

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

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

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 27 Section 1. (1) The Charter Technical Career Center
 28 Associate in Applied Science and Associate in Science Degrees

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

38 (2) After receiving and reviewing a charter technical
39 career center's proposal, the board may approve the proposal for
40 a substantive change in accreditation status and authority to
41 award specified associate in applied science and associate in
42 science degrees, on a limited basis, if an unmet workforce need
43 for graduates from such degree programs exists and there is the
44 availability of facilities, faculty, and other resources.

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

52 (4) A charter technical career center that is authorized
53 to offer an associate in applied science degree program or
54 associate in science degree program shall implement the program
55 in accordance with a memorandum of agreement entered into
56 between the board and the center which outlines the expectations

57 for administrative oversight and accountability for the initial
58 and continued approval of the program.

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

66 (6) Each participating charter technical career center
67 shall:

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

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

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

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

81 (8) Upon approval by the State Board of Education and
82 pursuant to subsections (2) and (4), a charter technical career
83 center may use the designation "technical college" rather than
84 "center." Any charter technical career center that has used the

HB 353

2010

85 designation "college" may continue to use such designation after
86 July 1, 2010, and until the date of application for candidate
87 status with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for
88 a period up to 2 years.

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