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1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to the Commission on Adequacy of School  
3 Funding; amending s. 20.15, F.S.; creating an exception to  
4 the authority of the Commissioner of Education to appoint  
5 members of councils and committees of the Department of  
6 Education; directing the Department of Education to assist  
7 the Commission on Adequacy of School Funding; creating s.  
8 1000.08, F.S.; creating a Commission on Adequacy of School  
9 Funding; providing for the appointment of members;  
10 authorizing the payment of certain expenses; specifying a  
11 duty to determine whether the state has satisfied its  
12 funding obligations to the public school system; requiring  
13 a report; providing an effective date.  
14

15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
16

17 Section 1. Section 20.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
18 read:

19 20.15 Department of Education.--There is created a  
20 Department of Education.

21 (1) STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.--In accordance with s. 2,  
22 Art. IX of the State Constitution, the State Board of Education  
23 is a body corporate and must supervise the system of free public  
24 education as is provided by law. The State Board of Education is  
25 the head of the Department of Education.

26 (2) COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION.--The Commissioner of  
27 Education is appointed by the State Board of Education and  
28 serves as the Executive Director of the Department of Education.

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29 (3) DIVISIONS.--The following divisions of the Department  
30 of Education are established:

- 31 (a) Division of Community Colleges.  
32 (b) Division of Public Schools.  
33 (c) Division of Workforce Education.  
34 (d) Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.  
35 (e) Division of Blind Services.  
36 (f) Division of Accountability, Research, and Measurement.  
37 (g) Division of Finance and Operations.

38 (4) DIRECTORS.--The directors of all divisions shall be  
39 appointed by the commissioner subject to approval by the state  
40 board. The director of each division may be designated as  
41 "Deputy Commissioner" or "Chancellor."

42 (5) POWERS AND DUTIES.--The State Board of Education and  
43 the Commissioner of Education shall assign to the divisions such  
44 powers, duties, responsibilities, and functions as are necessary  
45 to ensure the greatest possible coordination, efficiency, and  
46 effectiveness of education for students in K-20 education under  
47 the jurisdiction of the State Board of Education.

48 (6) COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES.--Notwithstanding anything  
49 contained in law to the contrary, the commissioner shall appoint  
50 all members of all councils and committees of the Department of  
51 Education, except the Commission for Independent Education and  
52 the Education Practices Commission and the Commission on  
53 Adequacy of School Funding.

54 (7) BOARDS.--Notwithstanding anything contained in law to  
55 the contrary, all members of the community college boards of  
56 trustees must be appointed according to chapter 1001.

57 (8) SUPPORT SERVICES.--

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SR Education Adequacy Commission

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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58        (a) The Department of Education shall continue to provide  
59 support to the Board of Governors of the State University  
60 System. At a minimum, support services provided to the Board of  
61 Governors shall include accounting, printing, computer and  
62 Internet support, personnel and human resources support, support  
63 for accountability initiatives, and administrative support as  
64 needed for trust funds under the jurisdiction of the Board of  
65 Governors.

66        (b) The Department of Education shall provide staff  
67 assistance and clerical resources, materials, and other support  
68 services to the Commission on Adequacy of School Funding.

69        Section 2. Section 1000.08, Florida Statutes, is created  
70 to read:

71        Commission on Adequacy of School Funding.--

72        (1) There is created within the Department of Education a  
73 Commission on Adequacy of School Funding. A commission shall  
74 convene within 60 days of the completion of the 2008 regular  
75 session of the Legislature and at 7-year intervals thereafter.  
76 The commission shall be composed of the following members: five  
77 members selected by the Governor, 4 members selected by the  
78 President of the Senate, and 4 members selected by the Speaker  
79 of the House of Representatives. One of the members appointed by  
80 each appointing power must be a parent of a child enrolled in  
81 the public school system. The parent members must be individuals  
82 who have not had significant prior relationships with or  
83 connections to individuals or entities involved in the education  
84 system. Any vacancy on a commission shall be filled in the same  
85 manner as the original appointment.

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86       (2) The commission shall meet at least once each quarter.  
87       All meetings are subject to the call of the chair. Seven members  
88       shall constitute a quorum.

89       (3) Members of the commission shall serve without  
90       compensation, but may be reimbursed for per diem and travel  
91       expenses pursuant to s. 112.061.

92       (4)(a) The commission shall examine whether the state has  
93       satisfied its obligation under s. 1, Art. IX of the State  
94       Constitution to adequately provide for a uniform, efficient,  
95       safe, secure, and high-quality system of free public schools  
96       that allows students to obtain a high-quality education.

97       (b) The commission shall be responsible for identifying  
98       the factors contributing to the constitutionally mandated public  
99       school system. The factors may include, but are not limited to,  
100       teachers, supplies, and curriculum.

101       (c)1. The commission shall determine the appropriate  
102       funding level by costing-out the inputs necessary for the high-  
103       quality system of free public schools; and

104       2. The cost of the inputs shall be determined by  
105       consultations with experts who have experience in high-quality  
106       schools; identification of spending by highly successful  
107       schools; and an analysis of data on education expenditures and  
108       student characteristics.

109       (d) The commission shall also identify unnecessary or  
110       wasteful spending practices and recommend more effective uses of  
111       existing funds.

112       (5) The commission shall deliver a report of its findings  
113       and recommendations to the Governor, President of the Senate,

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114 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Commissioner of  
115 Education within two years of the date it convenes.

116 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.