

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to career centers and charter
3 technical career centers; amending s. 1001.44, F.S.;
4 authorizing a career center to offer college credit
5 courses applicable toward specific certificates or
6 degrees; providing a process for approval to offer
7 specific degree programs; requiring the State Board of
8 Education to adopt rules; authorizing a career center
9 to change the institution's name; amending s. 1002.34,
10 F.S.; authorizing a charter technical career center to
11 offer college credit courses applicable toward
12 specific certificates or degrees; providing an
13 approval process; authorizing a charter technical
14 career center to change the institution's name;
15 amending s. 1004.02, F.S., relating to definitions;
16 renaming the applied technology diploma program as the
17 college credit certificate program and clarifying the
18 program; amending ss. 1007.23 and 1007.25, F.S.;
19 conforming provisions; amending s. 1009.22, F.S.;
20 revising and clarifying tuition and fees for specific
21 workforce education programs; amending ss. 1009.53,
22 1009.532, and 1009.536, F.S.; conforming provisions;
23 amending s. 1011.80, F.S.; conforming provisions;
24 authorizing a career center to offer associate in
25 applied science degree programs; correcting a cross-
26 reference; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1001.44, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

(Substantial rewording of section. See s. 1001.44, F.S., for present text.)
1001.44 Career centers.—

(1) In order to provide additional career pathways, career centers shall support and enhance a competitive workforce by offering high-quality career and technical education programs that prepare graduates for current and emerging careers.

(2) (a) A career center is an educational institution that offers postsecondary career and technical education programs and is under the control of the district school board of the school district in which the center is located. A district school board, after first obtaining the approval of the Commissioner of Education, may organize, establish, and operate a career center or acquire and operate a career center previously established.

(b) The district school boards of two or more contiguous districts may, after first obtaining the approval of the commissioner, enter into an agreement to organize, establish, and operate, or acquire and operate, a career center under this section.

(3) A career center shall maintain an academic transcript for each student enrolled in the center. A student's transcript

53 shall include each course completed, credit earned, and
 54 credentials earned by the student. Each course shall be
 55 delineated by the course prefix and title assigned pursuant to
 56 s. 1007.24. A career center shall make each student's transcript
 57 available to that student.

58 (4) A career center may offer college credit courses
 59 applicable toward a college credit certificate or an associate
 60 in applied science degree through a partnership with a Florida
 61 College System institution or through direct authority to award
 62 such certificates and degrees. A career center must submit a
 63 proposal to the State Board of Education for approval before
 64 offering and awarding associate in applied science degrees.

65 (5) The process for a career center to offer an associate
 66 in applied science degree program shall be as follows:

67 (a) The career center shall submit a notice of its intent
 68 to propose an associate in applied science degree program to the
 69 Division of Career and Adult Education and the Florida College
 70 System institution in its service area 45 days before submitting
 71 the proposal. The notice must include a brief description of the
 72 program, the geographic region to be served, and an estimated
 73 timeframe for implementation. The notice must also include
 74 evidence that the career center engaged in need, demand, and
 75 impact discussions with the Florida College System institution
 76 in its service area.

77 (b) A proposal to offer an associate in applied science
 78 degree program shall be submitted to the Division of Career and

79 Adult Education and, at a minimum, include:

80 1. A description of the planning process and timeline for
 81 implementation.

82 2. An analysis of workforce demand and unmet need for
 83 graduates of the program on a district or regional basis, as
 84 appropriate, including evidence from entities independent of the
 85 institution.

86 3. Identification of the facilities, equipment, and
 87 library and academic resources that will be used to deliver the
 88 program.

89 4. A cost analysis of creating a new associate in applied
 90 science degree program.

91 5. The program's admission requirements, academic content,
 92 curriculum, faculty credentials, student-to-teacher ratios, and
 93 accreditation plan.

94 6. Feedback from the Florida College System institution
 95 regarding the notice of intent pursuant to paragraph (a).

96 7. The program's enrollment projections and funding
 97 requirements.

98 8. A description of outcome measures that will be used to
 99 determine success, including, but not limited to, program
 100 completions, placements, licensures, and feedback of employer
 101 satisfaction with the job performance of graduates.

102 9. A plan that describes how the career center's college
 103 credit courses will meet the equivalent faculty credential
 104 standards for inclusion in the statewide course numbering system

105 pursuant to s. 1007.24(7).

106 10. A plan of action if the program is terminated.

