

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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1 Schools & Learning Council offered the following:

2
3 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

4 Between lines 161 and 162, insert:

5 Section 3. Section 1003.215, Florida Statutes, is created
6 to read:

7 1003.215 Student Preparedness Pilot Program.--

8 (1) The Legislature finds it to be in the public interest
9 that all students exit from the public schools with academic
10 skills that provide the students with the opportunity to pursue
11 postsecondary education or with skills that lead to ready to
12 work certification, industry certification, or skill licensure.

13 (2) (a) Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, and
14 continuing through the 2014-2015 school year, there is created
15 the Student Preparedness Pilot Program to be piloted by school
16 districts. Students in a school district selected to implement

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17 the pilot program pursuant to subsection (3) who attain the age
18 of 16 years but have not reached the age of 18 years and who
19 choose to exercise their option not to regularly attend school
20 pursuant to s. 1003.21(1)(c) shall be subject to the attendance
21 and completion requirements of this section.

22 (b) In the 2008-2009 school year, each school district
23 selected pursuant to subsection (3) shall review, identify, and
24 develop curricula options for the implementation of the pilot
25 program requirements pursuant to paragraph (5)(a) for students
26 who attain the age of 16 years but have not reached the age of
27 18 years whose academic goals may not include a traditional high
28 school diploma. These options shall include, but are not limited
29 to, nontraditional academic options and flexible attendance
30 options and may include a phase-in of students by age or grade.
31 Each selected school district must develop a plan to meet the
32 student's needs and the attendance and completion requirements
33 of this section prior to implementation of the pilot program in
34 the 2009-2010 school year.

35 (3) The Department of Education shall develop an
36 application process for all school districts to apply to
37 participate in the pilot program. The State Board of Education
38 shall select the pilot program districts, one of which shall be
39 the Duval County School District.

40 (4) Parents of public school students enrolled in a
41 participating pilot program district must receive accurate and
42 timely information regarding their child's academic progress and
43 must be informed of ways they can help their child to succeed in
44 school.

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45 (5) (a) A student in a participating pilot program district
46 who attains the age of 16 years but has not reached the age of
47 18 years has the right to file a formal declaration of intent to
48 terminate school enrollment if the declaration is signed by the
49 parent. The parent has the right to be notified by the school
50 district of the district's receipt of the student's declaration
51 of intent to terminate school enrollment. The student's guidance
52 counselor or other school personnel must conduct an exit
53 interview pursuant to s. 1003.21(1)(c). Any student in a
54 participating pilot program district who files a declaration
55 seeking to terminate school enrollment but has not reached the
56 age of 18 years shall be required, until completion or
57 attainment of the age of 18 years, to continue pursuing credits
58 toward a high school diploma, pursue a high school equivalency
59 diploma with participation in the Florida Ready to Work
60 Certification Program under s. 1004.99, participate in a career
61 or job training program leading to industry certification or
62 skill licensure that is developed by or in cooperation with the
63 district school board, or participate in the Florida Ready to
64 Work Certification Program under s. 1004.99.

65 (b) A Student Preparedness Pilot Program student subject
66 to the attendance and completion requirements of this section is
67 not an "eligible student" for purposes of school grading under
68 s. 1008.34(3)(b) if the student has selected a nontraditional
69 academic option of the pilot program.

70 (6) Students who become or have become married or who are
71 pregnant and parenting have the right to attend school and

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72 receive the same or equivalent educational instruction as other
73 students.

74 (7) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
75 Accountability (OPPAGA), in cooperation with the participating
76 pilot program districts, the applicable state attorneys' offices
77 and regional workforce boards, the Agency for Workforce
78 Innovation, the Department of Education, and the Department of
79 Juvenile Justice, shall conduct a study annually of the impact
80 of the pilot program on dropout and graduation rates, on the
81 employability of students, and on juvenile crime, using 2007-
82 2008 data as the baseline for the research. OPPAGA shall develop
83 criteria for collection and reporting of data with input from
84 the cooperating entities. The results of each annual report
85 shall be made available to participating pilot program
86 districts, the applicable state attorneys' offices and regional
87 workforce boards, the Agency for Workforce Education, the
88 Department of Education, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the
89 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
90 House of Representatives by January 1 following each school
91 year, beginning January 1, 2012.

