



REENTRY OF RETIRED EDUCATORS INTO THE CLASSROOM

PROPOSAL

Amend Section 121.091(9)(c), Florida Statute to permit retired classroom teachers and administrators to return to the classroom after two months rather than the current requirement of one year.

Present Situation and Rationale

- Currently, the nation is experiencing an unprecedented teacher shortage, a crisis certainly being felt in Florida. The implications of this shortage are far-reaching, affecting the quality of education for our students. There are retired educators and administrators eager to return to the classroom. However, the current Florida Retirement System (FRS) regulations impose an excessive one-year waiting period after retirement before they can rejoin the workforce. The waiting period is both unnecessary and counterproductive, particularly given the urgency of teacher shortage.

Impact of Proposed Change

- The impact of this proposed change will have an immediate and positive outcome for our students. Experienced educators would be permitted to swiftly return to the classroom after being retired for two months instead of the current waiting period requirement of one year.

Historical Perspective

- Historically, school districts have not faced such a dire need to access retired teachers so soon after retirement. However, the ongoing teacher shortage crisis has changed the landscape dramatically. School Districts would greatly benefit from the flexibility to reemploy retired educators in a more timely manner.

Fiscal Impact

- Allowing retired educators and administrators to return sooner may have a fiscal impact on School Districts. However, the return of retirees would bring experienced, trained professionals back into the fold, mitigating the challenges of hiring and training first-year teachers. Moreover, the positive educational outcomes can lead to long-term benefits for our students and our education system.

Statute Impacted

- F.S. 121.091(9)(c)

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