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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** School District Superintendents  
School District Assistant Superintendents  
Private School Organization Contacts

**FROM:** Hershel Lyons

**DATE:** May 18, 2018

**Contact Information:**

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**DPS: 2018-62**

**SUBJECT: Informational Memo on House Bill 29 (Chapter 2018-7, Laws of Florida)**

The 2018 Legislature passed, and Governor Scott signed into law, House Bill 29, which takes effect July 1, 2018. The purpose of this memorandum is to inform school districts of new responsibilities and considerations in this law. A point of contact for each section is identified below. A link to the bill text can be found at

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0029er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=0029&Session=2018>. A link to the Laws of Florida can be found at [http://laws.flrules.org/files/Ch\\_2018\\_007.pdf](http://laws.flrules.org/files/Ch_2018_007.pdf).

School districts will want to pay particular attention to the provisions of the bill that:

- Create section 683.147, Florida Statutes, Medal of Honor Day, to
  - establish March 25 of each year as “Medal of Honor Day.”
  - allow the governor to annually issue a proclamation designating March 25 as “Medal of Honor Day” and encourage public officials, schools, private organizations and all residents of the state to commemorate Medal of Honor Day and honor recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- Amend subsection (2) of section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, Required instruction, to
  - add language to paragraph (t) to include Medal of Honor recipients to required instruction and that the instruction must occur on or before Medal of Honor Day.
  - encourage the assistance of Medal of Honor recipients where practicable and require a character development program that incorporates the values of Medal of Honor recipients to be offered in social studies, English Language Arts or other schoolwide character building and veteran awareness initiatives meeting the requirements of paragraphs (s) and (t).

HERSHEL LYONS  
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Any questions or concerns regarding the above sections of legislation should be directed to Ann Whitney, director of standards, Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support, at 850-245-9965 or via email at [Ann.Whitney@fldoe.org](mailto:Ann.Whitney@fldoe.org).

Further provisions of the bill that school districts will want to be aware of include those affecting educator certification that:

- Amend subsection (4) of section 1012.55, Florida Statutes, to
  - require the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) to issue a three-year temporary certificate in educational leadership to an individual who meets the following criteria:
    - Earned a passing score on the Florida Educational Leadership Examination;
    - Served as a commissioned or noncommissioned military officer in the United States Armed Forces for at least three years;
    - Was honorably discharged or has retired from the United States Armed Forces; and
    - Is employed full-time in a position for which an educator certificate is required in a Florida public school, state-supported school or non-public school that has a Level II program.
  - require Level II programs to admit applicants who hold a temporary certificate in educational leadership based on the aforementioned criteria.
  - require the FDOE to issue a certificate as a school principal to applicants who hold a temporary certificate in educational leadership based on the aforementioned criteria and successfully complete a Level II program.
  - permit a junior reserve officer training instructor to receive funding through the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program.
- Amend subsection (7) of section 1012.56, Florida Statutes, to
  - permit the FDOE to issue a two-year extension to a temporary certificate due to the military service of an applicant's spouse if the requirements of the professional certificate have not been satisfied with the exception of the general knowledge requirement.
- Add subsection (3) to section 1012.59, Florida Statutes, to
  - Waive fees for initial general knowledge, professional education and subject area examination and fees for certification for the following individuals:

Informational Memo on House Bill 29

May 18, 2018

Page Three

- A member of the United States Armed Forces or a reserve component who is serving or has served on active duty or the spouse of such a member.
- The surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces or a reserve component who was serving on active duty at the time of death.
- An honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces or a veteran of a reserve component who served on active duty and the spouse or surviving spouse of such a veteran.

Any questions or concerns regarding the above sections of legislation should be directed to David LaJeunesse, chief, Bureau of Educator Certification, at 850-245-0431 or via email at [David.Lajeunesse@fldoe.org](mailto:David.Lajeunesse@fldoe.org).

PS/aw/zh

cc: School District Social Studies Supervisors  
School District Human Resource Directors  
School District Personnel Directors  
School District Certification Partners  
School District Staff Development Directors