

By Senator Montford

3-01149A-14

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to agricultural industry  
3       certifications; amending s. 570.07, F.S.; requiring  
4       the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to  
5       annually provide to the State Board of Education and  
6       the Department of Education information and industry  
7       certifications for farm occupations to be placed on  
8       industry certification funding lists; amending s.  
9       1003.492, F.S.; defining industry certification as  
10      part of career education programs; requiring the state  
11      board to adopt rules for implementing an industry  
12      certification process for farm occupations; requiring  
13      placement on funding lists to determine annual funding  
14      distributions to school districts and postsecondary  
15      institutions; amending s. 1003.4935, F.S.; conforming  
16      a cross-reference; providing an effective date.

17  
18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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20       Section 1. Subsection (43) is added to section 570.07,  
21 Florida Statutes, to read:

22       570.07 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services;  
23 functions, powers, and duties.—The department shall have and  
24 exercise the following functions, powers, and duties:

25       (43) In cooperation with the Institute of Food and  
26 Agricultural Sciences of the University of Florida, Florida  
27 Agricultural and Mechanical University, secondary schools, and  
28 other appropriate agencies, to annually provide to the State  
29 Board of Education and the Department of Education information

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30 and industry certifications for farm occupations to be placed on  
31 the Industry Certification Funding List and the Postsecondary  
32 Industry Certification Funding List pursuant to s. 1008.44. The  
33 information and industry certifications provided by the  
34 department must be based upon the best available data. In  
35 determining the best available data, the department may consult  
36 with the agricultural industry, the Institute of Food and  
37 Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida, Florida  
38 Agricultural and Mechanical University, secondary schools, and  
39 other appropriate agencies.

40 Section 2. Section 1003.492, Florida Statutes, is amended  
41 to read:

42 1003.492 Industry-certified career education programs.—

43 (1) Secondary schools offering career-themed courses, as  
44 defined in s. 1003.493(1)(b), and career and professional  
45 academies shall be coordinated with the relevant and appropriate  
46 industry to prepare a student for further education or for  
47 employment in that industry.

48 (2) As used in this section, the term "industry  
49 certification" means a voluntary process through which students  
50 are assessed by an independent, third-party certifying entity  
51 using predetermined standards for knowledge, skills, and  
52 competencies, and resulting in the award of a time-limited  
53 credential that is nationally recognized and applicable to an  
54 occupation that is included in the workforce system's targeted  
55 occupation list or determined to be an occupation that is  
56 critical or emerging or addresses a local need.

57 (3)~~(2)~~ The State Board of Education shall use the expertise  
58 of Workforce Florida, Inc., to develop and adopt rules pursuant

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59 to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 for implementing an industry  
60 certification process for nonfarm occupations. Industry  
61 certification shall be ~~defined by the Department of Economic~~  
62 ~~Opportunity~~, based upon the highest available national standards  
63 for specific industry certification, to ensure student skill  
64 proficiency and to address emerging labor market and industry  
65 trends. A regional workforce board or a school principal may  
66 apply to Workforce Florida, Inc., to request additions to the  
67 approved list of industry certifications based on high-skill,  
68 high-wage, and high-demand job requirements in the regional  
69 economy. The list of industry certifications approved by  
70 Workforce Florida, Inc., and the Department of Education shall  
71 be published and updated annually by a date certain, to be  
72 included in the adopted rule.

73 (4) The Legislature finds that the agricultural industry is  
74 critical to the state's economy and declares that industry  
75 certification for farm occupations is critical, addresses a  
76 local need, and is required for job growth. The State Board of  
77 Education shall use the expertise of the Department of  
78 Agriculture and Consumer Services to develop and adopt rules by  
79 July 1, 2015, pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 for  
80 implementing an industry certification process for farm  
81 occupations. Industry certifications for farm occupations  
82 meeting the rules adopted by the State Board of Education shall  
83 annually be placed on the Industry Certification Funding List  
84 and the Postsecondary Industry Certification Funding List  
85 pursuant to s. 1008.44.

86 (5)~~(3)~~ The Department of Education shall collect student  
87 achievement and performance data in industry-certified career

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88 education programs and career-themed courses and shall work with  
89 Workforce Florida, Inc., and the Department of Agriculture and  
90 Consumer Services in the analysis of collected data. The data  
91 collection and analyses shall examine the performance of  
92 participating students over time. Performance factors shall  
93 include, but not be limited to, graduation rates, retention  
94 rates, Florida Bright Futures Scholarship awards, additional  
95 educational attainment, employment records, earnings, industry  
96 certification, and employer satisfaction. The results of this  
97 study shall be submitted to the President of the Senate and the  
98 Speaker of the House of Representatives annually by December 31.

99 Section 3. Subsection (3) of section 1003.4935, Florida  
100 Statutes, is amended to read:

101 1003.4935 Middle grades career and professional academy  
102 courses and career-themed courses.—

103 (3) Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, if a school  
104 district implements a middle school career and professional  
105 academy or a career-themed course, the Department of Education  
106 shall collect and report student achievement data pursuant to  
107 performance factors identified under s. 1003.492(5) ~~s.~~  
108 ~~1003.492(3)~~ for students enrolled in an academy or a career-  
109 themed course.

110 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.