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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; requiring  
 identification of debit cards used as a 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

29 "job-share" classroom teacher is one of two teachers whose  
30 combined full-time equivalent employment for the same teaching  
31 assignment equals one full-time classroom teacher.

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

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

57 30 of each year by any means determined appropriate by the  
58 district school board or charter school board, including, but  
59 not limited to, direct deposit, check, debit card, or purchasing  
60 card, ~~notwithstanding any law to the contrary.~~ If a debit card  
61 is used, an identifier must be placed on the front of the debit  
62 card which clearly indicates that the card has been issued for  
63 the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program.

64 Expenditures under the program are not subject to state or local  
65 competitive bidding requirements. Funds received by a classroom  
66 teacher do not affect wages, hours, or terms and conditions of  
67 employment and, therefore, are not subject to collective  
68 bargaining. Any classroom teacher may decline receipt of or  
69 return the funds without explanation or cause. ~~This subsection~~  
70 ~~shall apply retroactively to July 1, 2007.~~

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

83 (5) The statement must be signed and dated by each  
84 classroom teacher before receipt of the Florida Teachers

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

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

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

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113 ~~(a) Be established through a competitive procurement~~  
114 ~~process;~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

134 Section 2. Paragraph (p) of subsection (2) of section  
135 1012.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

136 1012.05 Teacher recruitment and retention.—

137 (2) The Department of Education shall:

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

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

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