Student-Centered/Related Laws

Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic

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Athletics

CS/CS/SB 178 (Ch. 26-XXX) **Athletics in Public K-12 Schools**
By: **Senator Jones**
Effective Date: **July 1, 2026**
Approved by the Governor: **XXXXXXXXXX, 2026**

What Does the Bill Do? This bill directs the Florida High School Athletics Association (FHSAA) to adopt bylaws that would allow "the head coach of an athletic team to support the welfare of a student he or she coaches only by using personal funds to provide, in good faith, effects such as food, transportation, and recovery services." The bill limits the amount a head coach can spend per year on a team to $15,000, and the funds cannot be used for recruiting purposes. The FHSAA bylaws must include a parental permission requirement and a method for the coach to report the use of personal funds. The bylaws will also need to set forth the difference between good faith and bad faith gifts.

What Problems or Concerns May Arise as a Result of this new Bill? The main concern is that head coaches are going to receive funds from outside people or groups, from booster clubs to agents to shoe companies, as few high school coaches have personal funds available to pay out $15,000 a year to their players. Then, once that outside influence is present, how might that affect the coach and his or her decisions? Can a college football coach give a high school football coach $15,000 to use to support his players with the implicit understanding that the college coach will get preferential treatment for recruiting?

Another concern is liability. Is there a way to insulate the district from the coach's decisions on the use of his or her personal funds? If a player cannot make it to the game without a ride, arranging for a Taxi or an Uber probably will not cause problems, as both the Taxi and Uber driver should be covered by insurance, but what if the coach agrees to pay someone to provide the ride and that person has a suspended license and gets into an accident? This is where it might be wise to have a local policy restricting transportation services to approved methods – such as public transport and licensed and insured taxis, Ubers, and Lyfts only.

Finally, there could be Title IX concerns if the boys' basketball coach is handing out food, transportation, and physical therapy or massage treatment after an injury, but the girls' basketball coach is not. The fact that these are personal funds is not a defense, as we have seen with booster club issues in the past when the baseball boosters pay to upgrade the baseball field bleachers or dugouts while the softball bleachers and dugouts remain inferior.

CS/CS/CS/SB 538 (Ch. 26-XXX) Extracurricular Activities
By: Senator Simon
Effective Date: July 1, 2026
Approved by the Governor: XXXXXXXXXX, 2026

What Does the Bill Do? Coach's pay, booster involvement, student eligibility.

What Problems or Concerns May Arise as a Result of this new Bill?

Student Health

CS/HB 1201 (Ch. 26-XXX) Student Health and Safety
By: Representative Mooney
Effective Date: July 1, 2026
Approved by the Governor: XXXXXXXXXX, 2026

What Does the Bill Do? This bill makes a few amendments to section 1006.0626, F.S., which addresses the care of students with epilepsy or seizure disorders at school. First, it clarifies that the law applies to charter schools, not just district schools. Second, it provides that, when the student's medical professional submits written orders for implementation of the student's individualized seizure action plan (ISAP), the form of the written orders is determined by the medical professional.

Next, the bill clarifies that the school employees who must be trained on a student's ISAP include any employee who teaches or transports the student to and from school or school activities, and the training they receive is valid for five (5) years.

Finally, the bill requires each school to display a poster, which will be developed by the Department of Health (DOH), "which describes the basic steps of responding to an individual having a seizure." The DOH must identify one or more posters that are available free of charge to schools.

What Problems or Concerns May Arise as a Result of this new Bill? As with most of the laws addressing students with health issues, there are no funds to help provide the training needed, nor is there any consideration for the logistical issues this may create when it comes to things like field trips, substitute teachers, and substitute bus drivers.

CTE/Career Planning

CS/HB 1343 (Ch. 26-XXX) **Insurance Customer Representative Licensing Qualifications**
By: **Representative Hodgers**
Effective Date: **July 1, 2026**
Approved by the Governor: **XXXXXXXXXX, 2026**

What Does the Bill Do? This bill requires the Department of Education (DOE), by January 1, 2027, to "develop a 0.5 credit course in insurance and personal finance which is available to school districts for use beginning with the 2027-2028 school year." The course must be developed in consultation with the Department of Financial Services (DFS), and it must include "a comprehensive analysis of basic property and casualty lines of insurance consistent with the instructional designations provided under s. 626.7351(3)."

