

Amendment No.1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
OTHER	<u> </u>	

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Higher Education
2 Appropriations Subcommittee
3 Representative Melo offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of section
445.009, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

445.009 One-stop delivery system.—

(1) The one-stop delivery system is the state's primary
customer-service strategy for offering every Floridian access,
through service sites or telephone or computer networks, to the
following services:

(g) Adult education, ~~and~~ basic skills training, integrated
education and training, and the Graduation Alternative to
Traditional Education Program under s. 1004.933.

Amendment No.1

17 Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
18 1003.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

19 1003.21 School attendance.—

20 (1)

21 (c) A student who attains the age of 16 years during the
22 school year is not subject to compulsory school attendance
23 beyond the date upon which he or she attains that age if the
24 student files a formal declaration of intent to terminate school
25 enrollment with the district school board. Public school
26 students who have attained the age of 16 years and who have not
27 graduated are subject to compulsory school attendance until the
28 formal declaration of intent is filed with the district school
29 board. The declaration must acknowledge that terminating school
30 enrollment is likely to reduce the student's earning potential
31 and must be signed by the student and the student's parent. The
32 school district shall notify the student's parent of receipt of
33 the student's declaration of intent to terminate school
34 enrollment. The student's certified school counselor or other
35 school personnel shall conduct an exit interview with the
36 student to determine the reasons for the student's decision to
37 terminate school enrollment and actions that could be taken to
38 keep the student in school. The student's certified school
39 counselor or other school personnel shall inform the student of
40 opportunities to continue his or her education in a different
41 environment, including, but not limited to, adult education, ~~and~~

Amendment No.1

42 high school equivalency examination preparation, and the
43 Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education Program under s.
44 1004.933. Additionally, the student shall complete a survey in a
45 format prescribed by the Department of Education to provide data
46 on student reasons for terminating enrollment and actions taken
47 by schools to keep students enrolled.

48 Section 3. Subsection (3) of section 1003.435, Florida
49 Statutes, is amended to read:

50 1003.435 High school equivalency diploma program.—

51 (3) Each district school board shall:

52 (a) Offer and administer the high school equivalency
53 diploma examinations and the subject area examinations to all
54 candidates pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education.

55 (b) Notify each candidate of adult secondary and
56 postsecondary education options available in or near the school
57 district, including the Graduation Alternative to Traditional
58 Education Program under s. 1004.933. The candidate must also be
59 informed of the eligibility requirements and any minimum
60 academic requirements for each available option.

61 Section 4. Section 1004.933, Florida Statutes, is created
62 to read:

63 1004.933 Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education
64 (GATE) Program.—

65 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

Amendment No.1

66 (a) "Career education program" means an applied technology
67 diploma program as defined in s. 1004.02(7) or a career
68 certificate program as defined in s. 1004.02(20).

69 (b) "Institution" means a school district career center
70 established under s. 1001.44, a charter technical career center
71 established under s. 1002.34, or a Florida College System
72 institution identified in s. 1000.21.

73 (2) ESTABLISHMENT; PURPOSE.—The Graduation Alternative to
74 Traditional Education (GATE) Program is created within the
75 Department of Education for the following purposes:

76 (a) Assisting students who may have challenges in
77 completing the requirements for a standard high school diploma
78 in a traditional setting.

79 (b) Creating an alternative education pathway that
80 supports this state's commitment to educational accessibility
81 for all students by providing additional opportunities for
82 students 16 to 21 years of age who have discontinued enrollment
83 in traditional high school programs.

84 (c) Increasing the number of students who successfully
85 earn a high school credential in this state.

86 (d) Increasing the number of students in career education
87 programs.

88 (3) PAYMENT WAIVER; ELIGIBILITY.—

89 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of state law,
90 including ss. 445.009(8)(d) and 1009.895(3), an institution

Amendment No.1

91 shall waive 100 percent of the registration, tuition,
92 laboratory, and examination fees after all other federal and
93 state aid is applied for a student participating in the GATE
94 Program, including Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
95 funds. Instructional materials assigned for use under the GATE
96 Program must be made available to GATE Program students free of
97 charge. An institution may not require payment by students of
98 instructional materials costs eligible for reimbursement under
99 s. 1009.711.

100 (b) To be eligible for participation in the GATE Program,
101 a student may not have earned a standard high school diploma
102 pursuant to s. 1003.4282 or a high school equivalency diploma
103 pursuant to s. 1003.435 before enrolling in the GATE Program and
104 must:

105 1. Be a resident of this state as defined in s.
106 1009.21(1);

107 2. Be 16 to 21 years of age at the time of initial
108 enrollment;

109 3. Select the adult secondary education program and career
110 education program of his or her choice at the time of admission
111 to the GATE Program, provided that the program is included on
112 the Master Credentials List under s. 445.004(4). The student may
113 not change the requested pathway after enrollment;

114 4. Maintain a 2.0 GPA for career and technical education
115 coursework; and

Amendment No.1

116 5. Notwithstanding s. 1003.435(4), complete the programs
117 under subparagraph 3. within 2 years after his or her initial
118 enrollment unless the institution determines that an extension
119 is warranted due to extenuating circumstances.

