

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the College and Career Transition
 3 Assistance Act; providing a short title; providing
 4 definitions; providing legislative findings and intent;
 5 establishing a school-to-work program to be operated in
 6 any school, Department of Juvenile Justice facility, or
 7 charter school; providing requirements for participation
 8 in the program; creating an endowment fund within the
 9 Florida Endowment Foundation for Florida's Graduates;
 10 providing for the investment and deposit of funds in the
 11 foundation's operating account; creating the Florida
 12 Endowment Foundation for Florida's Graduates as a direct-
 13 support organization; establishing a board of directors to
 14 administer the foundation; providing for membership;
 15 providing for ex officio members of the board; providing
 16 terms; providing powers and duties; providing for the
 17 distribution of earnings on the endowment fund principal;
 18 requiring an annual audit report; requiring that the board
 19 submit a report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the
 20 Commissioner of Education; requiring that the Department
 21 of Education adopt rules; providing an effective date.

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 23 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 25 Section 1. College and Career Transition Assistance Act.-
 26 (1) SHORT TITLE.-This section may be cited as the "College
 27 and Career Transition Assistance Act."
 28 (2) DEFINITIONS.-For the purposes of this section, the

29 term:

30 (a) "Board" means the board of directors of the Florida
 31 Endowment Foundation for Florida's Graduates.

32 (b) "Department" means the Department of Education.

33 (c) "Endowment fund" means an account established within
 34 the Florida Endowment Foundation for Florida's Graduates to
 35 provide a continuing and growing source of revenue for efforts
 36 relating to the transition from school to work.

37 (d) "Foundation" means the Florida Endowment Foundation
 38 for Florida's Graduates.

39 (e) "Operating account" means an account established under
 40 paragraph (8)(h) in order to carry out the purposes provided in
 41 this section.

42 (3) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—The Legislature finds
 43 that it is in the best interest of the state to have a well-
 44 educated and skilled workforce in order to be competitive in a
 45 changing economy. It is the intent of the Legislature to ensure
 46 a skilled workforce by creating a formal program that
 47 facilitates the important transition from school to work and
 48 provide additional funding to achieve this goal. Therefore, the
 49 Legislature finds that it is:

50 (a) Important to increase each student's understanding of
 51 postsecondary educational opportunities and career and work-
 52 readiness skills.

53 (b) Appropriate to encourage individual and corporate
 54 support and involvement, as well as state support and
 55 involvement, to promote employment opportunities for Florida's
 56 students.

57 (4) SCHOOL-TO-WORK PROGRAMS.—Except as otherwise provided
 58 by law or by department rule, there is established a school-to-
 59 work program that shall be operated according to the process and
 60 outcome standards of the department's initiatives.

61 (a) A school-to-work program may be operated in any school
 62 district, Department of Juvenile Justice facility, or charter
 63 school.

64 (b) Participating organizations must be demographically
 65 balanced to include urban and rural schools and be comprised of
 66 schools in all geographic areas of the state. Each school that
 67 is selected to participate in a school-to-work program shall
 68 enter into a formal written agreement with the State Board of
 69 Education which, at a minimum, details the responsibilities of
 70 each party and the process and goals of the program.

71 (c) Each participating school, Department of Juvenile
 72 Justice facility, or charter school shall select and approve
 73 each student for participation in the school-to-work program
 74 based on a student's classification as an at-risk student.

75 (5) REVENUE FOR THE ENDOWMENT FUND.—

76 (a) An endowment fund is created as a long-term, stable,
 77 and growing source of revenue which shall be administered by the
 78 foundation pursuant to rules adopted by the department.

79 (b) The principal of the endowment fund shall consist of
 80 legislative appropriations and bequests, gifts, grants, or
 81 donations solicited from public or private sources by the
 82 foundation.

83 (c) The foundation shall invest and reinvest moneys from
 84 the principal of the endowment fund pursuant to ss. 215.44-

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85 215.53, Florida Statutes. Interest and investment income earned
86 from moneys in the endowment fund shall be annually transmitted
87 to the foundation, based upon a fiscal year beginning July 1 and
88 ending June 30, and shall be deposited in the foundation's
89 operating account for distribution as provided in this section.

90 (6) THE FLORIDA ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION FOR FLORIDA'S
91 GRADUATES.—

92 (a) The Florida Endowment Foundation for Florida's
93 Graduates is created as a direct-support organization within the
94 Department of Education to encourage public and private support
95 and enhance the transition of students from school to work. As a
96 direct-support organization, the foundation shall operate under
97 contract with the department and shall be:

98 1. A Florida corporation, not for profit, incorporated
99 under chapter 617, Florida Statutes, and approved by the
100 Department of State.

101 2. Organized and operated exclusively to raise funds;
102 submit requests and receive grants from the Federal Government,
103 the state, private foundations, and individuals; receive, hold,
104 and administer property; and make expenditures to or for the
105 benefit of school-to-work transition programs approved by the
106 board of directors of the foundation.

107 (b) As a direct-support organization, the foundation
108 shall:

109 1. Maintain articles of incorporation.

110 2. Maintain a board of directors recommended by the
111 Commissioner of Education and appointed by the Governor.

112 3. Maintain an external annual audit.

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113 4. Provide a mechanism for the reversion to the state of
114 moneys in the foundation and in any other funds and accounts
115 held in trust by the foundation if the foundation is dissolved.