The bill also amends section 626.7351, F.S., to add completion of this new course (as well as a Florida high school diploma) as one of the possible prerequisites for obtaining a customer representative's license

What Problems or Concerns May Arise as a Result of this new Bill? N/A.

Curriculum/Diploma

CS/HB 453 (Ch. 26-XXX) **Requirements for a Standard High School Diploma**
By: **Representative Gossett-Seidman**
Effective Date: **July 1, 2026**
Approved by the Governor: **XXXXXXXXXX, 2026**

What Does the Bill Do? 2 years of marching band counts for one credit of PE and one credit of performing arts.

What Problems or Concerns May Arise as a Result of this new Bill? N/A.

Multiple-Subject (Train) Bills

(including a little required instruction and reading, writing, and arithmetic)

CS/CS/SB 182 (Ch. 26-XXX) **Education (Multiple Subjects)**
By: **Senator Jones**
Effective Date: **July 1, 2026**
Approved by the Governor: **XXXXXXXXXX, 2026**

What Does the Bill Do? This bill started off as simply a bill to create the School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program within the Department of Education (DOE). However, late in the process, it added several unrelated provisions from other bills, including cursive instruction for grades 3-5, a restriction on charter schools seeking to dismiss students, language for small private schools facing zoning or permitting issues, a small fix for the reversion of tax credit funds, and a requirement to display portraits of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln at every public school if funding is made available by the Legislature.

Section	Statute	Summary of Changes
1	1002.33	Charter Schools.
2	1002.395	Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.
3	1002.42	Private Schools.
4	1003.42	Required Instruction. (Cursive)
5	1003.44	Patriotic Programs.
6	1012.988	School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program.
7	1011.62	Funds for Operation of Schools.
8		Effective Date: July 1, 2026

What Problems or Concerns May Arise as a Result of this new Bill?

CS/CS/HB 1279 (Ch. 26-XXX) **Education**
By: **Representative Kincart Jonsson**
Effective Date: **July 1, 2026**
Approved by the Governor: **XXXXXXXXXX, 2026**

What Does the Bill Do? This bill started off as something of a collection of random education issues and ultimately became an even bigger collection of random issues that were collected from multiple other bills.

Section	Statute	Summary of Changes
1	413.0114	Provision related to fee-based, blind-related services.
2	413.208	Amends qualifications for providers of services to the blind.
3	491.005	Date change
4	1001.42	School Board Duties and Responsibilities. • (17) Requires school boards to include approved virtual instruction providers or the district's own virtual instruction program in its information to the public about educational programs available within the district. • (21) Amends "educational emergency" to include persistently low-performing schools, not just D and F schools. If a district has one or more D, F, or persistently low-performing schools, the district may provide salary incentives outside of collective bargaining. • (23) Amends the language about requiring school boards to offer virtual instruction options, adding that students should have access to virtual courses "based on the students' choice."
5	1001.92	State University System language.
6	1002.20	Makes changes to the way epinephrine injectors are described. They will now be "FDA-approved epinephrine delivery devices," instead of just "epinephrine auto-injectors."
7	1002.42	Private school epinephrine language.
8	1002.421	Small amendment to include FES-UA students in a category.
9	1002.68	Deletes obsolete language.
10	1002.945	Minor changes to Gold Seal Quality Care Program language.
11	1003.4203	CAPE Digital Tool Certificates. Certificates that indicate a student's digital skills must be made available to middle school students now too, not just elementary. Also, language was added to provide that middle school students may not earn more than two CAPE Digital Tools certificates per school year.
12	1003.4282	• (3)(f) Language is added to provide that completion of one (1) credit in a dance techniques course, will satisfy the one (1) credit requirement for physical education or the one

