

By Senator Wise

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to a charter technical career center  
3           pilot project; creating s. 1002.345, F.S.;  
4           establishing the Charter Technical Career Center  
5           Associate in Applied Science Degree Pilot Project;  
6           providing purpose; authorizing each charter technical  
7           career center participating in the pilot project to  
8           offer programs that lead to specified associate in  
9           applied science degrees; providing requirements for  
10          the centers; requiring collaboration with the  
11          Department of Education to make recommendations for  
12          the approval of associate degree programs; requiring  
13          reporting; providing an effective date.

14  
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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17           Section 1. Section 1002.345, Florida Statutes, is created  
18           to read:

19           1002.345 Charter Technical Career Center Associate in  
20           Applied Science Degree Pilot Project.-

21           (1) To address the state's workforce needs, the Legislature  
22           intends to create an innovative means to increase access to  
23           associate degree level education in areas that are underserved  
24           by public associate degree granting institutions.

25           (2) (a) Beginning with the 2009-2010 fiscal year and  
26           continuing through the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the Charter  
27           Technical Career Center Associate in Applied Science Degree  
28           Pilot Project is established, which shall be conducted by First  
29           Coast Technical College and Lake Technical Center. The purpose

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30 of the pilot project is to recommend to the Legislature an  
31 approval process for the provision of associate in applied  
32 science degree programs by charter technical career centers.

33 (b) With approval of the charter technical career center's  
34 board of directors and the original sponsor, St. Johns County  
35 School Board for First Coast Technical College and Lake County  
36 School Board for Lake Technical Center, and continued compliance  
37 with subsection (3), each center may offer the degrees specified  
38 in this subsection.

39 (c) In addition to the certificates and diplomas authorized  
40 by law, First Coast Technical College and Lake Technical Center  
41 may offer selected associate degrees. Initially, the centers may  
42 offer programs that lead to the following associate degrees:

43 1. First Coast Technical College may offer an Associate in  
44 Applied Science in Fire Science Degree and an Associate in  
45 Applied Science in Culinary Management Degree.

46 2. Lake Technical Center may offer an Associate in Applied  
47 Science in Architectural Drafting Degree and an Associate in  
48 Applied Science in Computer Programming Degree.

49 (3) Each center as a participant in the pilot project  
50 shall:

51 (a) Maintain, as the institution's primary mission,  
52 responsibility for responding to community needs for  
53 postsecondary career degree programs and workforce certificate  
54 education programs.

55 (b) Maintain an open-door admissions policy for associate  
56 degree programs and workforce education programs.

57 (c) Receive and maintain institutional accreditation from a  
58 federally approved agency for postsecondary workforce degree

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59 granting institutions.

60 (d) Accept required general education college credit from  
61 accredited colleges or universities for students in approved  
62 associate degree programs. First Coast Technical College and  
63 Lake Technical Center may not offer general education courses  
64 for a period of at least 3 years.

65 (4) (a) The centers participating in the pilot project shall  
66 collaborate with the Department of Education to make  
67 recommendations to the State Board of Education, the President  
68 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
69 on specific issues that should be addressed in the approval of  
70 associate degree programs at charter technical career centers.  
71 At a minimum, the following areas should be addressed during the  
72 course of the pilot project:

73 1. The development of a program approval process to be  
74 followed by the State Board of Education when considering  
75 proposals for new associate degree programs that are designed to  
76 meet the workforce needs of the state.

77 2. The development of a funding model for charter technical  
78 career centers offering associate degree programs.

79 (b) A final report, including a status report on the  
80 associate degree programs at each center participating in the  
81 pilot project and recommendations on the issues outlined in  
82 paragraph (a), shall be submitted to the State Board of  
83 Education, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
84 House of Representatives by January 1, 2013.

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