

The Florida Senate
HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Education Pre-K - 12 Committee

[2009s1248.hms]

BILL: SB 1248
INTRODUCER: Senator Wise
SUBJECT: Instructional Materials
DATE: April 29, 2009

Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 – 727607 (body and title)

Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

The House amendment requires public school middle school students to take and pass a one-semester civics education course in order to be promoted from the middle grades beginning with students entering grade 6 in the 2011-2012 school year. Student performance would be measured by the administration of a statewide standardized end-of-course assessment, which would be field-tested in the 2011-2012 school year. The assessment would count 30 percent of the student's grade in 2012-2013 and students would be required to pass the assessment in 2013-2014 in order to be promoted from the middle grades. Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, student performance on the civics end-of-course assessment would be used to determine the school grade. The civics end-of-course assessment has not been developed by the Department of Education and may have an indeterminate fiscal impact to the state. Additionally, the change to the school grading formula may affect the School Recognition Program.

The House amendment requires the Department of Education to encourage school districts to institutionalize service learning programs. This provision is the text of a bill, SB 450, currently in the Committee on Education Pre-K – 12.

The House amendment provides that charter schools that meet the definition of an alternative school may decide whether or not to receive a school grade.