

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

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 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
 22 Legislature intends to create an innovative means to increase
 23 access to associate degree level education in areas that are
 24 underserved 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

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29 Coast Technical College and Lake Technical Center. The purpose
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
40 authorized by law, First Coast Technical College and Lake
41 Technical Center may offer selected associate degrees.
42 Initially, the centers may offer programs that lead to the
43 following associate degrees:

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

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

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

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

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

58 (c) Receive and maintain institutional accreditation from
59 a federally approved agency for postsecondary workforce degree
60 granting institutions.

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

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

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

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

80 (b) A final report, including a status report on the
81 associate degree programs at each center participating in the
82 pilot project and recommendations on the issues outlined in
83 paragraph (a), shall be submitted to the State Board of

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84 | Education, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
85 | House of Representatives by January 1, 2013.

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