

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to career and technical education;
3 amending s. 446.021, F.S.; revising the definition of
4 the term "journeyworker"; amending s. 450.061, F.S.;
5 providing an exemption for minors to work in specified
6 conditions; amending s. 489.117, F.S.; conforming a
7 cross-reference; amending ss. 489.1455 and 489.5335,
8 F.S.; requiring counties and municipalities to
9 recognize certain persons as journeymen for specified
10 occupations if such persons meet specified criteria;
11 deleting provisions authorizing a local government to
12 charge a specified registration fee; amending s.
13 1001.43, F.S.; providing an alternative to career
14 fairs through other career and industry networking
15 opportunities; amending s. 1003.41, F.S.; revising a
16 list of individuals who are required to review and
17 comment on certain revisions to the state academic
18 standards; making technical changes; amending s.
19 1003.4282, F.S.; revising the requirements for certain
20 credits and certifications to meet specified
21 graduation requirements; requiring the Department of
22 Education to convene a workgroup by a specified date
23 for specified purposes; making a technical change;
24 amending s. 1004.91, F.S.; providing an additional
25 exemption from completing an entry-level examination

26 for certain students; creating the Career and
 27 Technical Education Task Force adjunct to the
 28 Department of Education; providing the purpose of the
 29 task force; providing the membership and duties of the
 30 task force; requiring the task force to submit a
 31 report and recommendations to certain officials by
 32 specified dates; providing for expiration of the task
 33 force; providing an effective date.

34

35 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

36

37 Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 446.021, Florida
 38 Statutes, is amended to read:

39 446.021 Definitions of terms used in ss. 446.011-446.092.—

40 As used in ss. 446.011-446.092, the term:

41 (4) "Journeyworker" means a person working in an
 42 apprenticeable occupation who has successfully completed a
 43 registered and state-approved apprenticeship program or who has
 44 worked the number of years required by established industry
 45 practices for the particular trade or occupation and has passed
 46 the appropriate state-approved industry test.

47 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 450.061, Florida
 48 Statutes, is amended to read:

49 450.061 Hazardous occupations prohibited; exemptions.—

50 (2) A ~~ne~~ minor under 18 years of age, regardless of

51 whether such person's disabilities of nonage have been removed,
52 may not ~~shall~~ be employed or permitted or suffered to work in
53 any of the following places of employment or in any of the
54 following occupations, provided that ~~the provisions of~~
55 paragraphs (b), (e), (g), (h), (j), (m), (o), and (q) do ~~shall~~
56 not apply to the employment of student learners under the
57 conditions prescribed in s. 450.161:

58 (a) In or around explosive or radioactive materials.

59 (b) On any scaffolding, roof, superstructure, residential
60 or nonresidential building construction, or ladder above 6 feet.
61 A minor 16 or 17 years of age may be employed on any residential
62 building construction if:

63 1. The minor 16 or 17 years of age has earned his or her
64 Occupational Safety and Health Administration 10 certification
65 and is under the direct supervision of a person who:

66 a. Has earned his or her Occupational Safety and Health
67 Administration 10 certification.

68 b. Is 21 years of age or older.

69 c. Has at least 2 years of work experience related to the
70 work he or she is supervising.

71 2. The minor 16 or 17 years of age is not working on any
72 scaffolding, roof, superstructure, or ladder above 6 feet.

73 3. The work being performed by the minor 16 or 17 years of
74 age is not in violation of any Occupational Safety and Health
75 Administration rule or federal law related to minors in the

76 | workplace.

77 | (c) In or around toxic substances or corrosives, including
78 | pesticides or herbicides, unless proper field entry time
79 | allowances have been followed.

80 | (d) Any mining occupation.

81 | (e) In the operation of power-driven woodworking machines.

82 | (f) In the operation of power-driven hoisting apparatus.

83 | (g) In the operation of power-driven metal forming,
84 | punching, or shearing machines.

85 | (h) Slaughtering, meat packing, processing, or rendering,
86 | except as provided in 29 C.F.R. s. 570.61(c).

87 | (i) In the operation of power-driven bakery machinery.

88 | (j) In the operation of power-driven paper products and
89 | printing machines.

90 | (k) Manufacturing brick, tile, and like products.

