCHOOL STANDARDS, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND GRADING**

### **CS/SB 1908 — State Curriculum Standards, Accountability, and High School Grades**

by Education Pre-K – 12 Committee and Senators Gaetz, Lynn, and Wise

#### ***School Grading***

Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, the bill revises the high school grading formula to reduce the FCAT component of a high school's grade to 50 percent of the grade and adds the school's graduation rate, at-risk student graduation rate, postsecondary readiness rate, and the participation and performance of students on demanding coursework such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, dual enrollment, Advanced International Certificate of Education, and industry certification in a career and professional academy as the remaining 50 percent of a school's grade.

The bill revises the assignment of grades to alternative schools by requiring that the grade of a student assigned to an alternative school is credited to the school for which the student is assigned. The bill also makes school performance more accessible to the public by reducing the minimum number of student scores required to calculate a school grade or rating while protecting student identity.

The bill expands the number of schools eligible for School Recognition Program funding by awarding funds to schools that increase more than one school grade in a given year and maintain that performance the following year.

### ***State Curriculum Standards***

The bill provides for the revision of Florida's K-12 curriculum standards to include collaboration with renowned experts in content area and subject related fields. The standards revised to date and those scheduled for completion within the next three years would be renamed the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.

### ***Statewide Assessments and Preparation***

The Commissioner of Education is authorized to adopt rigorous end-of-course assessments for secondary courses and provide for the transition to a more comprehensive and cost-effective state writing assessment. The bill also establishes parameters for statewide testing dates to require the latest possible date for test administration and the earliest possible date for the return of test scores.

The Department of Education must select an assessment to evaluate the postsecondary readiness of certain students, and districts must provide remediation to those students before they graduate and enter college.

The bill prohibits school districts from interrupting a student's regular day of instruction to engage in test taking practices for the statewide assessment with certain exceptions.

### ***High School Graduation***

The bill authorizes students to earn credit in practical arts for purposes of meeting the fine arts requirements for high school graduation.

Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, students may earn a differentiated diploma that indicates their achievement in certain demanding coursework and college credit.

### ***Teacher Stipends and Certification***

The bill revises provisions for the Teachers Lead Program Stipend to clarify eligible expenditures, deadlines for distribution of funds to teachers, and options available for the allocation and expenditure of program funds.

The bill provides additional options for teacher certification candidates to demonstrate mastery of subject area knowledge in certain foreign languages.

### ***School Cafeteria Reports***

The bill requires the posting of school cafeteria sanitation and safety reports in a public location in the school cafeteria.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008, except as otherwise provided.

*Vote: Senate 40-0; House 118-0*

## **SCHOOL SAFETY AND WELLNESS**

### **HB 669 — School Safety**

by Reps. N. Thompson, Bogdanoff, Aubuchon, and others (CS/SB 790 by Criminal Justice Committee and Senators Baker, Dockery, Bennett, Lynn, and Rich)

The bill creates the "Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for All Students Act" and prohibits the bullying or harassment of any public K-12 student or employee during a public K-12 education program or activity; during a school-related or school-sponsored program or activity; on a public K-12 school bus; or through a public K-12 computer, computer system, or computer network.

The Department of Education must adopt a model bullying and harassment policy by October 1, 2008. By December 1, 2008, each school district is required to adopt a bullying and harassment policy in substantial conformity with the department's model policy, and include students, parents, teachers, administrators, school staff, volunteers, community representatives, and local law enforcement agencies in the development of the district's policy.

For the 2009-2010 school year, each school district's Safe Schools funding is contingent upon the department's approval of the district's bullying and harassment policy. To obtain approval, the district policy must substantially conform with the department's policy. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, a school district's annual allocation of Safe Schools funding is contingent upon the district's compliance with reporting requirements for bullying and harassment incidents, the investigation of such incidents, and the steps taken by the district in response.

The Commissioner of Education must submit an annual report to the Governor and Legislature to include data on district reports of bullying and harassment.

