

By the Committee on Commerce and Economic Opportunities; and
Senator King

310-1727-01

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to workforce development;
3 amending s. 239.514, F.S., relating to the
4 Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive
5 Grant Program; providing additional purposes
6 for a grant awarded under the program;
7 authorizing the use of program funds to upgrade
8 and expand workforce development programs to
9 meet provisions required by law; authorizing
10 use of grant funds for recurring instructional
11 costs upon approval of the Postsecondary
12 Education Planning Commission; replacing
13 obsolete reference to Jobs and Education
14 Partnership with reference to Workforce
15 Florida, Inc.; amending s. 239.213, F.S.;
16 revising provisions relating to
17 vocational-preparatory instruction; changing
18 the date for the submission of a report;
19 providing an effective date.

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

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23 Section 1. Section 239.514, Florida Statutes, is
24 amended to read:
25 239.514 Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive
26 Grant Program.--The Legislature recognizes that the need for
27 school districts and community colleges to be able to respond
28 to emerging local or statewide economic development needs is
29 critical to the workforce development system. The Workforce
30 Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program is created
31 to provide grants to school districts and community colleges

1 on a competitive basis to fund some or all of the costs
2 associated with bringing workforce development programs into
3 conformance with industry standards and the creation or
4 expansion of workforce development programs that serve
5 specific employment workforce needs.

6 (1) Funds awarded for a workforce development
7 capitalization incentive grant may be used for instructional
8 equipment, laboratory equipment, supplies, personnel, student
9 services, or other expenses associated with:

10 (a) Upgrading workforce development programs to meet
11 the program standards specified in s. 239.229(2)(c)4., and
12 developed as a result of the 3-year review cycle specified in
13 s. 240.312. Grant funds may not be used for recurring
14 instructional costs or for indirect costs of an institution.

15 (b) Creating or expanding the workforce development
16 program identified by the High Skills/High Wages committee of
17 the regional workforce board as being critical to business
18 retention, expansion, and recruitment as specified in s.
19 445.007(7).~~the creation or expansion of a workforce~~
20 ~~development program.~~Expansion of a program may include either
21 the expansion of enrollments in a program or expansion into
22 new areas of specialization within a program. ~~No~~ Grant funds
23 may not be used ~~for recurring instructional costs or for~~
24 institutions' indirect costs. Grant funds may be used for
25 recurring instructional costs if approved by the Postsecondary
26 Education Planning Commission.

27 (2) The Postsecondary Education Planning Commission
28 shall accept applications from school districts or community
29 colleges for workforce development capitalization incentive
30 grants. Applications from school districts or community
31 colleges shall contain projected enrollments and projected

1 costs for the new or expanded workforce development program.
2 The Postsecondary Education Planning Commission, in
3 consultation with Workforce Florida, Inc.,~~the Jobs and~~
4 ~~Education Partnership~~,the Department of Education, and the
5 State Board of Community Colleges, shall review and rank each
6 application for a grant according to subsection (3) and shall
7 submit to the Legislature a list in priority order of
8 applications recommended for a grant award.

9 (3) The commission shall give highest priority to
10 programs that train people to enter high-skill, high-wage
11 occupations identified by the Workforce Estimating Conference
12 and other programs approved by Workforce Florida, Inc. ;
13 programs that train people to enter occupations under the
14 welfare transition program; or programs that train for the
15 workforce adults who are eligible for public assistance,
16 economically disadvantaged, disabled, not proficient in
17 English, or dislocated workers. The commission shall consider
18 the statewide geographic dispersion of grant funds in ranking
19 the applications and shall give priority to applications from
20 education agencies that are making maximum use of their
21 workforce development funding by offering high-performing,
22 high-demand programs.

23 Section 2. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 239.213,
24 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

25 239.213 Vocational-preparatory instruction.--

26 (2) Students who enroll in a certificate career
27 education program of 450 hours or more shall complete an
28 entry-level examination within the first 6 weeks of admission
29 into the program. The state board shall designate
30 examinations that are currently in existence, the results of
31 which are comparable across institutions, to assess student

1 mastery of basic skills. Any student deemed to lack a minimal
2 level of basic skills for such program shall be referred to
3 vocational-preparatory instruction or adult basic education
4 for a structured program of basic skills instruction. Such
5 instruction may include English for speakers of other
6 languages. A student may only not receive a certificate of
7 vocational program completion by either ~~prior to~~ demonstrating
8 the basic skills required in the state curriculum frameworks
9 for the vocational program or by successfully passing the
10 appropriate state, national, or industry licensure or
11 certification exam.

12 (3) The following students are exempt from this
13 section:

14 (a) Students with disabilities ~~Exceptional students,~~
15 as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C.
16 section 12101, s. 228.041, may be ~~exempted from the provisions~~
17 ~~of this section.~~

18 (b) A student who possesses an associate in applied
19 science, associate in science, associate in arts,
20 baccalaureate, or graduate-level degree,

21 (c) A student who has completed the college-level
22 communication and computation skills examination pursuant to
23 s. 240.107, or who is exempt from the college entry-level
24 examination pursuant to s. 240.107, or

25 (d) Students enrolled in registered apprenticeship
26 programs may be exempted from the provisions of this section.

27 Section 3. The study required by section 112 of
28 chapter 2000-165, Laws of Florida, is due on January 1, 2003.

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

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
Senate Bill 1622

The committee substitute exempts students in vocational certificate programs of less than 450 hours from taking a basic skills examination within 6 weeks after admission in the program and allows students in all programs, regardless of length, to demonstrate the required basic skills by passing a state, national, or industry licensure or certification examination. The committee substitute further exempts, from both the initial testing and the required demonstration of basic skills, students in registered apprenticeship programs, students with disabilities, and students who possess an associate in applied science or associate in science degree. In addition, the committee substitute delays by 1 year a study and report about programs that provide on-the-job training in skilled trades.