

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to postsecondary education; amending s.
3 1001.44, F.S.; authorizing an articulation agreement for
4 delivery of associate in applied science degree programs
5 by career centers; providing requirements for use of the
6 designation "technical college"; providing a definition;
7 amending s. 1002.34, F.S.; providing for a charter
8 technical career center to use the designation "technical
9 college"; providing a definition; amending s. 1007.22,
10 F.S.; revising provisions relating to establishment of
11 interinstitutional mechanisms by public postsecondary
12 educational institutions; amending s. 1007.23, F.S.;
13 revising components of the statewide articulation
14 agreement; revising terminology; requiring the State Board
15 of Education to establish articulated career paths for
16 specific professions; requiring career paths to provide
17 credit for certain programs and experiential learning;
18 amending s. 1009.50, F.S.; authorizing certain students in
19 postsecondary career certificate programs to receive
20 Florida public student assistance grants; creating s.
21 1009.521, F.S.; creating the GED Success Scholarship
22 Program; providing for administration; providing for the
23 award of scholarships from appropriated funds; providing
24 eligibility criteria; providing for transmittal of funds
25 to eligible institutions; providing for reporting;
26 providing for rulemaking; creating s. 1011.802, F.S.;
27 establishing the School District Career Center Facility
28 Enhancement Challenge Grant Program; authorizing a school

29 district direct-support organization to solicit funds and
 30 establish a separate career center capital facilities
 31 matching account for private contributions for
 32 instructional facility construction projects; providing
 33 for match by state appropriations; providing for a portion
 34 of the cost of a facility construction project to be
 35 provided from a school district's local capital funds;
 36 providing State Board of Education requirements relating
 37 to capital outlay budget requests for such projects;
 38 providing for reversion of funds; requiring the Office of
 39 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to
 40 assess articulation agreements and identify career center
 41 programs that may articulate to certain degree programs;
 42 requiring recommendations; providing an effective date.

43

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

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46 Section 1. Subsection (4) is added to section 1001.44,
 47 Florida Statutes, to read:

48 1001.44 Career centers.--

49 (4) DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD CAREER CENTER PROGRAM

50 DELIVERY.--

51 (a) A district school board with an established career
 52 center as part of the district school system may enter into an
 53 articulation agreement for the delivery of specified associate
 54 in applied science degree programs.

55 (b) A career center that offers a postsecondary adult
 56 vocational program designed to articulate into an associate in

57 applied science degree program and enters into an articulation
 58 agreement for the delivery of such an associate in applied
 59 science degree program may use the designation "technical
 60 college."

61 (c) For purposes of this subsection, "postsecondary adult
 62 vocational program" is a job preparatory program, excluding
 63 continuing workforce education, through which a student receives
 64 a vocational certificate upon completion of instruction.

65 Section 2. Subsection (20) is added to section 1002.34,
 66 Florida Statutes, to read:

67 1002.34 Charter technical career centers.--

68 (20) DESIGNATION AS A TECHNICAL COLLEGE.--A charter
 69 technical career center that offers a postsecondary adult
 70 vocational program designed to articulate into an associate in
 71 applied science degree program and enters into an articulation
 72 agreement for the delivery of such an associate in applied
 73 science degree program may use the designation "technical
 74 college." For purposes of this subsection, "postsecondary adult
 75 vocational program" is a job preparatory program, excluding
 76 continuing workforce education, through which a student receives
 77 a vocational certificate upon completion of instruction.

78 Section 3. Subsection (3) of section 1007.22, Florida
 79 Statutes, is amended to read:

80 1007.22 Articulation; postsecondary institution
 81 coordination and collaboration.--

82 (3) Public postsecondary educational institutions ~~servng~~
 83 ~~the same students in a geographic and service area are~~
 84 encouraged to establish appropriate interinstitutional

85 mechanisms to achieve cooperative planning and delivery of
 86 academic programs and related services, share a high-cost
 87 instructional facility and equipment, coordinate credit and
 88 noncredit outreach activities, have access to each other's
 89 library and media holdings and services, and provide cooperative
 90 campus activities and consultative relationships for the
 91 discussion and resolution of interinstitutional issues and
 92 problems which discourage student access or transfer.

93 Section 4. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1007.23,
 94 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

95 1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.--

96 (1) The State Board of Education shall establish in rule a
 97 statewide articulation agreement that governs:

98 (a) Articulation between secondary and postsecondary
 99 education, including credit earned through high school career
 100 and technical education majors and career academies;

101 (b) Admission of associate in arts degree graduates from
 102 community colleges and state universities;

103 (c) Admission of applied technology diploma program
 104 graduates from community colleges or career centers;

105 (d) Admission of associate in science degree and associate
 106 in applied science degree graduates from community colleges;

107 (e) The use of acceleration mechanisms, including
 108 nationally standardized examinations through which students may
 109 earn credit;

110 (f) General education requirements and statewide course
 111 numbers as provided for in ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25; ~~and~~

112 (g) Articulation among programs in nursing; ~~and~~

113 (h) Admission of postsecondary vocational, technical, or
 114 career certificate or diploma graduates from school district
 115 career centers or charter technical career centers.

