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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to public K-12 educational instruction; repealing s. 1003.429, F.S., relating to accelerated high school graduation options; amending s. 1003.43, F.S.; revising credit requirements for high school graduation; amending s. 1003.436, F.S.; revising the definition of one full credit as it relates to hours of instruction; amending ss. 1007.261 and 1009.531, F.S.; conforming provisions; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1003.429, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 1003.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.43 General requirements for high school graduation.--

(1) Graduation requires successful completion of either a minimum of 24 academic credits in grades 9 through 12 or an International Baccalaureate curriculum. The 24 credits shall be distributed as follows:

(a) Four credits in English, with major concentration in composition and literature.

(b) Three credits in mathematics. ~~Effective for students entering the 9th grade in the 1997-1998 school year and thereafter,~~ One of these credits must be Algebra I, a series of courses equivalent to Algebra I, or a higher-level mathematics course.

(c) Three credits in science, two of which must have a laboratory component. The State Board of Education may grant an

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31 annual waiver of the laboratory requirement to a district school
 32 board that certifies that its laboratory facilities are
 33 inadequate, provided the district school board submits a capital
 34 outlay plan to provide adequate facilities and makes the funding
 35 of this plan a priority of the district school board.
 36 Agriscience Foundations I, the core course in secondary
 37 Agriscience and Natural Resources programs, counts as one of the
 38 science credits.

39 (d) One credit in American history.

40 (e) One credit in world history, including a comparative
 41 study of the history, doctrines, and objectives of all major
 42 political systems.

43 (f) One-half credit in economics, including a comparative
 44 study of the history, doctrines, and objectives of all major
 45 economic systems. The Florida Council on Economic Education
 46 shall provide technical assistance to the department and
 47 district school boards in developing curriculum materials for
 48 the study of economics.

49 (g) One-half credit in American government, including
 50 study of the Constitution of the United States. ~~For students~~
 51 ~~entering the 9th grade in the 1997-1998 school year and~~
 52 ~~thereafter,~~ The study of Florida government, including study of
 53 the State Constitution, the three branches of state government,
 54 and municipal and county government, shall be included as part
 55 of the required study of American government. Effective for
 56 students entering the 9th grade in the 2004-2005 school year and
 57 thereafter, one credit in American government as described in
 58 this paragraph shall be required.

59 (h) Effective for students entering the 9th grade in the
 60 2004-2005 school year and thereafter, one credit in social

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61 sciences in addition to the credits in American history, world
 62 history, economics, and American government.

63 (i)(h)1. One credit in practical arts career and technical
 64 education or exploratory career and technical education. Any
 65 career and technical education course as defined in s. 1003.01
 66 may be taken to satisfy the high school graduation requirement
 67 for one credit in practical arts or exploratory career and
 68 technical education provided in this subparagraph;

69 2. One credit in performing fine arts to be selected from
 70 music, dance, drama, painting, or sculpture. A course in any art
 71 form, in addition to painting or sculpture, that requires manual
 72 dexterity, or a course in speech and debate, may be taken to
 73 satisfy the high school graduation requirement for one credit in
 74 performing arts pursuant to this subparagraph; or

75 3. One-half credit each in practical arts career and
 76 technical education or exploratory career and technical
 77 education and performing fine arts, as defined in this
 78 paragraph.

79
 80 Such credit for practical arts career and technical education or
 81 exploratory career and technical education or for performing
 82 fine arts shall be made available in the 9th grade, and students
 83 shall be scheduled into a 9th grade course as a priority.

84 (j)(i) One-half credit in life management skills to
 85 include consumer education, positive emotional development,
 86 marriage and relationship skill-based education, nutrition,
 87 parenting skills, prevention of human immunodeficiency virus
 88 infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome and other
 89 sexually transmissible diseases, benefits of sexual abstinence
 90 and consequences of teenage pregnancy, information and

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91 instruction on breast cancer detection and breast self-
 92 examination, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, drug education, and
 93 the hazards of smoking.