92 Section 4. Subsections (8) and (13) of section 1003.01,
93 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

94 1003.01 Definitions.--As used in this chapter, the term:

95 (8) "Habitual truant" means a student who: has 15
96 unexcused absences within 90 calendar days with or without the
97 knowledge or consent of the student's parent; is subject to
98 compulsory school attendance under s. 1003.21(1) and (2)(a) or
99 is subject to the Student Preparedness Pilot Program under s.

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100 ~~1003.215;~~ and is not exempt under s. 1003.21(3), ~~or~~ s. 1003.24,
101 ~~or by meeting the criteria for~~ any other exemption specified by
102 law or rules of the State Board of Education. Such a student
103 must have been the subject of the activities specified in ss.
104 1003.26 and 1003.27(3), without resultant successful remediation
105 of the truancy problem before being dealt with as a child in
106 need of services according to the provisions of chapter 984.

107 (13) (a) "Regular school attendance" means the actual
108 attendance of a student during the school day as defined by law
109 and rules of the State Board of Education. Regular attendance
110 within the intent of s. 1003.21 may be achieved by attendance
111 in:

112 1.(a) A public school supported by public funds;

113 2.(b) A parochial, religious, or denominational school;

114 3.(e) A private school supported in whole or in part by
115 tuition charges or by endowments or gifts;

116 4.(d) A home education program that meets the requirements
117 of chapter 1002; or

118 5.(e) A private tutoring program that meets the
119 requirements of chapter 1002.

120 (b) "Regular program attendance" for a student in the
121 Student Preparedness Pilot Program under s. 1003.215 means
122 actual attendance by the student in traditional or
123 nontraditional academic options as defined by law and rules of
124 the State Board of Education. The district school superintendent
125 shall be responsible for enforcing such attendance.

126 Section 5. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
127 1003.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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128 1003.21 School attendance.--

129 (1)

130 (c) A student who attains the age of 16 years during the
131 school year is not subject to compulsory school attendance
132 beyond the date upon which he or she attains that age if the
133 student files a formal declaration of intent to terminate school
134 enrollment with the district school board. Public school
135 students who have attained the age of 16 years and who have not
136 graduated are subject to compulsory school attendance until the
137 formal declaration of intent is filed with the district school
138 board. The declaration must acknowledge that terminating school
139 enrollment is likely to reduce the student's earning potential
140 and must be signed by the student and the student's parent. The
141 school district must notify the student's parent of receipt of
142 the student's declaration of intent to terminate school
143 enrollment. The student's guidance counselor or other school
144 personnel must conduct an exit interview with the student to
145 determine the reasons for the student's decision to terminate
146 school enrollment and actions that could be taken to keep the
147 student in school. The student must be informed of opportunities
148 to continue his or her education in a different environment,
149 including, but not limited to, adult education and GED test
150 preparation. Additionally, the student must complete a survey in
151 a format prescribed by the Department of Education to provide
152 data on student reasons for terminating enrollment and actions
153 taken by schools to keep students enrolled. A student enrolled
154 in a Student Preparedness Pilot Program school district must

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155 receive information regarding the program's attendance and
156 completion requirements under s. 1003.215.