		(1) credit requirement for performing arts. However, it cannot be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or be used for "adaptive physical education" under an IEP or 504 plan. • (10) The current statute required the DOE to convene a workgroup by the end of 2024 to, among other things, "establish three mathematics pathways for students enrolled in secondary grades by aligning mathematics courses to programs, postsecondary education, and careers. New language requires that these pathways be identified no later than September 1, 2026. The pathways must "incorporate an applied algebra course that aligns with established career and technical career clusters." The DOE must develop appropriate applied algebra courses by January 1, 2027, and these courses must be available to school districts for implementation in the 2029-30 school year. These courses will include: ○ Applied algebra for engineering and technology. ○ Applied algebra for health science. ○ Applied algebra for business and finance. ○ Applied algebra for industrial pathways. ○ Applied algebra for agriculture and natural resources. • The courses must prepare students to take the Algebra I EOC, must meet the requirements for mathematics credit toward high school graduation, and must meet the standards necessary to ensure that colleges and universities accept them as a math credit for admissions. • Finally, the DOE must provide professional learning, instructional resources, and technical assistance to support school districts with implementation for the 2029-30 school year.
13	1003.437	The bill requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to "establish a statewide uniform weighted grading system for honors courses and articulated acceleration mechanisms identified in s. 1007.27." School districts will then be required to use this weighted grading system to calculate each student's weighted GPA.
14	1003.5716	A new subsection (5) is created. It provides that school districts must notify the parent or guardian in writing or by email within 10 school days if a related service identified in the student's IEP is not provided as scheduled. The notice must explain why the service was not provided and discuss a plan for make-up services. Also, a parent or guardian "has the right to access, upon request, all service provider logs or progress notes within 15 school days

		after such service is provided. The school district shall inform parents of this right at each IEP meeting."
15	1004.343	Postsecondary language.
16	1004.39	Postsecondary language to remove direct reference to American Bar Association.
17	1004.40	Same as section 16.
18	1005.06	Nonpublic postsecondary language.
19	1006.12	Prohibits a local ordinance or development order from restricting a district or charter school from choosing any of the safe school officer options in section 1006.12, F.S.
20	1007.25	Postsecondary language.
21	1007.271	Dual enrollment. New language clarifies that a student must be enrolled in Florida to be eligible for dual enrollment, and the postsecondary institutions that can offer dual enrollment are limited to Florida public postsecondary institutions and eligible not-for-profit independent colleges and universities.
22	1008.2125	Statutory reference.
23	1008.25	• (4) For students with a substantial reading deficiency, the resources offered to the parents must include information about the student's eligibility for the New Worlds Reading Initiative. • (5) Eligibility for the VPK Summer Bridge program is expanded from those students in the bottom 10th percentile to those students in the bottom 25th percentile. Also, the monthly progress reports sent to parents of students who have been identified as having a substantial reading deficiency must include the student's eligibility for the New Worlds Reading Initiative.
24	1008.47	Postsecondary institution accreditation.
25	1009.21	Resident status for postsecondary tuition purposes.
26	1009.25	Clarifies that a student is exempt from postsecondary tuition and fees at a school district workforce education program, a Florida College System institution, or a state university, only if previously determined to be homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act by a Florida public school and does not apply to a distance learning student who resides outside of Florida.
27	1009.893	Benacquisto Scholarship Program. Allows a student to defer initial award for up to one (1) year.
28	1009.983	DSO for Prepaid College Board.
29	1009.986	Similar language as section 28.
30	1011.62	(17) Academic Acceleration Options Supplement. New language here appears to restore the old 80/20 requirement for the additional funds generated by students in advanced courses, like AP, AICE, and IB. "A value of 0.16 full-time equivalent student

		membership shall be calculated for each student in a Florida advanced course who achieves a minimum score on an assessment identified by the Department of Education pursuant to s. 1007.27(2) and added to the total full-time equivalent student membership in basic programs for grades 9 through 12 in the subsequent fiscal year. Each district shall allocate at least 80 percent of the funds provided to the district for advanced course instruction, in accordance with this paragraph, to the high school that generates the funds." The district distributes the $50 bonus to the teachers and any $500 bonuses to teachers in D or F schools.
31	1011.69	Title I funding.
32		Effective date: July 1, 2026.

What Problems or Concerns May Arise as a Result of this new Bill?

Other Student-Centered Laws

District Operations

School Board Members

CS/HB 1073 (Ch. 26-XXX) **School Districts**
By: **Representative Koster**
Effective Date: **July 1, 2026**
Approved by the Governor: **XXXXXXXXXX, 2026**

What Does the Bill Do? This bill creates a "bill of rights" for individual school board members.

What Problems or Concerns May Arise as a Result of this new Bill? Where do I begin?

Sovereign Immunity / Risk Management

HB 145 (Ch. 26-XXX) **Claims Against the Government**
By: **Representative McFarland**
Effective Date: **October 1, 2026**
Approved by the Governor: **XXXXXXXXXX, 2026**

What Does the Bill Do? This bill raises the sovereign immunity caps for the first time in roughly 15 years from $200,000 / $300,000 to $350,000 / $500,000. These new caps will take effect for causes of action that accrue on or after October 1, 2026. However, unlike most of the bills that have addressed this topic over the last several years, it does not include any language about settling above the caps or any limits on purchasing insurance contingent on the signing of a claims bill. The bill also does not include any provisions that would automatically raise the limits, like some of the provisions from other bills that would have automatically raised the rates every 5 years based on the Consumer Price Index or other method.