The bill provides limited civil immunity for a school employee, volunteer, student, or parent who reports bullying or harassment in good faith.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

*Vote: Senate 40-0; House 112-0*

**CS/CS/SB 610 — The Don Davis Physical Education Act**

by Education Pre-K – 12 Appropriations Committee; Education Pre-K – 12 Committee; and Senator Constantine

This bill is named for the late Representative Don Davis of Jacksonville, who was the sponsor of this legislation in the House of Representatives. This bill requires each district school board to include in its written physical education policy the benefits of physical education and the availability of one-on-one counseling to parents concerning the benefits. In addition to current requirements for the provision of 150 minutes of physical education each week to students in kindergarten through grade 5, the bill requires each school board to provide such education to students in grade 6 who are enrolled in a school that also contains one or more elementary grades. On any day when such physical education instruction is provided there must be at least 30 consecutive minutes of instruction.

Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, district school boards must provide the equivalent of one class period per day of physical education for one semester of each year for students enrolled in grades 6 through 8. This requirement must be waived for students who are enrolled in a remedial course or whose parents request a waiver under certain conditions. School districts are required to notify parents of the waiver options before scheduling a student to participate in physical education.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

*Vote: Senate 37-1; House 113-6*

**CS/HB 623 — School Breakfast Programs**

by Schools and Learning Council and Rep. Kendrick and others (CS/CS/SB 1458 by Education Pre-K – 12 Appropriations Committee; Education Pre-K – 12 Committee; and Senators Wise, Gaetz, Fasano, and Siplin)

Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, school districts are required to make a school breakfast available to middle and high school students. School districts are already required to make the breakfast available to elementary school students.

Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, each school district is required to annually set prices for breakfast meals at a level that, when combined with federal reimbursement, would cover the costs of the breakfast meals. School districts may, however, set lower prices. Each school district is also required to provide students and parents with information about the district's school breakfast program.

Each school, to the maximum extent practicable, must serve breakfast at alternative sites in order to expand access. Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, a school must make alternative

breakfast options available to students who arrive by school bus at school less than 15 minutes before the first bell rings and allow the students at least 15 minutes to eat the breakfast.

The bill also encourages school districts to provide universal-free school breakfast in all schools and requires district school boards, by the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year, to consider a policy for providing universal-free school breakfast for all students in schools in which 80 percent or more of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

The bill directs the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, by January 15, 2009, to issue a report that evaluates the implementation costs of universal-free school breakfast, examines school meal prices and the efficiency and effectiveness of school district food service programs, and identifies best practices and strategies for reducing food service costs.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

*Vote: Senate 38-0; House 117-0*

## **SCHOOL AND PROGRAM CHOICE**

### **CS/CS/SB 1906 — Alternative Credit High School Courses**

by Education Pre-K – 12 Appropriations Committee; Education Pre-K – 12 Committee; and Senators Gaetz and Lynn

The bill creates a pilot program to provide opportunities for high school students enrolled in rigorous career academies to simultaneously earn credit in specific math and science courses without taking the math or science course.

High school students enrolled in career and professional academies would earn credit for Integrated Math 1 and 2, Algebra 1a and 1b, Algebra 1, Geometry, and Biology, provided the standards and essential concepts of these courses are included in their career coursework and the students can verify mastery of the core content on approved end-of-course-assessments. The bill provides that students who attain scores that verify mastery of content on the end-of-course assessments would earn the district additional funding within the funding caps provided by law.

The bill authorizes the Palm Beach County school district to conduct a pilot program to recognize business partners by publicly displaying the businesses' names on school district property in unincorporated areas.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

*Vote: Senate 38-0; House 117-0*

**CS/CS/CS/HB 653 — Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program**

by Policy and Budget Council; Schools and Learning Council; and Rep. Traviesa and others (CS/CS/SB 1440 by Education Pre-K – 12 Appropriations Committee; Education Pre-K – 12 Committee; and Senators Gaetz, Lawson, King; Storms, Baker, Crist; Posey, Oelrich, Saunders, Fasano, Peaden, Siplin, Wise, Bennett, Dockery, Haridopolos, Alexander, and Garcia)

For the Corporate Income Tax Credit (CTC) Scholarship Program, the bill revises the scholarship eligibility criteria to allow the participation of the sibling of a scholarship student and students who are placed in foster care. The bill also makes the following changes to the provisions of the CTC scholarship program:

- Increases the current maximum scholarship award amount from \$3,750 to \$3,950, beginning with FY 2008-2009;
- Requires an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization (SFO) to annually expend at least 75 percent, rather than obligate 100 percent of the eligible contributions received in that fiscal year;
- Authorizes SFOs to retain up to 3 percent of contributions for reasonable and necessary administrative expenses;
- Provides that only SFOs that have been in operation for three years and do not have any negative financial findings are eligible for the administrative fee;
- Limits the amount of the administrative fee that can be expended on recruitment of additional contributions to one-third of the administrative fee;
- Removes the limitation on interest being used for scholarships;
- Increases the \$88 million maximum tax credit by \$30 million to \$118 million beginning with FY 2008-2009;
- Provides that contributions in excess of carryforward at the end of the state fiscal year revert to General Revenue; and
- Eliminates the current reserve of at least 1 percent of the maximum tax credit for small businesses.

