

By Senator Wise

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to public school attendance; creating s.
3 1003.215, F.S.; creating the Compulsory Attendance Pilot
4 Program; requiring receipt of a high school diploma, a
5 high school equivalency diploma and ready to work
6 certification, career or job training certification or
7 licensure, or ready to work certification in order to
8 terminate school enrollment between ages 16 and 18 years;
9 providing for an application and selection process for
10 school district participation in the pilot program;
11 providing student and parent rights; specifying school
12 attendance requirements and procedures for termination of
13 school enrollment; requiring an annual study and reporting
14 by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
15 Accountability; providing an effective date.

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

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19 Section 1. Section 1003.215, Florida Statutes, is created
20 to read:

21 1003.215 Compulsory Attendance Pilot Program.--

22 (1) The Legislature finds it to be in the public interest
23 that all students exit from the public schools with academic
24 skills that provide the students with the opportunity to pursue
25 postsecondary education or with skills that lead to ready to work
26 certification, industry certification, or skill licensure.

27 (2) Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, and
28 continuing through the 2013-2014 school year, there is created
29 the Compulsory Attendance Pilot Program (CAPP) to be piloted by

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30 school districts. Beginning with incoming ninth graders in the
31 2008-2009 school year, all students enrolled in a pilot school
32 district shall be subject to the attendance requirements of this
33 section, notwithstanding ss. 1002.20(2)(a)1. and (b) and
34 1003.21(1)(a)1. and (c) and any other provision of law to the
35 contrary.

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

41 (4) Parents of public school students enrolled in a pilot
42 school district must receive accurate and timely information
43 regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed of
44 ways they can help their child to succeed in school. These K-12
45 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory
46 rights, including, but not limited to, the following:

47 (a) The compulsory school attendance laws apply to all
48 children in a pilot school district between the ages of 6 and 18
49 years, as provided in, and in accordance with, subsection (5) and
50 s. 1003.21(1)(a)2., (b), (d), (e), and (f). A student who attains
51 the age of 16 years during the school year has the right to file
52 a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment if
53 the declaration is signed by the parent. The parent has the right
54 to be notified by the school district of the district's receipt
55 of the student's declaration of intent to terminate school
56 enrollment. However, any student who files a declaration seeking
57 to terminate school enrollment but has not reached the age of 18
58 years shall be required to continue pursuing credits toward a

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59 high school diploma, pursue a high school equivalency diploma
60 with participation in the Florida Ready to Work Certification
61 Program under s. 1004.99, participate in a career or job training
62 program leading to industry certification or skill licensure that
63 is developed by or in cooperation with the district school board,
64 or participate in the Ready to Work Certification Program under
65 s. 1004.99.

66 (b) Students who become or have become married or who are
67 pregnant and parenting have the right to attend school and
68 receive the same or equivalent educational instruction as other
69 students.

70 (c) Parents of students who have attained the age of 6
71 years by February 1 of any school year but who have not attained
72 the age of 18 years must comply with the compulsory school
73 attendance laws. Parents have the option to comply with the
74 school attendance laws by attendance of the student in a public
75 school; a parochial, religious, or denominational school; a
76 private school; a home education program; or a private tutoring
77 program, in accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.01(13).

78 (5) (a) All children in a pilot school district who have
79 attained the age of 6 years or who will have attained the age of
80 6 years by February 1 of any school year or who are older than 6
81 years of age but who have not attained the age of 18 years,
82 except as otherwise provided, are required to attend school
83 regularly during the entire school term.

84 (b) A student who attains the age of 16 years during the
85 school year is not subject to compulsory school attendance beyond
86 the date upon which he or she attains that age if the student
87 files a formal declaration of intent to terminate school

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88 enrollment with the district school board and has received a high
89 school diploma, has received a high school equivalency diploma
90 and obtained a bronze or higher level Florida Ready to Work
91 Credential under s. 1004.99, has obtained industry certification
92 or skill licensure, or has obtained a Florida Ready to Work
93 Credential under s. 1004.99. The declaration must acknowledge
94 that terminating school enrollment is likely to reduce the
95 student's earning potential and must be signed by the student and
96 the student's parent. The school district must notify the
97 student's parent of receipt of the student's declaration of
98 intent to terminate school enrollment. The student's guidance
99 counselor or other school personnel must conduct an interview
100 with the student to determine the reasons for the student's
101 decision to terminate school enrollment and actions that could be
102 taken to keep the student in school. If, after the interview, the
103 student still wishes to terminate school enrollment, the student
104 must continue his or her education to complete high school
105 graduation credit requirements, receive a high school equivalency
106 diploma with completion of the Florida Ready to Work
107 Certification Program, complete a career or job training program
108 leading to industry certification or skill licensure that is
109 developed by or in cooperation with the district school board, or
110 complete the Florida Ready to Work Certification Program. Such
111 student shall be required to receive a high school diploma, a
112 high school equivalency diploma and a bronze or higher level
113 Florida Ready to Work Credential, industry certification or skill
114 licensure, or a Florida Ready to Work Credential. Additionally,
115 the student must complete a survey in a format prescribed by the
116 Department of Education to provide data on student reasons for

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117 seeking to terminate enrollment and actions taken by schools to
118 keep students enrolled.

119 (6) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
120 Accountability (OPPAGA), in cooperation with the pilot school
121 districts, the applicable state attorneys' offices and regional
122 workforce boards, the Agency for Workforce Innovation, the
123 Department of Education, and the Department of Juvenile Justice,
124 shall conduct a study annually of the impact of the pilot program
125 on dropout and graduation rates, on the employability of
126 students, and on juvenile crime, using 2007-2008 data as the
127 baseline for the research. OPPAGA shall develop criteria for
128 collection and reporting of data with input from the cooperating
129 entities. The results of each annual report shall be made
130 available to participating pilot school districts, the applicable
131 state attorneys' offices and regional workforce boards, the
132 Agency for Workforce Education, the Department of Education, the
133 Department of Juvenile Justice, the Office of the Governor, the
134 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
135 Representatives by January 1 following each school year,
136 beginning January 1, 2011.

137 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.