

By Senator Dean

3-01482A-11

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the alternative high school course
3 credit pilot project; amending s. 1002.375, F.S.;
4 revising the pilot project to include up to five
5 school districts beginning in the 2012-2013 school
6 year; conforming dates for implementation; providing
7 additional courses for which alternative credit may be
8 earned and end-of-course assessments approved;
9 providing an effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. Subsections (1), (2), and (4) of section
14 1002.375, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

15 1002.375 Alternative credit for high school courses; pilot
16 project.—

17 (1) The Commissioner of Education shall implement a pilot
18 project in up to five ~~three~~ school districts beginning in the
19 2012-2013 ~~2008-2009~~ school year which allows school districts to
20 award alternative course credit for students enrolled in
21 nationally or state-recognized industry certification programs,
22 as defined by the Agency for Workforce Innovation in accordance
23 with the criteria described in s. 1003.492(2). The Commissioner
24 of Education shall establish criteria for districts that
25 participate in the pilot program. School districts interested in
26 participating in the program must submit a letter of interest by
27 January 1, 2012 ~~July 15, 2008~~, to the Commissioner of Education
28 identifying up to five nationally or state-recognized industry
29 certification programs, as defined by the Agency for Workforce

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30 Innovation in accordance with the criteria described in s.
31 1003.492(2), under which the district would like to award
32 alternative credit for the eligible courses identified in
33 subsection (2). The Commissioner of Education shall select up to
34 five ~~three~~ participating school districts by March 1, 2012 ~~July~~
35 ~~30, 2008~~. The Commissioner of Education shall submit a report to
36 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
37 the House of Representatives identifying the number of students
38 choosing to earn alternative credit, the number of students that
39 received alternative credit, and legislative recommendations for
40 expanding the use of alternative credit for core academic
41 courses required for high school graduation. The report shall be
42 submitted by July 1, 2014 ~~January 1, 2010~~.

43 (2) For purposes of designing and implementing a successful
44 pilot project, eligible alternative credit courses include
45 Algebra I-A ~~1a~~, Algebra I-B ~~1b~~, Algebra I ~~1~~, Algebra II,
46 Geometry, and Biology, Anatomy, and Physiology. Alternative
47 credits shall be awarded for courses in which a student is not
48 enrolled, but for which the student may earn academic credit by
49 enrolling in another course or sequence of courses required to
50 earn a nationally or state-recognized industry certificate, as
51 defined by the Agency for Workforce Innovation in accordance
52 with the criteria described in s. 1003.492(2), of which the
53 majority of the standards-based content in the course
54 description is consistent with the alternative credit course
55 description approved by the Department of Education.

56 (4) The Department of Education may approve a course as an
57 alternative credit course pursuant to this section. In order to
58 earn credit, each participating student must pass an end-of-

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59 course assessment that measures proficiency in the Next
60 Generation Sunshine State Standards addressed by the course. The
61 Department of Education shall approve each end-of-course
62 assessment and the minimum passing score for each assessment.
63 Approved assessments shall be limited to assessments for Algebra
64 I-A 1a, Algebra I-B 1b, Algebra I 1, Algebra II, Geometry, and
65 Biology, Anatomy, and Physiology developed by the Florida
66 Virtual School, or end-of-course statewide standardized
67 assessments for these courses which may be adopted or developed
68 by the department. The department shall approve the method of
69 administering end-of-course assessments for alternative credit
70 courses in each participating school district in order to ensure
71 the validity of the assessment results.

72 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.