The bill requires the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to provide a report to the Governor and Legislature by December 1, 2008, which reviews the advisability and net state fiscal impact of increasing the maximum annual amount of credits for the corporate income tax and authorizing the use of credits for insurance premium taxes as an additional source of funding for the scholarship program. The bill also requires OPPAGA to make recommendations, if warranted, for strategies to encourage scholarship students to participate in the statewide assessment program.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect June 30, 2008.

*Vote: Senate 29-8; House 82-34*

### **CS/CS/SB 242 — Single-gender Schools, Classes, and Programs**

by Judiciary Committee; Education Pre-K – 12 Committee; and Senators Wise and Fasano

This bill (Chapter 2008-26, L.O.F.) authorizes district school boards to establish and maintain a single-gender nonvocational class, extracurricular activity, or school for elementary, middle, or high school students if the school district also makes available a substantially equally single-gender class, extracurricular activity, or school to students of the other gender and a coeducational class, extracurricular activity, or school to all students.

District school boards that elect to establish a single-gender class, extracurricular activity, or school may not require participation by any student, and must ensure that student participation is voluntary. Additionally, a district school board that establishes a single-gender class, extracurricular activity, or school must evaluate the class, activity, or school every two years in order to ensure compliance with state and federal requirements.

These provisions became law without the Governor's signature and take effect July 1, 2008.

*Vote: Senate 36-0; House 113-3*

### **SB 642 — School/Multiple Birth Siblings/Classroom Placement**

by Senators Siplin, Ring, and Baker

The bill provides for parents to request the placement of multiple birth siblings in the same or separate classrooms in the same grade level. A school must grant the parent's request unless the student's performance indicates otherwise or if it would require the district to add another class to the students' grade level. The bill provides for a principal to change the student's placement if his or her behavior is disruptive to the school. A parent may appeal the principal's decision.

The bill specifies that these provisions do not apply to the rights or obligations of students with disabilities or the removal of students pursuant to disciplinary policies.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

*Vote: Senate 39-0; House 119-0*



**CS/HB 251 — School Access for Junior or Senior Officers' Training Corps**

by Schools and Learning Council and Rep. Jordan and others (CS/CS/SB 574 by Higher Education Committee; Military Affairs and Domestic Security Committee; and Senators Baker, Gaetz, Bennett, and Lynn)

This bill prohibits a school district from banning the establishment, maintenance, or operation of a unit of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) at a public high school. A student who attends a high school that does not offer JROTC for any branch of the United States Armed Forces or the United States Department of Homeland Security, and who meets the minimum qualifications for enrollment in one of these programs, may enroll in the JRTOC program at another public high school, if the student's courses do not conflict with the schedule of the other school's JROTC program. However, school districts are not required to provide transportation for a student who elects the option to enroll in JRTOC at another high school.

This bill also enhances access for military recruiters to school campuses, students, and student information. School districts must grant military recruiters from the United States Armed Forces and the United States Department of Homeland Security the same access to secondary school students, and to school facilities and grounds, that the district grants to postsecondary educational institutions or prospective employers of students. School districts must also grant military recruiters access to the names, addresses, and telephone listings of secondary school students. However, the district must comply with a student's or parent's request under state or federal law to not release such directory information.

Finally, the bill addresses the presence of the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps and military recruiters on community college and state university campuses, as well as access by such military recruiters to the information of community college or state university students. Community colleges and state universities may not prohibit Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps from being established, maintained, or operated at such institutions. Additionally, military recruiters from the United States Armed Forces and the United States Department of Homeland Security must receive the same access to the college's or university's students, and to campus facilities, which the college or university grants to other employers. A community college or state university must grant military recruiters access to information regarding the names, addresses, telephone listings, dates and places of birth, levels of education, academic majors, most recent educational institutions enrolled in, and degrees received of the students of the community college or state university to the extent provided by federal law.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