Next, the bill generally aligns the statute of limitations for claims against the government with claims against private entities. Now, instead of having four (4) years to bring a negligence or wrongful death claim, an individual will have only two years. Also, a person will not be able to file a lawsuit against the district or other government entities unless the claim is first presented within 18 months of accrual (instead of the current 3-year requirement). The statute of limitations will remain four (4) years for claims not involving negligence, contribution, medical malpractice, wrongful death, and sexual battery on a person under age 16.

Finally, the bill addresses sexual battery against a victim under the age of 16. Unless the action was already time-barred on October 1, 2026, claims arising from sexual battery on a person under the age of 16 will not have a statute of limitations or a requirement that a written claim be filed within any specific time-frame. Thus, claims that could not have been filed as of October 1, 2026, will not be resurrected, but all claims arising out of sexual battery on a person under 16 that are viable on October 1, 2026, will remain viable forever.

What Problems or Concerns May Arise as a Result of this new Bill? The increased caps will cause budgetary issues in most districts, as payouts are likely to increase, more claims are likely to be filed now that the limits are higher, and insurance costs will increase. However, because the bill does not include language about settling above the limits or restrictions on insurance, the costs should not be as severe. Also, and perhaps more importantly, the increased costs should be much more predictable, which will make it easier to budget appropriately.

School Safety

CS/CS/HB 757 (Ch. 26-XXX)
By:
Effective Date: **July 1, 2026**
Approved by the Governor: **XXXXXXXXXX, 2026**

What Does the Bill Do? Primarily focused on higher education.

What Problems or Concerns May Arise as a Result of this new Bill?

Human Resources

CS/CS/SB 1296 (Ch. 26-XXX) **Public Employees Relations Commission**
By: **Senator Martin**
Effective Date: **July 1, 2026**
Approved by the Governor: **XXXXXXXXXX, 2026**

What Does the Bill Do? More difficult for public sector union to keep its certification.

What Problems or Concerns May Arise as a Result of this new Bill?

CS/CS/HB 1069 (Ch. 26-XXX) **Background Screenings**
By: **Representatives Trabulsy and Hunschofsky**
Effective Date: **July 1, 2026**
Approved by the Governor: **XXXXXXXXXX, 2026**

What Does the Bill Do?

What Problems or Concerns May Arise as a Result of this new Bill?

Professional Learning / Teacher Preparation and Certification

CS/HB 561 (Ch. 26-XXX) **Educator Preparation and Certification**
By: **Representative Gerwig**
Effective Date: **July 1, 2026**
Approved by the Governor: **XXXXXXXXXX, 2026**

What Does the Bill Do? "The bill removes barriers to reinstatement of expired professional educator certificates, providing educators with a streamlined process for returning to the classroom. The bill corrects a reference relating to the Florida Center for Teaching Excellence and requires the center to offer free professional learning to educators seeking to renew or reinstate their certificate. The bill also authorizes educator preparation institutes to allow program participants to enroll in and complete coursework while working to obtain an eligible statement of status of eligibility."

What Problems or Concerns May Arise as a Result of this new Bill?

CS/CS/HB 753 (Ch. 26-XXX) **School Counselors**
By: **Representative Hunschofsky**
Effective Date: **July 1, 2026**
Approved by the Governor: **XXXXXXXXXX, 2026**

What Does the Bill Do? Reduces criteria school counselors have to meet for certification that were more related to teaching than counseling.

What Problems or Concerns May Arise as a Result of this new Bill?

CS/HB 851 (Ch. 26-XXX) **Professional Learning for Instructional and School Administrative Personnel**
By: **Representative Long**
Effective Date: **July 1, 2026**
Approved by the Governor: **XXXXXXXXXX, 2026**

What Does the Bill Do? School district professional learning systems must include at least one autism-specific professional learning opportunity.

What Problems or Concerns May Arise as a Result of this new Bill?

