

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 459 Education

SPONSOR(S): Giallombardo and others

TIED BILLS: None **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1654

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee	13 Y, 0 N	McDaniel	Kiner
2) Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee			
3) Education & Employment Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Computer science, including computer coding and programming, is defined by Florida law as "the study of computers and algorithmic processes, including their principles, hardware and software designs, applications, and societal impact." Problem solving, such as computational thinking, understanding and recognizing patterns, understanding and implementing sequencing, and understanding representation, or how computers represent data, are all foundational skills for computer science learning.

At the secondary level, all Florida College System (FCS) institutions and state university systems (SUS) require two credits of sequential foreign language instruction. A student must complete two consecutive years of a foreign language course in order to be eligible for the Florida Bright Futures Program.

The bill requires high schools to provide computer science courses with enough rigor that two credits in such courses and attainment of a related industry certification or technical certificate are equivalent to two credits of sequential foreign language instruction. The bill requires FCS and SUS institutions to recognize these credits as foreign language credits. The Commissioner's designated computer science courses, as well as computer science courses taken toward earning the relevant industry certification or technical certificate, must be included in the Course Code Directory.

The bill requires the Department of Education to include in the Bright Futures advertisement notification sent to students, teachers, school leaders, parents, and certified school counselors a list of approved apprenticeship programs, eligible postsecondary educational institutions, high-demand jobs and critical skill sets in the state, and a wage breakdown of jobs in the state. Beginning with the student's first year of high school, this notification must be sent.

The bill makes specific industry and career certificate pathway options, as well as designated apprenticeship programs, eligible for a Florida Bright Futures student award in the 2023-24 academic year and thereafter.

The bill contains clarifying language that converts semester credit hours to equivalent clock hours for award eligibility purposes. In addition, the bill provides retroactive authority for students to combine volunteer service and paid work to meet the volunteer service or paid work requirement. Eligible paid work completed on or after June 27, 2022 must be counted toward a student's total required paid work hours.

The bill has an indeterminate fiscal impact. See Fiscal Comments.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2023.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Computer Science Courses and Instruction

Florida law defines computer science as “the study of computers and algorithmic processes, including their principles, hardware and software designs, applications, and their impact on society.”¹ Computer science also includes computer coding and computer programming.

Foundational skills for computer science learning include problem solving, such as computational thinking, understanding and recognizing patterns, understanding and implementing sequencing, and understanding representation, meaning how computers represent data.² One application of these skills is computational thinking, which refers to the thought processes involved in expressing solutions as computational steps or algorithms that can be carried out by a computer.³ Essentially, it is a problem-solving process that designs solutions that capitalize on the power of computers.⁴ Although typically associated with computer science, computational thinking can be applied in the classroom setting through lessons in core subject areas. For example, in English language arts, students may be asked to analyze simple sentences and determine a framework for generating similar sentences, using pattern recognition and problem solving skills.⁵

Public schools are required to provide students in grades K-12 opportunities for learning computer science including computer coding and computer programming.⁶ Such opportunities may include:⁷

- instruction on computer coding in elementary and middle school;
- instruction to develop computer usage and digital literacy skills in middle school; and
- courses in computer science, computer coding, and computer programming in high school, including opportunities to earn industry certifications related to the courses.

Computer science courses must be offered to students in high school and middle school.⁸ The Florida Virtual School (FLVS) must offer computer science courses identified in the Course Code Directory. If a school district does not offer an identified course, the district must provide students access to the course through FLVS or through other means.⁹ There are 70 middle and high school computer science courses currently identified in the Course Code Directory.¹⁰

¹ Section 1007.2616(1), F.S.

² K-12 Computer Instruction Framework Steering Committee, *K-12 Computer Instructional Framework*, pgs. 183-198, available at <https://k12cs.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/K%E2%80%93Computer-Science-Framework.pdf> (last visited Feb. 24, 2023).

³ *Id.* at 86.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Code.org, *Computational Thinking Lesson Assessment*, available at <https://code.org/curriculum/course3/1/Assessment1-CompThinking.pdf> (last visited Feb. 1, 2023). If provided the following sentences: “The triangle has three sides.” and “The square has four sides.” A student can determine a framework sentence of “The ____ has ____ sides.” This framework provides the student a basis for describing additional shapes. *Id.*

⁶ Section 1007.2616(2)(a), F.S.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Section 1007.2616(3), F.S.

