Florida Senate - 2007

CS for SB's 336 & 416

By the Committee on Education Pre-K - 12; and Senator Wilson

581-2244-07 1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to school attendance; amending s. 1003.21, F.S.; requiring a student who is 3 withdrawing to be assigned a counselor or other 4 5 school personnel to provide educational б information until the student is 18 years old; 7 amending s. 1003.428, F.S.; requiring 9th 8 graders or students who are withdrawing from school to receive instruction about the effects 9 of withdrawing from high school; providing an 10 effective date. 11 12 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 14 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 15 16 1003.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 1003.21 School attendance.--17 18 (1)(c) A student who has not graduated and who attains 19 the age of 16 years during the school year is not subject to 20 compulsory school attendance after beyond the date upon which 21 22 he or she attains that age if the student files a formal 23 declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment with the district school board. Such Public school students who have 24 attained the age of 16 years and who have not graduated are 25 subject to compulsory school attendance until the formal 26 declaration of intent is filed with the district school board. 27 28 The declaration must acknowledge that terminating school 29 enrollment is likely to reduce the student's earning potential and must be signed by the student and the student's parent. 30 The school district must notify the student's parent of 31

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

1 receipt of the student's declaration of intent to terminate 2 school enrollment. The student's guidance counselor or other school personnel must conduct an exit interview with the 3 student to determine the reasons for the student's decision to 4 terminate school enrollment and actions that could be taken to 5 б keep the student in school. The student must be informed of 7 opportunities to continue his or her education in a different 8 environment, including, but not limited to, adult education and GED test preparation. Additionally, the student must 9 10 complete a survey in a format prescribed by the Department of Education to provide data on student reasons for terminating 11 12 enrollment and actions taken by schools to keep students 13 enrolled. The school must also assign a counselor or other school personnel to the student who shall serve as a resource 14 for educational information until the student attains the age 15 16 of 18. 17 Section 2. Present subsections (9) through (11) of section 1003.428, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as 18 subsections (10) through (12), respectively, and a new 19 subsection (9) is added to that section, to read: 20 21 1003.428 General requirements for high school 22 graduation; revised. --23 (9) Each student who is in the second semester of the 9th grade, or any student who is withdrawing from school 2.4 without graduating or transferring to another school, must be 25 given instruction that includes a detailed discussion of the 26 relative advantages and disadvantages of the following: 27 2.8 (a) The value of a high school education, both financially and culturally; 29 30 31

2

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

Florida Senate - 2007 581-2244-07

| 1 | (b) The alternative assessments, such as the SAT and |
|----|--|
| 2 | the ACT, the scores of which could help the student obtain a |
| 3 | high school diploma; and |
| 4 | (c) The secondary and postsecondary options that are |
| 5 | available, including secondary career and professional academy |
| 6 | opportunities, workforce training, and enrolling in a |
| 7 | community college or university, and the prerequisites to |
| 8 | each, with or without a diploma. |
| 9 | Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a |
| 10 | law. |
| 11 | |
| 12 | STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR |
| 13 | SB's 336 and 416 |
| 14 | |
| 15 | The committee substitute: |
| 16 | Requires that 9th grade students, prior to the second semester, and students who withdraw from public school without |
| 17 | graduating or transferring to another school must be provided instruction regarding the financial and cultural value of a |
| 18 | high school education, alternative assessments through which the student might obtain a high school diploma, available |
| 19 | opportunities to participate in career academies, and workforce training and postsecondary education options that |
| 20 | are available to the student; and |
| 21 | Requires the school to assign a counselor or other school personnel to serve as a resource for educational information |
| 22 | for any student who withdraws without graduating or transferring to another school, until the student reaches 18 |
| 23 | years of age. |
| 24 | |
| 25 | |
| 26 | |
| 27 | |
| 28 | |
| 29 | |
| 30 | |
| 31 | |

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.