

By Senator Wilson

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to school attendance; amending s. 1003.21,
3 F.S.; requiring that a student who is withdrawing from
4 school be assigned a counselor or other school personnel
5 to provide educational information until the student is 18
6 years old; amending s. 1003.428, F.S.; requiring 9th
7 graders and students who are withdrawing from school to
8 receive instruction about the effects of withdrawing from
9 high school; providing an effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
14 1003.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

15 1003.21 School attendance.--

16 (1)

17 (c) A student who has not graduated and who attains the age
18 of 16 years during the school year is not subject to compulsory
19 school attendance after ~~beyond~~ the date upon which he or she
20 attains that age if the student files a formal declaration of
21 intent to terminate school enrollment with the district school
22 board. Such ~~Public school~~ students ~~who have attained the age of~~
23 ~~16 years and who have not graduated~~ are subject to compulsory
24 school attendance until the formal declaration of intent is filed
25 with the district school board. The declaration must acknowledge
26 that terminating school enrollment is likely to reduce the
27 student's earning potential and must be signed by the student and
28 the student's parent. The school district must notify the
29 student's parent of receipt of the student's declaration of

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30 | intent to terminate school enrollment. The student's guidance
31 | counselor or other school personnel must conduct an exit
32 | interview with the student to determine the reasons for the
33 | student's decision to terminate school enrollment and actions
34 | that could be taken to keep the student in school. The student
35 | must be informed of opportunities to continue his or her
36 | education in a different environment, including, but not limited
37 | to, adult education and GED test preparation. Additionally, the
38 | student must complete a survey in a format prescribed by the
39 | Department of Education to provide data on student reasons for
40 | terminating enrollment and actions taken by schools to keep
41 | students enrolled. The school must also assign a counselor or
42 | other school personnel to the student who shall serve as a
43 | resource for educational information until the student attains
44 | the age of 18.

45 | Section 2. Present subsections (9) through (11) of section
46 | 1003.428, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (10)
47 | through (12), respectively, and a new subsection (9) is added to
48 | that section, to read:

49 | 1003.428 General requirements for high school graduation;
50 | revised.--

51 | (9) Each student who is in the second semester of the 9th
52 | grade and any student who is withdrawing from school without
53 | graduating or transferring to another school must be given
54 | instruction that includes a detailed discussion of the relative
55 | advantages and disadvantages of the following:

56 | (a) The value of a high school education, both financially
57 | and culturally;

58 | (b) The alternative assessments, such as the SAT and the

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59 ACT, the scores of which could help the student obtain a high
60 school diploma; and

61 (c) The secondary and postsecondary options that are
62 available, including secondary career and professional academy
63 opportunities, workforce training, and enrolling in a community
64 college or university, and the prerequisites to each, with or
65 without a diploma.

66 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.