LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	•	House	
Comm: WD			
04/26/2011	•		
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The Committee on Budget (Flores) recommended the following:

## Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause

4 and insert:

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Section 1. Section 1002.321, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1002.321 Digital learning.-

(1) DIGITAL LEARNING NOW.-There is created the "Digital Learning Now Act."

10 (2) ELEMENTS OF HIGH-QUALITY DIGITAL LEARNING.—The 11 Legislature finds that each student should have access to a 12 high-quality digital learning environment that provides: 13 (a) Access to digital learning.

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14	(b) Access to high-quality digital content and online
15	courses.
16	(c) Education that is customized to the needs of the
17	student using digital content.
18	(d) A means for the student to demonstrate competency in
19	completed coursework.
20	(e) High-quality digital content, instructional materials,
21	and online and blended learning courses.
22	(f) High-quality digital instruction and teachers.
23	(g) Content and instruction that are evaluated on the
24	metric of student learning.
25	(h) The use of funding as an incentive for performance,
26	options, and innovation.
27	(i) Infrastructure that supports digital learning.
28	(j) Online administration of state assessments.
29	(3) DIGITAL PREPARATIONEach student must graduate from
30	high school having taken at least one online course, as provided
31	<u>in s. 1003.428.</u>
32	(4) CUSTOMIZED AND ACCELERATED LEARNINGA school district
33	must establish multiple opportunities for student participation
34	in part-time and full-time kindergarten through grade 12 virtual
35	instruction. Options include, but are not limited to:
36	(a) School district operated part-time or full-time virtual
37	instruction programs under s. 1002.45(1)(b) for kindergarten
38	through grade 12 students enrolled in the school district. A
39	full-time program shall operate under its own Master School
40	Identification Number.
41	(b) Florida Virtual School instructional services
42	authorized under s. 1002.37.

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43 (c) Blended learning instruction provided by charter schools authorized under s. 1002.33. 44 45 (d) Full-time virtual charter school instruction authorized 46 under s. 1002.33. (e) Courses delivered in the traditional school setting by 47 48 personnel providing direct instruction through a virtual environment or though a blended virtual and physical environment 49 50 pursuant to s. 1003.498. 51 (f) Virtual courses offered in the course code directory to 52 students within the school district or to students in other 53 school districts throughout the state pursuant to s. 1003.498. 54 Section 2. Subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection (6), 55 subsection (7), and paragraph (a) of subsection (20) of section 56 1002.33, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (f) is 57 added to subsection (17) of that section, to read: 1002.33 Charter schools.-58 59 (1) AUTHORIZATION.-Charter schools shall be part of the state's program of public education. All charter schools in 60 61 Florida are public schools. A charter school may be formed by creating a new school or converting an existing public school to 62 charter status. A charter school may operate a virtual charter 63 64 school pursuant to s. 1002.45(1)(d) to provide full-time online 65 instruction to eligible students, pursuant to s. 1002.455, in kindergarten through grade 12. A charter school must amend its 66 67 charter or submit a new application pursuant to subsection (6) to become a virtual charter school. A virtual charter school is 68 69 subject to the requirements of this section; however, virtual 70 charter schools are exempt from subsections (18) and (19), 71 subparagraphs (20)(a)2.-5. and paragraph (20)(c), and s.

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1003.03. A public school may not use the term charter in its
name unless it has been approved under this section.

(6) APPLICATION PROCESS AND REVIEW.—Charter schoolapplications are subject to the following requirements:

(a) A person or entity wishing to open a charter school
shall prepare and submit an application on a model application
form prepared by the Department of Education which:

79 1. Demonstrates how the school will use the guiding 80 principles and meet the statutorily defined purpose of a charter 81 school.

82 2. Provides a detailed curriculum plan that illustrates how
83 students will be provided services to attain the Sunshine State
84 Standards.

3. Contains goals and objectives for improving student learning and measuring that improvement. These goals and objectives must indicate how much academic improvement students are expected to show each year, how success will be evaluated, and the specific results to be attained through instruction.

90 4. Describes the reading curriculum and differentiated 91 strategies that will be used for students reading at grade level 92 or higher and a separate curriculum and strategies for students 93 who are reading below grade level. A sponsor shall deny a 94 charter if the school does not propose a reading curriculum that 95 is consistent with effective teaching strategies that are 96 grounded in scientifically based reading research.

97 5. Contains an annual financial plan for each year
98 requested by the charter for operation of the school for up to 5
99 years. This plan must contain anticipated fund balances based on
100 revenue projections, a spending plan based on projected revenues



101 and expenses, and a description of controls that will safeguard 102 finances and projected enrollment trends.

6. Documents that the applicant has participated in the training required in subparagraph (f)2. A sponsor may require an applicant to provide additional information as an addendum to the charter school application described in this paragraph.

