

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to regional professional development  
 3           academies; amending s. 1012.985, F.S.; providing for  
 4           regional academies rather than a statewide system of  
 5           organization; providing duties of regional professional  
 6           development academies; deleting provisions that require  
 7           academies to meet certain criteria in order to receive  
 8           start-up funds; specifying requirements for contracts  
 9           between district school boards and academies; deleting  
 10          requirements relating to first-year funding and academy  
 11          financial self-sufficiency in future years; authorizing  
 12          the academies to administer property and moneys received  
 13          from various sources; requiring that income generated from  
 14          certain activities be shared between the academy and the  
 15          district school board; providing an effective date.

16  
 17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 19           Section 1.   Section 1012.985, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 20   to read:

21           1012.985   Regional ~~Statewide system for inservice~~  
 22   professional development academies.--

23           (1)   The intent of this section is to facilitate ~~establish~~  
 24   a ~~statewide~~ system of professional development that provides a  
 25   wide range of ~~targeted~~ inservice training to teachers, managers,  
 26   and administrative personnel which is designed to upgrade skills  
 27   and knowledge needed to attain ~~reach~~ world class standards in  
 28   education. The system shall consist of a network of professional

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29 development academies that ~~in each region of the state which~~ are  
30 operated in partnership with area business partners to develop  
31 and deliver high-quality training programs for ~~purchased by~~  
32 school districts. Each regional professional development academy  
33 ~~The academies shall be established to meet the human resource~~  
34 ~~development needs of professional educators, schools, and school~~  
35 ~~districts and shall.~~ Funds appropriated for the initiation of  
36 ~~professional development academies shall be allocated by the~~  
37 ~~Commissioner of Education, unless otherwise provided in an~~  
38 ~~appropriations act. To be eligible for startup funds, the~~  
39 ~~academy must:~~

40 (a) Support ~~Be established by~~ the collaborative efforts of  
41 one or more district school boards, members of the business  
42 community, and the postsecondary educational institutions which  
43 may award college credits for courses taught at the academy.

44 ~~(b) Demonstrate the capacity to provide effective training~~  
45 ~~to improve teaching skills in the areas of elementary reading~~  
46 ~~and mathematics, the use of instructional technology, high~~  
47 ~~school algebra, and classroom management, and to deliver such~~  
48 ~~training using face-to-face, distance learning, and~~  
49 ~~individualized computer-based delivery systems.~~

50 ~~(c) Propose a plan for responding in an effective and~~  
51 ~~timely manner to the professional development needs of teachers,~~  
52 ~~managers, administrative personnel, schools, and school~~  
53 ~~districts relating to improving student achievement and meeting~~  
54 ~~state and local education goals.~~

55 (b)-(d) ~~Demonstrate the ability to~~ Provide high-quality  
56 trainers and training and, appropriate followup and coaching for

57 all participants~~7~~ and support school personnel in increasing  
58 student achievement ~~in positively impacting student performance.~~

59 ~~(c)-(e)~~ Be operated under contract with its public  
60 partners. Contracts between district school boards and each  
61 regional professional development academy shall require:

62 1. The academy's independent board of directors to be  
63 responsible for the prudent use of all public and private funds  
64 and to ensure that such funds are used in accordance with  
65 applicable laws, bylaws, and contractual agreements.

66 2. The academy to retain proper documentation evidencing  
67 that district school board funds provided to the academy are  
68 expended for authorized purposes as prescribed in the contract  
69 and that services to district school boards are commensurate to  
70 the funds paid to the academy for such services. The academy's  
71 records shall be available for inspection by the district school  
72 board's internal auditor and the Auditor General.

73 3. Each district school board to approve any participation  
74 by the academy in the district's programs or services, including  
75 use of the district's facilities, furnishings, equipment, other  
76 chattels, personnel, or services.

77 4. The academy to provide an annual report of its  
78 activities and expenditures to its independent board of  
79 directors and each party to the contract.

80 5. The academy to be annually audited by an independent  
81 certified public accountant retained and paid for by the academy  
82 and to provide a copy of the audit report to each party to the  
83 contract.

84           (d) ~~Be and~~ governed by an independent board of directors,  
 85 which should include at least one district school superintendent  
 86 and one district school board chair from the participating  
 87 school districts, the president of the collective bargaining  
 88 unit that represents the majority of the region's teachers, and  
 89 at least three individuals who are not employees or elected or  
 90 appointed officials of the participating school districts.  
 91 Regional educational consortia as defined in s. 1001.451 satisfy  
 92 the requirements of this paragraph.

93           ~~(f) Be financed during the first year of operation by an~~  
 94 ~~equal or greater match from private funding sources and~~  
 95 ~~demonstrate the ability to be self-supporting within 1 year~~  
 96 ~~after opening through fees for services, grants, or private~~  
 97 ~~contributions. Regional educational consortia as defined in s.~~  
 98 ~~1001.451 which serve rural areas of critical economic concern~~  
 99 ~~are exempt from the funding match required by this paragraph.~~

100           ~~(g) Own or lease a facility that can be used to deliver~~  
 101 ~~training onsite and through distance learning and other~~  
 102 ~~technology-based delivery systems. The participating district~~  
 103 ~~school boards may lease a site or facility to the academy for a~~  
 104 ~~nominal fee and may pay all or part of the costs of renovating a~~  
 105 ~~facility to accommodate the academy. The academy is responsible~~  
 106 ~~for all operational, maintenance, and repair costs.~~

107           (e) ~~(h)~~ Provide professional development services for the  
 108 participating school districts as specified in the contract and  
 109 may provide professional development services to other school  
 110 districts, private schools, and individuals on a fee-for-  
 111 services basis.

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112           ~~(2) Upon compliance with the requirements for the first~~  
113 ~~year of operation in paragraph (1)(f),~~ A regional professional  
114 development academy may:

115           (a) ~~May~~ Receive funds from the Department of Education or  
116 as provided in the General Appropriations Act for the purpose of  
117 developing programs, expanding services, assessing inservice  
118 training and professional development, or other programs that  
119 are consistent with the mission of the academy and the needs of  
120 the state and region; and

121           (b) Receive, hold, invest, and administer property and any  
122 moneys acquired from private, local, state, and federal sources,  
123 as well as technical and professional income generated or  
124 derived from activities of the academy, for the benefit of the  
125 academy and the fulfillment of its mission. Income generated by  
126 school district personnel at the academy from trademarks,  
127 copyrights, and patents shall be shared between the academy and  
128 the district school board as outlined in the contract.

129           ~~(b) Is not, by virtue of providing services to one or more~~  
130 ~~school districts, a component of any school district or any~~  
131 ~~governmental unit to which the regional professional development~~  
132 ~~academy provides services.~~

133           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.