157 Section 6. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section
158 1003.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

159 1003.26 Enforcement of school attendance.--The Legislature
160 finds that poor academic performance is associated with
161 nonattendance and that school districts must take an active role
162 in promoting and enforcing attendance as a means of improving
163 student performance. It is the policy of the state that each
164 district school superintendent be responsible for enforcing
165 school attendance of all students subject to the compulsory
166 school age in the school district and supporting enforcement of
167 school attendance by local law enforcement agencies. The
168 responsibility includes recommending policies and procedures to
169 the district school board that require public schools to respond
170 in a timely manner to every unexcused absence, and every absence
171 for which the reason is unknown, of students enrolled in the
172 schools. District school board policies shall require the parent
173 of a student to justify each absence of the student, and that
174 justification will be evaluated based on adopted district school
175 board policies that define excused and unexcused absences. The
176 policies must provide that public schools track excused and
177 unexcused absences and contact the home in the case of an
178 unexcused absence from school, or an absence from school for
179 which the reason is unknown, to prevent the development of
180 patterns of nonattendance. The Legislature finds that early
181 intervention in school attendance is the most effective way of
182 producing good attendance habits that will lead to improved

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183 student learning and achievement. Each public school shall
184 implement the following steps to promote and enforce regular
185 school attendance:

186 (1) CONTACT, REFER, AND ENFORCE.--

187 (f)1. If the parent of a child who has been identified as
188 exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance enrolls the child in a
189 home education program pursuant to chapter 1002, the district
190 school superintendent shall provide the parent a copy of s.
191 1002.41 and the accountability requirements of this paragraph.
192 The district school superintendent shall also refer the parent
193 to a home education review committee composed of the district
194 contact for home education programs and at least two home
195 educators selected by the parent from a district list of all
196 home educators who have conducted a home education program for
197 at least 3 years and who have indicated a willingness to serve
198 on the committee. The home education review committee shall
199 review the portfolio of the student, as defined by s. 1002.41,
200 every 30 days during the district's regular school terms until
201 the committee is satisfied that the home education program is in
202 compliance with s. 1002.41(1)(b). The first portfolio review
203 must occur within the first 30 calendar days of the
204 establishment of the program. The provisions of subparagraph 2.
205 do not apply once the committee determines the home education
206 program is in compliance with s. 1002.41(1)(b).

207 2. If the parent fails to provide a portfolio to the
208 committee, the committee shall notify the district school
209 superintendent. The district school superintendent shall then
210 terminate the home education program and require the parent to

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211 enroll the child in an attendance option that meets the
212 definition of "regular school attendance" under s.
213 1003.01(13) (a) 1., 2., 3., or 5., ~~(b), (c), or (e)~~, within 3
214 days. Upon termination of a home education program pursuant to
215 this subparagraph, the parent shall not be eligible to reenroll
216 the child in a home education program for 180 calendar days.
217 Failure of a parent to enroll the child in an attendance option
218 as required by this subparagraph after termination of the home
219 education program pursuant to this subparagraph shall constitute
220 noncompliance with the compulsory attendance requirements of s.
221 1003.21 and may result in criminal prosecution under s.
222 1003.27(2). Nothing contained herein shall restrict the ability
223 of the district school superintendent, or the ability of his or
224 her designee, to review the portfolio pursuant to s.
225 1002.41(1) (b).

226 Section 7. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section
227 1004.99, Florida Statutes, is amended, subsection (4) is
228 renumbered as subsection (5), and a new subsection (4) is added
229 to that section, to read:

230 1004.99 Florida Ready to Work Certification Program.--

231 (3) The Florida Ready to Work Certification Program shall
232 be composed of:

233 (d) A Florida Ready to Work Credential ~~certificate~~ and
234 portfolio awarded to students upon successful completion of the
235 instruction. Each portfolio must delineate the skills
236 demonstrated by the student as evidence of the student's
237 preparation for employment.

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238 (4) A Florida Ready to Work Credential shall be awarded to
239 a student who successfully passes assessments in Reading for
240 Information, Applied Mathematics, and Locating Information or
241 any other assessments of comparable rigor. Each assessment shall
242 be scored on a scale of 3 to 7. The level of the credential each
243 student receives is based on the following:

244 (a) A bronze-level credential requires a minimum score of
245 3 or above on each of the assessments.