116 (7) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—The foundation shall be
117 administered by a board of directors, as follows:

118 (a) The board shall consist of 15 members, at least 9 of
119 whom must be from the private sector. The remaining members may
120 be from the public sector and must include representatives from
121 secondary education, vocational education, and job-training
122 programs. The chair may be from the private sector or the public
123 sector.

124 (b) Each member shall have an interest in the transition
125 of students from school to work and, if practicable, shall have:

126 1. Skills relating to work in a foundation or fundraising
127 activities, financial consulting, investment banking, or other
128 related experience; or

129 2. Experience in policymaking or executive-level positions
130 or have distinguished themselves in the fields of education,
131 business, or industry.

132 (c) The Governor, the Commissioner of Education, the
133 director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation, the Secretary
134 of Juvenile Justice, the Secretary of Children and Family
135 Services, and the chairs of the legislative education
136 appropriations committees shall be ex officio members of board.

137 1. The chair shall be appointed for a term of 2 years and
138 may be reappointed. However, a chair may not serve more than 6
139 consecutive years.

140 2. Board members shall be appointed to serve 3-year terms

141 or until resignation or removal for cause, except that members
 142 appointed to serve initial terms shall be appointed to staggered
 143 terms of 1, 2, and 3 years, respectively.

144 (d) A new member shall be appointed if a vacancy occurs on
 145 the board because of an occurrence other than the expiration of
 146 a term.

147 (e) Each member is accountable to the Commissioner of
 148 Education for the proper performance of his or her duties. The
 149 commissioner may remove any member from office for malfeasance,
 150 misfeasance, neglect of duty, incompetence, or the permanent
 151 inability to perform official duties or for pleading nolo
 152 contendere to, or being found guilty of, a crime.

153 (8) ORGANIZATION, POWERS, AND DUTIES.—Within the limits
 154 prescribed in this section or by department rule:

155 (a) Upon appointment of its members, the board shall meet
 156 and organize. Thereafter, the board shall hold such meetings as
 157 are necessary to administer this section and shall conduct its
 158 business in accordance with rules adopted by the department.

159 (b) The board may solicit and receive bequests, gifts,
 160 grants, donations, goods, and services. Any gift that is
 161 restricted as to its purpose may be used only for the purpose or
 162 purposes stated by the donor.

163 (c) The board may enter into contracts with the Federal
 164 Government, the state, local agencies, private entities, or
 165 individuals in order to carry out the purposes of this section.

166 (d) The board may identify, initiate, and fund programs to
 167 carry out the purposes of this section.

168 (e) The board may make gifts or grants to:

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169 1. The state, or any political subdivision thereof, or any
170 public agency of state or local government.

171 2. A corporation, trust, association, or foundation
172 organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational,
173 or scientific purposes.

174 3. The Department of Education, for purposes of program
175 recognition and marketing, public relations and education,
176 professional development, and technical assistance and workshops
177 for grant applicants and recipients and the business community.

178 (f) The board may advertise and solicit applications for
179 funding and shall evaluate applications and program proposals
180 submitted to the board.

181 (g) The board shall monitor, review, and annually evaluate
182 funded programs to determine whether funding should be
183 continued, terminated, reduced, or increased.

184 (h) The board shall establish an operating account for the
185 deposit of funds to be used in carrying out the purposes of this
186 section.

187 (i) The board shall operate the programs to ensure that
188 the goals of this section are met and shall recommend to the
189 Department of Education the adoption of rules as may be
190 necessary.

191 (j) The board may take such additional actions, including
192 independently organizing and conducting hiring, as are deemed
193 necessary and appropriate to administer the provisions of this
194 section. An employment position with the board is not state
195 employment.

196 (9) DISTRIBUTION OF EARNINGS ON ENDOWMENT FUND PRINCIPAL.—

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197 The board shall use the moneys in the operating account, by
198 whatever means necessary, to provide for:

199 (a) Planning, research, and policy development for issues
200 related to school-to-work transition and publications and
201 dissemination of such information as may serve the objectives of
202 this section.

203 (b) Promotion of initiatives for school-to-work
204 transition.

205 (c) Funding of programs that engage in, contract for,
206 foster, finance, or aid in job training and counseling for
207 school-to-work transition research, education, or demonstration,
208 or other related activities.

209 (d) Funding of programs that engage in, contract for,
210 foster, finance, or aid in activities designed to advance better
211 public understanding and appreciation of the school-to-work
212 transition.

213 (10) ANNUAL AUDIT.—The board shall cause to be conducted
214 an annual audit of the foundation's financial accounts by an
215 independent certified public accountant in accordance with rules
216 adopted by the department. The annual audit report shall be
217 submitted to the Auditor General and the department for review.
218 The Auditor General and the department may require and receive
219 from the foundation, or from its independent auditor, any
220 relevant detail or supplemental data.

221 (11) ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAM RESULTS.—The success of the
222 programs shall be assessed as follows:

223 (a) The foundation shall review the program's activities
224 and submit a report to the Department of Education and the

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225 Legislature on or before August 1 of each year.

226 (b) The foundation shall coordinate an ongoing
227 longitudinal study of participants to determine the overall
228 efficacy of the program.

229 (12) ANNUAL REPORT.—The board shall submit a report to the
230 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House
231 of Representatives, and the Commissioner of Education on or
232 before January 1 of each year, which summarizes the performance
233 of the endowment fund for the previous fiscal year and the
234 foundation's fundraising activities and performance, and details
235 those activities and programs supported by the earnings on the
236 endowment principal or by bequests, gifts, grants, donations,
237 and other valued goods and services received.

238 (13) RULES.—The Department of Education shall adopt rules
239 to administer this section.

240 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.