

By Senator Wise

5-00024-08

2008284__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to education; amending ss. 218.39,
3 1002.34, 1003.493, 1004.99, and 1012.467, F.S.;
4 redesignating "technical centers" as "technical colleges";
5 providing an effective date.

6
7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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9 Section 1. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section
10 218.39, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11 218.39 Annual financial audit reports.--

12 (1) If, by the first day in any fiscal year, a local
13 governmental entity, district school board, charter school, or
14 charter technical career center has not been notified that a
15 financial audit for that fiscal year will be performed by the
16 Auditor General, each of the following entities shall have an
17 annual financial audit of its accounts and records completed
18 within 12 months after the end of its fiscal year by an
19 independent certified public accountant retained by it and paid
20 from its public funds:

21 (f) Each charter technical college center ~~center~~ established under
22 s. 1002.34.

23 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) and subsections
24 (4) and (19) of section 1002.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to
25 read:

26 1002.34 Charter technical career centers.--

27 (3) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, the term:

28 (a) "Charter technical career center" or "center" means a
29 public school or a public technical college center ~~center~~ operated under

5-00024-08

2008284__

30 a charter granted by a district school board or community college
31 board of trustees or a consortium, including one or more district
32 school boards and community college boards of trustees, that
33 includes the district in which the facility is located, that is
34 nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment
35 practices, and operations, and is managed by a board of
36 directors.

37 (4) CHARTER.--A sponsor may designate centers as provided
38 in this section. An application to establish a center may be
39 submitted by a sponsor or another organization that is
40 determined, by rule of the State Board of Education, to be
41 appropriate. However, an independent school is not eligible for
42 status as a center. The charter must be signed by the governing
43 body of the center and the sponsor, and must be approved by the
44 district school board and community college board of trustees in
45 whose geographic region the facility is located. If a charter
46 technical career center is established by the conversion to
47 charter status of a public technical college ~~center~~ formerly
48 governed by a district school board, the charter status of that
49 center takes precedence in any question of governance. The
50 governance of the center or of any program within the center
51 remains with its board of directors unless the board agrees to a
52 change in governance or its charter is revoked as provided in
53 subsection (15). Such a conversion charter technical career
54 center is not affected by a change in the governance of public
55 technical colleges ~~centers~~ or of programs within other centers
56 that are or have been governed by district school boards. A
57 charter technical career center, or any program within such a
58 center, that was governed by a district school board and

5-00024-08

2008284__

59 transferred to a community college prior to the effective date of
60 this act is not affected by this provision. An applicant who
61 wishes to establish a center must submit to the district school
62 board or community college board of trustees, or a consortium of
63 one or more of each, an application that includes:

64 (a) The name of the proposed center.

65 (b) The proposed structure of the center, including a list
66 of proposed members of the board of directors or a description of
67 the qualifications for and method of their appointment or
68 election.

69 (c) The workforce development goals of the center, the
70 curriculum to be offered, and the outcomes and the methods of
71 assessing the extent to which the outcomes are met.

72 (d) The admissions policy and criteria for evaluating the
73 admission of students.

74 (e) A description of the staff responsibilities and the
75 proposed qualifications of the teaching staff.

76 (f) A description of the procedures to be implemented to
77 ensure significant involvement of representatives of business and
78 industry in the operation of the center.

79 (g) A method for determining whether a student has
80 satisfied the requirements for graduation specified in s. 1003.43
81 and for completion of a postsecondary certificate or degree.

82 (h) A method for granting secondary and postsecondary
83 diplomas, certificates, and degrees.

84 (i) A description of and address for the physical facility
85 in which the center will be located.

86 (j) A method of resolving conflicts between the governing
87 body of the center and the sponsor and between consortium

5-00024-08

2008284__

88 members, if applicable.

89 (k) A method for reporting student data as required by law
90 and rule.

91 (l) Other information required by the district school board
92 or community college board of trustees.

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94 Students at a center must meet the same testing and academic
95 performance standards as those established by law and rule for
96 students at public schools and public technical colleges ~~centers~~.
97 The students must also meet any additional assessment indicators
98 that are included within the charter approved by the district
99 school board or community college board of trustees.

100 (19) EVALUATION; REPORT.--The Commissioner of Education
101 shall provide for an annual comparative evaluation of charter
102 technical career centers and public technical colleges ~~centers~~.
103 The evaluation may be conducted in cooperation with the sponsor,
104 through private contracts, or by department staff. At a minimum,
105 the comparative evaluation must address the demographic and
106 socioeconomic characteristics of the students served, the types
107 and costs of services provided, and the outcomes achieved. By
108 December 30 of each year, the Commissioner of Education shall
109 submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker
110 of the House of Representatives, and the Senate and House
111 committees that have responsibility for secondary and
112 postsecondary career and technical education a report of the
113 comparative evaluation completed for the previous school year.

114 Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section
115 1003.493, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

116 1003.493 Career and professional academies.--

5-00024-08

2008284__

117 (4) Each career and professional academy must:

118 (b) Include one or more partnerships with postsecondary

119 institutions, businesses, industry, employers, economic

120 development organizations, or other appropriate partners from the

121 local community. Such partnerships shall be delineated in

122 articulation agreements to provide for career-based courses that

123 earn postsecondary credit. Such agreements may include

124 articulation between the academy and public or private 2-year and

125 4-year postsecondary institutions and technical colleges ~~centers~~.

126 The Department of Education, in consultation with the Board of

127 Governors, shall establish a mechanism to ensure articulation and

128 transfer of credits to postsecondary institutions in this state.

129 Such partnerships must provide opportunities for:

130 1. Instruction from highly skilled professionals who

131 possess industry-certification credentials for courses they are

132 teaching.

133 2. Internships, externships, and on-the-job training.

134 3. A postsecondary degree, diploma, or certificate.

135 4. The highest available level of industry certification.

136 5. Maximum articulation of credits pursuant to s. 1007.23

137 upon program completion.

138 Section 4. Subsection (2) of section 1004.99, Florida

139 Statutes, is amended to read:

140 1004.99 Florida Ready to Work Certification Program.--

141 (2) The Florida Ready to Work Certification Program may be

142 conducted in public middle and high schools, community colleges,

143 technical colleges ~~centers~~, one-stop career centers, vocational

144 rehabilitation centers, and Department of Juvenile Justice

145 educational facilities. The program may be made available to

5-00024-08

2008284__

146 other entities that provide job training. The Department of
147 Education shall establish institutional readiness criteria for
148 program implementation.

149 Section 5. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
150 1012.467, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

151 1012.467 Noninstructional contractors who are permitted
152 access to school grounds when students are present; background
153 screening requirements.--

154 (1) As used in this section, the term:

155 (c) "School grounds" means the buildings and grounds of any
156 public prekindergarten, kindergarten, elementary school, middle
157 school, junior high school, high school, or secondary school, or
158 any combination of grades prekindergarten through grade 12,
159 together with the school district land on which the buildings are
160 located. The term does not include:

161 1. Any other facility or location where school classes or
162 activities may be located or take place;

163 2. The buildings and grounds of any public prekindergarten,
164 kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, junior high
165 school, high school, or secondary school, or any combination of
166 grades prekindergarten through grade 12, or contiguous school
167 district land, during any time period in which students are not
168 permitted access; or

169 3. Any building described in this paragraph during any
170 period in which it is used solely as a career or technical
171 college center under part IV of chapter 1004 for postsecondary or
172 adult education.

173 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.