

By Senator Oelrich

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to high school diploma options;
3 requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and
4 Government Accountability, in conjunction with the
5 Department of Education, to conduct a study on the
6 creation of a high school graduation option that
7 focuses on career-technical education and leads to a
8 career-technical education diploma; providing
9 requirements for the study with recommendations to the
10 Legislature; providing an effective date.

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

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14 Section 1. (1) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and
15 Government Accountability, in conjunction with the Department of
16 Education, shall conduct a study on the creation of a 4-year
17 high school graduation option that focuses on career-technical
18 education with less rigorous graduation requirements than the
19 requirements currently in law. The study shall include, but is
20 not limited to:

21 (a) The feasibility of offering students the option of
22 pursuing a career-technical education diploma, distinct from the
23 standard high school diploma, which provides workforce readiness
24 and requires at a minimum that a student earn at least one
25 national industry certification identified in the Industry
26 Certification Funding List.

27 (b) Required coursework to earn a career-technical
28 education diploma, including the possibility of changing between
29 the coursework required to earn the standard high school diploma

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30 and the coursework required to earn a career-technical education
31 diploma.

32 (c) The potential use of career and professional academies,
33 internships, the Florida Ready to Work Certification Program,
34 and other relevant career and technical education programs.

35 (d) A timeframe for implementation of a career-technical
36 education graduation option and diploma if determined to be
37 feasible.

38 (2) The study shall build upon the information and findings
39 reported in the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
40 Accountability Report No. 11-05.

41 (3) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
42 Accountability shall submit the results of its study with
43 recommendations to the President of the Senate and the Speaker
44 of the House of Representatives by December 1, 2012.

45 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.