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A bill to be entitled  
 An act relating to public school classroom teachers;  
 amending s. 1012.71, F.S.; renaming the Florida  
 Teachers Lead Program as the Florida Teachers  
 Classroom Supply Assistance Program; providing for  
 local contributions to the program; revising the  
 method of payment to teachers; authorizing public-  
 private partnerships to increase the total amount of  
 funds available; deleting obsolete provisions;  
 amending s. 1012.05, F.S.; conforming provisions;  
 providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 1012.71, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 to read:

1012.71 The Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance  
~~Lead~~ Program.—

(1) For purposes of the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply  
Assistance ~~Lead~~ Program, the term "classroom teacher" means a  
 certified teacher employed by a public school district or a  
 public charter school in that district on or before September 1  
 of each year whose full-time or job-share responsibility is the  
 classroom instruction of students in prekindergarten through  
 grade 12, including full-time media specialists and guidance  
 counselors serving students in prekindergarten through grade 12,  
 who are funded through the Florida Education Finance Program. A  
 "job-share" classroom teacher is one of two teachers whose

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29 combined full-time equivalent employment for the same teaching  
30 assignment equals one full-time classroom teacher.

31 (2) The Legislature, in the General Appropriations Act,  
32 shall determine funding for the Florida Teachers Classroom  
33 Supply Assistance ~~Lead~~ Program. The funds appropriated are for  
34 classroom teachers to purchase, on behalf of the school district  
35 or charter school, classroom materials and supplies for the  
36 public school students assigned to them and may not be used to  
37 purchase equipment. The funds appropriated shall be used to  
38 supplement the materials and supplies otherwise available to  
39 classroom teachers. From the funds appropriated for the Florida  
40 Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance ~~Lead~~ Program, the  
41 Commissioner of Education shall calculate an amount for each  
42 school district based upon each school district's proportionate  
43 share of the state's total unweighted FTE student enrollment and  
44 shall disburse the funds to the school districts by July 15.

45 (3) From the funds allocated to each school district and  
46 any funds received from local contributions for the Florida  
47 Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance ~~Lead~~ Program, the district  
48 school board shall calculate an identical amount for each  
49 classroom teacher, which is that teacher's proportionate share  
50 of the total amount allocated to the district from state funds  
51 and funds received from local contributions. A job-share  
52 classroom teacher may receive a prorated share of the amount  
53 provided to a full-time classroom teacher. The district school  
54 board and each charter school board shall provide each classroom  
55 teacher with his or her total proportionate share by September  
56 30 of each year through issuance of a ~~by any means determined~~

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57 ~~appropriate by the district school board or charter school~~  
58 ~~board, including, but not limited to, direct deposit, check,~~  
59 ~~debit card, or purchasing card, notwithstanding any law to the~~  
60 ~~contrary.~~ An identifier must be placed on the front of each  
61 debit card which clearly indicates that the card has been issued  
62 for the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program.  
63 Expenditures under the program are not subject to state or local  
64 competitive bidding requirements. Funds received by a classroom  
65 teacher do not affect wages, hours, or terms and conditions of  
66 employment and, therefore, are not subject to collective  
67 bargaining. Any classroom teacher may decline receipt of or  
68 return the funds without explanation or cause. ~~This subsection~~  
69 ~~shall apply retroactively to July 1, 2007.~~

70 (4) Each classroom teacher must sign a statement  
71 acknowledging receipt of the funds, keep receipts for no less  
72 than 4 years to show that funds expended meet the requirements  
73 of this section, and return any unused funds to the district  
74 school board at the end of the regular school year. Any unused  
75 funds that are returned to the district school board shall be  
76 deposited into the school advisory council account of the school  
77 at which the classroom teacher returning the funds was employed  
78 when that teacher received the funds or deposited into the  
79 Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance ~~Lead~~ Program  
80 account of the school district in which a charter school is  
81 sponsored, as applicable.

82 (5) The statement must be signed and dated by each  
83 classroom teacher before receipt of the Florida Teachers  
84 Classroom Supply Assistance ~~Lead~~ Program funds and shall include

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85 the wording: "I, ...(name of teacher)..., am employed by the  
86 ....County District School Board or by the ....Charter School as  
87 a full-time classroom teacher. I acknowledge that Florida  
88 Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance ~~Lead~~ Program funds are  
89 appropriated by the Legislature for the sole purpose of  
90 purchasing classroom materials and supplies to be used in the  
91 instruction of students assigned to me. In accepting custody of  
92 these funds, I agree to keep the receipts for all expenditures  
93 for no less than 4 years. I understand that if I do not keep the  
94 receipts, it will be my personal responsibility to pay any  
95 federal taxes due on these funds. I also agree to return any  
96 unexpended funds to the district school board at the end of the  
97 regular school year for deposit into the school advisory council  
98 account of the school where I was employed at the time I  
99 received the funds or for deposit into the Florida Teachers  
100 Classroom Supply Assistance ~~Lead~~ Program account of the school  
101 district in which the charter school is sponsored, as  
102 applicable."

103 (6) The Department of Education and district school boards  
104 may, and are encouraged to, enter into public-private  
105 partnerships in order to increase the total amount of Florida  
106 Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program funds available to  
107 classroom teachers.

108 ~~(6) For the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the Department of~~  
109 ~~Education is authorized to conduct a pilot program to determine~~  
110 ~~the feasibility of managing the Florida Teachers Lead Program~~  
111 ~~through a centralized electronic system. The pilot program must:~~

112 ~~(a) Be established through a competitive procurement~~

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113 ~~process;~~

114 ~~(b) Provide the capability for participating teachers to~~  
115 ~~purchase from online sources;~~

116 ~~(c) Provide the capability for participating teachers to~~  
117 ~~purchase from local vendors by means other than online~~  
118 ~~purchasing;~~

119 ~~(d) Generally comply with the provisions of this section;~~

120 ~~(e) Be subject to annual auditing requirements to ensure~~  
121 ~~accountability for funds received and disbursed; and~~

122 ~~(f) Provide for all unused funds to be returned to the~~  
123 ~~state at the close of each fiscal year.~~

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125 ~~Any participation in this pilot program by school districts and~~  
126 ~~individual teachers must be on a voluntary basis. The department~~  
127 ~~may limit the number of participating districts to the number it~~  
128 ~~deems feasible to adequately measure the viability of the pilot~~  
129 ~~program. The department is not required to implement this pilot~~  
130 ~~program if it determines that the number of school districts~~  
131 ~~willing to participate is insufficient to adequately measure the~~  
132 ~~viability of the pilot program.~~

133 Section 2. Paragraph (p) of subsection (2) of section  
134 1012.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

135 1012.05 Teacher recruitment and retention.—

136 (2) The Department of Education shall:

137 ~~(p) The Department of Education shall~~ Notify each teacher,  
138 via e-mail, of each item in the General Appropriations Act and  
139 legislation that affects teachers, including, but not limited  
140 to, the Excellent Teaching Program, the Florida Teachers

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141 | Classroom Supply Assistance ~~Lead~~ Program, liability insurance  
142 | protection for teachers, death benefits for teachers,  
143 | substantive legislation, rules of the State Board of Education,  
144 | and issues concerning student achievement.

145 |       Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.