1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to workforce education; amending s. 3 445.004, F.S.; requiring the Commissioner of Education 4 to approve or disapprove the final Master Credential 5 List; requiring the Credentials Review Committee to 6 submit a new list to the commissioner under certain 7 circumstances and within a specified timeframe; 8 amending s. 1009.895, F.S.; increasing the amount the 9 Department of Education may reimburse an institution through the Open Door Grant Program for a completed 10 11 workforce training program; providing an effective 12 date. 13 14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 15 16 Section 1. Paragraph (h) of subsection (4) of section 17 445.004, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 18 445.004 CareerSource Florida, Inc., and the state board; 19 creation; purpose; membership; duties and powers.-20 (4)21 The state board shall appoint a Credentials Review 22 Committee to identify nondegree credentials and degree 23 credentials of value for approval by the state board and

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inclusion in the Master Credentials List. Such credentials must

include registered apprenticeship programs, industry

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certifications, licenses, advanced technical certificates, college credit certificates, career certificates, applied technology diplomas, associate degrees, baccalaureate degrees, and graduate degrees. The Commissioner of Education shall approve or disapprove the final Master Credential List. If a list is disapproved by the commissioner, the Credentials Review Committee must present a new list to the commissioner for approval or disapproval within 30 days. The Credentials Review Committee must include:

- a. The Chancellor of the Division of Public Schools.
- b. The Chancellor of the Division of Career and Adult Education.
  - c. The Chancellor of the Florida College System.
  - d. The Chancellor of the State University System.
- e. The director of the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help.
- f. Four members from local workforce development boards, with equal representation from urban and rural regions.
  - g. Two members from nonpublic postsecondary institutions.
  - h. Two members from industry associations.
  - i. Two members from Florida-based businesses.
- j. Two members from the Department of Economic
- 48 Opportunity.

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49 k. One member from the Department of Agriculture and 50 Consumer Services.

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2. All information pertaining to the Credentials Review Committee, the process for the approval of credentials of value, and the Master Credentials List must be made available and be easily accessible to the public on all relevant state agency websites.

- 3. The Credentials Review Committee shall establish a definition for credentials of value and create a framework of quality. The framework must align with federally funded workforce accountability requirements and undergo biennial review.
- 4. The criteria to determine value for nondegree credentials should, at a minimum, require:
- a. Evidence that the credential meets labor market demand as identified by the Labor Market Estimating Conference created in s. 216.136 or meets local demand as identified in the criteria adopted by the Credentials Review Committee. Evidence must include employer information on present credential use or emerging opportunities.
- b. Evidence that the competencies mastered upon completion of the credential are aligned with labor market demand.
- c. Evidence of the employment and earnings outcomes for individuals after obtaining the credential. Earnings outcomes must provide middle-level to high-level wages with preference given to credentials generating high-level wages. Credentials that do not meet the earnings outcomes criteria must be part of

a sequence of credentials that are required for the next level occupation that does meet the earnings outcomes criteria in order to be identified as a credential of value. For new credentials, this criteria may be met with conditional eligibility until measurable labor market outcomes are obtained.

- 5. The Credentials Review Committee shall establish the criteria to determine value for degree programs. This criteria shall include evidence that the program meets the labor market demand as identified by the Labor Market Estimating Conference created in s. 216.136 or meets local demand as determined by the committee. Such criteria must be used to designate programs of emphasis under s. 1001.706 and to guide the development of program standards and benchmarks under s. 1004.92.
- 6. The Credentials Review Committee shall establish a process for prioritizing nondegree credentials and degree programs based on critical statewide or regional shortages.
- 7. The Credentials Review Committee shall establish a process for:
- a. At a minimum, quarterly review and approval of credential applications. Approved credentials of value shall be used by the committee to develop the Master Credentials List.
  - b. Annual review of the Master Credentials List.
- c. Phasing out credentials on the Master Credentials List that no longer meet the framework of quality.
  - d. Designating performance funding eligibility under ss.

101 1011.80 and 1011.81, based upon the highest available certification for postsecondary students.

- e. Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the state board shall submit the Master Credentials List to the State Board of Education. The list must, at a minimum, identify nondegree credentials and degree programs determined to be of value for purposes of ss. 1008.44 and 1011.62(1); if the credential or degree program meets statewide, regional, or local level demand; the type of certificate, credential, or degree; and the primary standard occupation classification code. For the 2021-2022 school year, the Master Credentials List shall be comprised of the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List and the CAPE Postsecondary Industry Certification Funding List under ss. 1008.44 and 1011.62(1) and adopted by the State Board of Education before October 1, 2021.
- 8. The Credentials Review Committee shall establish a process for linking Classifications of Instructional Programs (CIP) to Standard Occupational Classifications (SOC) for all new credentials of value identified on the Master Credentials List. The CIP code aligns instructional programs to occupations. A CIP to SOC link indicates that programs classified in the CIP code category prepare individuals for jobs classified in the SOC code category. The state board shall submit approved CIP to SOC linkages to the State Board of Education with each credential that is added to the Master Credentials List.

	9.	The	Credentia	ıls R	eview Cor	nmittee s	shall i	dent	ify all	
data	elem	ents	necessar	y to	collect	informat	tion on	cre	dentials	bу
the F	'lori	.da E	Education	and	Training	Placemer	nt Prog	ram a	automate	d
syste	em un	der	s. 1008.3	39.						

- 10. The Credentials Review Committee shall develop a returned-value funding formula as provided under ss.
  1011.80(7)(b) and 1011.81(2)(b). When developing the formula, the committee may not penalize Florida College System institutions or school districts if students postpone employment to continue their education.
- Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 1009.895, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 1009.895 Open Door Grant Program.-

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- 139 (5) The department may not reimburse any institution more than  $\frac{\$9,000}{\$3,000}$  per completed workforce training program by an eligible student.
- 142 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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