120 (c) Subject to the availability of funds, a student who
121 meets the requirements of paragraph (b) and is enrolled in the
122 GATE Program is eligible to receive the stipend specified in s.
123 1009.895(3).

124 (d) An institution may not impose additional criteria to
125 determine a student's eligibility to receive a waiver under this
126 section.

127 (4) STUDENT SUPPORT.—In addition to administering the GATE
128 Program, the Department of Education shall perform the following
129 duties:

130 (a) Develop and implement a statewide recruitment campaign
131 in conjunction with eligible institutions, local workforce
132 development boards, and other local, regional, or state
133 initiatives that interact with the GATE Program's target
134 population.

135 (b) Connect prospective students directly to eligible
136 institutions.

137 (c) Provide access to online career planning tools.

138 (5) REPORTING.—Beginning October 1, 2025, and each October
139 1 thereafter, the Department of Education shall submit a report
140 to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of

Amendment No.1

141 the House of Representatives on the number and value of
142 registration, tuition, laboratory, and examination fees and
143 instructional materials costs waived and reimbursed, by
144 institution; the number of students who have obtained a standard
145 high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma while
146 participating in the GATE Program; the number of students
147 completing an applied technology diploma or career certificate
148 while participating in the GATE Program; the number of students
149 participating in the GATE Program who receive a stipend under s.
150 1009.895(3); and the number of students who have earned an
151 industry certification on the CAPE Industry Certification
152 Funding List while participating in the GATE Program. The
153 reporting period shall cover the previous academic year.

154 (6) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
155 to implement this section.

156 Section 5. Section 1009.711, Florida Statutes, is created
157 to read:

158 1009.711 GATE Scholarship Program.—

159 (1) The GATE Scholarship Program is created to financially
160 support institutions participating in the GATE Program
161 established pursuant to s. 1004.933.

162 (2) The Department of Education shall administer the GATE
163 Scholarship Program in accordance with rules adopted by the
164 State Board of Education pursuant to subsection (6).

Amendment No.1

165 (3) The GATE Scholarship Program shall reimburse eligible
166 institutions for registration, tuition, laboratory, and
167 examination fees and related instructional materials costs for
168 students enrolled in the GATE Program. School district career
169 centers and Florida College System institutions must be
170 reimbursed at the in-state resident tuition rate established in
171 s. 1009.22(3)(c).

172 (4) Each participating institution shall report to the
173 department all students enrolled in the GATE Program during the
174 fall, spring, or summer terms within 30 days after the end of
175 regular registration. For each eligible student, the institution
176 shall report the total reimbursable expenses by category, which
177 the department must consider in determining an institution's
178 award under this section. The department shall reimburse each
179 participating institution no later than 30 days after the
180 institution has reported enrollment for that term.

181 (5) Reimbursements from the GATE Scholarship Program are
182 contingent upon an annual appropriation in the General
183 Appropriations Act. If the statewide reimbursement amount is
184 greater than the appropriation, the institutional reimbursement
185 amounts specified in subsection (3) must be prorated among the
186 institutions that have timely reported eligible students to the
187 department.

188 (6) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
189 implement this section.

Amendment No.1

190 Section 6. Subsection (10) of section 1011.80, Florida
191 Statutes, is amended to read:

192 1011.80 Funds for operation of workforce education
193 programs.—

194 (10) A high school student dually enrolled under s.
195 1007.271 in a workforce education program operated by a Florida
196 College System institution or school district career center
197 generates the amount calculated for workforce education funding,
198 including any payment of performance funding, and the
199 proportional share of full-time equivalent enrollment generated
200 through the Florida Education Finance Program for the student's
201 enrollment in a high school. If a high school student is dually
202 enrolled in a Florida College System institution program,
203 including a program conducted at a high school, the Florida
204 College System institution earns the funds generated for
205 workforce education funding, and the school district earns the
206 proportional share of full-time equivalent funding from the
207 Florida Education Finance Program. If a student is dually
208 enrolled in a career center operated by the same district as the
209 district in which the student attends high school, that district
210 earns the funds generated for workforce education funding and
211 also earns the proportional share of full-time equivalent
212 funding from the Florida Education Finance Program. If a student
213 is dually enrolled in a workforce education program provided by
214 a career center operated by a different school district, the

195745 - h7051-strike all-Melo.docx

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Amendment No.1

215 funds must be divided between the two school districts
216 proportionally from the two funding sources. A student may not
217 be reported for funding in a dual enrollment workforce education
218 program unless the student has completed the basic skills
219 assessment pursuant to s. 1004.91. A student who is coenrolled
220 in a K-12 education program and an adult education program may
221 be reported for purposes of funding in an adult education
222 program. If a student is coenrolled in ~~core curricula~~ courses
223 for credit recovery or dropout prevention purposes and does not
224 have a pattern of excessive absenteeism or habitual truancy or a
225 history of disruptive behavior in school, the student may be
226 reported for funding for up to four ~~two~~ courses per year. Such a
227 student is exempt from the payment of the block tuition for
228 adult general education programs provided in s. 1009.22(3)(c).
229 ~~The Department of Education shall develop a list of courses to~~
230 ~~be designated as core curricula courses for the purposes of~~
231 ~~coenrollment.~~