91 | (l) Wrecking or demolition.

92 | (m) Excavation operations.

93 | (n) Logging or sawmilling.

94 | (o) Working on electric apparatus or wiring.

95 | (p) Firefighting.

96 | (q) Operating or assisting to operate, including starting,
97 | stopping, connecting or disconnecting, feeding, or any other
98 | activity involving physical contact associated with operating, a
99 | tractor over 20 PTO horsepower, any trencher or earthmoving
100 | equipment, fork lift, or any harvesting, planting, or plowing

101 machinery, or any moving machinery.

102 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section
 103 489.117, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

104 489.117 Registration; specialty contractors.—

105 (4)(a)1. A person whose job scope does not substantially
 106 correspond to either the job scope of one of the contractor
 107 categories defined in s. 489.105(3)(a)-(o), or the job scope of
 108 one of the certified specialty contractor categories established
 109 by board rule, is not required to register with the board. A
 110 local government, as defined in s. 163.211, may not require a
 111 person to obtain a license, issued by the local government or
 112 the state, for a job scope which does not substantially
 113 correspond to the job scope of one of the contractor categories
 114 defined in s. 489.105(3)(a)-(o) and (q) or authorized in s.
 115 489.1455 ~~s. 489.1455(1)~~, or the job scope of one of the
 116 certified specialty contractor categories established pursuant
 117 to s. 489.113(6). A local government may not require a state or
 118 local license to obtain a permit for such job scopes. For
 119 purposes of this section, job scopes for which a local
 120 government may not require a license include, but are not
 121 limited to, painting; flooring; cabinetry; interior remodeling
 122 when the scope of the project does not include a task for which
 123 a state license is required; driveway or tennis court
 124 installation; handyman services; decorative stone, tile, marble,
 125 granite, or terrazzo installation; plastering; pressure washing;

126 stuccoing; caulking; and canvas awning and ornamental iron
 127 installation.

128 2. A county that includes an area designated as an area of
 129 critical state concern under s. 380.05 may offer a license for
 130 any job scope which requires a contractor license under this
 131 part if the county imposed such a licensing requirement before
 132 January 1, 2021.

133 3. A local government may continue to offer a license for
 134 veneer, including aluminum or vinyl gutters, siding, soffit, or
 135 fascia; rooftop painting, coating, and cleaning above three
 136 stories in height; or fence installation and erection if the
 137 local government imposed such a licensing requirement before
 138 January 1, 2021.

139 4. A local government may not require a license as a
 140 prerequisite to submit a bid for public works projects if the
 141 work to be performed does not require a license under general
 142 law.

143 Section 4. Section 489.1455, Florida Statutes, is amended
 144 to read:

145 489.1455 Journeyman; reciprocity; standards.—

146 ~~(1)~~ Counties and municipalities must recognize a person as
 147 a journeyman ~~are authorized to issue journeyman licenses~~ in the
 148 plumbing, pipe fitting, mechanical, or HVAC trades if he or she
 149 meets the following requirements:—

150 ~~(2) An individual who holds a valid, active journeyman~~

151 ~~license in the plumbing, pipe fitting, mechanical, or HVAC~~
152 ~~trades issued by any county or municipality in this state may~~
153 ~~work as a journeyman in the trade in which he or she is licensed~~
154 ~~in any county or municipality of this state without taking an~~
155 ~~additional examination or paying an additional license fee, if~~
156 ~~he or she:~~

157 (1)(a) Has scored at least 70 percent, or after October 1,
158 1997, at least 75 percent, on a proctored journeyman Block and
159 Associates examination or other proctored examination approved
160 by the board for the trade in which he or she is licensed and
161 has at least 12,000 hours of on-the-job training in his or her
162 specific trade;

163 (2)(b) Has completed a registered and state-approved ~~an~~
164 ~~apprenticeship program as defined in s. 446.021(6) registered~~
165 ~~with a registration agency defined in 29 C.F.R. s. 29.2 and~~
166 ~~demonstrates 4 years' verifiable practical experience in the~~
167 ~~trade for which he or she is licensed, or demonstrates 6 years'~~
168 ~~verifiable practical experience in the trade for which he or she~~
169 ~~is licensed; and~~