¹⁰ Florida Department of Education, *Florida Course Code Directory Computer Science Course Information 2022-2023* (2023), available at <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7746/urlt/2223CompSci.pdf> (last visited Feb. 24, 2023).

Foreign Language Requirement

All Florida College System (FCS) institutions and state universities require two credits of sequential foreign language instruction at the secondary level.¹¹ A student whose first language is not English is exempt from this requirement if he or she demonstrates proficiency in his or her native language. The foreign language requirement can be satisfied with two credits of American Sign Language.¹²

The Board of Governors (BOG) of the State University System oversees the performance of state university boards of trustees in the enforcement of laws, rules, and regulations.¹³ The BOG provides that a limited number of first-time-in-college, degree-seeking students who do not meet the foreign language requirement may be admitted; however, these students must complete the foreign language requirement prior to receiving their baccalaureate degree.¹⁴

Effect of Proposed Changes

Under the bill, high schools are required to offer computer science courses with sufficient rigor, such that two credits in such courses and the attainment of a related industry certification or technical certificate are equivalent to two credits of sequential foreign language instruction.

The bill specifies that FCS and SUS institutions must recognize the credits as foreign language credits. The Course Code Directory must include computer science courses designated by the commissioner and computer science courses taken to earn the relevant industry certification or technical certificate.

Present Situation

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

In 1997,¹⁵ the Florida Legislature created the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program (Bright Futures Program), a lottery-funded scholarship program, to reward any Florida high school graduate who merits recognition of high academic achievement and who enrolls in a degree program, certificate program, or applied technology program at an eligible Florida public or private postsecondary education institution.¹⁶

The Bright Futures Program consists of the following awards:

- Florida Academic Scholarship (FAS);
- Florida Medallion Scholarship (FMS);
- Florida Gold Seal Career and Professional Education (CAPE) Scholarship; and
- Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship (FGSV).¹⁷

Florida Academic Scholarship and Florida Medallion Scholarship

A Florida high school student who wishes to qualify for the Florida Academic Scholar (FAS) award or the Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) award must graduate from a Florida public high school with a standard high school diploma, graduate from a registered Florida Department of Education (DOE) private high school, earn a general education diploma (GED), complete a home education program, or graduate from a non-Florida high school as an eligible student.¹⁸

¹¹ Section 1007.262, F.S., and BOG Regulation 6.002(1)(h).

¹² *Id.*

¹³ Section 1008.322(1), F.S.

¹⁴ Board of Governor's Regulation 6.002(1)(h)

¹⁵ Chapter 97-379, L.O.F.

¹⁶ Section 1009.53(1), F.S.

¹⁷ Section 1009.53(2), F.S.

¹⁸ 2022-23 Bright Futures Student Handbook, *Chapter 1: Initial Eligibility Requirements* (Oct. 2022), at 2, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaids.org/PDF/BFHandbookChapter1.pdf>. An out-of-state student may qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship if the student earned a high school diploma from a non-Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who is a Florida resident and on military or public service assignment away from Florida during the student's last year of high school. Florida

A student must also meet the following initial eligibility requirements:¹⁹

Scholarship Type	16 High School Course Credits ²⁰	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams (ACT/SAT) ²¹	Volunteer Service ²²	Service Hours ²³
FAS ²⁴	4 - English (three must include substantial writing) 4 - Mathematics (at or above the Algebra I level)	3.50	2022-23 Graduates 29/1330 2023-24 Graduates 29/1340	100 hours	100 hours
FMS ²⁵	3 - Natural Science (two must have substantial laboratory) 3 - Social Science 2 - World Language (sequential, in same language)	3.00	2022-23 Graduates 25/1210 2023-24 Graduates 25/1210	75 hours	75 hours

A student who has demonstrated academic merit through a recognition program may be eligible for an FAS or FMS award without having to meet one or more of the requirements identified in the table above. These merit recognition programs include:²⁶

- National Merit Finalists and Scholars;
- National Hispanic Scholars;
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Diploma;
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma;
- AICE Curriculum; and
- IB Curriculum.

