


MEMORANDUM

January 24, 2018

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

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

SUBJECT: 2018 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – WEEK #2

Last week from Tuesday, January 16, 2018, through Friday, January 19, 2018, the Florida Legislature met for the second week of the 2018 legislative session. Below is a summary of key updates.

Constitutional Revision Commission (CRC)

As previously shared, the 37-member commission appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House, and Senate President met last week. Specifically, the CRC's Education Committee met on Friday, January 19, from 1:00-6:00 p.m. The Committee heard all of the items on the agenda as well as public testimony, but postponed acting on all but one proposal, P32, which is sponsored by Commissioner Donalds and relates to the elimination of school board members' salaries. This was the second time that P32 was heard by the CRC's Education Committee. As you may recall, the proposal was discussed in November and failed, but it was left pending by Commissioner Sprowls. On Friday, the Committee defeated the item again, sealing its fate.

The next committee meetings are scheduled for January 22-26, 2018. All CRC committee meetings are open to the public and will be livestreamed by The Florida Channel on www.TheFloridaChannel.org. The Education Committee is scheduled to meet on Friday, January 26, 2018, and hear the following items:

- **P 25**, sponsored by Commissioner Plymale – Education; establishes a governance structure for the State Community College System.
- **P 83**, sponsored by Commissioner Washington – Education; establishes a single college system comprised of all public community and state colleges. The State Board of Education would be responsible for the management of the whole college system.
- **P 44**, sponsored by Commissioner Washington – Education, State University System; provides a minimum vote threshold required to be met by the board of trustees of a state university and the Board of Governors in order to implement any tuition or fee increase.
- **P 89**, sponsored by Commissioner Washington – Education, Public Education; provides that the purpose of the public education system is to develop the intellect of the state's citizens, to contribute to the economy, to create an effective workforce, and

to prepare students for a job. Language is also added that it is the intent of the people to provide high-quality and affordable postsecondary education opportunities.

- **P 45**, sponsored by Commissioner Donalds – Education, Public Education; adds language to the constitution providing that nothing may be construed to limit the legislature from making provisions for other educational services that benefit the children and families of Florida that are in addition to the system of free public schools. In addition, the requirement to provide a system of free public schools is expanded to require that such system allow the opportunity for each student to obtain a high-quality education.
- **P 71**, sponsored by Commissioner Donalds – Education, School Districts, School Boards; authorizes the legislature to create an alternative authorizer for the establishment of charter schools within the state by general law.
- **P 4**, sponsored by Commissioner Martinez – Declaration of Rights, Religious Freedom; repeals the “Blaine Amendment” or the provision that no public funds shall directly or indirectly aid any church, sect, or religious denomination.
- **P 93**, sponsored by Commissioner Martinez – Education, School Districts, School Boards, Charter Districts; authorizes any high-performing school district to choose, by a resolution of a majority of the school board or vote of the electors, to become a charter district. The school board would remain the governing board of the charter district and the charter district would be exempt from all provisions of the Education Code in the same manner as charter schools.
- **P 30**, sponsored by Commissioner Martinez – Declaration of Rights, Basic Rights; amends Section 2 of Article I of the State Constitution to provide that a person may not be deprived of any right because of any disability. This proposal expands the prohibited bases of discrimination to include “any disability,” rather than only physical disabilities.
- **P 15**, sponsored by Commissioner Hernandez Gamez – Declaration of Rights; amends Section 2 of Article I of the State Constitution to repeal the Florida Alien Land Law. It also expands the prohibited bases of government discrimination to include “cognitive disabilities.”
- **P 82**, sponsored by Commissioner Heuchan – Education, School Districts, School Boards; amends Section 4 of Article IX of the State Constitution to prohibit local school districts from setting the opening date for schools to no earlier than seven days prior to Labor Day.
- **P 10**, sponsored by Commissioner Gaetz – Education, Civic Literacy in Public Education; creates a new section in Article IX of the State Constitution to require the legislature to provide for the promotion of civic literacy in public education.

- **P 70**, sponsored by Commissioner Keiser – Miscellaneous; creates a new section in Article X of the State Constitution to establish the right to a tuition and fee waiver for the survivors of specified military members.
- **P 59**, sponsored by Commissioner Johnson – Declaration of Rights, Religious Freedom; Education, Public Education; State School Fund; amends Section 3 of Article I and Sections 1 and 6 of Article IX of the State Constitution to establish rights of public school students and to create an exception to the prohibition on the appropriation of public funds to certain private schools.

Budget Development

House and Senate appropriations subcommittee chairs are expected to roll out their budgets this week. The Florida House of Representatives will release its proposed General Appropriations bill and related implementing and conforming bill on Friday, January 26, 2018. The House Appropriations Committee will hear those bills on Wednesday, January 31, 2018, and deliberate final passage on Wednesday, February 8, 2018. Once both chambers have passed their budgets, they can negotiate the differences between the two budget proposals.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya, Associate 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