170 (3)(e) Has satisfactorily completed specialized and
171 advanced module coursework approved by the Florida Building
172 Commission, as part of the building code training program
173 established in s. 553.841, specific to the discipline or,
174 pursuant to authorization by the certifying authority, provides
175 proof of completion of such coursework within 6 months after

176 such certification. ~~;~~ and

177 ~~(d) Has not had a license suspended or revoked within the~~
 178 ~~last 5 years.~~

179 ~~(3) A local government may charge a registration fee for~~
 180 ~~reciprocity, not to exceed \$25.~~

181 Section 5. Section 489.5335, Florida Statutes, is amended
 182 to read:

183 489.5335 Journeyman; reciprocity; standards.—

184 ~~(1) Counties and municipalities must recognize a person as~~
 185 ~~a journeyman are authorized to issue journeyman licenses in the~~
 186 ~~electrical and alarm system trades if he or she meets the~~
 187 ~~following requirements:—~~

188 ~~(2) An individual who holds a valid, active journeyman~~
 189 ~~license in the electrical or alarm system trade issued by any~~
 190 ~~county or municipality in this state may work as a journeyman in~~
 191 ~~the trade in which he or she is licensed in any other county or~~
 192 ~~municipality of this state without taking an additional~~
 193 ~~examination or paying an additional license fee, if he or she:~~

194 ~~(1)(a)~~ (1) Has scored at least 70 percent, or after October 1,
 195 1997, at least 75 percent, on a proctored journeyman Block and
 196 Associates examination or other proctored examination approved
 197 by the board for the trade in which he or she is licensed and
 198 has at least 12,000 hours of on-the-job training in his or her
 199 specific trade;

200 (2)(b) Has completed a registered and state-approved an

201 apprenticeship program as defined in s. 446.021(6) ~~registered~~
 202 ~~with a registration agency defined in 29 C.F.R. s. 29.2 and~~
 203 ~~demonstrates 4 years' verifiable practical experience in the~~
 204 ~~trade for which he or she is licensed, or demonstrates 6 years'~~
 205 ~~verifiable practical experience in the trade for which he or she~~
 206 ~~is licensed; and~~

207 (3)(e) Has satisfactorily completed specialized and
 208 advanced module coursework approved by the Florida Building
 209 Commission, as part of the building code training program
 210 established in s. 553.841, specific to the discipline or,
 211 pursuant to authorization by the certifying authority, provides
 212 proof of completion of such curriculum or coursework within 6
 213 months after such certification. ~~and~~

214 ~~(d) Has not had a license suspended or revoked within the~~
 215 ~~last 5 years.~~

216 ~~(3) A local government may charge a registration fee for~~
 217 ~~reciprocity, not to exceed \$25.~~

218 Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (14) of section
 219 1001.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

220 1001.43 Supplemental powers and duties of district school
 221 board.—The district school board may exercise the following
 222 supplemental powers and duties as authorized by this code or
 223 State Board of Education rule.

224 (14) RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC AND CAREER ACHIEVEMENT.—

225 (c) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, each

226 district school board shall require each high school within its
227 jurisdiction to host an annual career fair during the school
228 year and establish a process to provide students in grades 11
229 and 12 the opportunity to meet or interview with potential
230 employers during the career fair. The career fair must be held
231 on the campus of the high school, except that a group of high
232 schools in the district or a group of districts may hold a joint
233 career fair at an alternative location to satisfy the
234 requirement in this paragraph. A joint career fair must be held
235 at a location located within reasonable driving distance for
236 students at all participating schools. The career fair must be
237 held during the school day and may use Florida's online career
238 planning and work-based learning system as part of the career
239 fair activities. Alternatively, district school boards may
240 consult with local workforce development boards, advisory
241 committees, and business groups to determine free or cost-
242 effective methods to provide other career and industry
243 networking opportunities, during the school day, for secondary
244 students and exposure for elementary and secondary students to a
245 representative variety of industries, businesses, and careers.

246
247 District school board policies and procedures may include
248 conducting assemblies or other appropriate public events in
249 which students sign actual or ceremonial documents accepting
250 scholarships or enrollment. The district school board may

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251 encourage holding such events in an assembly or gathering of the
 252 entire student body as a means of making academic and career
 253 success and recognition visible to all students.

