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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
03/28/2013	.	
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The Committee on Appropriations (Bean) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Between lines 603 and 604
insert:

Section 9. Section 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school diploma.-

(1) TWENTY-FOUR CREDITS REQUIRED.-

(a) Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2013-
2014 school year, receipt of a standard high school diploma
requires successful completion of 24 credits, an International
Baccalaureate curriculum, or an Advanced International



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13 Certificate of Education curriculum.

14 (b) The required credits may be earned through equivalent,
15 applied, or integrated courses or career education courses as
16 defined in s. 1003.01(4), including work-related internships
17 approved by the State Board of Education and identified in the
18 Course Code Directory. However, any must-pass assessment
19 requirements must be met. An equivalent course is one or more
20 courses identified by content-area experts as being a match to
21 the core curricular content of another course, based upon review
22 of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for that
23 subject. An applied course aligns with Next Generation Sunshine
24 State Standards and includes real-world applications of a career
25 and technical education standard used in business or industry.
26 An integrated course includes content from several courses
27 within a content area or across content areas.

28 (2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—The school district shall
29 notify students and parents, in writing, of the requirements for
30 a standard high school diploma, available designations, and the
31 eligibility requirements for state scholarship programs and
32 postsecondary admissions. The Department of Education shall
33 directly and through the school districts notify registered
34 private schools of public high school course credit and
35 assessment requirements. Each private school must make this
36 information available to students and their parents so they are
37 aware of public high school graduation requirements. The
38 following credits, courses, and assessments are required for a
39 standard college and career high school diploma:

40 (a) Four credits in English Language Arts (ELA).

41 1. The four credits must be in ELA I, II, III, and IV.



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42 2. A student must pass 10th grade FCAT Reading until the
43 state transitions to a common core 10th grade ELA assessment
44 after which time a student must pass the ELA assessment in order
45 to earn a standard high school diploma.

46 (b) Four credits in mathematics.

47 1. A student must earn one credit in Algebra I and one
48 credit in geometry.

49 2. A student's performance on the Algebra I end-of-course
50 (EOC) assessment or common core assessment, as applicable,
51 constitutes 30 percent of the student's final course grade. A
52 student must pass the Algebra I EOC assessment until the state
53 transitions to a common core Algebra I assessment after which
54 time a student must pass the common core assessment in order to
55 earn a standard high school diploma. A student's performance on
56 the geometry EOC assessment or common core assessment, as
57 applicable, constitutes 30 percent of the student's final course
58 grade. When the state administers a common core Algebra II
59 assessment, a student selecting Algebra II must take the
60 assessment, and the student's performance on the assessment
61 constitutes 30 percent of the student's final course grade.

62 3. Industry certification courses that lead to college
63 credit may substitute for up to two math credits.

64 (c) Three credits in science.

65 1. Two of the three required credits must have a laboratory
66 component.

67 2. A student must earn one credit in Biology I and two
68 credits in equally rigorous courses. The Biology I EOC
69 assessment constitutes 30 percent of the student's final course
70 grade.



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71 3. Industry certification courses that lead to college
72 credit may substitute for up to one science credit.

73 (d) Three credits in social studies.

74 1. A student must earn one credit in United States history;
75 one credit in world history; one-half credit in economics, which
76 must include financial literacy; and one-half credit in United
77 States government.

78 2. The United States history EOC assessment constitutes 30
79 percent of the student's final course grade.

80 (e) One credit in fine or performing arts, speech and
81 debate, or practical arts.

82 1. The practical arts course must incorporate artistic
83 content and techniques of creativity, interpretation, and
84 imagination.

85 2. Eligible practical arts courses are identified in the
86 Course Code Directory.

87 (f) One credit in physical education. Physical education
88 must include the integration of health. This requirement is
89 subject to all of the provisions in s. 1003.428(2)(a)6.

90 (g) Eight credits in electives.

91 1. Each school district shall develop and offer coordinated
92 electives so that a student may develop knowledge and skills in
93 his or her area of interest, such as electives with a STEM or
94 liberal arts focus.

95 2. Such electives must include opportunities for students
96 to earn college credit, including industry-certified career
97 education programs or series of career-themed courses that
98 result in industry certification or articulate into the award of
99 college credit or career education courses for which there is a



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100 statewide or local articulation agreement and which lead to
101 college credit.