232 Section 7. Section 1011.804, Florida Statutes, is created
233 to read:

234 1011.804 GATE Startup Grant Program.-

235 (1) The GATE Startup Grant Program is established within
236 the Department of Education to fund and support the startup and
237 implementation of new GATE programs, subject to legislative
238 appropriation. The purpose of the program is to increase access
239 to programs that support adult learners earning a high school

Amendment No.1

240 credential, either a high school diploma or the equivalent, and
241 workforce credential aligned to statewide or regional demand.
242 The department shall administer the grant, determine
243 eligibility, and distribute grant awards.

244 (2) The department may solicit proposals from school
245 districts and Florida College System institutions without
246 programs that meet the requirements of s. 1004.933(1). Such
247 school districts and institutions must be located in or serve a
248 rural area of opportunity as designated by the Governor.

249 (3) The department shall prioritize grant proposals that
250 combine adult secondary education and career education programs
251 at one location or allow students to complete programs via
252 distance learning. An applicant may not receive more than 10
253 percent of the total amount appropriated.

254 (4) The department shall make the grant application
255 available to potential applicants no later than August 15, 2024.
256 A proposal must include:

257 (a) The Florida College System institution or institutions
258 that will provide the adult secondary education and career
259 education programs;

260 (b) The proposed adult secondary education program or
261 programs the institution or institutions will provide and
262 projected enrollment;

Amendment No.1

263 (C) The proposed career education program or programs the
264 institution or institutions will provide and projected
265 enrollment;

266 (d) The credential or credentials associated with the
267 career education program or programs. Such credential or
268 credentials must be included on the Master Credentials List
269 under s. 445.004(4);

270 (e) The cost of instruction for all programs contemplated
271 in the proposal, including costs for tuition, fees,
272 registration, laboratory, examination, and instructional
273 materials costs;

274 (f) Outreach strategies, including collaboration with local
275 workforce development boards; and

276 (g) A plan or timeline for implementing the provisions of
277 s. 1004.933 and enrolling students.

278 (5) Grant funds may be used for planning activities and
279 other expenses associated with the creation of a new GATE
280 program, such as expenses related to program instruction,
281 instructional equipment, supplies, instructional personnel, and
282 student services. Grant funds may not be used for indirect
283 costs. Grant recipients must submit an annual report in a format
284 prescribed by the department. The department shall consolidate
285 submit such annual reports and include in the report required by
286 s. 1004.933(5).

Amendment No.1

287 (6) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to
288 administer this section.

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290 -----
291 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

292 Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:

293 An act relating to education; amending s. 445.009, F.S.;

294 revising the services for which the one-stop delivery system is

295 intended to provide access to; amending s. 1003.21, F.S.;

296 requiring a student's certified school counselor or other school

297 personnel to inform the student of opportunities in specified

298 programs; amending s. 1003.435, F.S.; requiring district school

299 boards to notify all candidates for the high school equivalency

300 diploma of adult secondary and postsecondary education options,

301 including specified eligibility requirements; creating s.

302 1004.933, F.S.; providing definitions; establishing the

303 Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program

304 for a specified purpose; requiring institutions to waive

305 payments for specified student fees; providing eligibility

306 requirements; providing that students participating in the

307 program are eligible for a specified stipend under certain

308 circumstances; prohibiting an institution from imposing

309 additional eligibility requirements; providing Department of

310 Education responsibilities; providing department reporting

311 requirements; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt

Amendment No.1

312 rules; creating s. 1009.711, F.S.; creating the GATE Scholarship
313 Program; requiring the department to administer the program;
314 requiring the program to reimburse eligible institutions for
315 specified student fees and costs; requiring participating
316 institutions to report specified information to the department;
317 requiring the department to reimburse participating institutions
318 within a specified timeframe; providing that reimbursements are
319 contingent upon legislative appropriation and must be prorated
320 under certain circumstances; requiring the state board to adopt
321 rules; amending s. 1011.80, F.S.; revising the number of courses
322 certain students may be reported for certain funding purposes;
323 providing that such courses do not have to be core curricula
324 courses; deleting a requirement for the department to develop a
325 list of courses to be designated as core curricula courses;
326 creating s. 1011.804, F.S.; creating the GATE Startup Grant
327 Program; providing the program is established within the
328 Department of Education to fund and support the startup and
329 implementation of new GATE programs, subject to appropriation;
330 providing the purpose of the program is to increase access to
331 programs that support adult learners earning a high school
332 credential and workforce credential aligned to statewide or
333 regional demand; providing eligibility for the program;
334 providing duties to the Department of Education; providing an
335 effective date.

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