

By Senator Wilson

33-00948-10

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to school attendance; amending s.  
3           1003.21, F.S.; requiring that a student who is  
4           withdrawing from school be assigned a counselor or  
5           other school personnel to provide educational  
6           information until the student is 18 years of age;  
7           amending s. 1003.428, F.S.; requiring that 9th grade  
8           students in their second semester and students who are  
9           withdrawing from school receive detailed instruction  
10          regarding the effects of withdrawing from high school  
11          without graduating and certain available options;  
12          providing an effective date.

13  
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15  
16           Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section  
17           1003.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

18           1003.21 School attendance.—

19           (1)

20           (c) A student who has not graduated and who attains the age  
21           of 16 years during the school year is not subject to compulsory  
22           school attendance after ~~beyond~~ the date upon which he or she  
23           attains that age if the student files a formal declaration of  
24           intent to terminate school enrollment with the district school  
25           board. Such ~~Public school~~ students ~~who have attained the age of~~  
26           ~~16 years and who have not graduated~~ are subject to compulsory  
27           school attendance until the formal declaration of intent is  
28           filed with the district school board. The declaration must  
29           acknowledge that terminating school enrollment is likely to

33-00948-10

2010940\_\_

30 reduce the student's earning potential and must be signed by the  
31 student and the student's parent. The school district must  
32 notify the student's parent of receipt of the student's  
33 declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment. The  
34 student's guidance counselor or other school personnel must  
35 conduct an exit interview with the student to determine the  
36 reasons for the student's decision to terminate school  
37 enrollment and actions that could be taken to keep the student  
38 in school. The student must be informed of opportunities to  
39 continue his or her education in a different environment,  
40 including, but not limited to, adult education and GED test  
41 preparation. Additionally, the student must complete a survey in  
42 a format prescribed by the Department of Education to provide  
43 data on student reasons for terminating enrollment and actions  
44 taken by schools to keep students enrolled. The school must also  
45 assign a counselor or other school personnel to the student who  
46 shall serve as a resource for educational information until the  
47 student attains the age of 18.

48 Section 2. Present subsections (9) through (11) of section  
49 1003.428, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (10)  
50 through (12), respectively, and a new subsection (9) is added to  
51 that section, to read:

52 1003.428 General requirements for high school graduation;  
53 revised.—

54 (9) Each student who is in the second semester of the 9th  
55 grade and any student who is withdrawing from school without  
56 graduating or transferring to another school must receive  
57 detailed instruction concerning:

58 (a) The value of a high school education, both financially

33-00948-10

2010940\_\_

59 and culturally;

60 (b) Alternative assessments, such as the SAT and the ACT,  
61 the scores of which could help the student obtain a high school  
62 diploma; and

63 (c) Available options for secondary and postsecondary  
64 education, including, but not limited to, secondary career and  
65 professional academy opportunities, workforce training, and  
66 enrolling in a community college or university, and the  
67 prerequisites to each, with or without a diploma.

68 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.