

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL ANALYSIS

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BILL #: [CS/HB 1261](#)

TITLE: Personal Financial Literacy

SPONSOR(S): Valdés

COMPANION BILL: [SB 1530](#) (Collins)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Careers & Workforce](#)

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[PreK-12 Budget](#)



[Education & Employment](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The “Smart Living Act” revises the current instructional content of the high school financial literacy course to make it more meaningful for students as they prepare for life after graduation as adults.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

School districts may incur costs associated with the implementation of the “Smart Living Act” and thus, the bill will have an indeterminate fiscal impact on local government expenditures.

[JUMP TO](#)

[SUMMARY](#)

[ANALYSIS](#)

[RELEVANT INFORMATION](#)

[BILL HISTORY](#)

ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill establishes the Smart Living Act and revises the current instructional content of the high school [financial literacy](#) course to make it more meaningful for students as they prepare for life after graduation as adults. (Sections [1](#) and [2](#)).

Specifically, the bill incorporates the following topics into the current high school financial literacy course:

- How to create a personal budget.
- How personal credit works, including using a credit card and applying for different types of loans.
- How to file a tax return.
- The home-buying process, including residential property insurance.
- How to write a check, including signing such check in cursive writing.
- Personal future planning, including, but not limited to, all of the following:
 - Career readiness, such as exploration of one’s own personality and passions.
 - Postgraduation paths, such as college, trade school, and full-time employment.
 - Creating a resume.
 - Applying for scholarships.
- Critical thinking and decisionmaking.
- Practical knowledge for situations an adult may find himself or herself in, such as changing a car tire or doing home maintenance.
- How to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), including the need to create a Federal Student Aid ID, the documents and information required to complete the FAFSA, and how to interpret the FAFSA submission summary and a financial aid offer. (Section [2](#)).

The bill will take effect July 1, 2025. (Section [3](#)).

FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:

STORAGE NAME: h1261.CWS

DATE: 3/20/2025

LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

The bill has an indeterminate fiscal impact on school districts as the school districts may incur costs associated with the implementation of the revision of the financial literacy course, including purchasing and developing curriculum and training educators.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

Life Skills

Education, though constantly evolving, has one primary goal: to prepare students to be independent, responsible members of society. Though standards and curricula change over time, one thing that remains constant is the necessity of life skills to aid students in their navigation through adulthood.¹

Life skills education aids motivation and provides social and self-management skills for various life experiences, addressing and incorporating the needs and interests of students. Research indicates the positive results of integrating life skills into education, bringing changes to students' attitudes, thoughts, and behaviors.²

Required Instruction

Graduation for a Standard Diploma

Florida students entering grade nine may choose from one of five options to earn a standard diploma:³

- 24-credit program;
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathway;
- 18-credit, Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL);
- An International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum; or
- An Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum.

To be eligible for high school graduation, students must pass the statewide, standardized grade 10 English Language Arts (ELA) assessment or earn a concordant score on the SAT, ACT, or Classic Learning Test (CLT)⁴ and pass the Algebra I EOC assessment or earn a comparative score on the mathematics section of the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), the SAT, the ACT, the CLT, or the Geometry EOC assessment.⁵

24-credit Program

To earn a standard diploma through the 24-credit program, students must successfully complete 24 credits in core curricula and extracurricular courses, with a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.⁶

To earn a 24-credit standard high school diploma, a student must complete:⁷

- Four credits in ELA, including passing the statewide grade 10 Reading assessment or the grade 10 ELA assessment, or earn a concordant score.

¹ Kelly Cassidy et al, Macrothink Institute, Preparation for Adulthood: *A Teacher Inquiry Study for Facilitating Life Skills in Secondary Education in the United States* (2018), Journal of Educational Issues, available at <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1172806.pdf>.

² *Id.* at 36

³ S. [1003.4282, F.S.](#) See also Florid Department of Education, *Graduation Requirements*, <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/k-12-public-schools/sss/graduation-requirements/> (last visited Mar. 14, 2025).

⁴ S. [1003.4282\(3\)\(a\), F.S.](#), s. [1003.4282\(9\), F.S.](#) and s. [1008.22\(9\), F.S.](#); r. 6A-1.09422(8)(a), F.A.C. (amended on Aug. 22, 2023 to include a concordant score on the Classic Learning Test (CLT)). Rule 6A-1.09422(8)(a)3., F.A.C.

