



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Below is a brief update of bills that Miami-Dade County PTA's Legislation and Advocacy team have been following during Florida's current 2022 Legislation Session:

PARENTAL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION

Senate Bill (SB) 1834 and House Bill (HB) 1557 would ban school districts from "encouraging classroom discussion about sexual orientation or gender identity in primary grade levels or in a manner that is not age appropriate." Bills would also allow parents to sue a school district if a violation occurs. The Senate bill has two more committees to clear and a similar House bill has one additional committee stop.

INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM

Hot topic bills, **HB 7 and SB 148**, will regulate how Florida students and employees think about the role of race and racism in the country. HB 7 seeks to reduce the influence of "critical race theory" in schools and businesses, including limiting the idea that people should feel guilt for past actions by people of their race. The bill cleared its final committee and now heads to the House floor for a full vote. SB 148, the similar Senate version, has one additional committee stop before it can head to the Senate floor for a vote.

BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

HB 461 will allow work, paid or not, to meet the volunteer hour requirements for a Bright Futures Scholarship through a regular job. A similar bill in the Senate (**SB 1060**) differs on hours required for paid work. Both bills are moving through their assigned committees of reference.

DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARDS

SB 1300 and HB 1467 refer to district school board members. The House bill states that each member of a district school board shall receive a salary equal to the annual salary of a member of the legislature. In Miami-Dade County, school board members receive \$47,189 per year. The House bill will reduce their salaries to \$18,000 yearly. In addition, the House bill references term limits of school board members. The Senate bill additionally refers to school media centers/libraries and the collection of books based on state academic standards and aligned curriculum. This is the bill that many in the public refer to as "book banning." HB 1467 is scheduled for its third reading on the House floor this week.

FINANCIAL LITERACY INSTRUCTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SB 1054 and HB 1115 speak to high school students being required to take a class on financial literacy and money management to graduate. The Senate bill passed the Senate Education Committee. The House version gained approval in its first committee stop this week.

RESTRAINT OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HB 235 and SB 390 will prohibit school personnel from using mechanical restraints on students with disabilities. The House bill is on its second reading in the full House. The Senate bill's next stop is in the Appropriations Sub Committee on Education.

PARTISAN ELECTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARDS

SB 244 and HB 35 would require that any candidate for school board include their political party in any promotional materials. The Senate bill passed its first committee stop down party line. The House bill has yet to be heard in a committee.

STAY INFORMED

Miami-Dade County PTA/PTSA's Legislation and Advocacy Committees will be following these bills, and many others, throughout the Regular Legislation Session and will continue to keep you updated on bills affecting our schools and our students.

Please share this and other information pieces with your PTA/PTSA members, friends, and family. We stand together in advocating for ALL children.