

By the Committee on Education and Senator Horne

304-1956-99

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to education; creating  
3           professional development academies to meet the  
4           human resource development needs of  
5           professional educators, schools, and school  
6           districts; providing that appropriated funds  
7           must be allocated by the Commissioner of  
8           Education unless otherwise provided in the  
9           appropriations act; providing eligibility  
10          requirements for start-up funds; providing an  
11          effective date.

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

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15           Section 1. One or more professional development  
16 academies shall be established to meet the human resource  
17 development needs of professional educators, schools, and  
18 school districts. Funds appropriated for the initiation of  
19 professional development academies must be allocated by the  
20 Commissioner of Education, unless otherwise provided in an  
21 appropriations act. To be eligible for start-up funds, an  
22 academy must:

23           (1) Be established by the collaborative efforts of one  
24 or more district school boards, members of the business  
25 community, and the postsecondary institutions which may award  
26 college credits for courses taught at the academy.

27           (2) Demonstrate the ability to provide high-quality  
28 trainers and training and appropriate followup and coaching  
29 for all participants and to support school personnel in  
30 improving students' performance.

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1           (3) Be operated under contract with its public  
2 partners and governed by an independent board of directors  
3 that should include at least one school superintendent and one  
4 school board chairman from the participating school districts,  
5 the president of the collective bargaining unit that  
6 represents the majority of the region's teachers, and at least  
7 three individuals who are not employees or elected or  
8 appointed officials of the participating school districts.

9           (4) Be financed during the first year of operation by  
10 an equal or greater match from private funding sources and  
11 demonstrate the ability to be self-supporting within 1 year  
12 after opening through fees for services, grants, or private  
13 contributions.

14           (5) Own or lease a facility that can be used to  
15 deliver training on-site and through distance learning and  
16 other technology-based delivery systems. The participating  
17 district school boards may lease a site or facility to the  
18 academy for a nominal fee and may pay all or part of the costs  
19 of renovating a facility to accommodate the academy. The  
20 academy is responsible for all operational, maintenance, and  
21 repair costs.

22           (6) Provide professional development services for the  
23 participating school districts as specified in the contract,  
24 and may provide professional development services to other  
25 school districts, private schools, and individuals on a  
26 fee-for-services basis.

27           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SB 1474

The Committee Substitute differs from SB 1474 in that it would authorize instead of require participating colleges and universities to award college credit to teachers working at a professional development academy.