246 (b) A silver-level credential requires a minimum score of
247 4 or above on each of the assessments.

248 (c) A gold-level credential requires a minimum score of 5
249 or above on each of the assessments.

250 Section 8. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
251 1003.428, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

252 1003.428 General requirements for high school graduation;
253 revised.--

254 (2) The 24 credits may be earned through applied,
255 integrated, and combined courses approved by the Department of
256 Education and shall be distributed as follows:

257 (b) Eight credits in majors, minors, or electives:

258 1. Four credits in a major area of interest, such as
259 sequential courses in a career and technical program, fine and
260 performing arts, or academic content area, selected by the
261 student as part of the education plan required by s. 1003.4156.
262 Students may revise major areas of interest each year as part of
263 annual course registration processes and should update their
264 education plan to reflect such revisions. Annually by October 1,
265 the district school board shall approve major areas of interest

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266 and submit the list of majors to the Commissioner of Education
267 for approval. Each major area of interest shall be deemed
268 approved unless specifically rejected by the commissioner within
269 60 days. Upon approval, each district's major areas of interest
270 shall be available for use by all school districts and shall be
271 posted on the department's website. Beginning with students
272 entering grade 9 in the 2008-2009 school year, a student must
273 earn a Florida Ready to Work Credential as created under s.
274 1004.99 in order to graduate with a career or technical major
275 area of interest.

276 2. Four credits in elective courses selected by the
277 student as part of the education plan required by s. 1003.4156.
278 These credits may be combined to allow for a second major area
279 of interest pursuant to subparagraph 1., a minor area of
280 interest, elective courses, or intensive reading or mathematics
281 intervention courses as described in this subparagraph.

282 a. Minor areas of interest are composed of three credits
283 selected by the student as part of the education plan required
284 by s. 1003.4156 and approved by the district school board.

285 b. Elective courses are selected by the student in order
286 to pursue a complete education program as described in s.
287 1001.41(3) and to meet eligibility requirements for
288 scholarships.

289 c. For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 on
290 FCAT Reading, the student must be enrolled in and complete an
291 intensive reading course the following year. Placement of Level
292 2 readers in either an intensive reading course or a content
293 area course in which reading strategies are delivered shall be

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294 determined by diagnosis of reading needs. The department shall
295 provide guidance on appropriate strategies for diagnosing and
296 meeting the varying instructional needs of students reading
297 below grade level. Reading courses shall be designed and offered
298 pursuant to the comprehensive reading plan required by s.
299 1011.62(8).

300 d. For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 or
301 Level 2 on FCAT Mathematics, the student must receive
302 remediation the following year. These courses may be taught
303 through applied, integrated, or combined courses and are subject
304 to approval by the department for inclusion in the Course Code
305 Directory.

306 Section 9. Subsection (1) of section 1009.536, Florida
307 Statutes, is amended to read:

308 1009.536 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award.--The
309 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award is created within
310 the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to recognize and
311 reward academic achievement and career preparation by high
312 school students who wish to continue their education.

313 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal
314 Vocational Scholars award if the student meets the general
315 eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures
316 Scholarship Program and the student:

317 (a) Completes the secondary school portion of a sequential
318 program of studies that requires at least three secondary school
319 career credits taken over at least 2 academic years, and is
320 continued in a planned, related postsecondary education program.

321 If the student's school does not offer such a two-plus-two or
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322 tech-prep program, the student must complete a job-preparatory
323 career education program selected by Workforce Florida, Inc.,
324 for its ability to provide high-wage employment in an occupation
325 with high potential for employment opportunities. On-the-job
326 training may not be substituted for any of the three required
327 career credits.

328 (b) Demonstrates readiness for postsecondary education by
329 earning a passing score on the Florida College Entry Level
330 Placement Test or its equivalent as identified by the Department
331 of Education.