102 (3) ONLINE COURSE REQUIREMENT.—Excluding a driver education
103 course, at least one course within the 24 credits required under
104 this section must be completed through online learning. A school
105 district may not require a student to take the online course
106 outside the school day or in addition to a student's courses for
107 a given semester. An online course taken in grade 6, grade 7, or
108 grade 8 fulfills this requirement. This requirement is met
109 through an online course offered by the Florida Virtual School,
110 a virtual education provider approved by the State Board of
111 Education, a high school, or an online dual enrollment course. A
112 student who is enrolled in a full-time or part-time virtual
113 instruction program under s. 1002.45 meets this requirement.
114 This requirement does not apply to a student who has an
115 individual education plan under s. 1003.57 which indicates that
116 an online course would be inappropriate or to an out-of-state
117 transfer student who is enrolled in a Florida high school and
118 has 1 academic year or less remaining in high school.

119 (4) REMEDIATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.—

120 (a) Each year a student scores Level 1 or Level 2 on 9th
121 grade or 10th grade FCAT Reading or, when implemented, 9th
122 grade, 10th grade, or 11th grade common core English Language
123 Arts (ELA) assessments, the student must be enrolled in and
124 complete an intensive remedial course the following year or be
125 placed in a content area course that includes remediation of
126 skills not acquired by the student.

127 (b) Each year a student scores Level 1 or Level 2 on the
128 Algebra I EOC assessment, or upon transition to the common core



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129 Algebra I assessment, the student must be enrolled in and
130 complete an intensive remedial course the following year or be
131 placed in a content area course that includes remediation of
132 skills not acquired by the student.

133 (5) GRADE FORGIVENESS POLICY.—Each district school board
134 shall adopt policies designed to assist students in meeting
135 graduation requirements including grade forgiveness policies.
136 Forgiveness policies for required courses shall be limited to
137 replacing a grade of "D" or "F" with a grade of "C" or higher
138 earned subsequently in the same or a comparable course.
139 Forgiveness policies for elective courses shall be limited to
140 replacing a grade of "D" or "F" with a grade of "C" or higher
141 earned subsequently in another course. The only exception to
142 these forgiveness policies shall be made for a student in the
143 middle grades who takes a high school course for high school
144 credit and earns a grade of "C," "D," or "F." In such case, the
145 district forgiveness policy must allow the replacement of the
146 grade with a grade of "C" or higher earned subsequently in the
147 same or comparable course. In all cases of grade forgiveness,
148 only the new grade shall be used in the calculation of the
149 student's grade point average. Any course grade not replaced
150 according to a district school board forgiveness policy shall be
151 included in the calculation of the cumulative grade point
152 average required for graduation.

153 (6) AWARD OF A STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.—A student who
154 earns a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0
155 scale and meets the requirements of this section shall be
156 awarded a standard high school diploma in a form prescribed by
157 the State Board of Education. Notwithstanding any other law to



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158 the contrary, all students enrolled in high school as of the
159 2012-2013 school year who earned a passing grade in Biology I or
160 geometry before the 2013-2014 school year shall be awarded a
161 credit in that course if the student passed the course. The
162 student's performance on the EOC assessment is not required to
163 constitute 30 percent of the student's final course grade. A
164 student who fails to earn the required credits or achieve a 2.0
165 GPA shall be awarded a certificate of completion in a form
166 prescribed by the State Board of Education.

167 (7) UNIFORM TRANSFER OF HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS.—

168 (a) Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, if a student
169 transfers to a Florida public high school from out of country,
170 out of state, a private school, or a home education program and
171 the student's transcript shows a mathematics credit in a course
172 that requires passage of a statewide, standardized assessment in
173 order to earn a standard high school diploma, the student must
174 pass the assessment unless the student earned a comparative
175 score pursuant to s. 1008.22, passed a statewide assessment in
176 that subject administered by the transferring entity, or passed
177 the statewide assessment the transferring entity uses to satisfy
178 the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
179 (ESEA), 20 U.S.C. s. 6301 et seq. If a student's transcript
180 shows a credit in high school reading or English Language Arts
181 II or III, the student must take and pass grade 10 FCAT Reading
182 or earn a concordant score on the SAT or ACT as specified by
183 state board rule or, when the state transitions to common core
184 English Language Arts assessments, earn a passing score on the
185 English Language Arts assessment as required under the standard
186 high school diploma designation selected under this section.