An FAS award recipient is eligible for an award equal to the amount necessary to pay 100 percent of tuition and applicable fees and an additional stipend for textbooks as specified in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).²⁷ An FMS award recipient is eligible for an award equal to the amount necessary to pay 75 percent of tuition and fees,²⁸ however, an eligible FMS recipient enrolled at a Florida College System (FCS) institution is eligible for an award amount equal to the amount necessary to pay 100 percent of tuition and fees.²⁹

Department of Education, *Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and the Out-Of-State Student* (2022-23), at 2, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaids.org/PDF/BFOOSGuide.pdf>.

¹⁹ 2022-23 Bright Futures Student Handbook, *Chapter 1: Initial Eligibility Requirements* (Oct., 2022), at 2, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaids.org/PDF/BFHandbookChapter1.pdf>.

²⁰ The required coursework aligns with the State University System admission requirements found in Florida Board of Governor's Regulation 6.002, *Admission of Undergraduate First-Time-in-College, Degree-Seeking Freshmen*, available at https://www.flbog.edu/wp-content/uploads/6_002FINAL_FTIC_03252020.pdf.

²¹ Section 1009.531(6)(b)-(d), F.S. To ensure the required exam scores represent top student performance and are equivalent between the ACT and SAT, the department determines the score for FAS as no lower than 89th national percentile on the SAT, for FMS no lower than 75th national percentile on the SAT, and the required ACT score must be made concordant. The department must publish any changes to the exam requirements that apply to students graduating in the next 2 years.

²² Section 1009.534(1), F.S. (Flush-left provision at end of section). Beginning with a high school student graduating in the 2022-23 academic year and thereafter, 100 hours may be in either volunteer work or paid work. *Id.*

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ Section 1009.534, F.S.

²⁵ Section 1009.535, F.S.

²⁶ Section 1009.534(1)(b)-(e), F.S.

²⁷ Section 1009.534(2), F.S.

²⁸ Section 1009.535(2), F.S. and BOG Regulation

²⁹ *Id.* Beginning with the fall 2021 semester, an FMS who is enrolled in an associate degree program at an FCS institution is eligible for the award.

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DATE: 3/22/2023

A student may receive an FAS or FMS award for a maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours required to complete an associate degree, baccalaureate degree, or postsecondary career certificate program.³⁰

For the 2021-2022 academic year, a total of \$396,650,804 dollars³¹ were disbursed to 68,585 students³² receiving an FAS award and \$207,279,974 dollars³³ to 50,355 students³⁴ receiving an FMS award.

Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship

A Florida high school student who wishes to qualify for the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship (FGSV) award must meet the following initial eligibility requirements:³⁵

- Achieve a minimum 3.0 weighted GPA in the non-elective high school courses.
- Take at least three full credits in a single career and technical education program.
- Achieve a minimum 3.5 unweighted GPA in the career education courses.
- Complete 30 service hours or 100 hours of paid work (beginning with 2022-2023 graduates).
- Achieve the required minimum score on the ACT, SAT, or Florida Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.) exams depicted in the table below:³⁶

Exam Type	Sub-test	Required Score
ACT	Reading	19
	English	17
	Mathematics	19
SAT	Reading Test	24
	Writing and Language Test	25
	Math Test	24
P.E.R.T.	Reading	106
	Writing	103
	Mathematics	114

A student may receive an FGSV award for a maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours or equivalent clock hours required to complete an applied technology diploma, associate in applied science or associate in science degree, or a postsecondary career certificate program.³⁷

An FGSV award recipient is eligible for an award equal to the amount specified in the GAA.³⁸ The award amount in the GAA for FY 2022-23 is:³⁹

- \$39 per credit hour or equivalent for a career certificate program.
- \$39 per credit hour for an applied technology diploma program.
- \$48 per credit hour for an associate in applied science or associate in science degree program.

³⁰ Section 1009.532(3)(a), F.S.

³¹ Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, *Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Disbursement History* (as of Sep. 2022), available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/BFReportsD2.pdf>.

³² *Id.*

³³ Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, *Florida Medallion Scholars Disbursement History* (as of Sep. 2022), available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/BFReportsD3.pdf>.

³⁴ *Id.*

³⁵ Section 1009.532(1), F.S.; see also 2021-22 Bright Futures Student Handbook, *Chapter 1: Initial Eligibility Requirements* (Aug. 5, 2021), at 6, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/BFHandbookChapter1.pdf>.

