

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to workplace skills of students; amending
 3 s. 1003.428, F.S.; requiring a Florida Ready to Work
 4 Credential for high school graduation with a career or
 5 technical major area of interest; amending s. 1009.536,
 6 F.S.; requiring a student to earn the credential for
 7 receipt of a Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award;
 8 amending s. 445.004, F.S.; requiring Workforce Florida,
 9 Inc., and the Department of Education to ensure consistent
 10 use of the credential; providing an effective date.

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

13
 14 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
 15 1003.428, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16 1003.428 General requirements for high school graduation;
 17 revised.--

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

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

22 1. Four credits in a major area of interest, such as
 23 sequential courses in a career and technical program, fine and
 24 performing arts, or academic content area, selected by the
 25 student as part of the education plan required by s. 1003.4156.
 26 Students may revise major areas of interest each year as part of
 27 annual course registration processes and should update their
 28 education plan to reflect such revisions. Annually by October 1,

29 | the district school board shall approve major areas of interest
30 | and submit the list of majors to the Commissioner of Education
31 | for approval. Each major area of interest shall be deemed
32 | approved unless specifically rejected by the commissioner within
33 | 60 days. Upon approval, each district's major areas of interest
34 | shall be available for use by all school districts and shall be
35 | posted on the department's website. Beginning with students
36 | entering their first year of high school in the 2008-2009 school
37 | year, a student must earn a Florida Ready to Work Credential as
38 | created under s. 1004.99 in order to graduate with a career or
39 | technical major area of interest.

40 | 2. Four credits in elective courses selected by the
41 | student as part of the education plan required by s. 1003.4156.
42 | These credits may be combined to allow for a second major area
43 | of interest pursuant to subparagraph 1., a minor area of
44 | interest, elective courses, or intensive reading or mathematics
45 | intervention courses as described in this subparagraph.

46 | a. Minor areas of interest are composed of three credits
47 | selected by the student as part of the education plan required
48 | by s. 1003.4156 and approved by the district school board.

49 | b. Elective courses are selected by the student in order
50 | to pursue a complete education program as described in s.
51 | 1001.41(3) and to meet eligibility requirements for
52 | scholarships.

53 | c. For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 on
54 | FCAT Reading, the student must be enrolled in and complete an
55 | intensive reading course the following year. Placement of Level
56 | 2 readers in either an intensive reading course or a content

57 area course in which reading strategies are delivered shall be
58 determined by diagnosis of reading needs. The department shall
59 provide guidance on appropriate strategies for diagnosing and
60 meeting the varying instructional needs of students reading
61 below grade level. Reading courses shall be designed and offered
62 pursuant to the comprehensive reading plan required by s.
63 1011.62(8).

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

70 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 1009.536, Florida
71 Statutes, is amended to read:

72 1009.536 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award.--The
73 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award is created within
74 the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to recognize and
75 reward academic achievement and career preparation by high
76 school students who wish to continue their education.

77 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal
78 Vocational Scholars award if the student meets the general
79 eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures
80 Scholarship Program and the student:

81 (a) Completes the secondary school portion of a sequential
82 program of studies that requires at least three secondary school
83 career credits taken over at least 2 academic years, and is
84 continued in a planned, related postsecondary education program.

85 If the student's school does not offer such a two-plus-two or
 86 tech-prep program, the student must complete a job-preparatory
 87 career education program selected by Workforce Florida, Inc.,
 88 for its ability to provide high-wage employment in an occupation
 89 with high potential for employment opportunities. On-the-job
 90 training may not be substituted for any of the three required
 91 career credits.

92 (b) Demonstrates readiness for postsecondary education by
 93 earning a passing score on the Florida College Entry Level
 94 Placement Test or its equivalent as identified by the Department
 95 of Education.

96 (c) Earns a minimum cumulative weighted grade point
 97 average of 3.0, as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, on all
 98 subjects required for a standard high school diploma, excluding
 99 elective courses.

100 (d) Earns a minimum unweighted grade point average of 3.5
 101 on a 4.0 scale for secondary career courses comprising the
 102 career program.

103 (e) Earns a gold-level Florida Ready to Work Credential as
 104 created under s. 1004.99.

105 Section 3. Paragraph (j) is added to subsection (5) of
 106 section 445.004, Florida Statutes, to read:

107 445.004 Workforce Florida, Inc.; creation; purpose;
 108 membership; duties and powers.--

109 (5) Workforce Florida, Inc., shall have all the powers and
 110 authority, not explicitly prohibited by statute, necessary or
 111 convenient to carry out and effectuate the purposes as
 112 determined by statute, Pub. L. No. 105-220, and the Governor, as

HB 985

2008

113 well as its functions, duties, and responsibilities, including,
114 but not limited to, the following:

115 (j) In partnership with the Department of Education,
116 ensuring consistent use of the Florida Ready to Work Credential
117 as created under s. 1004.99.

118 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.