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187 (b) Credits and grades earned and offered for acceptance by
188 a transferring student shall be based on official transcripts
189 and shall be accepted at face value subject to validation, as
190 provided by State Board of Education rule, if required by the
191 receiving school's accreditation.

192 (8) CAREER EDUCATION COURSES THAT SATISFY HIGH SCHOOL
193 CREDIT REQUIREMENTS.-

194 (a) Participation in career education courses engages
195 students in their high school education, increases academic
196 achievement, enhances employability, and increases postsecondary
197 success. By July 1, 2014, the department shall develop, for
198 approval by the State Board of Education, multiple, additional
199 career education courses or a series of courses that meet the
200 requirements set forth in s. 1003.493(2), (4), and (5) and this
201 subsection and allow students to earn credit in both the career
202 education course and courses required for high school graduation
203 under ss. 1003.428, 1003.4281, and 1003.4282.

204 1. The state board must determine if sufficient academic
205 standards are covered to warrant the award of academic credit.

206 2. Career education courses must include workforce and
207 digital literacy skills and the integration of required course
208 content with practical applications and designated rigorous
209 coursework that results in one or more industry certifications
210 or clearly articulated credit or advanced standing in a 2-year
211 or 4-year certificate or degree program, which may include high
212 school junior- and senior-year work-related internships or
213 apprenticeships. The department shall negotiate state licenses
214 for material and testing for industry certifications. The
215 instructional methodology used in these courses must be



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216 comprised of authentic projects, problems, and activities for
217 contextually learning the academics.

218 3. The state board shall identify an industry certification
219 or multiple certifications from the Industry Certification
220 Funding List or the Postsecondary Industry Certification Funding
221 List which demonstrate attainment of standards associated with
222 digital composition, word processing, and presentation skills,
223 and which satisfy at least one credit in English Language Arts
224 required to fulfill high school graduation requirements.

225 (b) Each school district may take the initiative to work
226 with local workforce boards, local business and industry
227 leaders, and postsecondary institutions to establish
228 partnerships for the purpose of creating career education
229 courses or a series of courses that meet the requirements set
230 forth in s. 1003.493(2), (4), and (5) which students can take to
231 earn required high school course credits. Emphasis should be
232 placed on online course work and digital literacy. School
233 districts shall submit their recommended career education
234 courses to the department for state board approval. School
235 district-recommended career education courses must meet the same
236 rigorous standards as department-developed career education
237 courses in order to be approved by the state board. School
238 districts participating in the development of rigorous career
239 education courses will be able to better address local workforce
240 needs and allow students the opportunity to acquire the
241 knowledge and skills that are needed not only for academic
242 advancement but also for employability purposes.

243 (c) Regional consortium service organizations established
244 pursuant to s. 1001.451 shall work with school districts, local



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245 workforce boards, postsecondary institutions, and local business
246 and industry leaders to create career education courses that
247 meet the requirements set forth in s. 1003.493(2), (4), and (5)
248 and this subsection which students may take to earn required
249 high school course credits. The regional consortium shall submit
250 course recommendations to the department, on behalf of the
251 consortium member districts, for state board approval. A strong
252 emphasis should be placed on online course work, digital
253 literacy, and workforce literacy as defined in s. 1004.02(27).
254 For purposes of providing students the opportunity to earn
255 industry certifications, consortiums must secure the necessary
256 site licenses and testing contracts for use by member districts.

257 (9) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
258 to implement this section.

259
260 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

261 And the title is amended as follows:

262 Delete line 56

263 and insert:

264 high school graduation; creating s. 1003.4282, F.S.;

265 providing requirements for a standard high school

266 diploma; establishing a 24-credit requirement;

267 providing course and assessment requirements;

268 providing requirements relating to online courses,

269 remediation, grade forgiveness, award of a standard

270 high school diploma, transfer of high school credits,

271 and career education courses that earn high school

272 credits; requiring the State Board of Education to

273 adopt rules; amending s. 1003.429, F.S.;