

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 credential that is nationally recognized and must  
 48 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.