

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 considered
 8 for placement on industry certification funding lists;
 9 amending s. 1003.492, F.S.; defining industry
 10 certification as part of career education programs;
 11 requiring the state board to adopt rules for
 12 implementing an industry certification process for
 13 farm occupations; amending s. 1003.4935, F.S.;
 14 conforming a cross-reference; providing an effective
 15 date.

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

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

21 570.07 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services;
 22 functions, powers, and duties.—The department shall have and
 23 exercise the following functions, powers, and duties:

24 (43) In cooperation with the Institute of Food and
 25 Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida and the
 26 College of Agriculture and Food Sciences at the Florida

27 Agricultural and Mechanical University, to annually provide to
28 the State Board of Education and the Department of Education
29 information and industry certifications for farm occupations to
30 be considered for placement on the Industry Certification
31 Funding List and the Postsecondary Industry Certification
32 Funding List pursuant to s. 1008.44. Information and industry
33 certifications provided by the department must be based upon the
34 best available data.

35 Section 2. Section 1003.492, Florida Statutes, is amended
36 to read:

37 1003.492 Industry-certified career education programs.—

38 (1) Secondary schools offering career-themed courses, as
39 defined in s. 1003.493(1)(b), and career and professional
40 academies shall be coordinated with the relevant and appropriate
41 industry to prepare a student for further education or for
42 employment in that industry.

43 (2) Industry certification as used in this section is a
44 voluntary process through which students are assessed by an
45 independent, third-party certifying entity using predetermined
46 standards for knowledge, skills, and competencies, resulting in
47 the award of a time-limited credential that is nationally
48 recognized and must be at least one of the following:

49 (a) Within an industry that addresses a critical local or
50 statewide economic need;

51 (b) Linked to an occupation that is included in the
52 workforce system's targeted occupation list; or

53 (c) Linked to an occupation that is identified as
54 emerging.

55 (3)~~(2)~~ The State Board of Education shall use the
56 expertise of Workforce Florida, Inc., and the Department of
57 Agriculture and Consumer Services to develop and adopt rules
58 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 for implementing an
59 industry certification process.

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

72 (b) For farm occupations submitted pursuant to s. 570.07,
73 industry certification shall demonstrate student skill
74 proficiency and be based upon the best available data to address
75 critical local or statewide economic needs.

76 (4) The list of industry certifications approved by
77 Workforce Florida, Inc., the Department of Agriculture and
78 Consumer Services, and the Department of Education shall be

79 published and updated annually by a date certain, to be included
 80 in the adopted rule.

81 (5)~~(3)~~ The Department of Education shall collect student
 82 achievement and performance data in industry-certified career
 83 education programs and career-themed courses and shall work with
 84 Workforce Florida, Inc., and the Department of Agriculture and
 85 Consumer Services in the analysis of collected data. The data
 86 collection and analyses shall examine the performance of
 87 participating students over time. Performance factors shall
 88 include, but not be limited to, graduation rates, retention
 89 rates, Florida Bright Futures Scholarship awards, additional
 90 educational attainment, employment records, earnings, industry
 91 certification, and employer satisfaction. The results of this
 92 study shall be submitted to the President of the Senate and the
 93 Speaker of the House of Representatives annually by December 31.

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

96 1003.4935 Middle grades career and professional academy
 97 courses and career-themed courses.—

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

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