

By the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability;
and Senator Wise

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20102042c1

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
5 intent; establishing a school-to-work program to be
6 operated in any school, Department of Juvenile Justice
7 facility, or charter school; providing requirements
8 for participation in the program; creating an
9 endowment fund within the Florida Endowment Foundation
10 for Florida's Graduates; creating the Florida
11 Endowment Foundation for Florida's Graduates;
12 establishing a board of directors; providing for
13 membership; providing terms; providing powers and
14 duties; requiring an annual audit report; requiring
15 that the board submit a report to the Governor, the
16 Legislature, and the Commissioner of Education;
17 requiring that the Department of Education adopt
18 rules; providing an effective date.

19
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21
22 Section 1. College and Career Transition Assistance Act.—

23 (1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "College
24 and Career Transition Assistance Act."

25 (2) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section, the
26 term:

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

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

585-04974-10

20102042c1

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

34 (d) "Foundation" means the Florida Endowment Foundation for
35 Florida's Graduates.

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

44 (a) Important to increase each student's understanding of
45 postsecondary educational opportunities and career and work-
46 readiness skills.

47 (b) Appropriate to encourage individual and corporate
48 support and involvement, as well as state support and
49 involvement, to promote employment opportunities for Florida's
50 students.

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

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

58 (b) Participating organizations must be demographically

585-04974-10

20102042c1

59 balanced to include urban and rural schools and be comprised of
60 schools in all geographic areas of the state. Each school that
61 is selected to participate in a school-to-work program shall
62 enter into a formal written agreement with the State Board of
63 Education which, at a minimum, details the responsibilities of
64 each party and the process and goals of the program.

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

69 (5) REVENUE FOR THE ENDOWMENT FUND.—

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

73 (b) The principal of the endowment fund shall consist of
74 legislative appropriations and bequests, gifts, grants, or
75 donations solicited from public or private sources by the
76 foundation.

77 (c) The foundation shall invest and reinvest moneys from
78 the principal of the endowment fund pursuant to ss. 215.44-
79 215.53, Florida Statutes. Interest and investment income earned
80 from moneys in the endowment fund shall be annually transmitted
81 to the foundation, based upon a fiscal year beginning July 1 and
82 ending June 30, and shall be used to provide for the following:

83 1. Planning, research, and policy development for issues
84 related to school-to-work transition and publications and
85 dissemination of such information as may serve the objectives of
86 this section.

87 2. Promotion of initiatives for school-to-work transition.

585-04974-10

20102042c1

88 3. Funding of programs that engage in, contract for,
89 foster, finance, or aid in job training and counseling for
90 school-to-work transition research, education, or demonstration,
91 or other related activities.

92 4. Funding of programs that engage in, contract for,
93 foster, finance, or aid in activities designed to advance better
94 public understanding and appreciation of the school-to-work
95 transition.

96 (6) THE FLORIDA ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION FOR FLORIDA'S
97 GRADUATES.—

98 (a) The Florida Endowment Foundation for Florida's
99 Graduates is created, in support of the Department of Education,
100 to encourage public and private support and enhance the
101 transition of students from school to work. The foundation shall
102 be registered, incorporated, organized, and operated in
103 compliance with chapter 617, Florida Statutes. The foundation,
104 under contract with the department, shall operate in the most
105 open and accessible manner consistent with its public purpose.
106 The Florida Endowment Foundation for Florida's Graduates and its
107 boards and advisory committees or similar groups created by the
108 foundation shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 119,
109 Florida Statutes, relating to public records and those
110 provisions of chapter 286, Florida Statutes, relating to public
111 meetings and records.

112 (b) The Florida Endowment Foundation for Florida's
113 Graduates shall be governed by a board of directors. The board
114 of directors shall consist of 14 members as follows:

115 1. Three members, each of whom represents business and
116 industry, appointed by the Governor.

585-04974-10

20102042c1

117 2. One member, who represents small business, appointed by
118 the President of the Senate.

119 3. One member, who represents a high-wage or high-growth
120 industry, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
121 Representatives.