116 (3) The articulation agreement must guarantee the
 117 statewide articulation of appropriate workforce education
 118 ~~development~~ programs and courses between school districts and
 119 community colleges and specifically provide that every applied
 120 technology diploma graduate must be granted the same amount of
 121 credit upon admission to an associate in science degree or
 122 associate in applied science degree program unless it is a
 123 limited access program. Preference for admission must be given
 124 to graduates who are residents of Florida. By March 1, 2007, the
 125 State Board of Education shall establish an articulated career
 126 path for specific workforce education professions, including,
 127 but not limited to, the program areas of criminal justice,
 128 business, nursing, allied health, and early childhood education.
 129 The career paths shall provide for the articulation of:

130 (a) Credit earned in vocational, technical, or career
 131 certificate or diploma programs to associate in science degrees
 132 or associate in applied science degrees.

133 (b) Credit earned in associate in science degree programs
 134 to credit in baccalaureate degree programs.

135 (c) Credit awarded by public and private institutions.

136 (d) Credit for experiential learning associated with
 137 minimum training requirements for employment.

138 Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
 139 1009.50, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

140 1009.50 Florida Public Student Assistance Grant Program;
 141 eligibility for grants.--

142 (2) (a) State student assistance grants through the program
 143 may be made only to degree-seeking students who enroll in at
 144 least 6 semester hours, or the equivalent per term, or students
 145 who enroll in a postsecondary career certificate program of at
 146 least 450 clock hours, and who meet the general requirements for
 147 student eligibility as provided in s. 1009.40, except as
 148 otherwise provided in this section. The grants shall be awarded
 149 annually for the amount of demonstrated unmet need for the cost
 150 of education and may not exceed an amount equal to the average
 151 prior academic year cost of tuition fees and other registration
 152 fees for 30 credit hours at state universities or such other
 153 amount as specified in the General Appropriations Act, to any
 154 recipient. A demonstrated unmet need of less than \$200 shall
 155 render the applicant ineligible for a state student assistance
 156 grant. Recipients of the grants must have been accepted at a
 157 state university, ~~or~~ community college, school district career
 158 center, or charter technical career center authorized by Florida
 159 law. A student is eligible for the award for 110 percent of the
 160 number of credit hours required to complete the program in which
 161 enrolled, except as otherwise provided in s. 1009.40(3).

162 Section 6. Section 1009.521, Florida Statutes, is created
 163 to read:

164 1009.521 GED Success Scholarship Program.--

165 (1) The GED Success Scholarship Program is created to
 166 establish a scholarship program to encourage students who
 167 successfully complete a GED program to attend a program offered

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168 by an accredited public or private technical or career center or
169 a community college program identified by the Department of
170 Education as a program that provides a career path to one of the
171 top 15 occupations in number of annual openings as listed on the
172 Agency for Workforce Innovation's Florida Statewide Targeted
173 Occupations List or on a regional targeted occupations list at
174 the time of the student's initial enrollment.

175 (2) The scholarship program shall be administered by the
176 department pursuant to the requirements of this section and
177 rules of the State Board of Education.

178 (3) For each year in which funds are appropriated in the
179 General Appropriations Act, the department shall allocate funds
180 to eligible students in the amount of one \$500 scholarship per
181 eligible student. The scholarships shall be awarded by the
182 department on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible
183 recipients until all funds specifically designated for the GED
184 Success Scholarships for that fiscal year have been allocated.

185 (4) A student who meets all of the following requirements
186 is eligible to receive a scholarship pursuant to this section:

187 (a) The student is a Florida resident for tuition purposes
188 pursuant to s. 1009.21.

189 (b) The student has successfully completed all sections of
190 the GED tests.

191 (c) The student has enrolled in a program identified by
192 the department as a program in an accredited public or private
193 technical or career center or a community college that provides
194 a career path to one of the top 15 occupations in number of
195 annual openings as listed on the Agency for Workforce

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196 Innovation's Florida Statewide Targeted Occupations List or on a
197 regional targeted occupations list at the time of the student's
198 initial enrollment.

199 (d) The student has submitted an application for the
200 scholarship to the department, in the manner prescribed by the
201 department, after December 1 for the following school year and
202 before June 1 of the year in which funding is requested.

203 (5) (a) Payment of GED Success Scholarships shall be
204 transmitted to the director or president of the eligible
205 institution, or his or her representative, in advance of the
206 registration period. Institutions shall notify students of the
207 amount of their awards.

208 (b) Each participating institution shall report to the
209 department by the established date the eligible students to whom
210 scholarship moneys were disbursed each academic term. Each
211 institution shall also report to the department necessary
212 demographic and eligibility data for such students.

213 (c) Each accredited private institution that receives
214 moneys through the GED Success Scholarship Program shall prepare
215 a biennial report that includes a financial audit, conducted by
216 an independent certified public accountant, of the institution's
217 administration of the program and a complete accounting of the
218 moneys allocated to the institution for the program. The report
219 shall be submitted to the department no later than March 1 of
220 every even-numbered year.