³⁶ *Id.*

³⁷ Section 1009.532(5)(a)1., F.S.; see also 2021-22 Bright Futures Student Handbook, *Chapter 2: What You Need to Know Now That You Are Eligible* (July 1, 2021), at 3, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/BFHandbookChapter2.pdf>.

³⁸ Section 1009.536(3), F.S.

³⁹ Specific Appropriation 3, s.1, ch. 2022-156, L.O.F.

For the 2021-2022 academic year, a total of \$549,221 dollars⁴⁰ were disbursed to 655 students⁴¹ receiving an FGSV award.

Florida Gold Seal Career and Professional Education (CAPE) Scholarship

A Florida high school student who wishes to qualify for the Florida Gold Seal Career and Professional Education (FGSC) Scholarship must meet the following initial eligibility requirements:⁴²

- Earn a minimum of five postsecondary credit hours through CAPE industry certifications which articulate for college credit.
- Complete 30 service hours.

A student may receive an FGSC award for a maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours or equivalent clock hours required to complete an applied technology diploma, associate in applied science or associate in science degree, or a postsecondary career certificate program.⁴³

An FGSC award recipient is eligible for an award equal to the amount specified in the GAA.⁴⁴ The award amount in the GAA for FY 2022-23 is:⁴⁵

- \$39 per credit hour or equivalent for a career certificate program.
- \$39 per credit hour for an applied technology diploma program.
- \$48 per credit hour for an associate in applied science or associate in science degree program.

Upon completion of an eligible associate in science degree program, an FGSC scholar may also receive an award for a maximum of 60 credit hours toward the baccalaureate degree.⁴⁶ The award amount specified in the GAA for FY 2021-22 is:⁴⁷

- \$48 per credit hour for a bachelor of science program for which there is a statewide articulation agreement.
- \$48 per credit hour for a bachelor of applied science program at an FCS institution.

For the 2021-2022 academic year, a total of \$202,657 dollars⁴⁸ were disbursed to 242 students⁴⁹ receiving an FGSC award.

⁴⁰ Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, *Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Disbursement History* (as of Sep. 2022), available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaids.org/PDF/PSI/BFReportsD4.pdf>.

⁴¹ *Id.*

⁴² Section 1009.536(2)(a)-(b), F.S.

⁴³ Section 1009.532(5)(b)1., F.S.; *see also* 2021-22 Bright Futures Student Handbook, *Chapter 2: What You Need to Know Now That You Are Eligible* (July 1, 2021), at 3, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaids.org/PDF/BFHandbookChapter2.pdf>.

⁴⁴ Section 1009.536(3), F.S.

⁴⁵ Specific Appropriation 3, s.1, ch. 2022-156, L.O.F.

⁴⁶ Section 1009.536(5)(b)2., F.S.

⁴⁷ Specific Appropriation 3, s.1, ch. 2022-156, L.O.F.

⁴⁸ Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, *Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars Disbursement History* (as of Sep. 2022), available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaids.org/PDF/PSI/BFReportsD5.pdf>.

⁴⁹ *Id.*

Student Volunteer Requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Each award in the Bright Futures Program requires a student to complete a specified number of hours of volunteer service work to be eligible to receive a scholarship award. A student must meet the following service requirements:

Bright Futures Scholarship Program	Required Service Hours ⁵⁰
FAS	100 volunteer or paid work hours
FMS	75 volunteer hours or 100 paid work hours
FGSV	30 volunteer hours or 100 hours of paid work
FGSC	30 volunteer hours or 100 hours of paid work

The student's volunteer service work or paid work must be approved by the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the DOE for home education students.⁵¹

Each district school board and the administrators of a nonpublic school must establish approved activities and the process for documentation of service hours, including the deadline by which the hours must be completed.⁵² Service work may include, but is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office.⁵³ Except for credit earned through service-learning courses,⁵⁴ the student may not receive payment or academic credit for service work performed.⁵⁵

The hours earned by a student must be documented in writing, signed by the student and the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization where the work was performed.

In addition to the service hours, a student must identify a social or civic issue or a professional area that interests him or her, develop a plan for their personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning more about the area, and, through papers or presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience.⁵⁶

Florida's Career and Technical Education Credential Types

Public career, technical and adult education programs are found within three education sectors: Florida public school districts; Florida school districts with workforce education programs; and FCS institutions.⁵⁷ There are several different career and technical credential types offered in Florida.⁵⁸

The Career Certificate signifies a student has successfully completed a clock hour postsecondary career education program and is ready for employment in a field that requires non-college credit

⁵⁰ Sections 1009.534(1), 1009.535(1), 1009.536(1)(e), F.S.

