

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to education; amending ss. 218.39,
 3 1002.34, and 1004.99, F.S.; redesignating "technical
 4 centers" as "technical colleges"; providing an effective
 5 date.

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

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 9 Section 1. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section
 10 218.39, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11 218.39 Annual financial audit reports.--

12 (1) If, by the first day in any fiscal year, a local
 13 governmental entity, district school board, charter school, or
 14 charter technical career center has not been notified that a
 15 financial audit for that fiscal year will be performed by the
 16 Auditor General, each of the following entities shall have an
 17 annual financial audit of its accounts and records completed
 18 within 12 months after the end of its fiscal year by an
 19 independent certified public accountant retained by it and paid
 20 from its public funds:

21 (f) Each charter technical college ~~center~~ established
 22 under s. 1002.34.

23 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) and subsections
 24 (4) and (19) of section 1002.34, Florida Statutes, are amended
 25 to read:

26 1002.34 Charter technical career centers.--

27 (3) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, the term:

28 (a) "Charter technical career center" or "center" means a

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29 public school or a public technical college ~~center~~ operated
30 under a charter granted by a district school board or community
31 college board of trustees or a consortium, including one or more
32 district school boards and community college boards of trustees,
33 that includes the district in which the facility is located,
34 that is nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies,
35 employment practices, and operations, and is managed by a board
36 of directors.

37 (4) CHARTER.--A sponsor may designate centers as provided
38 in this section. An application to establish a center may be
39 submitted by a sponsor or another organization that is
40 determined, by rule of the State Board of Education, to be
41 appropriate. However, an independent school is not eligible for
42 status as a center. The charter must be signed by the governing
43 body of the center and the sponsor, and must be approved by the
44 district school board and community college board of trustees in
45 whose geographic region the facility is located. If a charter
46 technical career center is established by the conversion to
47 charter status of a public technical college ~~center~~ formerly
48 governed by a district school board, the charter status of that
49 center takes precedence in any question of governance. The
50 governance of the center or of any program within the center
51 remains with its board of directors unless the board agrees to a
52 change in governance or its charter is revoked as provided in
53 subsection (15). Such a conversion charter technical career
54 center is not affected by a change in the governance of public
55 technical colleges ~~centers~~ or of programs within other centers
56 that are or have been governed by district school boards. A

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57 charter technical career center, or any program within such a
58 center, that was governed by a district school board and
59 transferred to a community college prior to the effective date
60 of this act is not affected by this provision. An applicant who
61 wishes to establish a center must submit to the district school
62 board or community college board of trustees, or a consortium of
63 one or more of each, an application that includes:

64 (a) The name of the proposed center.

65 (b) The proposed structure of the center, including a list
66 of proposed members of the board of directors or a description
67 of the qualifications for and method of their appointment or
68 election.

69 (c) The workforce development goals of the center, the
70 curriculum to be offered, and the outcomes and the methods of
71 assessing the extent to which the outcomes are met.

72 (d) The admissions policy and criteria for evaluating the
73 admission of students.

74 (e) A description of the staff responsibilities and the
75 proposed qualifications of the teaching staff.

76 (f) A description of the procedures to be implemented to
77 ensure significant involvement of representatives of business
78 and industry in the operation of the center.

79 (g) A method for determining whether a student has
80 satisfied the requirements for graduation specified in s.
81 1003.43 and for completion of a postsecondary certificate or
82 degree.

83 (h) A method for granting secondary and postsecondary
84 diplomas, certificates, and degrees.

85 (i) A description of and address for the physical facility
 86 in which the center will be located.

87 (j) A method of resolving conflicts between the governing
 88 body of the center and the sponsor and between consortium
 89 members, if applicable.

90 (k) A method for reporting student data as required by law
 91 and rule.

92 (l) Other information required by the district school
 93 board or community college board of trustees.

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95 Students at a center must meet the same testing and academic
 96 performance standards as those established by law and rule for
 97 students at public schools and public technical colleges
 98 ~~centers~~. The students must also meet any additional assessment
 99 indicators that are included within the charter approved by the
 100 district school board or community college board of trustees.

101 (19) EVALUATION; REPORT.--The Commissioner of Education
 102 shall provide for an annual comparative evaluation of charter
 103 technical career centers and public technical colleges ~~centers~~.
 104 The evaluation may be conducted in cooperation with the sponsor,
 105 through private contracts, or by department staff. At a
 106 minimum, the comparative evaluation must address the demographic
 107 and socioeconomic characteristics of the students served, the
 108 types and costs of services provided, and the outcomes achieved.

109 By December 30 of each year, the Commissioner of Education
 110 shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the
 111 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Senate and
 112 House committees that have responsibility for secondary and

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113 | postsecondary career and technical education a report of the
114 | comparative evaluation completed for the previous school year.

115 | Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 1004.99, Florida
116 | Statutes, is amended to read:

117 | 1004.99 Florida Ready to Work Certification Program.--

118 | (2) The Florida Ready to Work Certification Program may be
119 | conducted in public middle and high schools, community colleges,
120 | technical colleges ~~centers~~, one-stop career centers, vocational
121 | rehabilitation centers, and Department of Juvenile Justice
122 | educational facilities. The program may be made available to
123 | other entities that provide job training. The Department of
124 | Education shall establish institutional readiness criteria for
125 | program implementation.

126 | Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.