⁵ S. [1003.4282\(3\)\(a\), F.S.](#), s. [1003.4282\(9\), F.S.](#) and s. [1008.22\(10\), F.S.](#); r. 6A-1.09422(8)(b), F.A.C., (amended on Aug. 18, 2020 to include a comparative passing score on the Geometry EOC assessment and on Aug. 22, 2023 to include a comparative score on the CLT). Rule 6A-1.09422(8)(b)3, F.A.C.

⁶ S. [1003.4282\(5\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

⁷ S. [1003.4282\(3\)\(a\)-\(h\), F.S.](#)

- Four credits in mathematics, including one in Algebra and one in Geometry, and passing the statewide Algebra I EOC assessment, or earn a comparative score.
- Three credits in science.
- Three credits in social studies.
- One credit in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or career and technical education.
- One credit in physical education.
- One-half credit in personal financial literacy.⁸
- Seven and one-half credits in electives.

CTE Pathway Option

Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, a student may earn a standard high school diploma through the CTE pathway option.

To earn a standard high school diploma through this pathway option, a student must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale and must complete:⁹

- A minimum of 18 credits.
- Meet the requirements of:
 - Four credits in ELA, including passing the statewide grade 10 Reading assessment or the grade 10 ELA assessment, or earn a concordant score.
 - Four credits in mathematics including one in Algebra and one in Geometry and passing the statewide Algebra I EOC assessment, or earn a comparative score.
 - Three credits in science.
 - Three credits in social studies.
 - One-half credit in personal financial literacy.¹⁰
- Complete two credits in CTE. The courses must result in program completion and industry certification.
- For a student who enters grade 9 before the 2023-2024 school year, complete two credits in electives or work-based learning programs. A one-half credit in financial literacy may be included in the two credits of electives; or
- For a student who enters grade 9 in the 2023-2024 school year and thereafter, complete one and one-half credits in electives or work-based learning programs.

Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) Pathway

Students may also earn a standard high school diploma through the ACCEL graduation pathway, which provides academically challenging curriculum and accelerated instruction to eligible public-school students. To earn a standard high school diploma through this route a student must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale and must complete:¹¹

- Four credits in ELA, including passing the statewide grade 10 Reading assessment or the grade 10 ELA assessment, or earn a concordant score.
- Four credits in mathematics, including one in Algebra and one in Geometry and passing the statewide Algebra I EOC assessment, or earn a comparative score.
- Three credits in science.
- Three credits in social studies.
- One credit in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or career and technical education.
- Meet the requirements of:¹²
 - For a student who enters grade 9 before the 2023-2024 school year, earn three credits in electives. or
 - For a student who enters grade 9 in the 2023-2024 school year and thereafter, earn two and one-half credits in electives and one-half credit financial literacy.

⁸ S. [1003.4282\(3\)\(h\), F.S.](#) Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2023-2024 school year, each student must earn one-half credit in personal financial literacy and money management.

⁹ S. [1003.4282\(9\), F.S.](#)

¹⁰ For students entering grade 9 in 2023-2024 school year and thereafter. See [s. 1003.4282\(9\)\(a\)1., F.S.](#)

¹¹ S. [1002.3105\(5\), F.S.](#)

¹² S. [1002.3105\(5\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

[Financial Literacy](#)

Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2023-2024 school year, each student must earn one-half credit in personal financial literacy and money management in order to receive a standard high school diploma. The instruction must include discussion of or instruction in all of the following:¹³

- Types of bank accounts offered, opening and managing a bank account, and assessing the quality of a depository institution's services;
- Balancing a checkbook;
- Basic principles of money management;
- Completing a loan application;
- Receiving an inheritance and related implications;
- Basic principles of personal insurance policies;
- Computing federal income taxes;
- Local tax assessments;
- Computing interest rates by various mechanisms;
- Simple contracts;
- Contesting an incorrect billing statement;
- Types of savings and investments; and
- State and federal laws concerning finance.

RECENT LEGISLATION:

YEAR	BILL #	HOUSE SPONSOR(S)	SENATE SPONSOR	OTHER INFORMATION
2022	SB 1054	Busatta	Hutson	Because law on July 1, 2022.

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Careers & Workforce Subcommittee	18 Y, 0 N, As CS	3/19/2025	Kiner	Dixon
THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrated the “Smart Living” curriculum into the required personal financial literacy course, expanding on the instruction to include personal future planning, career readiness, critical thinking, and practical life skills.• Removed the Grade 8 “Smart Living” course requirement.• Restored elective credit requirement for a standard high school diploma.			
PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee				
Education & Employment Committee				

THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.

¹³ S. [1003.4282\(3\)\(h\), F.S.](#)