332 (c) Earns a minimum cumulative weighted grade point
333 average of 3.0, as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, on all
334 subjects required for a standard high school diploma, excluding
335 elective courses.

336 (d) Earns a minimum unweighted grade point average of 3.5
337 on a 4.0 scale for secondary career courses comprising the
338 career program.

339 (e) Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2008-
340 2009 school year, earns a gold-level Florida Ready to Work
341 Credential as created under s. 1004.99.

342 Section 10. Paragraph (j) is added to subsection (5) of
343 section 445.004, Florida Statutes, to read:

344 445.004 Workforce Florida, Inc.; creation; purpose;
345 membership; duties and powers.--

346 (5) Workforce Florida, Inc., shall have all the powers and
347 authority, not explicitly prohibited by statute, necessary or
348 convenient to carry out and effectuate the purposes as
349 determined by statute, Pub. L. No. 105-220, and the Governor, as
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350 well as its functions, duties, and responsibilities, including,
351 but not limited to, the following:

352 (j) In partnership with the Department of Education,
353 ensuring consistent use of the Florida Ready to Work Credential
354 as created under s. 1004.99.

357 -----
358 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

359 Remove line(s) 2-24 and insert:

360 An act relating to alternative high school courses and programs;
361 creating s. 1002.375, F.S.; establishing a pilot project for
362 awarding high school credit to students enrolled in industry
363 certification programs; requiring the Commissioner of Education
364 to establish criteria for program participation; requiring that
365 a school district submit a letter of interest by a specified
366 date in order to participate in the pilot project; requiring
367 that the Commissioner of Education submit a report to the
368 Governor and the Legislature; providing for specified courses to
369 be included as alternative credit courses; exempting alternative
370 credit courses from certain requirements; authorizing the
371 Department of Education to approve certain courses for credit by
372 examination; requiring the Department of Education to adopt
373 passing minimum scores on approved assessments and maintain a
374 course directory; requiring the State Board of Education to
375 adopt rules; amending s. 1011.61, F.S., relating to definitions
376 for the Florida Education Finance Program; providing for an
377 alternate method of reporting full-time equivalent membership

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HOUSE AMENDMENT

Bill No. CS/CS/SB 1906

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378 for credit earned in alternative high school credit courses for
379 the pilot project created under s. 1002.375, F.S.; creating s.
380 1003.215, F.S.; creating the Student Preparedness Pilot Program;
381 requiring the Duval County School District and each selected
382 school district to review and identify curricula options for
383 certain students; requiring students who attain the age of 16
384 years but have not reached the age of 18 years in pilot program
385 districts who do not regularly attend school to be subject to
386 specific attendance and completion requirements; providing for
387 an application and selection process for school district
388 participation; specifying procedures for termination of school
389 enrollment and requirements for pilot program attendance and
390 completion; specifying that students who select a nontraditional
391 academic option are not eligible students for purposes of school
392 grading; requiring an annual study and reporting by the Office
393 of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability;
394 amending s. 1003.01, F.S.; providing that habitual truancy
395 provisions apply to students subject to pilot program
396 requirements; defining regular program attendance in a pilot
397 program school district; amending s. 1003.21, F.S.; requiring a
398 student in a pilot program school district to be informed of
399 attendance and completion requirements; amending s. 1003.26,
400 F.S.; conforming cross-references; amending s. 1004.99, F.S.,
401 relating to the Florida Ready to Work Program; providing
402 requirements for attaining bronze, silver, and gold credential
403 levels; amending s. 1003.428, F.S.; requiring a student to earn
404 the credential for high school graduation with a career or
405 technical major area of interest; amending s. 1009.536, F.S.;

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HOUSE AMENDMENT
Bill No. CS/CS/SB 1906

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406 requiring a student to earn the credential for receipt of a
407 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award; amending s.
408 445.004, F.S.; requiring Workforce Florida, Inc., and the
409 Department of Education to ensure consistent use of the
410 credential; providing an effective date.