254 Section 7. Subsection (3) of section 1003.41, Florida
 255 Statutes, is amended to read:

256 1003.41 State academic standards.—

257 (3) The Commissioner of Education shall, as deemed
 258 necessary ~~needed~~, ~~shall~~ develop and submit proposed revisions to
 259 the standards for review and comment by Florida educators,
 260 school administrators, representatives of the Florida College
 261 System institutions and state universities who have expertise in
 262 the content knowledge and skills necessary to prepare a student
 263 for postsecondary education and careers, a representative from
 264 the Department of Commerce, business and industry leaders for
 265 in-demand careers, and the public. The commissioner, after
 266 considering reviews and comments, shall submit the proposed
 267 revisions to the State Board of Education for adoption.

268 Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) and subsection
 269 (10) of section 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, are amended to
 270 read:

271 1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school
 272 diploma.—

273 (7) CAREER EDUCATION COURSES THAT SATISFY HIGH SCHOOL
 274 CREDIT REQUIREMENTS.—

275 (a) Participation in career education courses engages

276 students in their high school education, increases academic
 277 achievement, enhances employability, and increases postsecondary
 278 success. The department shall develop, for approval by the State
 279 Board of Education, multiple, additional career education
 280 courses or a series of courses that meet the requirements set
 281 forth in s. 1003.493(2), (4), and (5) and this subsection and
 282 allow students to earn credit in both the career education
 283 course and courses required for high school graduation under
 284 this section and s. 1003.4281.

285 1. The state board must determine at least biennially
 286 whether ~~if~~ sufficient academic standards are covered to warrant
 287 the award of academic credit, including satisfaction of
 288 graduation, assessment, and state university admissions
 289 requirements under this section.

290 2. Career education courses must:

291 a. Include workforce and digital literacy skills.

292 b. Integrate required course content with practical
 293 applications and designated rigorous coursework that results in
 294 one or more industry certifications or clearly articulated
 295 credit or advanced standing in a 2-year or 4-year certificate or
 296 degree program, which may include high school junior and senior
 297 year work-related internships or apprenticeships. The department
 298 shall negotiate state licenses for material and testing for
 299 industry certifications.

300

301 The instructional methodology used in these courses must
 302 comprise authentic projects, problems, and activities for
 303 contextual academic learning and emphasize workplace skills
 304 identified under s. 445.06.

305 3. A student who earns credit upon completion of 1 year of
 306 related technical instruction for an apprenticeship program
 307 registered with the Department of Education under chapter 446 or
 308 preapprenticeship program registered with the Department of
 309 Education under chapter 446 may use such credit to satisfy the
 310 high school graduation credit requirements in paragraph (3)(e)
 311 or paragraph (3)(g). The state board shall approve and identify
 312 in the Course Code Directory the apprenticeship and
 313 preapprenticeship programs from which earned credit may be used
 314 pursuant to this subparagraph.

315 4. The State Board of Education shall, by rule, establish
 316 a process that enables a student to receive work-based learning
 317 credit or credit in electives for completing a threshold level
 318 of demonstrable participation in extracurricular activities
 319 associated with career and technical student organizations.
 320 Work-based learning credit or credit in electives for
 321 extracurricular activities or supervised agricultural
 322 experiences may not be limited by grade level.

323 (10) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CREDIT.—The Department
 324 of Education shall convene a workgroup, no later than December
 325 1, 2024, to:

326 (a) Identify best practices in career and technical
 327 education pathways from middle school to high school to aid
 328 middle school students in career planning and facilitate their
 329 transition to high school programs. The career pathway must be
 330 linked to postsecondary programs.

331 (b) Establish three mathematics pathways for students
 332 enrolled in secondary grades by aligning mathematics courses to
 333 programs, postsecondary education, and careers. The workgroup
 334 shall collaborate to identify the three mathematics pathways and
 335 the mathematics course sequence within each pathway which align
 336 to the mathematics skills needed for success in the
 337 corresponding academic programs, postsecondary education, and
 338 careers.

339 Section 9. Subsection (3) of section 1004.91, Florida
 340 Statutes, is amended to read:

341 1004.91 Requirements for career education program basic
 342 skills.—

343 (3)(a) An adult student with a disability may be exempted
 344 from this section.

