

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:

8  
 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~~ established  
 22   under s. 1002.34.

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

HB 331

2008

29 public school or a public technical college center operated  
30 under a charter granted by a district school board or community  
31 college board of trustees or a consortium, including one or more  
32 district school boards and community college boards of trustees,  
33 that includes the district in which the facility is located,  
34 that is nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies,  
35 employment practices, and operations, and is managed by a board  
36 of 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  
59 transferred to a community college prior to the effective date  
60 of 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  
67 of 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  
78 and 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.  
81 1003.43 and for completion of a postsecondary certificate or  
82 degree.

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

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

87 (j) A method of resolving conflicts between the governing  
 88 body of the center and the sponsor and between consortium  
 89 members, if applicable.

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

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

94

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

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

113 postsecondary career and technical education a report of the  
 114 comparative evaluation completed for the previous school year.

115 Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section  
 116 1003.493, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

117 1003.493 Career and professional academies.--

118 (4) Each career and professional academy must:

119 (b) Include one or more partnerships with postsecondary  
 120 institutions, businesses, industry, employers, economic  
 121 development organizations, or other appropriate partners from  
 122 the local community. Such partnerships shall be delineated in  
 123 articulation agreements to provide for career-based courses that  
 124 earn postsecondary credit. Such agreements may include  
 125 articulation between the academy and public or private 2-year  
 126 and 4-year postsecondary institutions and technical colleges  
 127 ~~centers~~. The Department of Education, in consultation with the  
 128 Board of Governors, shall establish a mechanism to ensure  
 129 articulation and transfer of credits to postsecondary  
 130 institutions in this state. Such partnerships must provide  
 131 opportunities for:

- 132 1. Instruction from highly skilled professionals who
- 133 possess industry-certification credentials for courses they are
- 134 teaching.
- 135 2. Internships, externships, and on-the-job training.
- 136 3. A postsecondary degree, diploma, or certificate.
- 137 4. The highest available level of industry certification.
- 138 5. Maximum articulation of credits pursuant to s. 1007.23
- 139 upon program completion.

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

141 Statutes, is amended to read:

142 1004.99 Florida Ready to Work Certification Program.--

143 (2) The Florida Ready to Work Certification Program may be  
 144 conducted in public middle and high schools, community colleges,  
 145 technical colleges ~~centers~~, one-stop career centers, vocational  
 146 rehabilitation centers, and Department of Juvenile Justice  
 147 educational facilities. The program may be made available to  
 148 other entities that provide job training. The Department of  
 149 Education shall establish institutional readiness criteria for  
 150 program implementation.

151 Section 5. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section  
 152 1012.467, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

165 2. The buildings and grounds of any public  
 166 prekindergarten, kindergarten, elementary school, middle school,  
 167 junior high school, high school, or secondary school, or any  
 168 combination of grades prekindergarten through grade 12, or

HB 331

2008

169 | contiguous school district land, during any time period in which  
170 | students are not permitted access; or

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

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