

By Senator Brandes

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to school curriculum; providing a  
3           definition; creating a pilot project for students to  
4           earn micro-credits for participating in certain  
5           activities; requiring the Department of Education to  
6           administer a pilot project in a school district of its  
7           choice and to adopt rules regarding the activities for  
8           which students can earn micro-credits; establishing  
9           minimum requirements; requiring the department, the  
10          State Board of Education, and the Board of Governors  
11          of the State University System to study the potential  
12          of alternative credit hours at the postsecondary level  
13          and release their respective findings by a certain  
14          date; providing an effective date.

15  
16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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18           Section 1. Micro-credits pilot project.-

19           (1) As used in this section, the term "micro-credit" means  
20 a fraction of a traditional course credit hour which is earned  
21 through activities or experiences that culminate in educational  
22 gain comparable to the amount that would be achieved in a  
23 traditional classroom setting. Such activities include, but are  
24 not limited to, self-directed study, reading, attending  
25 seminars, viewing documentaries, and other life experiences.  
26 Micro-credits are accumulated and, upon reaching a specified  
27 number of micro-credits, total one traditional course credit  
28 hour.

29           (2) (a) The Department of Education shall determine a school

22-00574A-13

2013968

30 district within which a micro-credit pilot project is to be  
31 administered for 2 years beginning July 1, 2014, unless  
32 otherwise approved by the Legislature. The department shall  
33 establish rules governing the issuance of micro-credits by the  
34 school district.

35 (b) The district shall determine, based on rules adopted by  
36 the department, the micro-credit activities that will be  
37 accepted within the school district and shall make publicly  
38 available a catalog of the activities and their micro-credit  
39 value, as well as the micro-credits required to achieve a  
40 traditional credit hour.

41 (c) The pilot project must, at a minimum, provide for the  
42 following:

43 1. Testing of the various types of activities to determine  
44 educational gain by an assessment of at least 10 questions but  
45 not more than 30 questions per micro-credit.

46 2. A diverse range of activities for micro-credit gain  
47 within each subject field.

48 3. Various activities for micro-credit gain within each  
49 subject field to provide maximum options for a student.

50 4. A student-oriented format to maximize student  
51 independence and flexibility.

52 (d) The pilot project may:

53 1. Incorporate public libraries, existing school  
54 facilities, or institutions of higher learning.

55 2. Allow for students participating in the pilot project to  
56 acquire micro-credits at any time within or outside the academic  
57 year.

58 3. Develop an articulation model to transition micro-

22-00574A-13

2013968

59 credits into traditional credits within the district schools.

60 (3) The Department of Education, the State Board of  
61 Education, and the Board of Governors of the State University  
62 System shall study the potential of implementing a micro-credit  
63 system statewide, including the option of micro-credits for  
64 enrolled postsecondary education students or accepting micro-  
65 credits from high school students who apply for admission. By  
66 July 1, 2015, the department and boards shall assess the  
67 progress made in the pilot project, release their respective  
68 findings, and produce model legislation for the implementation  
69 of a micro-credit system statewide.

70 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.