107 (c) The Division of Career and Adult Education shall
 108 review the proposal, notify the career center, in writing, of
 109 any deficiencies within 30 days after receipt of the proposal,
 110 and provide the center with an opportunity to correct the
 111 deficiencies.

112 (d) Within 45 days after receipt of the finalized proposal
 113 by the Division of Career and Adult Education, the commissioner
 114 shall recommend approval or disapproval of the proposal to the
 115 state board. The state board shall consider the recommendation
 116 and the proposal at the next scheduled meeting, adhering to
 117 appropriate meeting notice requirements. If the state board
 118 disapproves the career center proposal, it shall provide the
 119 center with a written explanation for that determination. The
 120 state board's action is not subject to the provisions of the
 121 Administrative Procedure Act.

122 (e) After approval by the state board to offer its first
 123 associate in applied science degree program, the career center
 124 must obtain accreditation as an associate-in-applied-science-
 125 degree-granting institution from an accrediting agency that is
 126 recognized by the United States Department of Education.

127 (f) A career center shall notify the appropriate
 128 accrediting agency of subsequent degree programs that are
 129 approved by the state board.

130 (g) A career center shall annually, and upon request of

131 the state board, the Chancellor of Career and Adult Education,
 132 or the Legislature, report its status using the following
 133 performance and compliance indicators:

- 134 1. Obtaining and maintaining appropriate accreditation.
- 135 2. Maintaining qualified faculty and institutional
 136 resources.
- 137 3. Maintaining enrollment in previously approved programs.
- 138 4. Managing fiscal resources appropriately.
- 139 5. Measuring program success, including program
 140 completions, placements, licensures, and employer satisfaction
 141 with the job performance of graduates.

142
 143 The state board, upon review of the performance and compliance
 144 indicators, may require a career center to modify or terminate
 145 an associate in applied science degree program authorized under
 146 this section.

147 (6) The state board shall adopt rules providing guidelines
 148 for receiving, reviewing, and approving proposals to offer
 149 associate in applied science degree programs. The rules shall
 150 establish an annual timeframe by which proposals must be
 151 received. The rules shall also require that a presentation be
 152 made to assist the state board in its decision.

153 (7) With the approval of its district school board, a
 154 career center may change the institution's name and use the
 155 designation "technical college" if the center offers college
 156 credit certificate programs or has been authorized to offer

157 associate in applied science degree programs pursuant to
 158 subsection (5).

159 Section 2. Paragraphs (b) and (g) of subsection (11) of
 160 section 1002.34, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraphs
 161 (h) and (i) are added to that subsection, to read:

162 1002.34 Charter technical career centers.—

163 (11) FUNDING.—

164 (b) Each district school board and Florida College System
 165 institution that sponsors a charter technical career center
 166 shall pay directly to the center an amount stated in the
 167 charter. State funding shall be generated for the center for its
 168 student enrollment and program outcomes as provided in law. A
 169 center is eligible for funding from workforce education funds,
 170 the Florida Education Finance Program, and the Florida College
 171 System Program Fund, depending upon the programs offered
 172 ~~conducted~~ by the center, pursuant to s. 1011.80.

173 (g) A center must describe ~~define~~ in the charter agreement
 174 the delivery system in which the instructional offering of
 175 educational services will be placed. The rules governing this
 176 delivery system must be applied to all of the center's students
 177 and must authorize all other sponsoring educational systems to
 178 report required enrollment and student data based solely on the
 179 rules of the offering institution. Each sponsor shall earn full-
 180 time equivalent membership for each student for funding and
 181 reporting purposes.

182 (h) A center may offer college credit courses applicable

183 toward a college credit certificate or an associate in applied
 184 science degree through a partnership with a Florida College
 185 System institution or through direct authority to award such
 186 certificates and degrees. A center must submit a proposal to the
 187 State Board of Education for approval before offering and
 188 awarding associate in applied science degrees, as prescribed in
 189 s. 1001.44(5).

190 (i) With the approval of its board of directors, a center
 191 may change the institution's name and use the designation
 192 "technical college" if the center offers college credit
 193 certificate programs or has been authorized to offer associate
 194 in applied science degree programs pursuant to s. 1001.44(5).

