

By Senator Diaz

36-01423-19

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to enhancing Florida's workforce;  
3       creating s. 1009.551, F.S.; creating the Florida  
4       Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program within  
5       the Department of Education; providing the purpose of  
6       the program; providing legislative intent; providing  
7       requirements for the program; providing requirements  
8       for grant applications for the program; requiring the  
9       Commissioner of Education to establish an application  
10      process for the program; providing that proposals for  
11      grants be funded competitively; authorizing school  
12      districts, charter schools, and Florida College System  
13      institutions to apply for grants under the program;  
14      providing for eligibility requirements; providing that  
15      priority for grants be given to proposals that meet  
16      specified criteria; requiring the commissioner to  
17      annually report certain information to the Governor  
18      and the Legislature by a specified date; requiring the  
19      State Board of Education to adopt rules; amending s.  
20      1003.4282, F.S.; authorizing students who earn one  
21      credit in a computer science course to substitute the  
22      credit for one science credit to fulfill standard high  
23      school diploma requirements; providing an exception;  
24      providing an effective date.

25  
26 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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28       Section 1. Section 1009.551, Florida Statutes, is created  
29      to read:

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30       1009.551 The Florida Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant  
31 Program.-

32       (1) The Florida Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant  
33 Program is created within the Department of Education. The  
34 purpose of the program is to enable high schools and Florida  
35 College System institutions to offer applied learning  
36 opportunities for students in high-demand career pathways linked  
37 to occupations that will provide students with middle-level and  
38 high-level wages.

39       (2) The Legislature intends for the competitive grant fund  
40 to be established to provide individual grants statewide to  
41 serve students in grades 9-12 and students within the first 60  
42 hours of college coursework who enter a career pathway that  
43 enables them to master the skills they need to graduate with a  
44 career certificate or a 2-year technical degree to secure an  
45 entry-level position in an industry.

46       (3) Selected institutions must provide students with an  
47 opportunity to earn industry certifications, 60 hours of college  
48 credit, or an associate of arts degree by the time they graduate  
49 from high school, and the opportunity to gain valuable work  
50 experience through internships, externships, apprenticeships, or  
51 other job training programs. The grants must be used to enroll  
52 students in work-based education programs that lead to career  
53 opportunities in high-demand fields.

54       (4) Each grant application must include the expertise of  
55 public institutions and the participation of one secondary  
56 partner and one or more postsecondary and industry partners.

57       (5) The commissioner shall establish an application process  
58 for allocated grants under the program.

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59 (a) Proposals for the grant must be funded competitively.

60 (b) School districts, charter schools, and Florida College  
61 System institutions may apply for grant funding under this  
62 section. As a condition of the grant, applicants must agree to  
63 timely provide the information described in subsection (8) to  
64 the commissioner.

65 (6) To be eligible for a grant under the program, proposals  
66 must:

67 (a) Give students opportunities to earn the following:

68 1. Industry certifications, associate degrees,  
69 postsecondary certificates, or college credit aligned to high-  
70 demand workforce needs of the state, region, or local area and  
71 linked to occupations that provide a middle wage or high wage  
72 within 6 years; and

73 2. Applied learning experiences through internships,  
74 externships, apprenticeships, or other job training programs;

75 (b) Provide students with mentorship or career counseling  
76 informed by labor market demand;

77 (c) Provide industry and employer partner memoranda of  
78 understanding to ensure the program is aligned to in-demand  
79 skills and which show the nature of the industry and employer  
80 partnership;

81 (d) Identify how the proposal will address opportunities  
82 for underrepresented students such as minority, low-income, or  
83 rural students, or girls in computer science courses;

84 (e) Identify how the school district, charter school, or  
85 Florida College System institution will use the grant funding  
86 and leverage other available funds to provide continued support  
87 for the program;

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88 (f) Provide the training and academic preparation at no  
89 cost to students; and

90 (g) Identify the postsecondary partners to ensure  
91 appropriate articulation and dual enrollment opportunities and  
92 provide memoranda of understanding that show the nature of the  
93 postsecondary partnership.

94 (7) Priority for grants must be given to proposals that  
95 increase opportunities for underrepresented students such as  
96 minority, low-income, or rural students, or girls in computer  
97 science courses.

98 (8) The commissioner shall report by December 1 of each  
99 year to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
100 Speaker of the House of Representatives the following:

101 (a) The number of participating students and their  
102 outcomes, including the following:

103 1. Academic achievement;

104 2. Attainment of industry certifications, associate  
105 degrees, or college credit;

106 3. Applied learning experiences of the participating  
107 students;

108 4. Postsecondary enrollment, or continued enrollment at a  
109 postsecondary institution, following completion of the program,  
110 if applicable;

111 5. Employment outcomes and wages, if applicable; and

112 6. Non-completion rate;

113 (b) Demographics of participating students and their  
114 outcomes as described in paragraph (a); and

115 (c) Identification of high-demand career pathways linked to  
116 occupations that provide students with middle-level and high-

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117 level wages as reflected by labor market demand.

118 (9) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
119 implement this section.

120 Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section  
121 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

122 1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school diploma.—

123 (3) STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; COURSE AND ASSESSMENT  
124 REQUIREMENTS.—

125 (c) *Three credits in science.*—Two of the three required  
126 credits must have a laboratory component. A student must earn  
127 one credit in Biology I and two credits in equally rigorous  
128 courses. The statewide, standardized Biology I EOC assessment  
129 constitutes 30 percent of the student's final course grade. A  
130 student who earns an industry certification for which there is a  
131 statewide college credit articulation agreement approved by the  
132 State Board of Education may substitute the certification for  
133 one science credit, except for Biology I. A student who earns  
134 one credit in a computer science course identified under s.  
135 1007.2616, may substitute the credit for one science credit,  
136 except for Biology I.

137 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.