

Education Committee Report October 14, 2019

The LWV Jacksonville/First Coast Education Committee's mission is to educate citizens about local, state, and federal public education legislation and policies. Team members actively advocate for passage of legislation which supports Section 1: Article 9: Public Education of the Florida State Constitution.

Events

LWV Jacksonville/First Coast Education Committee Meeting

Friday, October 18th, 10 to noon

Jacksonville Public Library Southwest Regional Branch.

For more information e-mail Kathleen at LWVjaxfceducation@gmail.com

Duval Legislative Delegation Local Bill Public Hearing

Friday, November 1st, 1:00 to 5:00 PM

Jacksonville City Hall-Council Chambers

117 West Duval St

Citizens interested in speaking must complete a speaker's request form and submit it to the delegation office prior to October 25th. The "Speakers Request Form" may be found on the delegation website.

Public Education in Duval County

Proposed Sales Tax Referendum

The Duval County School Board's resolution to ask voters for the 1/2 Penny Sales Tax was sent to the Jacksonville City Council in May, 2019. The Council must place the referendum on an election ballot, giving voters the opportunity to create this revenue source for public schools.

The Jacksonville City Council voted on August 27 to withdraw their bill to place the referendum on the 2019 ballot. This action ends any prospect of voters having their voice heard in 2019.

The School Board voted on August 28 to hire legal counsel to represent the Board's interest in this matter.

Representative Jason Fisher's Education Local Bill J-1

In August State Representative Jason Fischer filed J-1, a local bill "amending chapter 92-341, Laws of Florida, to provide that members of the Duval County School Board be appointed by the Mayor."

On Friday, September 6, Representative Fischer stated, "that he will instead seek the state Legislature's approval for a voter referendum on whether the school superintendent should be an elected office."

The Duval Delegation is holding a Local Bill public hearing on Friday, November 1st, 1:00 to 5:00, in the City Council chambers.

Citizens concerned about Duval County changing to an elected Superintendent of Schools are encouraged to call, write, or e-mail their state legislators prior to November 1st.

2020 State Legislative Education Bills

| NUMBER | TITLE | Bill Description | LAST ACTION |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| SB 70 | Panic Alarms in Public Schools | Citing this act as "Alyssa's Law"; requiring each public school building on the campus of a public elementary school, middle school, or high school to be equipped with at least one panic alarm, etc. | Last Action: 8/16/2019 S Referred to Infrastructure and Security; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Appropriations |
| HB 23 | Panic Alarms in Public Schools | Requires each public school building on campus of public elementary, middle, or high school to be equipped with at least one panic alarm; provides panic alarm requirements. | Last Action: 9/23/2019 H Referred to PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee; PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee; Education Committee |

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| HB 45 | Private School Eligibility Requirements | Revises private school eligibility requirements for state school choice scholarship program. To include; may not deny enrollment to a student based on the student's race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity; | Last Action: 9/23/2019 H Referred to PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee; PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee; Education Committee |
| SB 56 | Private School Eligibility Requirements | Revises private school eligibility requirements for state school choice scholarship program. To include; may not deny enrollment to a student based on the student's race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity; | Last Action: 8/16/2019 S Referred to Education; Appropriations; Rules |
| SB 64 | Exemptions from School-entry Health Requirements | Deleting exemptions from school-entry health examinations and immunization requirements for religious reasons; requiring the Board of Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Medicine to jointly create a medical exemption review panel, etc. | Last Action: 8/16/2019 S Referred to Health Policy; Education; Rules |
| SB 166 | Charter Schools | Requiring a charter school, in order to obtain approval, to demonstrate that it meets certain needs that the local school district does not or is unable to provide to students in that district, etc. | Last Action: 9/19/2019 S Referred to Education; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Appropriations |
| SB 190 | Medicaid School-based Services | Revising applicable provisions for the reimbursement of school-based services by the Agency for Health Care Administration to certain school districts; deleting a requirement specifying the use of certified state and local education funds for school-based services; revising a requirement for the agency's reimbursement of school-based services to certain charter and private schools; specifying the federal agency that may waive certain school-based provider qualifications, etc. | Last Action: 9/19/2019 S Referred to Education; Health Policy; Appropriations |
| SB 234 | Student Health Services | Requiring school districts to make feminine hygiene products available, at no charge, in female restroom facilities of public school buildings, etc. | Last Action: 9/19/2019 S Referred to Education; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Appropriations |
| SB 304 | School Safety Funding | Requiring each district school superintendent to remit specified unused funds from the 2019-2020 fiscal year to the Department of Education; authorizing the department, upon request, to redistribute such funds to certain | Last Action: 9/17/2019 S Filed |

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| | | school districts for a specified purpose, etc. | |
| SB 370 | Safe-school Officers | Requiring district school boards to provide their approval before certain charter schools employ school resource officers and school safety officers; authorizing district school boards to oversee and manage the employment of school resource officers and school safety officers by charter schools within the district; authorizing district school boards to establish best practices for the employment of school resource officers and school safety officers by charter schools within the district, etc. | Last Action: 9/25/2019 S Filed |