345 (b) The following students are exempt from this section:

346 1. A student who possesses a college degree at the
 347 associate in applied science level or higher.

348 2. A student who demonstrates readiness for public
 349 postsecondary education pursuant to s. 1008.30 and applicable
 350 rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

351 3. Beginning with students graduating in 2007 and
352 thereafter, a student who possesses a high school diploma from a
353 private school in compliance with s. 1002.42 or, for a student
354 in a home education program, a signed affidavit submitted by the
355 student's parent or legal guardian attesting that the student
356 has completed a home education program pursuant to the
357 requirements of s. 1002.41.

358 4. A student who passes a state or national industry
359 certification or licensure examination that is identified in
360 State Board of Education rules and aligned to the career
361 education program in which the student is enrolled.

362 ~~5.4.~~ An adult student who is enrolled in an apprenticeship
363 program that is registered with the Department of Education in
364 accordance with chapter 446.

365 Section 10. (1) The Career and Technical Education Task
366 Force, a task force as defined in s. 20.03(5), Florida Statutes,
367 is created adjunct to the Department of Education to study the
368 status of career and technical education in each school district
369 within the state. Except as otherwise provided in this section,
370 the task force shall operate in a manner consistent with s.
371 20.052, Florida Statutes. The department shall provide
372 administrative and staff support relating to the functions of
373 the task force.

374 (2) The Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker
375 of the House of Representatives, the Commissioner of Education,

376 the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Corrections, and the
377 Secretary of Juvenile Justice shall each appoint two members to
378 the task force by September 1, 2024. The commissioner shall
379 appoint a chair of the task force.

380 (3) The task force shall do all of the following:

381 (a) Compile a list of career and technical education
382 courses offered within each school district. Such data must be
383 broken down by industry, grade level, location, the number of
384 students enrolled in such courses, the number of students who
385 complete such courses, and the total number of students per
386 district enrolled in such courses.

387 (b) Compile a list of career and technical education
388 courses offered through the Department of Corrections and the
389 Department of Juvenile Justice. Such data must be broken down by
390 location, population, industry course offering, the number of
391 students enrolled in each course, and the number of students who
392 complete such courses.

393 (c) Identify the total funding provided for the career and
394 technical education courses offered by school districts and
395 analyze whether such funding is uniform across the state or if
396 such funding varies by geography, course, or industry.

397 (d) Identify the total funding provided for the career and
398 technical education courses offered by the Department of
399 Corrections and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

400 (e) Compare funding and reimbursement rates and timelines

401 for career and technical education courses to funding and
402 reimbursement rates and timelines for traditional K-12 education
403 courses.

404 (f) Identify any additional funding available for
405 additional career and technical education courses, including
406 federal funding, industry funding, or additional state funding.

407 (g) Identify how career and technical education courses
408 are advertised to parents and students.

409 (h) Identify the needs of school districts to expand
410 career and technical education, including what needs could be
411 met by the Legislature.

412 (i) Identify the number of students who earn an industry
413 certification through career and technical education courses who
414 also find employment in relevant industries.

415 (j) Review existing postsecondary credits available for K-
416 12 career and technical education course offerings and how this
417 information is advertised to students and parents.

418 (k) Compare existing career and technical education course
419 offerings with data from the Department of Commerce and industry
420 leaders about in-demand careers and the state's economic needs.

421 (l) Provide recommendations for changes and expansions to
422 career and technical education course offerings beginning in the
423 2026-2027 school year.

424 (m) Provide recommendations for increasing funding,
425 eliminating barriers to expanding career and technical education

426 | offerings, and streamlining regulations.

427 | (n) Provide recommendations for improving the marketing of
 428 | career and technical education offerings to students and
 429 | parents.

430 | (4) The task force shall submit to the Governor, the
 431 | President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
 432 | Representatives, and the Commissioner of Education a report of
 433 | its findings by September 1, 2025. The task force shall submit
 434 | to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
 435 | House of Representatives, and the Commissioner of Education its
 436 | recommendations by January 1, 2026. This section shall expire
 437 | upon submission of the recommendations.

438 | Section 11. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.