

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 4195 Adult General Education

SPONSOR(S): Grant

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) K-20 Innovation Subcommittee	13 Y, 0 N, As CS	Graf	Sherry
2) Education Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill repeals a requirement that the adult general education program provide academic services to students who enroll in courses related to students' recreational and leisurely pursuits.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2012.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Adult General Education

Adult general education is defined as “comprehensive instructional programs designed to improve the employability of the state’s workforce through adult basic education (ABE), adult secondary education (ASE), English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), vocational-preparatory instruction, and instruction for adults with disabilities.”¹

Current law encourages each district school board and Florida College System institution to provide educational services to enable adults to acquire a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma and basic and functional literacy so that such adults become more employable, productive, and self-sufficient citizens. In order for adults to acquire the specified skills, the adult education program must provide academic services² to students enrolled in the program in the following order of priority:

- (a) Students who demonstrate skills at less than a fifth grade level.
- (b) Students who demonstrate skills at the fifth grade level or higher, but below the ninth grade level.
- (c) Students who are earning credit required for a high school diploma or who are preparing for the General Education Development (GED) test.
- (d) Students who have earned high school diploma and require specific improvement.
- (e) Students who enroll in lifelong learning courses.
- (f) Students who enroll in courses related to the recreational and leisurely pursuits.³

The Department of Education (DOE) is required to develop program standards and industry-driven benchmarks for career, adult, and community general education programs. These standards must be updated every three years. The standards must include career, academic, and workforce skills; viability of distance learning for instruction; and work/learn cycles that are responsive to business and industry.⁴ The State Board of Education has adopted standards for successful completion of the following adult general education programs: ABE, Adult High School (formerly called General Education Promotion), GED, ESOL, Applied Academics for Adult Education (formerly called Vocational Preparatory Instruction), and Adult General Education for Adults with Disabilities. Based on these standards, DOE has developed a curriculum framework for each of the specified adult general education programs.⁵

Funding

Funds for adult general education programs are included in the funds appropriated for workforce education programs.⁶ These funds are provided in the General Appropriations Act.⁷

¹ Section 1004.02(3), F.S.

² Academic services for adult general education program encompass all instruction specified in the statewide curriculum framework for each type of program, academic testing for progress [e.g., Test for Adult Basic Education (TABE) and General Assessment of Instructional Needs (GAIN)], and other career exploration and workforce readiness activities. E-mail, Florida Department of Education, Division of Career and Adult Education (Jan. 19, 2012); *see also* Rule 6A-6.014, F.A.C.

³ Section 1004.93(2), F.S.

⁴ Section 1004.92(2)(b)4., F.S.

⁵ E-mail, Florida Department of Education, Division of Career and Adult Education (Jan. 19, 2012); *see also* Rule 6A-6.0571, F.A.C.; Florida Department of Education, *2012-13 Adult Education Curriculum Frameworks*, http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/dwdframe/ad_frame.asp (last visited Jan. 20, 2012).

⁶ Section 1011.80(1)(a), F.S.

⁷ Sections 1 and 2, ch. 2011-69, L.O.F.

State funds are provided for the following adult general education programs: ABE, ASE, ESOL, vocational-preparatory instruction, and instruction for adults with disabilities. State funds not provided for instruction in lifelong learning courses.⁸ The cost of instruction in courses related to recreational and leisure pursuits and courses is supported by fees from students who enroll in those courses.⁹

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill repeals a requirement that the adult general education program provide academic services to students who enroll in courses related to students' recreational and leisurely pursuits. Courses related to recreational and leisurely pursuits are not included among the "comprehensive instructional programs [under adult general education] designed to improve the employability of the state's workforce."¹⁰ As a result, DOE has not developed standards and curriculum frameworks for such courses.¹¹ Additionally, courses related to recreational and leisurely pursuits are not supported by state funds.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 1004.93, F.S., relating to adult general education, repealing a requirement that the adult general education program provide academic services to students who enroll in courses related to students' recreational and leisurely pursuits.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2012.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

⁸ Telephone interview with staffs from the Florida Department of Education (Jan. 20, 2012); *see also* Florida Department of Education, Analysis of HB 331 (Oct. 20, 2011); s. 1011.84(3)(b)3., F.S.

⁹ Section 1004.93(2)(f), F.S.; *see also* s. 1011.84(3)(b)3., F.S.

¹⁰ Section 1004.02(3), F.S.

¹¹ Telephone interview with staffs from the Florida Department of Education (Jan. 20, 2012).

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable. The bill does not appear to affect county or municipal governments.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On January 24, 2012, the K-20 Innovation Subcommittee adopted one amendment and reported the bill favorably as a Committee Substitute. The amendment removed from repeal, a requirement that the adult general education program provide academic services to students who enroll in lifelong learning courses or activities.