

# SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: Education Committee

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BILL: SB 784

SPONSOR: Senator Haridopolos

SUBJECT: School Districts/Paperwork Reduction

DATE: February 3, 2005

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. <u>Hilton</u>	<u>O'Farrell</u>	<u>ED</u>	<b>Favorable</b>
2. _____	_____	<u>GO</u>	_____
3. _____	_____	<u>GE</u>	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____	_____

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## I. Summary:

SB 784 creates a Paper Reduction Task Force to recommend ways to minimize the paperwork burden placed on school districts and school district personnel.

The bill creates an unnumbered section of the Florida Statutes.

The bill shall take effect upon becoming a law.

## II. Present Situation:

A paperwork burden is defined in s. 23.21 (2), F.S., as “the resources expended by the entity providing information.” Resources may include time, effort, or financial expenditures associated with the following:

- Reviewing the instructions;
- Acquiring, installing, and using technology to obtain, compile, or report the information;
- Searching data sources;
- Completing and reviewing the collected information; and
- Transmitting the required information to the requesting department.

Several current laws direct school districts and school personnel to initiate paperwork reduction actions. For example, s. 1008.25(6) (c) 1, F.S., requires paperwork for the student promotion process to be minimized, and s. 1003.415(7)(d), F.S., which requires the Department of Education to provide technical assistance to school districts in the development of personalized middle school success plans, also requires the assistance to minimize paperwork.

The Committee on Education surveyed eight school districts to determine whether each district had developed or implemented a paperwork reduction plan. Four of the surveyed districts reported that they have not adopted a plan of action. Brevard, Calhoun, Hillsborough, and Miami-Dade school districts have implemented paperwork reduction plans. The Brevard school district has moved to an electronic system, therefore creating paperless society. The Miami-Dade school district has established a Paper Reduction Task Force, which consists of members of the United Teachers of Dade and the Miami-Dade County Public School District administrative staff. The task force is currently developing strategies for using more electronic means of communication in administrative functions. Calhoun and Hillsborough counties have both established paperwork reduction plans to reduce the paperwork burden on Exceptional Student Education (ESE) personnel.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill creates the Paper Reduction Task Force to reduce the paperwork burden placed on school districts and school district personnel. The task force will consist of the Commissioner of Education, three individuals appointed by the President of the Senate, three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, three members appointed by the Governor, and three teachers appointed by the Commissioner of Education. The task force is to report its findings and recommendations to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by February 1, 2006.

### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

#### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

#### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

#### **C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

### **IV. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**

#### **A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

#### **B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The goal of the Paper Reduction Task Force is to diminish the burden placed on school districts and school personnel by executive paperwork demands. If the task force recommendations reduce paperwork and create greater staff efficiency; school districts implementing the recommendations may realize cost savings.

There will be some costs associated with the bill in terms of possible task force member travel, staffing, and report distribution. These costs should be minimal.

**V. Technical Deficiencies:**

The legislation does not designate an agency to assume administrative responsibility for the task force. Presumably this would be the Department of Education since the Commissioner of Education is a task force member; however, naming the department as the administering agency would make that clear.

**VI. Related Issues:**

None.

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This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

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## **VII. Summary of Amendments:**

None.

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