

CS/SB 388 — Education Funding

by Education Appropriations Committee and Senator Alexander

The conference report eliminates the requirement to “double budget” certain funds which in the past has resulted in the General Appropriations Act being overstated. This change is made in the use of the State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund for the Florida Student Assistant Grant Program, and the Florida Resident Access Grant Program. The “double budget” requirement is also eliminated in the use of the Dale Hickam Excellent Teaching Trust Fund, the Trust Fund for University Major Gifts, and the Alec P. Courtelis Capital Facilities Matching Trust Fund.

The conference report clarifies that a freeze on noncapital taxes, for three years after a district levies a discretionary half cent (0.5) sales surtax for capital outlay, does not apply to taxes authorized in the General Appropriations Act.

Clarification is also made that PreK funds are to be allocated based on actual student enrollment in each Early Learning Coalition’s attendance area along with the establishment and authorization of three existing coalitions notwithstanding the 30 coalition limit. These coalitions are in Sarasota, Osceola, and Santa Rosa counties.

The conference report conforms the amount of the annual incentive grant, to the amount provided in the appropriations act, for each member of a regional educational consortium service organization and authorizes lab schools and the School for the Deaf and the Blind to be consortium members.

The method of calculating the wealth adjustment in the FEFP Sparsity Supplement is revised so no district will have a wealth adjustment that will cause its average funds per FTE from total potential funds to be less than the state average funds per FTE from total potential funds.

Two statutory provisions that have never been implemented are repealed: s. 1008.31(2), F.S., relating to performance-based funding, and s. 1012.231, F.S., relating to a teaching salary career ladder.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2005.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 116-0