107 7. For the establishment of a virtual charter school,
 108 documents that the applicant has contracted with a provider of
 109 virtual instruction services pursuant to s. 1002.45(1)(d).

(7) CHARTER.—The major issues involving the operation of a charter school shall be considered in advance and written into the charter. The charter shall be signed by the governing <u>board</u> <del>body</del> of the charter school and the sponsor, following a public hearing to ensure community input.

(a) The charter shall address and criteria for approval of the charter shall be based on:

117 1. The school's mission, the students to be served, and the 118 ages and grades to be included.

119 2. The focus of the curriculum, the instructional methods 120 to be used, any distinctive instructional techniques to be 121 employed, and identification and acquisition of appropriate 122 technologies needed to improve educational and administrative 123 performance which include a means for promoting safe, ethical, 124 and appropriate uses of technology which comply with legal and 125 professional standards.

a. The charter shall ensure that reading is a primary focus
of the curriculum and that resources are provided to identify
and provide specialized instruction for students who are reading
below grade level. The curriculum and instructional strategies



130 for reading must be consistent with the Sunshine State Standards 131 and grounded in scientifically based reading research.

132 b. In order to provide students with access to diverse 133 instructional delivery models, to facilitate the integration of 134 technology within traditional classroom instruction, and to 135 provide students with the skills they need to compete in the 136 21st century economy, the Legislature encourages instructional 137 methods for blended learning courses consisting of both 138 traditional classroom and online instructional techniques. 139 Charter schools may implement blended learning courses which 140 combine traditional classroom instruction and virtual 141 instruction. Students of a blended learning course must be full-142 time students of the charter school and receive the online 143 instruction in a classroom setting at the charter school. 144 Instructional personnel certified pursuant to s. 1012.55 who 145 provide virtual instruction for blended learning courses may be employees of the charter school or may be under contract to 146 147 provide instructional services to charter school students. At a 148 minimum, such instructional personnel must hold an active 149 Florida state or school district adjunct certification under s. 150 1012.57 for the subject area of the blended learning course. The 151 funding and performance accountability requirements for blended 152 learning courses are the same as those for traditional courses.

153 3. The current incoming baseline standard of student 154 academic achievement, the outcomes to be achieved, and the 155 method of measurement that will be used. The criteria listed in 156 this subparagraph shall include a detailed description of:

a. How the baseline student academic achievement levels andprior rates of academic progress will be established.

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b. How these baseline rates will be compared to rates of
academic progress achieved by these same students while
attending the charter school.

162 c. To the extent possible, how these rates of progress will
163 be evaluated and compared with rates of progress of other
164 closely comparable student populations.

166 The district school board is required to provide academic 167 student performance data to charter schools for each of their 168 students coming from the district school system, as well as 169 rates of academic progress of comparable student populations in 170 the district school system.

4. The methods used to identify the educational strengths 171 172 and needs of students and how well educational goals and performance standards are met by students attending the charter 173 174 school. The methods shall provide a means for the charter school 175 to ensure accountability to its constituents by analyzing student performance data and by evaluating the effectiveness and 176 177 efficiency of its major educational programs. Students in charter schools shall, at a minimum, participate in the 178 179 statewide assessment program created under s. 1008.22.

180 5. In secondary charter schools, a method for determining
181 that a student has satisfied the requirements for graduation in
182 s. 1003.43.

183 6. A method for resolving conflicts between the governing
184 <u>board body</u> of the charter school and the sponsor.

185 7. The admissions procedures and dismissal procedures,186 including the school's code of student conduct.

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8. The ways by which the school will achieve a



188 racial/ethnic balance reflective of the community it serves or 189 within the racial/ethnic range of other public schools in the 190 same school district.

191 9. The financial and administrative management of the 192 school, including a reasonable demonstration of the professional 193 experience or competence of those individuals or organizations 194 applying to operate the charter school or those hired or 195 retained to perform such professional services and the 196 description of clearly delineated responsibilities and the 197 policies and practices needed to effectively manage the charter 198 school. A description of internal audit procedures and 199 establishment of controls to ensure that financial resources are 200 properly managed must be included. Both public sector and 201 private sector professional experience shall be equally valid in 202 such a consideration.

10. The asset and liability projections required in the application which are incorporated into the charter and shall be compared with information provided in the annual report of the charter school.

207 11. A description of procedures that identify various risks 208 and provide for a comprehensive approach to reduce the impact of 209 losses; plans to ensure the safety and security of students and staff; plans to identify, minimize, and protect others from 210 211 violent or disruptive student behavior; and the manner in which the school will be insured, including whether or not the school 212 213 will be required to have liability insurance, and, if so, the 214 terms and conditions thereof and the amounts of coverage.