195 Section 3. Subsections (8) and (26) of section 1004.02,
 196 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

197 1004.02 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

198 (8) "College credit certificate program" ~~"Applied~~
 199 ~~technology diploma program"~~ means a course of study that is part
 200 of a technical degree program, is less than 60 credit hours, and
 201 leads to employment in a specific occupation. ~~An applied~~
 202 ~~technology diploma program may consist of either technical~~
 203 ~~credit or college credit. A public school district may offer an~~
 204 ~~applied technology diploma program only as technical credit,~~
 205 ~~with college credit awarded to a student upon articulation to a~~
 206 ~~Florida College System institution. Statewide articulation among~~
 207 ~~public schools and Florida College System institutions is~~
 208 ~~guaranteed by s. 1007.23, and is subject to guidelines and~~

209 standards adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to
 210 ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25.

211 (26) "Workforce education" means adult general education
 212 or career education and may consist of a continuing workforce
 213 education course or a program of study leading to an
 214 occupational completion point, a career certificate, a college
 215 credit certificate ~~an applied technology diploma~~, or a career
 216 degree.

217 Section 4. Subsections (1) and (4) of section 1007.23,
 218 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

219 1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.—

220 (1) The State Board of Education and the Board of
 221 Governors shall enter into a statewide articulation agreement
 222 which the State Board of Education shall adopt by rule. The
 223 agreement must preserve Florida's "2+2" system of articulation,
 224 facilitate the seamless articulation of student credit across
 225 and among Florida's educational entities, and reinforce the
 226 provisions of this chapter by governing:

227 (a) Articulation between secondary and postsecondary
 228 education.†

229 (b) Admission of associate in arts degree graduates from
 230 Florida College System institutions and state universities.†

231 (c) Admission of college credit certificate ~~applied~~
 232 ~~technology diploma~~ program graduates from Florida College System
 233 institutions or career centers.†

234 (d) Admission of associate in science degree and associate

235 in applied science degree graduates from Florida College System
 236 institutions.~~†~~

237 (e) The use of acceleration mechanisms, including
 238 nationally standardized examinations through which students may
 239 earn credit.~~†~~

240 (f) General education requirements and statewide course
 241 numbers as provided for in ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25.~~†~~~~and~~

242 (g) Articulation among programs in nursing.

243 (4) The articulation agreement must guarantee the
 244 statewide articulation of appropriate workforce development
 245 programs and courses between school districts and Florida
 246 College System institutions and specifically provide that every
 247 college credit certificate ~~applied technology diploma~~ graduate
 248 must be granted the same amount of credit upon admission to an
 249 associate in science degree or associate in applied science
 250 degree program unless it is a limited access program. Preference
 251 for admission must be given to graduates who are residents of
 252 Florida.

253 Section 5. Subsections (2) and (11) of section 1007.25,
 254 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

255 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;
 256 other degree requirements.—

257 (2) The department shall identify postsecondary career
 258 education programs offered by Florida College System
 259 institutions and district school boards. The department shall
 260 also identify career courses designated as college credit

261 courses applicable toward a college credit certificate ~~career~~
 262 ~~education diploma~~ or degree. Such courses must be identified
 263 within the statewide course numbering system.

264 (11) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint faculty
 265 committees representing both Florida College System institution
 266 and public school faculties to recommend to the commissioner for
 267 approval by the State Board of Education a standard program
 268 length and appropriate occupational completion points for each
 269 postsecondary career certificate program, college credit
 270 certificate ~~diploma~~, and degree offered by a school district or
 271 a Florida College System institution.

272 Section 6. Subsection (3) of section 1009.22, Florida
 273 Statutes, is amended to read:

274 1009.22 Workforce education postsecondary student fees.—

275 (3) (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, fees for
 276 students who are nonresidents for tuition purposes must offset
 277 the full cost of instruction. Residency of students pursuing a
 278 college credit certificate or an associate in applied science
 279 degree shall be determined as required in s. 1009.21. Fee-
 280 nonexempt students enrolled in applied academics for adult
 281 education instruction shall be charged fees equal to the fees
 282 charged for adult general education programs. Each Florida
 283 College System institution that conducts developmental education
 284 and applied academics for adult education instruction in the
 285 same class section may charge a single fee for both types of
 286 instruction.

287 (b) Fees for continuing workforce education shall be
 288 locally determined by the district school board or Florida
 289 College System institution board. Expenditures for the
 290 continuing workforce education program provided by the Florida
 291 College System institution or school district must be fully
 292 supported by fees. Enrollments in continuing workforce education
 293 courses may not be counted for purposes of funding full-time
 294 equivalent enrollment.