⁵¹ *Id.*

⁵² 2021-22 Bright Futures Student Handbook, *Chapter 1: Initial Eligibility Requirements* (Aug. 5, 2021), at 4 and 6-7, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaids.org/PDF/BFHandbookChapter1.pdf>.

⁵³ *Id.*

⁵⁴ Section 1003.497, F.S.

⁵⁵ 2021-22 Bright Futures Student Handbook, *Chapter 1: Initial Eligibility Requirements* (Aug. 5, 2021), at 4 and 6-7, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaids.org/PDF/BFHandbookChapter1.pdf>.

⁵⁶ *Id.*

⁵⁷ Kathy Hebda, Florida Department of Education, *Workforce Education System Overview*, presentation to the House Postsecondary Education & Employment Committee (Jan. 24, 2023) at 3, available at <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=3247&Session=2023&DocumentType=Meeting+Packets&FileName=pe+w+1-24-23.pdf>.

⁵⁸ *Id.* at 6.

postsecondary training.⁵⁹ The program varies in length from 40 hours or more to more than 1,500 hours.⁶⁰

The Applied Technology Diploma (ATD) signifies a student has successfully completed a (clock hour or college credit) postsecondary career education program and is ready for employment in a field. The program has embedded statewide articulation leading to the award of an AS degree.⁶¹ This pathway is offered by colleges or in school districts as non-college credit. An ATD program is a course of study that is part of an Associate in Science (AS) degree or an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree. The AS and AAS prepares students for occupations that require a two-year technical degree.⁶²

The College Credit Certificate prepares students for entry into employment in a field that requires some college credit but less than a degree and signifies a student has successfully completed part of an AS degree.⁶³

The Advanced Technical Certificate (ATC) prepares students who already have earned an AS, AAS, or baccalaureate degree with an advanced specialized program of instruction.⁶⁴

Apprenticeship Programs

Apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship training programs are an important part of Florida's workforce education ecosystem. Registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship ensure the most qualified workforce for Florida's industries; they also give students the opportunity to gain advanced skills and knowledge, allowing them to find meaningful work and advance in and enjoy productive careers.⁶⁵

Florida had 328 registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs operating in 2021-22, training a total of 17,179 apprentices and pre-apprentices.⁶⁶ Furthermore, 1,917 apprentices completed their program, earning an apprenticeship certificate and an average exit wage of \$23.86 per hour, or \$49,629 per year.⁶⁷ In 2021-22, the DOE registered 27 new apprenticeship programs, bringing the total to 275 programs training 15,479 apprentices, as well as 16 new pre-apprenticeship programs, bringing the total to 53 pre-apprenticeship programs.⁶⁸

Florida's registered apprenticeship programs require the following five core components: business involvement, structured on-the-job training, related technical instruction, rewards for skill gains, and a nationally recognized credential.⁶⁹

Apprentices are individuals who are at least 16 years of age and who have entered into an agreement with a registered apprenticeship sponsor. They are a hired employee of the participating employer in an

⁵⁹ *Id.*

⁶⁰ Florida Department of Education, *The Florida College System Transparency, Accountability, Progress, and Performance*, at 2, available at <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7724/urlt/0083531-fcsawardtypepestapp.pdf>.

⁶¹ Kathy Hebda, Florida Department of Education, *Workforce Education System Overview*, presentation to the House Postsecondary Education & Employment Committee (Jan. 24, 2023) at 6, available at <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=3247&Session=2023&DocumentType=Meeting+Packets&FileName=pe+w+1-24-23.pdf>.

⁶² Florida Department of Education, *The Florida College System Transparency, Accountability, Progress, and Performance*, at 2, available at <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7724/urlt/0083531-fcsawardtypepestapp.pdf>.

⁶³ Kathy Hebda, Florida Department of Education, *Workforce Education System Overview*, presentation to the House Postsecondary Education & Employment Committee (Jan. 24, 2023) at 6, available at <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=3247&Session=2023&DocumentType=Meeting+Packets&FileName=pe+w+1-24-23.pdf>.