122 4. The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee.

123 5. The director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation or
124 his or her designee.

125 6. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice or his or her
126 designee.

127 7. The Chancellor of the Division of Florida Colleges or
128 his or her designee.

129 8. The Chancellor of Career and Adult Education or his or
130 her designee.

131 9. One member from the Florida Legislative Black Caucus.

132 10. One member from the Florida Hispanic Legislative
133 Caucus.

134 11. One member from the Commission on African-American
135 Affairs.

136 12. One member from the State Commission on Hispanic
137 Affairs.

138 (c) Each member shall have an interest in the transition of
139 students from school to work and, if practicable, shall have:

140 1. Skills relating to work in a foundation or fundraising
141 activities, financial consulting, investment banking, or other
142 related experience; or

143 2. Experience in policymaking or executive-level positions
144 or have distinguished themselves in the fields of education,
145 business, or industry.

585-04974-10

20102042c1

146 (d) Vacancies for the members who are appointed shall be
147 filled in the same manner as the original appointment. Such
148 members shall be appointed for terms of 3 years or until
149 resignation or removal for cause, except that members appointed
150 to serve initial terms shall be appointed to staggered terms of
151 1, 2, and 3 years, respectively.

152 (e) Appointive members are eligible for reappointment and
153 may be removed for cause.

154 (f) A vacancy on the board of directors shall be filled for
155 the remainder of the unexpired term.

156 (g) A chairperson shall be appointed from the membership
157 for a term of 2 years and may be reappointed. However, the
158 chairperson may not serve more than 6 consecutive years.

159 (h) Each member is accountable for the proper performance
160 of his or her duties. Members may be removed from office for
161 malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect of duty, incompetence, or the
162 permanent inability to perform official duties or for pleading
163 nolo contendere to, or being found guilty of, a crime.

164 (7) ORGANIZATION, POWERS, AND DUTIES.—Within the limits
165 prescribed in this section:

166 (a) Upon appointment of its members, the board shall meet
167 and organize. Thereafter, the board shall hold such meetings as
168 are necessary to administer this section.

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

173 (c) The board may enter into contracts with the Federal
174 Government, the state, local agencies, private entities, or

585-04974-10

20102042c1

175 individuals in order to carry out the purposes of this section.

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

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

179 1. The state, or any political subdivision thereof, or any
180 public agency of state or local government.

181 2. A corporation, trust, association, or foundation
182 organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational,
183 or scientific purposes.

184 (f) The board may advertise and solicit applications for
185 funding and shall evaluate applications and program proposals
186 submitted to the board.

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

190 (h) The board shall operate the programs to ensure that the
191 goals of this section are met and shall recommend to the
192 Department of Education the adoption of rules as may be
193 necessary.

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

199 (8) ANNUAL AUDIT.—The board shall cause to be conducted an
200 annual audit of the foundation's financial accounts by an
201 independent certified public accountant. The annual audit report
202 shall be submitted to the Auditor General and the Department of
203 Education for review. The Auditor General and the department may

585-04974-10

20102042c1

204 require and receive from the foundation, or from its independent
205 auditor, any relevant detail or supplemental data.

206 (9) ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAM RESULTS.—The foundation shall
207 assess the success of the programs by:

208 (a) Reviewing the program's activities and submitting a
209 report to the Department of Education and the Legislature on or
210 before August 1 of each year.

211 (b) Coordinating an ongoing longitudinal study of
212 participants to determine the overall efficacy of the program.

213 (10) ANNUAL REPORT.—The board shall submit a report to the
214 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House
215 of Representatives, and the Commissioner of Education on or
216 before January 1 of each year, which summarizes the performance
217 of the endowment fund for the previous fiscal year and the
218 foundation's fundraising activities and performance, and details
219 those activities and programs supported by the earnings on the
220 endowment principal or by bequests, gifts, grants, donations,
221 and other valued goods and services received.

222 (11) RULES.—The Department of Education shall adopt rules
223 to administer this section.

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