295 ~~(c) Effective July 1, 2011, for programs leading to a~~
 296 ~~career certificate or an applied technology diploma, the~~
 297 ~~standard tuition shall be \$2.22 per contact hour for residents~~
 298 ~~and nonresidents and the out-of-state fee shall be \$6.66 per~~
 299 ~~contact hour.~~ For adult general education programs, a block
 300 tuition of \$45 per half year or \$30 per term shall be assessed
 301 ~~for residents and nonresidents, and the out-of-state fee shall~~
 302 ~~be \$135 per half year or \$90 per term.~~ Each district school
 303 board and Florida College System institution board of trustees
 304 shall adopt policies and procedures for the collection of and
 305 accounting for the expenditure of the block tuition. All funds
 306 received from the block tuition shall be used only for adult
 307 general education programs. Students enrolled in adult general
 308 education programs may not be assessed the fees authorized in
 309 subsection (5), subsection (6), or subsection (7).

310 (d) For programs leading to a career certificate, the
 311 standard tuition shall be \$2.33 per contact hour for residents
 312 and nonresidents and the out-of-state fee shall be \$6.66 per

313 contact hour in addition to the standard tuition of \$2.33 per
 314 contact hour. For programs leading to a college credit
 315 certificate or an associate in applied science degree, the
 316 standard tuition shall be \$71.98 per college credit hour for
 317 residents and nonresidents and the out-of-state fee shall be
 318 \$215.94 per credit hour in addition to the standard college
 319 credit hour rate of \$71.98.

320 ~~(e)-(d)~~ Beginning with the 2008-2009 fiscal year and each
 321 year thereafter, The tuition and the out-of-state fee per
 322 contact hour shall increase at the beginning of each fall
 323 semester at a rate equal to inflation, unless otherwise provided
 324 in the General Appropriations Act. The Office of Economic and
 325 Demographic Research shall report the rate of inflation to the
 326 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
 327 Representatives, the Governor, and the State Board of Education
 328 each year before ~~prior to~~ March 1. For purposes of this
 329 paragraph, the rate of inflation shall be defined as the rate of
 330 the 12-month percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for
 331 All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, All Items, or successor
 332 reports as reported by the United States Department of Labor,
 333 Bureau of Labor Statistics, or its successor for December of the
 334 previous year. In the event the percentage change is negative,
 335 the tuition and out-of-state fee shall remain at the same level
 336 as the prior fiscal year.

337 ~~(f)-(e)~~ Each district school board and each Florida College
 338 System institution board of trustees may adopt tuition and out-

339 of-state fees that may vary no more than 5 percent below and 5
 340 percent above the combined total of the standard tuition and
 341 out-of-state fees established in paragraph (d)~~(e)~~.

342 ~~(f) The maximum increase in resident tuition for any~~
 343 ~~school district or Florida College System institution during the~~
 344 ~~2007-2008 fiscal year shall be 5 percent over the tuition~~
 345 ~~charged during the 2006-2007 fiscal year.~~

346 ~~(g) The State Board of Education may adopt, by rule, the~~
 347 ~~definitions and procedures that district school boards and~~
 348 ~~Florida College System institution boards of trustees shall use~~
 349 ~~in the calculation of cost borne by students.~~

350 Section 7. Subsection (1) of section 1009.53, Florida
 351 Statutes, is amended to read:

352 1009.53 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.—

353 (1) The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is
 354 created to establish a lottery-funded scholarship program to
 355 reward any Florida high school graduate who merits recognition
 356 of high academic achievement and who enrolls in a degree
 357 program, certificate program, or college credit certificate
 358 ~~applied technology~~ program at an eligible Florida public or
 359 private postsecondary education institution within 3 years of
 360 graduation from high school.

361 Section 8. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section
 362 1009.532, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

363 1009.532 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;
 364 student eligibility requirements for renewal awards.—

365 (3)

366 (c) A student who is initially eligible in the 2012-2013

367 academic year and thereafter may receive an award for a maximum

368 of 100 percent of the number of credit hours required to

369 complete an associate degree program, a baccalaureate degree

370 program, or a postsecondary career certificate program or, for a

371 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award, may receive an

372 award for a maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours

373 or equivalent clock hours required to complete one of the

374 following at a Florida public or nonpublic education institution

375 that offers these specific programs: for a college credit

376 certificate ~~an applied technology diploma~~ program as defined in

377 s. 1004.02(8), up to 60 credit hours or equivalent clock hours;

378 for a technical degree education program as defined in s.

379 1004.02(14), up to the number of hours required for a specific

380 degree not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent clock hours;

381 or for a career certificate program as defined in s.