94 ~~(k)(j)~~ One credit in physical education to include
 95 assessment, improvement, and maintenance of personal fitness.
 96 Participation in an interscholastic sport at the junior varsity
 97 or varsity level, for two full seasons, shall satisfy the one-
 98 credit requirement in physical education if the student passes a
 99 competency test on personal fitness with a score of "C" or
 100 better. The competency test on personal fitness must be
 101 developed by the Department of Education. A district school
 102 board may not require that the one credit in physical education
 103 be taken during the 9th grade year. Completion of one semester
 104 with a grade of "C" or better in a marching band class, in a
 105 physical activity class that requires participation in marching
 106 band activities as an extracurricular activity, or in a Reserve
 107 Officer Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) class a significant component
 108 of which is drills shall satisfy a one-half credit requirement
 109 in physical education. This one-half credit may not be used to
 110 satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement for
 111 adaptive physical education under an individual educational plan
 112 (IEP) or 504 plan.

113 ~~(l)(k)~~ Eight and one-half elective credits. Effective for
 114 students entering the 9th grade in the 2004-2005 school year and
 115 thereafter, seven elective credits shall be required.

116
 117 District school boards may award a maximum of one-half credit in
 118 social studies and one-half elective credit for student
 119 completion of nonpaid voluntary community or school service
 120 work. Students choosing this option must complete a minimum of

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121 75 hours of service in order to earn the one-half credit in
 122 either category of instruction. Credit may not be earned for
 123 service provided as a result of court action. District school
 124 boards that approve the award of credit for student volunteer
 125 service shall develop guidelines regarding the award of the
 126 credit, and school principals are responsible for approving
 127 specific volunteer activities. A course designated in the Course
 128 Code Directory as grade 9 through grade 12 that is taken below
 129 the 9th grade may be used to satisfy high school graduation
 130 requirements or Florida Academic Scholars award requirements as
 131 specified in a district school board's student progression plan.
 132 A student shall be granted credit toward meeting the
 133 requirements of this subsection for equivalent courses, as
 134 identified pursuant to s. 1007.271(6), taken through dual
 135 enrollment.

136 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
 137 1003.436, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

138 1003.436 Definition of "credit".--

139 (1)(a) For the purposes of requirements for high school
 140 graduation, one full credit means a minimum of 135 hours of bona
 141 fide instruction in a designated course of study that contains
 142 student performance standards. ~~One full credit means a minimum~~
 143 ~~of 120 hours of bona fide instruction in a designated course of~~
 144 ~~study that contains student performance standards for purposes~~
 145 ~~of meeting high school graduation requirements in a district~~
 146 ~~school that has been authorized to implement block scheduling by~~
 147 ~~the district school board.~~ The State Board of Education shall
 148 determine the number of postsecondary credit hours earned
 149 through dual enrollment pursuant to s. 1007.271 that satisfy the
 150 requirements of a district's interinstitutional articulation

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151 agreement according to s. 1007.235 and that equal one full
 152 credit of the equivalent high school course identified pursuant
 153 to s. 1007.271(6).

154 Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
 155 1007.261, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

156 1007.261 State universities; admissions of students.--Each
 157 university board of trustees is authorized to adopt rules
 158 governing the admission of students, subject to this section and
 159 rules of the State Board of Education.

160 (1) Minimum academic standards for undergraduate admission
 161 to a university include:

162 (a) Each student must have received a high school diploma
 163 pursuant to ~~s. 1003.429~~ or s. 1003.43, or its equivalent, except
 164 as provided in s. 1007.271(2)-(5) or completed a home education
 165 program according to s. 1002.41.

166 Section 5. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
 167 1009.531, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

168 1009.531 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;
 169 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.--

170 (1) To be eligible for an initial award from any of the
 171 three types of scholarships under the Florida Bright Futures
 172 Scholarship Program, a student must:

173 (b) Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its
 174 equivalent as described in ~~s. 1003.429~~, s. 1003.43~~7~~ or s.
 175 1003.435 unless:

176 1. The student is enrolled full time in the early
 177 admission program of an eligible postsecondary education
 178 institution or completes a home education program according to
 179 s. 1002.41; or

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180 2. The student earns a high school diploma from a non-
181 Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who is on
182 military or public service assignment away from Florida.

183 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.