

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.)

Prepared By: Governmental Oversight and Productivity Committee

BILL: SB 784

SPONSOR: Senator Haridopolos

SUBJECT: School Districts/Paperwork Reduction

DATE: March 10, 2005

REVISED: _____

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

I. Summary:

Senate Bill 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 the minimization of paperwork for documenting the student promotion process, and s. 1003.415(7)(d), F.S., requires the Department of Education to provide technical assistance to school districts for both the development of personalized middle school success plans and minimizing the related paperwork.

The Florida Senate 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.

Pursuant to s. 20.03, F.S., a task force means an advisory body created without specific statutory enactment for a time not to exceed 1 year, or created by specific statutory enactment for a time not to exceed 3 years, appointed to study a specific problem and recommend a solution or policy alternative with respect to that problem. Based on survey responses, and as of October 2003, the Department of Education had 34 advisory bodies.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill creates the Paper Reduction Task Force to recommend strategies 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.

By operation of s. 20.03, F.S., a task force terminates upon the completion of its assignment, so the task force would terminate after reporting its findings on 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 could be minimal, if the task force members do not travel.

V. Technical Deficiencies:

The legislation does not designate an agency for which the task force will act as an advisory body. The Department of Education would be an appropriate agency, since the Commissioner of Education is a task force member, and considering the subject matter. The Legislature may wish to designate the agency, as the attendant administrative costs will need to be borne by the designated agency.

Travel and per diem expenses are not authorized in the bill. If such expenses are to be authorized, such authorization could be so stated in the bill, in addition to the provision that such expenses would be paid in accordance with s. 112.061, F.S.

VI. Related Issues:

None.

VII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

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