382 1004.02(21), up to the number of hours required for a specific

383 certificate not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent clock

384 hours. A student who transfers from one of these program levels

385 to another program level becomes eligible for the higher of the

386 two credit hour limits.

387 Section 9. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section

388 1009.536, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

389 1009.536 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award.—The

390 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award is created within

391 the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to recognize and
 392 reward academic achievement and career preparation by high
 393 school students who wish to continue their education.

394 (4)

395 (c) A student who is initially eligible in the 2012-2013
 396 academic year and thereafter may earn a Florida Gold Seal
 397 Vocational Scholarship for a maximum of 100 percent of the
 398 number of credit hours or equivalent clock hours required to
 399 complete one of the following at a Florida public or nonpublic
 400 education institution that offers these specific programs: for a
 401 college credit certificate ~~an applied technology diploma~~ program
 402 as defined in s. 1004.02(8), up to 60 credit hours or equivalent
 403 clock hours; for a technical degree education program as defined
 404 in s. 1004.02(14), up to the number of hours required for a
 405 specific degree not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent
 406 clock hours; or for a career certificate program as defined in
 407 s. 1004.02(21), up to the number of hours required for a
 408 specific certificate not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent
 409 clock hours.

410 Section 10. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) and
 411 subsections (2) and (10) of section 1011.80, Florida Statutes,
 412 are amended to read:

413 1011.80 Funds for operation of workforce education
 414 programs.—

415 (1) As used in this section, the terms "workforce
 416 education" and "workforce education program" include:

417 (c) College credit certificate ~~Applied technology diploma~~
 418 programs, as defined in s. 1004.02(8).

419 (2) A ~~Any~~ workforce education program may be conducted by
 420 a Florida College System institution or a school district,
 421 except that ~~college credit in an associate in applied science or~~
 422 an associate in science degree may be awarded only by a Florida
 423 College System institution. However, if an ~~associate in applied~~
 424 ~~science or an~~ associate in science degree program contains
 425 within it an ~~occupational completion point that confers a~~
 426 college credit certificate ~~or an applied technology diploma~~,
 427 that portion of the program may be offered ~~conducted~~ by a school
 428 district career center. A career center authorized to offer an
 429 associate in applied science degree program pursuant to s.
 430 1001.44(5) may offer only those general education courses
 431 contained within the approved degree program. ~~Any~~ Instruction
 432 designed to articulate to a degree program is subject to
 433 guidelines and standards adopted by the State Board of Education
 434 pursuant to s. 1007.25.

435 (10) A high school student dually enrolled under s.
 436 1007.271 in a workforce education program operated by a Florida
 437 College System institution or school district career center
 438 generates the amount calculated for workforce education funding,
 439 including any payment of performance funding, and the
 440 proportional share of full-time equivalent enrollment generated
 441 through the Florida Education Finance Program for the student's
 442 enrollment in a high school. If a high school student is dually

443 enrolled in a Florida College System institution program,
 444 including a program conducted at a high school, the Florida
 445 College System institution earns the funds generated for
 446 workforce education funding, and the school district earns the
 447 proportional share of full-time equivalent funding from the
 448 Florida Education Finance Program. If a student is dually
 449 enrolled in a career center operated by the same district as the
 450 district in which the student attends high school, that district
 451 earns the funds generated for workforce education funding and
 452 also earns the proportional share of full-time equivalent
 453 funding from the Florida Education Finance Program. If a student
 454 is dually enrolled in a workforce education program provided by
 455 a career center operated by a different school district, the
 456 funds must be divided between the two school districts
 457 proportionally from the two funding sources. A student may not
 458 be reported for funding in a dual enrollment workforce education
 459 program unless the student has completed the basic skills
 460 assessment pursuant to s. 1004.91. A student who is coenrolled
 461 in a K-12 education program and an adult education program may
 462 be reported for purposes of funding in an adult education
 463 program. If a student is coenrolled in core curricula courses
 464 for credit recovery or dropout prevention purposes and does not
 465 have a pattern of excessive absenteeism or habitual truancy or a
 466 history of disruptive behavior in school, the student may be
 467 reported for funding for up to two courses per year. Such a
 468 student is exempt from the payment of the block tuition for

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469 adult general education programs provided in s. 1009.22(3)(c)
470 ~~1009.22(3)(d)~~. The Department of Education shall develop a list
471 of courses to be designated as core curricula courses for the
472 purposes of coenrollment.

473 Section 11. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.