221 (6) The State Board of Education may adopt rules pursuant
222 to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 relating to the administration of
223 the scholarship program.

224 Section 7. Section 1011.802, Florida Statutes, is created
 225 to read:

226 1011.802 School District Career Center Facility
 227 Enhancement Challenge Grant Program.--

228 (1) There is established the School District Career Center
 229 Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program for the purpose of
 230 assisting career centers in building high priority instructional
 231 capital facilities consistent with s. 1001.44, including common
 232 areas connecting such facilities. The direct-support
 233 organizations that serve the school districts may solicit gifts
 234 from private sources which are eligible for state matching funds
 235 for capital facilities. For purposes of this section, private
 236 sources of funds shall not include any federal, state, or local
 237 government funds that a school district may receive.

238 (2) The School District Career Center Facility Enhancement
 239 Challenge Grant Program shall provide funds to match private
 240 contributions for the development of high priority instructional
 241 capital facilities, including common areas connecting such
 242 facilities, within the career centers.

243 (3) Within the direct-support organization of each school
 244 district, a separate career center capital facilities matching
 245 account must be established for the purpose of providing
 246 matching funds from the direct-support organization's
 247 unrestricted donations or other private contributions for the
 248 development of high priority instructional capital facilities,
 249 including common areas connecting such facilities. The
 250 Legislature may appropriate funds for distribution to a school
 251 district after matching funds are certified by the direct-

252 support organization and school district to the Department of
 253 Education. The Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service
 254 Trust Fund shall not be used as the source of the state match
 255 for private contributions.

256 (4) A project may not be initiated unless all private
 257 funds for planning, construction, and equipping the facility
 258 have been received and deposited in the direct-support
 259 organization's matching account and the state's share for the
 260 minimum amount of funds needed to begin the project has been
 261 appropriated by the Legislature. The Legislature may appropriate
 262 the state's matching funds in one or more fiscal years for the
 263 planning, construction, and equipping of an eligible facility.
 264 However, these requirements shall not preclude the school
 265 district or direct-support organization from expending available
 266 funds from private sources to develop a prospectus, including
 267 preliminary architectural schematics or models, for use in its
 268 efforts to raise private funds for a facility. Additionally, any
 269 private sources of funds expended for this purpose are eligible
 270 for state matching funds if the project is awarded grant funds
 271 under this section.

272 (5) To be eligible to participate in the School District
 273 Career Center Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program, a
 274 school district, through its direct-support organization, shall
 275 raise contributions from private sources equal to one-third of
 276 the total cost of a facility construction project. After raising
 277 such contributions, the school district shall be eligible for a
 278 match by a state appropriation equal to the amount raised for a
 279 facility construction project up to one-third of the cost of the

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280 project, subject to the General Appropriations Act. Another one-
281 third of the total cost must be provided from the school
282 district's local capital funds.

283 (6) If the state's share of the required match is
284 insufficient to meet the requirements of subsection (5), the
285 school district shall renegotiate the terms of the contribution
286 with the donors. If the project is terminated, each private
287 donation, plus accrued interest, shall revert to the direct-
288 support organization for remittance to the donor at the donor's
289 discretion.

290 (7) By September 1 of each year, the State Board of
291 Education shall transmit to the Legislature, in the capital
292 outlay budget request, a list of projects that meet all
293 eligibility requirements to participate in the School District
294 Career Center Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program and a
295 budget request that includes the recommended schedule necessary
296 to complete each project.

297 (8) In order for a project to be eligible under this
298 program, it must be survey-recommended under the provisions of
299 s. 1013.31, included in the school district's 5-year capital
300 improvement plan, and receive prior approval from the State
301 Board of Education.

302 (9) Any project funds that are unexpended after a project
303 is completed shall revert to the school district direct-support
304 organization's career center capital facilities matching
305 account. One-third of such unexpended funds shall be reserved
306 for the school district career center that originally received
307 the private contribution for the purpose of providing private

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308 matching funds for future facility construction projects as
309 provided in this section. One-third of such unexpended funds
310 shall be returned to the General Revenue Fund. One-third of such
311 unexpended funds shall be returned to the school district.

312 (10) The surveys, architectural plans, facility, and
313 equipment shall be the property of the participating school
314 district.

315 Section 8. (1) As part of determining the appropriate
316 courses and programs for statewide articulation, the Office of
317 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall
318 collect, review, and conduct an assessment of all existing
319 statewide articulation agreements and all existing articulation
320 agreements between school district career centers or charter
321 technical career centers and community colleges by September 30,
322 2006.

323 (2) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
324 Accountability shall use the information compiled pursuant to
325 subsection (1) to evaluate the effectiveness of local and
326 statewide interinstitutional articulation agreements and to
327 identify other postsecondary technical or career programs within
328 a school district career center or charter technical career
329 center that may articulate to an associate in science degree
330 program or an associate in applied science degree program on an
331 individual course or block basis for statewide
332 interinstitutional articulation agreements. By December 31,
333 2006, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
334 Accountability shall submit a report to the President of the
335 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.