

HB 4155

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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the College-Level Academic Skills Test;
 3 amending s. 1007.25, F.S.; deleting provisions relating to
 4 the College-Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST) and
 5 authorized examinations that demonstrate mastery of
 6 certain academic competencies; amending ss. 467.009,
 7 1004.04, 1008.30, 1008.38, and 1012.56, F.S.; deleting
 8 provisions relating to the CLAST; providing an effective
 9 date.

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

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13 Section 1. Subsection (12) of section 1007.25, Florida
 14 Statutes, is amended to read:

15 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;
 16 and other degree requirements.—

17 ~~(12) (a) A public postsecondary educational institution may~~
 18 ~~not confer an associate in arts or baccalaureate degree upon any~~
 19 ~~student who fails to successfully complete one of the following~~
 20 ~~requirements:~~

21 ~~1. Achieve a score that meets or exceeds a minimum score~~
 22 ~~on a nationally standardized examination, as established by the~~
 23 ~~State Board of Education in conjunction with the Board of~~
 24 ~~Governors; or~~

25 ~~2. Demonstrate successful remediation of any academic~~
 26 ~~deficiencies and achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.5~~
 27 ~~or above, on a 4.0 scale, in postsecondary-level coursework~~
 28 ~~identified by the State Board of Education in conjunction with~~

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29 ~~the Board of Governors. The Department of Education shall~~
30 ~~specify the means by which a student may demonstrate successful~~
31 ~~remediation.~~

32 ~~(b) Any student who, in the best professional opinion of~~
33 ~~the postsecondary educational institution, has a specific~~
34 ~~learning disability such that the student cannot demonstrate~~
35 ~~successful mastery of one or more of the authorized examinations~~
36 ~~but is achieving at the college level in every area despite his~~
37 ~~or her disability, and whose diagnosis indicates that further~~
38 ~~remediation will not succeed in overcoming the disability, may~~
39 ~~appeal through the appropriate dean to a committee appointed by~~
40 ~~the president or the chief academic officer for special~~
41 ~~consideration. The committee shall examine the evidence of the~~
42 ~~student's academic and medical records and may hear testimony~~
43 ~~relevant to the case. The committee may grant a waiver for one~~
44 ~~or more of the authorized examinations based on the results of~~
45 ~~its review.~~

46 ~~(c) Each public postsecondary educational institution~~
47 ~~president shall establish a committee to consider requests for~~
48 ~~waivers from the requirements in paragraph (a). The committee~~
49 ~~shall be chaired by the chief academic officer of the~~
50 ~~institution and shall have four additional members appointed by~~
51 ~~the president as follows:~~

- 52 ~~1. One faculty member from the mathematics department;~~
- 53 ~~2. One faculty member from the English department;~~
- 54 ~~3. The institutional test administrator; and~~
- 55 ~~4. One faculty member from a department other than English~~
56 ~~or mathematics.~~

57 ~~(d) Any student who has taken the authorized examinations~~
 58 ~~and has not achieved a passing score, but has otherwise~~
 59 ~~demonstrated proficiency in coursework in the same subject area,~~
 60 ~~may request a waiver from the examination requirement. Waivers~~
 61 ~~shall be considered only after students have been provided test~~
 62 ~~accommodations or other administrative adjustments to permit the~~
 63 ~~accurate measurement of the student's proficiency in the subject~~
 64 ~~areas measured by the authorized examinations. The committee~~
 65 ~~shall consider the student's educational records and other~~
 66 ~~evidence as to whether the student should be able to pass the~~
 67 ~~authorized examinations. A waiver may be recommended to the~~
 68 ~~president upon a majority vote of the committee. The president~~
 69 ~~may approve or disapprove the recommendation. The president may~~
 70 ~~not approve a request that the committee has disapproved. If a~~
 71 ~~waiver is approved, the student's transcript shall include a~~
 72 ~~statement that the student did not meet the requirements of this~~
 73 ~~subsection and that a waiver was granted.~~

74 Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 467.009, Florida
 75 Statutes, is amended to read:

76 467.009 Midwifery programs; education and training
 77 requirements.—

78 (3) To be accepted into an approved midwifery program an
 79 applicant shall have:

80 (a) A high school diploma or its equivalent.