*Vote: Senate 39-0; House 109-0*

### **CS/HB 1203 — Educational Opportunity for Military Children**

by Schools and Learning Council and Rep. Proctor and others (CS/SB 2546 by Education Pre-K – 12 Committee and Senators Storms, Baker, Diaz de la Portilla, Alexander, Fasano, Villalobos, Bennett, Constantine, Crist, Dean, Gaetz, and Wise)

The bill creates the Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, which is designed to assist the educational continuity of students whose parents are military service members. The compact also provides for the creation of an Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children to provide general oversight of the agreement, create and enforce rules governing the compact's operation, and provide a venue for solving interstate issues and disputes. The bill authorizes the Governor to designate a Compact Commissioner and Military Family Education Liaison and creates the State Advisory Council to make recommendations for compliance with the compact.

The compact applies to children of the following: active duty members of the uniformed services, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders; members or veterans of the uniformed services who are severely injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of one year after medical discharge or retirement; and members of the uniformed services who die on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one year after death.

The compact provides for the following:

#### ***Student Enrollment***

- Provides that schools must share educational records in a timely manner and allows the sending school to provide the parent with an unofficial copy that may be used until the official record is verified;
- Provides specific timelines for students to obtain required immunizations in the receiving state; and
- Provides that a student must be allowed to continue his or her enrollment at grade level in the receiving state commensurate with the student's grade level in the sending state at the time of transition.

#### ***Placement***

- Provides that when a student transfers before or during the school year, the receiving state school must initially honor placement of the student in educational courses, based on the student's enrollment in the sending state's school or educational assessments conducted at the school in the sending state if the courses are offered; however, the school in the receiving state may perform subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment;

- Requires the receiving state to initially provide comparable services to a student with disabilities based on his or her current Individual Education Plan; however, the school in the receiving state may perform subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement;
- Provides school districts with flexibility in waiving course or program prerequisites, or other preconditions for placement in courses or programs offered under the jurisdiction of the district; and
- Provides that a student whose parent is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty, is on leave from active duty, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, must be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of the district superintendent to visit with his or her parent prior to the leave or deployment.

### ***Graduation***

- Requires school districts to waive specific courses required for graduation if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another state;
- Requires districts to provide an alternative means of acquiring required coursework for the student to graduate on time, if a waiver is not granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school;
- Requires states to accept exit or end-of-course exams required for graduation from the sending state, national norm-referenced achievement tests, or alternative testing, in lieu of testing requirements for graduation in the receiving state; and
- Requires the sending and receiving districts to ensure the receipt of a diploma from the sending district, if the student transfers in his or her senior year, is ineligible to graduate from the receiving district after considering all alternatives, and meets the graduation requirements of the sending district.

The act sunsets two years following the effective date of the act or upon enactment of the interstate compacts, whichever occurs later.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008, or upon enactment of the compact into law by nine other states, whichever date occurs later.

*Vote: Senate 39-0; House 107-1*

### **CS/CS/SB 526 — Interscholastic Extracurricular Activities**

by Education Pre-K – 12 Appropriations Committee; Education Pre-K – 12 Committee; and Senators Wise and Lynn

Beginning in the 2008-2009 school year in Bradford, Duval and Nassau school districts, a 2-year pilot program is established to permit a middle or high school student enrolled in a private school to participate in intrascholastic and interscholastic sports at a public school, if the student is zoned for the public school, the private school does not provide an intrascholastic or interscholastic program, and the school is not a member of the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA).

To be eligible to participate at a public high school, middle school, or a grades 6-12 school, the student must meet certain conditions, including requirements for standards of conduct and student academic performance.

The bill also provides an exemption from civil liability arising out of an injury that occurs during the private school student's transportation to and from his or her public school. A report, including recommendations, must be made by the FHSAA and the participating school districts to the Governor and the legislative presiding officers by January 1, 2010.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

*Vote: Senate 38-1; House 75-41*

### **CS/SB 1414 — Supplemental Educational Services**

by Education Pre-K – 12 Committee and Senators Diaz de la Portilla and Lynn

The bill tasks the Department of Education (DOE) with annually designating a performance grade of "A," "B," "C," "D," or "F," for each state-approved Supplemental Educational Services (SES) provider, based on a combination of student learning gains and student proficiency levels, as measured by the statewide assessment and norm-referenced tests approved by the DOE for students in kindergarten through grade 3. Under the bill, a grade is assigned beginning with the 2007-2008 school year and must be reported to parents, SES providers, school districts, and the public.

