



Bill Snapshot

CS/CS/HB 1279: School District Accountability

Florida's taxpayers deserve to know how their money is spent. We owe it to the parents and students of our state to ensure that taxpayer money dedicated to fund education is used in a responsible and efficient way.

CS/CS/HB 1279 increases fiscal accountability and transparency of school districts by requiring budget and spending information to be provided in a manner that allows the public to see how and where school districts spend tax dollars. The bill also requires school districts to correct deficiencies in financial and operational audits in a timely manner and requires school board members to be more vigilant in the prevention of financial emergencies.

To increase fiscal transparency of educational spending, the bill:

- Directs the Department of Education (DOE) to create an online tool to identify efficient schools and school districts with a high level of academic success relative to per-pupil expenditures.
- Requires school districts to post summary financial information, which includes detailed information regarding the amount spent per student for instructional staff and administrative staff.
- Requires school boards to fully explain budget amendments at the board's next public meeting.
- Requires out of state travel expenses to be approved in public meetings.

To increase fiscal accountability of school districts, the bill:

- Requires school districts with questionable financial states to reduce administrative costs and other expenditures.
- Requires school districts that fail to timely pay current debts or liabilities to have their accounts and records investigated.
- Requires districts in a financial emergency to withhold the salaries of superintendents and school board members until the financial emergency is addressed.
- Requires school districts with revenues over \$500 million to employ an internal auditor.
- Clarifies that the DOE's Office of Inspector General must investigate allegations or reports of fraud and abuse from certain government officials.
- Requires the Auditor General to perform certain follow-up procedures to determine a school boards progress in addressing audit findings.

LAST SEEN:

Reported favorably with
Committee Substitute out of
PreK-12 Appropriations
Subcommittee

Sponsor:
Representative Sullivan

CURRENTLY:

Referred to Education
Committee

HEADING TO:

Education Committee



HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



REPRESENTATIVE RAY RODRIGUES, MAJORITY LEADER

The bill also:

- Prohibits appointed and elected superintendents from lobbying school districts for a period of two years after vacating the position.
- Requires school boards to withhold a portion of an employee's salary who owes a public financial disclosure fine until the fine is paid;
- Ensures that school board member salaries align with that of a first year teacher salaries.
- Requires prior school board approval for reimbursement of out-of-district travel expenses.
- Prohibits superintendents and district school board members from employing or appointing a relative to work under their supervision.