Facilities and Contracting

CS/SB 824 (Ch. 26-XXX) **School District Unimproved Real Property**
By: **Senator Truenow**
Effective Date: **July 1, 2026**
Approved by the Governor: **XXXXXXXXXX, 2026**

What Does the Bill Do? This bill creates a new reporting requirement for school districts to create the "statewide inventory of unimproved real property owned by school districts." It defines "unimproved real property" as any parcel the district owns "that does not contain any vertical improvements, including, but not limited to, buildings, permanent structures, or constructed facilities."

The bill requires districts to annual report "a complete inventory of all unimproved real property owned by the district as of June 30 of that year." The date and nature of the reporting will be established by the Department of Education (DOE). However, for each parcel, the district will report:

- The parcel identification number.
- The acreage of the parcel.
- The address or descriptive location of the parcel.
- The date of acquisition of the parcel by the district.
- The current use of the parcel, if any.
- The fair market value of the parcel, calculated using:
    - The most recent market value assessed by the county property appraiser; or
    - A district-commissioned appraisal completed within the previous 24 months.

The DOE will then compile all of this data into a statewide report that must include the total statewide acreage of all unimproved real property owned by school districts, the aggregate statewide value of this property, a district-by-district breakdown, and any trends or findings made by the DOE. The first report must be published by December 1, 2026, and it will then be published every three (3) years).

What Problems or Concerns May Arise as a Result of this new Bill? Other than the time it will take to compile and submit this information, there are no real concerns with this particular bill.

However, the concerns arise when considering how this information will be used. The original version of this bill and its House companion both started with language that would have required school districts to offer any of its vacant land to charter schools if there was no contract to construct a school on that land by July 1, 2027. It was not even clear in the original bills whether the charter schools would have to compensate the districts for this land.

With this history, as well as bills filed last year that attempted to give charter schools a right of first refusal to purchase district property or otherwise force districts to give land to charter schools, the concern is that districts who have planned carefully for the future and purchased land well in advance of the need to build a new school will be punished or lose access to this land, leaving them without access to an appropriate parcel for a future school and forced to pay much higher prices for land when they are ready to build a school.

Finally, many districts have accumulated numerous small parcels over the years that are not big enough for a school. Sometimes, these parcels are adjacent to existing schools and act as a buffer or maybe a place for occasional overflow parking, but sometimes they are random pieces of land that someone may have left the district in their will. Reporting all of these small parcels will require extra time, and, depending on how many there are, might skew the district and statewide results.

Deregulation/Administrative Efficiency/Leveling the Playing Field

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School Choice

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General Government

CS/CS/CS/HB 905 (Ch. 26-XXX) Foreign Influence
By: Representative Persons-Mulicka
Effective Date: July 1, 2026
Approved by the Governor: XXXXXXXXXX, 2026

What Does the Bill Do? Don't contract with bad countries or terrorists.

What Problems or Concerns May Arise as a Result of this new Bill?

CS/CS/HB 1471 (Ch. 26-XXX) Systems of Law and Terrorist Organizations
By: Representative Cassel
Effective Date: July 1, 2026
Approved by the Governor: XXXXXXXXXX, 2026

What Does the Bill Do? Mostly focused on higher education. Public schools may not expend state or federal funds to promote, support, or maintain any programs or campus activities that promote a domestic or foreign terrorist organization or to promote a person who provides support to a terrorist organization.

What Problems or Concerns May Arise as a Result of this new Bill? Who is a domestic terrorist organization today?

CS/HB 1217 (Ch. 26-XXX) Prohibited Governmental Policies Regulating Greenhouse Gas Emissions
By: Representatives Snyder and Jacques
Effective Date: July 1, 2026
Approved by the Governor: XXXXXXXXXX, 2026

What Does the Bill Do? No net zero policies. No dues, membership fees, subscription fees, or charitable contributions to any organization that adopts or promotes a net zero policy.

What Problems or Concerns May Arise as a Result of this new Bill?

CS/HB 967 (Ch. 26-XXX) **Electronic Payments Made to Units of Local Governments**

By: **Representative Buchanan**

Effective Date: **January 1, 2027**

Approved by the Governor: **XXXXXXXXXX, 2026**

What Does the Bill Do? Local governments have to accept online payments.

What Problems or Concerns May Arise as a Result of this new Bill?

Other Bills of Interest

HB 4027 – Hillsborough Superintendent

SB 124 – Florida Virtual School

HB 1153 – Juvenile Justice

SB 1690 – Child Care and Early Learning Services

HB 655 – Public Records

SB 572 – Ethics

1085? – Local Government Cybersecurity

Budget/General Appropriations Act

Stay Tuned.