81 (b) ~~Passed the college level academic scholastic test~~
 82 ~~(CLAST) or~~ Taken three college-level credits each of math and
 83 English or demonstrated competencies in communication and
 84 computation.

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85 Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section
86 1004.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

87 1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for
88 teacher preparation programs.—

89 (4) INITIAL STATE PROGRAM APPROVAL.—

90 (b) Each teacher preparation program approved by the
91 Department of Education, as provided for by this section, shall
92 require students to meet the following as prerequisites for
93 admission into the program:

94 1. Have a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0
95 scale for the general education component of undergraduate
96 studies or have completed the requirements for a baccalaureate
97 degree with a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
98 from any college or university accredited by a regional
99 accrediting association as defined by State Board of Education
100 rule or any college or university otherwise approved pursuant to
101 State Board of Education rule.

102 2. Demonstrate mastery of general knowledge, including the
103 ability to read, write, and compute, by passing the General
104 Knowledge Test of the Florida Teacher Certification Examination,
105 ~~the College Level Academic Skills Test,~~ a corresponding
106 component of the National Teachers Examination series, or a
107 similar test pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education.

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109 Each teacher preparation program may waive these admissions
110 requirements for up to 10 percent of the students admitted.
111 Programs shall implement strategies to ensure that students
112 admitted under a waiver receive assistance to demonstrate

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113 | competencies to successfully meet requirements for
 114 | certification.

115 | Section 4. Subsection (2) of section 1008.30, Florida
 116 | Statutes, is amended to read:

117 | 1008.30 Common placement testing for public postsecondary
 118 | education.—

119 | (2) The common placement testing program shall include at
 120 | a minimum the following: the capacity to diagnose basic
 121 | competencies in the areas of English, reading, and mathematics
 122 | which are essential to perform college-level work; prerequisite
 123 | skills that relate to progressively advanced instruction in
 124 | mathematics, such as algebra and geometry; prerequisite skills
 125 | that relate to progressively advanced instruction in language
 126 | arts, such as English composition and literature; ~~prerequisite~~
 127 | ~~skills which relate to the College Level Academic Skills Test~~
 128 | ~~(CLAST);~~ and provision of test information to students on the
 129 | specific deficiencies.

130 | Section 5. Subsection (6) of section 1008.38, Florida
 131 | Statutes, is amended to read:

132 | 1008.38 Articulation accountability process.—The State
 133 | Board of Education, in conjunction with the Board of Governors,
 134 | shall develop articulation accountability measures which assess
 135 | the status of systemwide articulation processes authorized under
 136 | s. 1007.23 and establish an articulation accountability process
 137 | which at a minimum shall address:

138 | ~~(6) The relationship between the College Level Academic~~
 139 | ~~Skills Test Program and articulation to the upper division in~~
 140 | ~~public postsecondary institutions.~~

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141 Section 6. Subsection (3) of section 1012.56, Florida
 142 Statutes, is amended to read:

143 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

144 (3) MASTERY OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE.—Acceptable means of
 145 demonstrating mastery of general knowledge are:

146 (a) Achievement of passing scores on basic skills
 147 examination required by state board rule;

148 ~~(b) Achievement of passing scores on the College Level
 149 Academic Skills Test earned prior to July 1, 2002;~~

150 (b)(e) A valid professional standard teaching certificate
 151 issued by another state;

152 (c)(d) A valid certificate issued by the National Board
 153 for Professional Teaching Standards or a national educator
 154 credentialing board approved by the State Board of Education; or

155 (d)(e) Documentation of two semesters of successful
 156 teaching in a community college, state university, or private
 157 college or university that awards an associate or higher degree
 158 and is an accredited institution or an institution of higher
 159 education identified by the Department of Education as having a
 160 quality program.

161 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.