

General Information

This reports contains pertinent information from the 3rd week of the Legislative Interim Committee meetings. Both the House and Senate held meetings in both chambers, which consist of mostly presentations on the implementation of legislation that passed during the 2018 legislative session.

The House Education Committee and the Senate Education Committee each had a presentation on the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission's Legislative Recommendations.

House Education Committee

During the House Education Committee meeting, Brooks Rumenik, Deputy Director of the Office of Safe Schools provided on the implementation of SB 7026.

Brooks Rumenik made the following points below:

- The Office of Safe Schools (OSS) focuses on best practices and supporting districts.
- OSS has statutory authority for oversight.
- Focus is on providing technical assistance and guidance.
- There are 2.8 million students across 3,648 schools.
- All district and school FSSAT assessments are completed.
- The average award is \$27,467 per school for school hardening.
- School safety specialists (appointed by Superintendents, some districts have a team) have shared best practices and focused on:
 - One safety officer per campus (SRO, Deputy/officer, or Guardian).
 - Single points of entry.
 - Locking doors and designating hard corners.
 - Basic, plain language.
 - One ear bud policy (students wearing two earbuds cannot hear emergency announcements.)
 - Announcement speakers in all buildings.
 - Monthly active shooting drills.
 - Advertising and using Fortify Florida.
 - Use of social media monitoring tools.
- Twenty five sheriffs have implemented some type of Guardian Program.
 - Only \$9.3 million of the Guardian allocation has been used or requested.
 - An additional 2.5 million is being requested.
- Fortify Florida
 - Since implementation, 276 tips has been received.
 - Private schools area also included.
 - In one example a student had posted a threatening image with a firearm warning, a tip was received at 7:23 a.m. and the student was in custody by law enforcement at 8:05 a.m.

- Recommendations:
 - Clarify how often active safety drills should be implemented
 - As often as fire drills? Monthly? How and when should they involve community partners and law enforcement to show their roles to students and staff?
 - Clarify "assignment" of school safety officers
 - Assigning one officer to three campuses, do officers stay on campus during all campus activity?

Senate Education Committee

During the Senate Education Committee, Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, Chair of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission, presented to the committee.

Bob Gualtieri made the following points below:

- The Sheriff was critical of the Department of Education (DOE) and school districts and characterized school districts with a lack of urgency in the implementation of SB 7026.
- The Sheriff believes that the intent of SB 7026 was to have a "good guy with a gun" on every campus, but that some districts are using the "assigned" language to have one officer assigned to multiple schools.
- DOE needs sanction authority to give them "teeth" when districts go against the intent of the Legislature or do not follow laws, rules, or best practices.
- In a review of 46 different school shootings, the Sheriff found:
 - Forty three incidents occurred with "insiders," wherein the person could be on campus as they were a student or employee who was regularly there.
 - A majority of the time a handgun, easily concealed, was used.
 - A majority were stopped by staff, not law enforcement.
 - Incidents usually took under 4 minutes.
 - Because of these statistics, the Sheriff believes it is important to have staff be in a position to stop threats.
- The Sheriff discussed general issues around the State:
 - No active assailant response policies in several districts/schools.
 - No hard corner policies in several districts.
 - MSD building 12 had only two rooms with designated hard corners, and at least one room had supply/furniture preventing students from fully using the hard corner.
 - Safe Schools Director needs authority to "prod" school districts to turn in paperwork (such as FSSATs) on time.
 - There are 1500 police openings around the state, making it difficult to staff one law enforcement officer per campus.
 - Of the 3900 total campuses, about half have SROs already assigned.