The bill limits the facility rental fee that Miami Dade County School District may charge a state-approved SES provider. The fee is limited to only the hours that a classroom is used by the provider to tutor students.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

*Vote: Senate 32-5; House 114-3*

## **EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT AWARENESS**

### **CS/SB 856 — Disability History and Awareness**

by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee and Senators Fasano and Wilson

The bill requires district school boards to designate "Disability History and Awareness Weeks" during the first two weeks in October of each year and authorizes school boards to provide disability history and awareness instruction in kindergarten through grade 12 during those weeks. The instruction may be integrated into the existing school curriculum. The bill encourages state postsecondary institutions to conduct and promote activities related to disability history and awareness.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

*Vote: Senate 39-0; House 118-0*

### **CS/HB 1313 — Students with Disabilities**

by Schools and Learning Council and Rep. Precourt (CS/CS/SB 2700 by Education Pre-K – 12 Appropriations Committee; Higher Education Committee; and Senator Wise)

The bill revises the definition of an "exceptional student" to conform to federal law or accepted practice by amending the following provisions of the Florida K-20 Education Code relating to students with disabilities:

- Eligibility requirements for special programs for students with disabilities;
- Eligibility requirements for special programs and related services for children with disabilities who are three years of age or older (preschool children) and for children with disabilities who are younger than three years of age (infants and toddlers);
- Special high school graduation requirements for students with disabilities;
- Substitute admission, graduation, and upper level division requirements of public postsecondary educational institutions for students with disabilities; and
- Student eligibility requirements for the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program.

The bill also eliminates a provision that prohibits direct medical intervention or pharmaceutical intervention at any regional autism center effective July 1, 2008.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

*Vote: Senate 40-0; House 119-0*

## **EARLY LEARNING**

### **HB 879 — The Success in Early Learning Act**

by Rep. Kelly and others (CS/CS/CS/CS/SB 1670 by Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee; Commerce Committee; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee; Education Pre-K – 12 Committee; and Senators Gaetz and Lynn)

This bill revises statutes governing publicly-funded educational programs for young children, as follows:

- Early learning coalition boards are authorized to engage in board business by telecommunication methods;
- Responsibility for the statewide child care resource and referral network and the Child Care Executive Partnership Program are transferred from the Department of Children and Family Services to the Agency for Workforce Innovation to conform to current practice;
- The chair or executive director of a Children's Service Council or Juvenile Welfare Board may be a voting member of an Early Learning Coalition that rents office space, vehicles, equipment, or other items from the council or board, provided the rental is the only financial transaction between the coalition and the board;
- Voluntary prekindergarten program providers are authorized to employ substitute instructors to temporarily replace credentialed instructors, if they are of good moral character and meet the requirements of level 2 background screening before employment; and
- A private provider of the voluntary prekindergarten program must be accredited by an association with written accreditation standards that meet or exceed the state's licensing standards.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

*Vote: Senate 40-0; House 118-0*

## **EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION**

### **CS/CS/SB 1276 — Educational Facilities Construction**

by Education Facilities Appropriations Committee; Education Pre-K – 12 Committee; and Senator Bennett

The bill increases the threshold for day-labor contracts from \$200,000 to \$280,000 for the construction, renovation, remodeling, or maintenance of educational facilities and requires, beginning January 2009, that the amount shall be adjusted annually based upon changes in the Consumer Price Index. This provision applies to district school boards, community college

boards of trustees, university boards of trustees, and the Board of Trustees for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

The bill provides districts, with conversion charter schools that are not compliant with class size reduction, flexibility to use up to \$65 per unweighted full-time equivalent student funding under the 1.75-mill discretionary capital outlay levy for operational purposes if certain conditions are met.

The bill also provides an exception to the planning process for Florida Keys Community College in Monroe County to authorize the construction of dormitories for up to 100 beds for full-time or part-time students on the community college campus. The construction of the dormitories is exempt from the building permit allocation system and may be constructed up 45 feet in height, if the following conditions are met:

- The dormitories are otherwise consistent with the comprehensive plan;
- The community college has a hurricane evacuation plan that requires all dormitory occupants to be evacuated 48 hours in advance of tropical force winds; and
- Transportation is provided for dormitory occupants during an evacuation.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

*Vote: Senate 40-0; House 118-0*

