

By the Committee on Education Innovation and  
 Representatives Arza, Weissman, Betancourt, Waters, Meadows,  
 Melvin, Cantens, Sobel, Baxley and Haridopolos

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to charter technical career  
 3           centers; amending s. 228.505, F.S.; revising  
 4           the contents and dates for submission and  
 5           approval of an application to establish a  
 6           center; authorizing pilot apprenticeship  
 7           charter technical career centers; providing for  
 8           applicability of provisions relating to charter  
 9           technical career centers; providing certain  
 10          exceptions relating to application, approval,  
 11          denial, and funding; providing an effective  
 12          date.

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

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 16           Section 1. Paragraph (1) of subsection (4), subsection  
 17          (5), and paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section 228.505,  
 18          Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (20) is added to  
 19          said section, to read:

20           228.505 Charter technical career centers.--

21           (4) CHARTER.--A sponsor may designate centers as  
 22          provided in this section. An application to establish a  
 23          center may be submitted by a sponsor or another organization  
 24          that is determined, by rule of the State Board of Education,  
 25          to be appropriate. However, an independent school is not  
 26          eligible for status as a center. The charter must be signed  
 27          by the governing body of the center and the sponsor, and must  
 28          be approved by the district school board and community college  
 29          board of trustees in whose geographic region the facility is  
 30          located. If a charter technical career center is established  
 31          by the conversion to charter status of a public technical

1 center formerly governed by a district school board, the  
2 charter status of that center takes precedence in any question  
3 of governance. The governance of the center or of any program  
4 within the center remains with its board of directors unless  
5 the board agrees to a change in governance or its charter is  
6 revoked as provided in subsection (15). Such a conversion  
7 charter technical career center is not affected by a change in  
8 the governance of public technical centers or of programs  
9 within other centers that are or have been governed by  
10 district school boards. A charter technical career center, or  
11 any program within such a center, that was governed by a  
12 school board and transferred to a community college prior to  
13 the effective date of this act is not affected by this  
14 provision. An applicant who wishes to establish a center must  
15 submit to the local school board or community college district  
16 board of trustees, or a consortium of one or more of each, an  
17 application that includes:

18 (1) Other information required by written policy  
19 adopted by the local school board or community college  
20 district board of trustees prior to the date of application.  
21

22 Students at a center must meet the same testing and academic  
23 performance standards as those established by law and rule for  
24 students at public schools and public technical centers. The  
25 students must also meet any additional assessment indicators  
26 that are included within the charter approved by the district  
27 school board or community college district board of trustees.

28 (5) APPLICATION.--An application to establish a center  
29 must be submitted by October ~~February~~ 1 of the year preceding  
30 the school year in which the center will begin operation. The  
31 sponsor must review the application and make a final decision

1 on whether to approve the application and grant the charter  
2 within 60 days ~~by March 1~~, and may condition the granting of a  
3 charter on the center's taking certain actions or maintaining  
4 certain conditions. Such actions and conditions must be  
5 provided to the applicant in writing. The local school board  
6 or community college district board of trustees is not  
7 required to issue a charter to any person.

8 (6) SPONSOR.--A district school board or community  
9 college district board of trustees or a consortium of one or  
10 more of each may sponsor a center in the county in which the  
11 board has jurisdiction.

12 (a) A sponsor must review all applications for centers  
13 received through at least October ~~February~~ 1 of each calendar  
14 year for centers to be opened at the beginning of the  
15 sponsor's next school year. A sponsor may receive  
16 applications later than this date if it so chooses. To  
17 facilitate an accurate budget projection process, a sponsor  
18 shall be held harmless for FTE students that are not included  
19 in the FTE projection due to approval of applications after  
20 the FTE projection deadline. A sponsor must, by a majority  
21 vote, approve or deny an application no later than 60 days  
22 after the application is received. If an application is  
23 denied, the sponsor must, within 10 days, notify the applicant  
24 in writing of the specific reasons for denial, which must be  
25 based upon good cause. Upon approval of a charter application,  
26 the initial startup must be consistent with the beginning of  
27 the public school or community college calendar for the  
28 district in which the charter is granted, unless the sponsor  
29 allows a waiver of this provision for good cause.

30 (20) PILOT APPRENTICESHIP CHARTER TECHNICAL CAREER  
31 CENTERS.--A school district or community college in

1 cooperation with a registered apprenticeship program may  
2 sponsor a charter technical career center. When a charter  
3 technical career center is sponsored pursuant to this  
4 subsection, all provisions of this section apply, except that:  
5 (a) The application must be signed and approved by  
6 only the applicant and the sponsor.  
7 (b) Denial of the application must be based on a  
8 finding that the application does not meet the purpose or any  
9 other applicable requirement of this section.  
10 (c) From the funds appropriated for a charter  
11 technical career center or subsequently increased or reduced  
12 through the Workforce Development Education funding formula,  
13 no less than 95 percent shall be distributed to the applicant  
14 as long as the applicant is providing all support and  
15 services.

16 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.  
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