- Some Sheriffs are not working with school districts that want a Guardian Program.
- Public Safety Call Centers (911) should be able to direct all calls to an officer in a specific region, regardless of different agencies.
- Multiple students/staff had to be redirected to a new call center after calling 911 as opposed to the operator being able to directly dispatch an officer from another agency.
- FSSATs, Sheriffs argued, are sometimes incomplete, incorrect, or bare minimum and need to be more thorough.
- Too many yes/no questions as opposed to requiring school districts to show and explain things.
- SESIR reports from DOE do not reflect police department reports from the same region. Sheriff believes this is an issue of underreporting or not reporting.
- The statute requires that a behavioral threat assessment team be on every campus, but some campuses allegedly do not have them.
- General Recommendations:
 - Give DOE and Education Commissioner sanctioning authority (fines, suspension, withholding of salary) over superintendents and board members.
 - Include teachers in optional Guardian Program.
 - Sheriff discussed that applicant screening is important: psychological, polygraphs, intense background checks with interviews, but did not specifically say what should be mandated statewide.
 - Argued that concealed and on their person is the best implementation
 - Legislature should require sheriffs to work with school districts who want the program utilized.
 - The Sheriff commented that training hours for Guardian Program is okay where it is and that firearms training under the law is already greater than required at police academies.
 - Not much more recurring funds are needed for Guardian Program, as the largest part is used for startup funds for each Guardian Program.
 - FSSATs should be more detailed and explanatory.
 - SESIRs need to reflect police reports filed in order to deal with under/non-reporting of incidents.
 - 911 call centers should be able to immediately dispatch officers within the region the caller is calling from, even if they are from different agencies.
 - Focus on compliance and implementation of current law as opposed to new initiatives and more funding.
 - When asked by the House Education Committee, the Sheriff reiterated that school districts and local law enforcement are in the best place to

decide what is needed for their community, but argued that general "big ticket" policies such as FSSATs deadlines, active assailant policies, and general compliance of state law should be mandated Statewide.

House PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee

In the House PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee, the subcommittee held a panel discussion on public school choice options. FADSS was asked to provide panelists which included the superintendent from Osceola County, the superintendent Citrus County, and representatives from Miami-Dade Public Schools and Seminole County Public Schools. The panel presented on behalf of public school choice and discussed the wide array of choice programs available in public schools.

Barriers to increasing choice were discussed including the need for flexibility in locating and building facilities. In addition, the difficulties in meeting certification requirements; particularly the difficulty of passing the General Knowledge Test were discussed. More time to successfully pass the test by applicants was recommended as one way of addressing the issue.

House PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee

During the [House PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee](#), Becky Vickers, Chief Legislative Analyst from the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability provided a presentation on "Successful Interventions and Support Strategies at Turnaround Schools and District MOUs with Collective Bargaining Units." In addition, the FLDOE gave a presentation on the teacher certification process.

House PreK-12 Appropriation Subcommittee

The PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee were given two presentations. The first presentation was an overview of the FEFP. The second was a review of the current Florida Price Level Index Methodology.

Findings of the study/review called for:

- Transparency – Thoroughly document process steps and data sources to promote understanding and validate process and calculations, and to ensure that the FPLI represents the original objectives.
- Accuracy – Taking advantage of new County level OES (Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics) data forthcoming, and other data sources to consider a Comparable Wage Index based on school personnel-credentialed comparable occupations. This is generally, but not for all positions, college-educated workers.
- Fitness for Purpose – The creation of an advisory group that is conversant in relevant terminology and familiar with Florida's education financing may help to address FPLI concerns.

To view the presentations, click the highlighted link: [House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee presentation packet](#)

Senate Judiciary Committee

SJR by Sen. Bradley relating to Single-subject Limitation for Constitution Revision Commission Proposals

SJR 74 limits any amendment to the Constitution proposed by the Constitution Revision Commission to “one subject and matter connected therewith.” Under current law, each proposal of the Commission may embrace multiple subjects, and the Commission may even propose a singular, comprehensive revision of the Constitution.

As a joint resolution, this legislation must be agreed to by three-fifths of the membership of each house of the Legislature. Then, the constitutional amendment proposed in the resolution will be placed on the 2020 General Election ballot, and will take effect if approved by at least 60 percent of the votes cast on the measure. The next Constitution Revision Commission convenes in 2037, and thus it would be the first Commission to be governed by the amendment.

The proposal passed the Senate Judiciary Committee favorably

The next set of interim committee meetings is scheduled for the week of **February 4th**.

I hope you find the information above helpful. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (407) 317-3200 ext. 2002966 or Eileen Fernandez, Associate General Counsel at (407) 317-3411 ext. 2002945.

Regards,
Codeye

Codeye J. Woody, DPL
Director Legislative and Congressional Relations
445 W. Amelia Street Orlando, FL 32801
Office: (407) 317-3200
Cell: (352) 870-8834 www.ocps.net