


**MEMORANDUM**

**April 5, 2011**

**TO:** The Honorable Chair and Members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

**FROM:** Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

**SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE**

Today, CS/CS/HB 307 filed by Representative Logan, relating to the modification of the current governance structure for The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, passed its last committee of reference in the House in the Education Committee. The Education Committee voted to pass the bill by a vote of 11 to 7 with the following members voting yes, Proctor, Fresen, O'Toole, Stargel, Coley, Davis, Adkins, Bileca, Brandes, Ingram, and Smith and the following Representatives voting no, Stafford, Bullard, Clarke-Reed, Reed, Watson, Fullwood, and Tobia. The Education committee voted in favor of passage of HB 307, along party lines, except for Representative Tobia, a Republican, voting in opposition of the bill.

As currently drafted, the legislation would change the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, governance structure from a 9 single-member district School Board to 7 single-member districts with 2 at-large districts. In addition, the legislation would make the at-large members chair and vice-chair for the length of their terms. This change of policy would not allow the Board to select their leadership amongst themselves and would further limit the opportunity of other members on the Board to seek leadership roles. The bill would create a two-fold governance structure within the board, that of the 7 single-member districts and that of the 2 at-large districts. Furthermore, the bill does not specify the role and responsibilities of the 2 at-large districts in comparison to the 7 single-member districts.

Presently, CS/CS/HB 307 is pending placement on the Special Order Calendar by the Rules Committee in the House in order to be heard on the floor of the House.

The Senate companion SB 778, filed by Senator Diaz de la Portilla, has not been scheduled for a hearing as of close of business on Monday, April 4, 2011.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration, and Community Engagement, at 305-995-1497.

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cc: School Board Attorney  
Superintendent's Cabinet