

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to Educational Student Achievement
3 Zones; authorizing the State Board of Education to
4 create Educational Student Achievement Zones to
5 eliminate areas in the state with low student
6 achievement and chronic student failure; providing
7 criteria for designation of a zone; requiring a
8 process for application by an educational provider;
9 providing contractual requirements for the delivery of
10 educational services; requiring the Commissioner of
11 Education to create a committee to provide oversight;
12 providing for accountability measures; providing for
13 funding, including eligibility for additional funds
14 for extended instructional time; providing eligibility
15 for capital outlay funds; providing an effective date.

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

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19 Section 1. Educational Student Achievement Zones.—

20 (1) To eliminate areas in the state with low student
21 achievement and chronic student failure, which prevent those
22 areas from prospering, the State Board of Education may create
23 Educational Student Achievement Zones. The Commissioner of
24 Education, with the approval of the state board, shall identify
25 areas in the state that have educational challenges, such as
26 areas of high poverty, areas that are geographically isolated,

27 and military bases, to be designated Educational Student
28 Achievement Zones.

29 (2) The criteria to be considered for the designation of
30 an area as an Educational Student Achievement Zone are:

31 (a) High school dropout rates that are chronically high.

32 (b) Low graduation rate among minority students.

33 (c) Academic student achievement that is chronically low.

34 (d) Low reading or mathematics achievement based on
35 statewide assessments.

36 (e) High incidence of out-of-cohort students.

37 (f) Any other specific student educational needs of the
38 area.

39 (3) (a) After designating an Educational Student
40 Achievement Zone, the commissioner shall request proposals from
41 educational providers with a proven track record of increasing
42 student achievement to deliver educational services within the
43 zone. The commissioner shall give preference to educational
44 providers with innovative solutions to meet the needs of
45 chronically low-achieving students.

46 (b) The commissioner shall create a process by which an
47 educational provider, including, but not limited to, a school
48 district outside the zone, a Florida College System institution,
49 a state university, or a charter school, may apply to become an
50 educational provider in the zone.

51 (c) The commissioner shall execute a contract with an
52 educational provider that specifies the educational services to

53 be provided, the student academic progress to be made, and the
54 timeframe for accomplishing student achievement. The contract
55 shall be in effect for 7 years.

56 (d) The commissioner shall create a committee, consisting
57 of parents, community leaders, district school superintendents,
58 and the chairs of district school boards in the zone, to provide
59 oversight of the turnaround effort.

60 (4) The commissioner together with the state board shall
61 establish accountability measures to determine student academic
62 success in Educational Student Achievement Zones, which must be
63 achieved within 4 years from commencement of the contract. A
64 school participating in a zone shall be given a grade under the
65 state's accountability system but may not be penalized for such
66 a grade during the first 4 academic years of operation.

67 (5) All funding for schools within an Educational Student
68 Achievement Zone shall be through the Department of Education.

69 (6) A school within an Educational Student Achievement
70 Zone that provides extended instructional time is eligible for
71 an additional \$2,000 per full-time-equivalent student. For
72 purposes of this section, the term "extended instructional time"
73 means 520 minutes or more of instructional time per school day.

74 (7) A charter school operating within an Educational
75 Student Achievement Zone is immediately eligible for charter
76 school capital outlay funds.

77 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.