⁶⁴ *Id.*

⁶⁵ Florida Department of Education, *Florida's Annual Apprenticeship and PreApprenticeship Report (2021-22)*, at 4, available at <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/9904/urlt/2122ApprenticeshipReport.pdf>.

⁶⁶ *Id.* at 6.

⁶⁷ *Id.*

⁶⁸ *Id.*

⁶⁹ *Id.* at 9-10.

“earn while you learn” model and engaged in learning the occupation through actual supervised work experiences.⁷⁰

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill amends the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to incorporate student enrollment in designated apprenticeship programs as eligible to receive scholarship funding.

The bill requires the DOE to include a list of approved apprenticeship programs, eligible postsecondary educational institutions, high-demand jobs and critical skill sets in the state, and a wage breakdown of jobs in the state in the Bright Futures advertisement notification sent to students, teachers, school leaders, parents, and certified school counselors. This notification must be sent beginning with the student's first year of high school.

The bill includes clarifying language that converts semester credit hours to equivalent clock hours for the purpose of award eligibility. Furthermore, the bill changes the volunteer and work requirements to 75 hours of volunteer service, 100 hours of paid work, or a combination totaling 100 hours. Eligible paid work completed on or after June 27, 2022 must be included in a student's total number of required paid work hours.

The bill adds industry and career certificate options as eligible for a Florida Bright Futures student award in the 2023-24 academic year and thereafter. Students pursuing an industry certification will be eligible for an award for the following pathways:

Pathway	Credit Hours	Exceptions or Provisions
Industry Certification	Up to the number of hours required for the certificate	Not to exceed 36 credit hours or equivalent clock hours.
Technical Certificate	Up to the number of hours required for a specific certificate	Not to exceed 15 credit hours or equivalent clock hours.
Applied Technology Diploma	Up to the number of hours required for a specific diploma	Not to exceed 50 credit hours or equivalent clock hours.
Career and Technical Certificate	Up to the number of hours required for a specific certificate.	Not to exceed 19 credit hours or equivalent clock hours.
Apprenticeship Program	Up to the number of credit hours for a certificate of completion.	The student must not be not exempt from paying tuition and fees, including lab fees. 100 percent of the books, tools, and materials necessary to complete the apprenticeship program must not exceed \$2,000.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amending s. 1007, 2616, F.S., requiring high schools to offer certain computer science courses; requiring such courses to satisfy specified instruction requirements; requiring Florida College System institutions and state universities to recognize credits from such courses as foreign language credits; requiring such courses to be included in the Course Code Directory.

Section 2. Amending s. 1009.53, F.S., conforming provisions to changes made by the act; requiring the Department of Education to include specified information in an annual notification to certain individuals.

⁷⁰ *Id* at 12.

- Section 3.** Amending s. 1009.532, F.S., beginning in a specified academic year, authorizing students who earn a Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award to enroll in certain programs.
- Section 4.** Amending s. 1009.533, F.S., providing that entities that operate apprenticeship programs are considered a postsecondary institution eligible for participation in the program.
- Section 5.** Amending s. 1009.534, F.S., authorizing students to use a combination of volunteer service hours and paid work hours to meet certain program eligibility requirements; providing that paid work hours completed on or after a specified date shall be used to meet certain program eligibility requirements.
- Section 6.** Amending s. 1009.535, F.S., authorizing students to use a combination of volunteer service hours and paid work hours to meet certain program eligibility requirements; providing that paid work hours completed on or after a specified date shall be used to meet certain program eligibility requirements.
- Section 7.** Amending s. 1009.536, F.S., authorizing the department to identify aptitude tests students may use to demonstrate readiness for postsecondary education for specified purposes; authorizing students to use a combination of volunteer service hours and paid work hours to meet certain program eligibility requirements; providing that paid work hours completed on or after a specified date shall be used to meet certain program eligibility requirements; authorizing students who earn a Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award to enroll in certain programs.
- Section 8.** Provides an effective date.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:
None.
2. Expenditures:
See Fiscal Comments.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:
None.
2. Expenditures:
None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

The bill may save students money and increase access to postsecondary opportunities by authorizing approved apprenticeship programs and alternative aptitude tests to qualify for the Bright Futures Program.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The fiscal impact of the bill is indeterminate. By authorizing approved apprenticeship programs and alternative aptitude tests to meet eligibility requirements under the Bright Futures Program, the number of students who may qualify and program cost/expenditures may increase.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

None.