

By Senator Clary

7-945-01

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 an
9 appropriations act; providing eligibility
10 requirements for startup 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
17 human-resource-development needs of professional educators,
18 schools, and school districts. Funds appropriated for the
19 initiation of professional-development academies must be
20 allocated by the Commissioner of Education, unless otherwise
21 provided in an appropriations act. To be eligible for startup
22 funds, an 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 that will 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 Regional educational consortia as defined in section 228.0857,
10 Florida Statutes, satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

11 (4) Be financed during the first year of operation by
12 an equal or greater match from private funding sources and
13 demonstrate the ability to be self-supporting within 1 year
14 after opening through fees for services, grants, or private
15 contributions. Regional educational consortia as defined in
16 section 228.0857, Florida Statutes, are exempt from the
17 funding match required by this subsection.

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

26 (6) Provide professional-development services for the
27 participating school districts as specified in the contract.
28 An academy may provide professional-development services to
29 other school districts, private schools, and individuals on a
30 fee-for-service basis.

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