CHAPTER 2008-43

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1070

An act relating to intergovernmental cooperation; amending s. 163.01, F.S.; authorizing parties to an interlocal agreement to provide for the use or maintenance of facilities or equipment; amending s. 1003.02, F.S.; authorizing district school boards to perform certain functions by means of an interlocal agreement; amending s. 1006.261, F.S.; providing for use of school buses for additional public purposes; providing for reimbursement and indemnification; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, s. 187.201(20), Florida Statutes, provides that it is a goal of the state that Florida governments economically and efficiently provide the amount and quality of services required by the public and that it is a policy of the state to encourage greater cooperation between, among, and within all levels of Florida government through the use of appropriate interlocal agreements and mutual participation for mutual benefit, and

WHEREAS, s. 163.3177(12), Florida Statutes, relating to public school facilities elements of local government comprehensive plans, states, in pertinent part, that local governments must accomplish analyses of problems and opportunities for existing schools and schools anticipated in the future; analyses of opportunities to collocate future schools with other public facilities, such as parks, libraries, and community centers; and analyses of the need for supporting public facilities for existing and future schools, and

WHEREAS, s. 163.31777, Florida Statutes, relating to public schools interlocal agreements, states, in part, that the county and municipalities located within the geographic area of a school district shall enter into an interlocal agreement with the district school board which jointly establishes the specific ways in which the plans and processes of the district school board and the local governments are to be coordinated, NOW, THERE-FORE,

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

Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 163.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

163.01 Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act of 1969.—

(6) An interlocal agreement may provide for one or more parties to the agreement to administer or execute the agreement. One or more parties to the agreement may agree to provide all or a part of the services set forth in the agreement in the manner provided in the agreement. The parties may provide for the mutual exchange of services without payment of any contribution other than such services. The parties may provide for the use or maintenance of facilities or equipment of another party on a cost-reimbursement basis.

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Section 2. Paragraphs (e) and (f) of subsection (1) of section 1003.02, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1003.02 District school board operation and control of public K-12 education within the school district.—As provided in part II of chapter 1001, district school boards are constitutionally and statutorily charged with the operation and control of public K-12 education within their school district. The district school boards must establish, organize, and operate their public K-12 schools and educational programs, employees, and facilities. Their responsibilities include staff development, public K-12 school student education including education for exceptional students and students in juvenile justice programs, special programs, adult education programs, and career education programs. Additionally, district school boards must:

(1) Provide for the proper accounting for all students of school age, for the attendance and control of students at school, and for proper attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the welfare of students in the following fields:

(e) Transportation.—Make provision for the transportation of students to the public schools or school activities they are required or expected to attend, efficiently and economically, in accordance with the requirements of chapter 1006, which function may be accomplished, in whole or part, by means of an interlocal agreement under s. 163.01.

(f) Facilities and school plant.—

1. Approve and adopt a districtwide school facilities program, in accordance with the requirements of chapter 1013.

2. Approve plans for locating, planning, constructing, sanitating, insuring, maintaining, protecting, and condemning school property as prescribed in chapter 1013.

3. Approve and adopt a districtwide school building program.

4. Select and purchase school sites, playgrounds, and recreational areas located at centers at which schools are to be constructed, of adequate size to meet the needs of projected students to be accommodated.

5. Approve the proposed purchase of any site, playground, or recreational area for which school district funds are to be used.

6. Expand existing sites.

7. Rent buildings when necessary, which function may be accomplished, in whole or part, by means of an interlocal agreement under s. 163.01.

8. Enter into leases or lease-purchase arrangements, in accordance with the requirements and conditions provided in s. 1013.15(2).

9. Provide for the proper supervision of construction.

10. Make or contract for additions, alterations, and repairs on buildings and other school properties.

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11. Ensure that all plans and specifications for buildings provide adequately for the safety and well-being of students, as well as for economy of construction.

12. Provide adequately for the proper maintenance and upkeep of school plants, which function may be accomplished, in whole or part, by means of an interlocal agreement under s. 163.01.

13. Carry insurance on every school building in all school plants including contents, boilers, and machinery, except buildings of three classrooms or less which are of frame construction and located in a tenth class public protection zone as defined by the Florida Inspection and Rating Bureau, and on all school buses and other property under the control of the district school board or title to which is vested in the district school board, except as exceptions may be authorized under rules of the State Board of Education.

14. Condemn and prohibit the use for public school purposes of any building under the control of the district school board.

Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 1006.261, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1006.261 Use of school buses for public purposes.—

(1)(a) Each district school board may enter into agreements with the governing body of a county or municipality in the school district or any state agency or agencies established or identified to assist <u>in the provision of public transportation and other public purposes</u>, including, but not limited to, providing for the needs of the transportation disadvantaged, as defined in s. 427.011, including, but not limited to, the elderly, pursuant to Pub. L. No. 89-73, as amended, for the use of the school buses of the school district by departments, boards, commissions, or officers of such county or municipality or of the state for county, municipal, or state purposes, including, but not limited to, transportation of the transportation disadvantaged <u>or other public purposes</u>. Each such agreement shall provide for reimbursement of the district school board, in full or in part, for the proportionate share of fixed and operating costs incurred by the district school board attributable to the use of the buses pursuant to the agreement <u>or attributable to the maintenance or other activities conducted by the district school board</u>.

(2)(a) The governing body or state agency or agencies established or identified pursuant to Pub. L. No. 89-73, or the nonprofit corporation or nonprofit civic organization or group, or an agency established or identified to assist the transportation disadvantaged as defined in s. 427.011, <u>or a public agency otherwise receiving services from a district school board shall</u> indemnify and hold harmless the district school board from any and all liability by virtue of the use of the buses pursuant to an agreement authorized by this section.

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 28, 2008.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 28, 2008.

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