

By Senator Lynn

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to credentials under the Florida Ready to
3 Work Certification Program; amending s. 445.004, F.S.;
4 providing that the powers and duties of Workforce Florida,
5 Inc., include ensuring consistent usage of a credential
6 made available under the Florida Ready to Work
7 Certification Program; amending s. 1003.428, F.S.;
8 requiring certain students to earn a Florida Ready to Work
9 Credential in order to graduate from high school with a
10 major area of interest in a career or technical area;
11 amending s. 1009.536, F.S.; requiring that certain
12 students earn a Gold Level Florida Ready to Work
13 Credential in order to be eligible for the Florida Gold
14 Seal Vocational Scholars award; providing an effective
15 date.

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

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19 Section 1. Paragraph (j) is added to subsection (5) of
20 section 445.004, Florida Statutes, to read:

21 445.004 Workforce Florida, Inc.; creation; purpose;
22 membership; duties and powers.--

23 (5) Workforce Florida, Inc., shall have all the powers and
24 authority, not explicitly prohibited by statute, necessary or
25 convenient to carry out and effectuate the purposes as determined
26 by statute, Pub. L. No. 105-220, and the Governor, as well as its
27 functions, duties, and responsibilities, including, but not
28 limited to, the following:

7-03717A-08

20082460__

29 (j) Ensuring consistent usage of a statewide workforce
30 credential made available pursuant to s. 1004.99 in partnership
31 with the Department of Education.

32 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
33 1003.428, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

34 1003.428 General requirements for high school graduation;
35 revised.--

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

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

40 1. Four credits in a major area of interest, such as
41 sequential courses in a career and technical program, fine and
42 performing arts, or academic content area, selected by the
43 student as part of the education plan required by s. 1003.4156.
44 Students may revise major areas of interest each year as part of
45 annual course registration processes and should update their
46 education plan to reflect such revisions. Annually by October 1,
47 the district school board shall approve major areas of interest
48 and submit the list of majors to the Commissioner of Education
49 for approval. Each major area of interest shall be deemed
50 approved unless specifically rejected by the commissioner within
51 60 days. Upon approval, each district's major areas of interest
52 shall be available for use by all school districts and shall be
53 posted on the department's website. Beginning with students
54 entering their first year of high school in the 2008-2009 school
55 year, a student must earn a Florida Ready to Work Credential as
56 made available pursuant to s. 1004.99 in order to graduate with a
57 major area of interest that is in a career or technical area.

7-03717A-08

20082460__

58 2. Four credits in elective courses selected by the student
59 as part of the education plan required by s. 1003.4156. These
60 credits may be combined to allow for a second major area of
61 interest pursuant to subparagraph 1., a minor area of interest,
62 elective courses, or intensive reading or mathematics
63 intervention courses as described in this subparagraph.

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

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

70 c. For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 on
71 FCAT Reading, the student must be enrolled in and complete an
72 intensive reading course the following year. Placement of Level 2
73 readers in either an intensive reading course or a content area
74 course in which reading strategies are delivered shall be
75 determined by diagnosis of reading needs. The department shall
76 provide guidance on appropriate strategies for diagnosing and
77 meeting the varying instructional needs of students reading below
78 grade level. Reading courses shall be designed and offered
79 pursuant to the comprehensive reading plan required by s.
80 1011.62(8).

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

7-03717A-08

20082460__

86 Section 3. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (1) of
87 section 1009.536, Florida Statutes, to read:

88 1009.536 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award.--The
89 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award is created within the
90 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to recognize and
91 reward academic achievement and career preparation by high school
92 students who wish to continue their education.

93 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal
94 Vocational Scholars award if the student meets the general
95 eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures
96 Scholarship Program and the student:

97 (e) Beginning with students entering their first year of
98 high school in the 2008-2009 school year, earns a Gold Level
99 Florida Ready to Work Credential as made available pursuant to s.
100 1004.99.

101 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.