

By Senator Wise

5-00124A-10

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to charter technical career centers;  
3           creating the Charter Technical Career Center Associate  
4           in Applied Science and Associate in Science Degrees  
5           Program; providing a purpose for the program;  
6           authorizing charter technical career centers to submit  
7           proposals to the State Board of Education to offer  
8           specified associate in applied science degree and  
9           associate in science degree programs; authorizing  
10          charter technical career centers to offer such degree  
11          programs through partnerships with community colleges  
12          or direct authority; providing for certain criteria to  
13          award the degrees on a limited basis; requiring that  
14          the board adopt rules; requiring that a participating  
15          charter technical career center implement the program  
16          through a memorandum of agreement; prohibiting a  
17          charter technical career center from requesting  
18          funding for the initial costs associated with  
19          implementing the degree programs for a specified  
20          amount of time after receiving authorization;  
21          requiring that funding for operational costs be at the  
22          same level as the funding for workforce development  
23          programs; providing requirements for participating  
24          charter technical career centers; providing an  
25          effective date.

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

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29          Section 1. (1) The Charter Technical Career Center

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30 Associate in Applied Science and Associate in Science Degrees  
31 Program is created for the purpose of authorizing charter  
32 technical career centers to offer associate in applied science  
33 degree and associate in science degree programs in order to meet  
34 local workforce needs. Charter technical career centers may  
35 submit proposals to the State Board of Education to participate  
36 in the program in their respective districts. Charter technical  
37 career centers may offer the degree programs through  
38 partnerships with community colleges or through direct authority  
39 to award such degrees.

40 (2) After receiving and reviewing a charter technical  
41 career center's proposal, the board may approve the proposal for  
42 a substantive change in accreditation status and authority to  
43 award specified associate in applied science and associate in  
44 science degrees on a limited basis, if certain criteria are met  
45 which relate to the demand for such programs; the unmet  
46 workforce need for graduates from such degree programs; and the  
47 availability of facilities, faculty, and other resources.

48 (3) The board shall adopt rules providing guidelines for  
49 receiving, reviewing, and approving proposals submitted by  
50 charter technical career centers. The rules must establish an  
51 annual timeframe in which proposals are received. The rules must  
52 also require that a presentation be made to assist the board in  
53 its decision and that the Commissioner of Education make  
54 recommendations based on the proposals.

55 (4) A charter technical career center that is authorized to  
56 offer an associate in applied science degree program or  
57 associate in science degree program shall implement the program  
58 in accordance with a memorandum of agreement entered into

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59 between the board and the center which outlines the expectations  
60 for administrative oversight and accountability for the initial  
61 and continued approval of the program.

62 (5) A charter technical career center may not request  
63 additional funding for costs associated with the implementation  
64 and start-up of the associate in applied science and associate  
65 in science degree programs during the first 2 years after the  
66 charter technical career center receives authorization to offer  
67 such degree programs. Operational costs must be funded at the  
68 same level as funding for workforce development programs.

69 (6) Each participating charter technical career center  
70 shall:

71 (a) Maintain, as its primary mission, responsibility for  
72 responding to the community's needs for postsecondary career  
73 degree programs and workforce education programs;

74 (b) Maintain an open-door admissions policy for associate  
75 degree programs and workforce education programs; and

76 (c) Accept credit for courses meeting general education  
77 prerequisite requirements which are earned in an approved  
78 program at an accredited college or university.

79 (7) Each charter technical career center participating in  
80 the program shall accept general education course credit from  
81 colleges accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and  
82 Schools for the first 3 years of the program to avoid  
83 duplication of currently available courses.

84 (8) Effective July 1, 2010, a charter technical career  
85 center may use the designation "technical college" rather than  
86 "center." Any charter technical career center that has used the  
87 designation "college" may continue to use such designation after

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88 July 1, 2010, and until the date of application for candidate  
89 status with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for  
90 a period up to 2 years.

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