215 12. The term of the charter which shall provide for216 cancellation of the charter if insufficient progress has been

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217 made in attaining the student achievement objectives of the charter and if it is not likely that such objectives can be 218 achieved before expiration of the charter. The initial term of a 219 220 charter shall be for 4 or 5 years. In order to facilitate access 221 to long-term financial resources for charter school 222 construction, charter schools that are operated by a 223 municipality or other public entity as provided by law are 224 eligible for up to a 15-year charter, subject to approval by the 225 district school board. A charter lab school is eligible for a 226 charter for a term of up to 15 years. In addition, to facilitate 227 access to long-term financial resources for charter school 228 construction, charter schools that are operated by a private, 229 not-for-profit, s. 501(c)(3) status corporation are eligible for 230 up to a 15-year charter, subject to approval by the district school board. Such long-term charters remain subject to annual 231 232 review and may be terminated during the term of the charter, but 233 only according to the provisions set forth in subsection (8).

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13. The facilities to be used and their location.

14. The qualifications to be required of the teachers and the potential strategies used to recruit, hire, train, and retain qualified staff to achieve best value.

15. The governance structure of the school, including the status of the charter school as a public or private employer as required in paragraph (12)(i).

16. A timetable for implementing the charter which addresses the implementation of each element thereof and the date by which the charter shall be awarded in order to meet this timetable.

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17. In the case of an existing public school that is being



246 converted to charter status, alternative arrangements for 247 current students who choose not to attend the charter school and for current teachers who choose not to teach in the charter 248 249 school after conversion in accordance with the existing 250 collective bargaining agreement or district school board rule in 251 the absence of a collective bargaining agreement. However, 252 alternative arrangements shall not be required for current 253 teachers who choose not to teach in a charter lab school, except 2.5.4 as authorized by the employment policies of the state university 255 which grants the charter to the lab school.

256 18. Full disclosure of the identity of all relatives 257 employed by the charter school who are related to the charter 258 school owner, president, chairperson of the governing board of 259 directors, superintendent, governing board member, principal, assistant principal, or any other person employed by the charter 260 school who has equivalent decisionmaking authority. For the 261 262 purpose of this subparagraph, the term "relative" means father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first 263 264 cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-265 law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, 266 stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, 267 stepsister, half brother, or half sister.

(b)1. A charter may be renewed provided that a program review demonstrates that the criteria in paragraph (a) have been successfully accomplished and that none of the grounds for nonrenewal established by paragraph (8)(a) has been documented. In order to facilitate long-term financing for charter school construction, charter schools operating for a minimum of 3 years and demonstrating exemplary academic programming and fiscal

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275 management are eligible for a 15-year charter renewal. Such 276 long-term charter is subject to annual review and may be 277 terminated during the term of the charter.

278 2. The 15-year charter renewal that may be granted pursuant 279 to subparagraph 1. shall be granted to a charter school that has 280 received a school grade of "A" or "B" pursuant to s. 1008.34 in 281 3 of the past 4 years and is not in a state of financial 282 emergency or deficit position as defined by this section. Such 283 long-term charter is subject to annual review and may be 284 terminated during the term of the charter pursuant to subsection 285 (8).

(c) A charter may be modified during its initial term or any renewal term upon the recommendation of the sponsor or the charter school governing board and the approval of both parties to the agreement.

(17) FUNDING.-Students enrolled in a charter school, regardless of the sponsorship, shall be funded as if they are in a basic program or a special program, the same as students enrolled in other public schools in the school district. Funding for a charter lab school shall be as provided in s. 1002.32.

(f) Funding for a virtual charter school shall be as provided in s. 1002.45(7).

(20) SERVICES.-

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(a)1. A sponsor shall provide certain administrative and educational services to charter schools. These services shall include contract management services; full-time equivalent and data reporting services; exceptional student education administration services; services related to eligibility and reporting duties required to ensure that school lunch services

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304 under the federal lunch program, consistent with the needs of 305 the charter school, are provided by the school district at the 306 request of the charter school, that any funds due to the charter 307 school under the federal lunch program be paid to the charter 308 school as soon as the charter school begins serving food under 309 the federal lunch program, and that the charter school is paid at the same time and in the same manner under the federal lunch 310 program as other public schools serviced by the sponsor or the 311 312 school district; test administration services, including payment 313 of the costs of state-required or district-required student 314 assessments; processing of teacher certificate data services; 315 and information services, including equal access to student information systems that are used by public schools in the 316 317 district in which the charter school is located. Student performance data for each student in a charter school, 318 319 including, but not limited to, FCAT scores, standardized test 320 scores, previous public school student report cards, and student performance measures, shall be provided by the sponsor to a 321 322 charter school in the same manner provided to other public 323 schools in the district.

324 2. A total administrative fee for the provision of such 325 services shall be calculated based upon up to 5 percent of the 326 available funds defined in paragraph (17)(b) for all students. 327 However, a sponsor may only withhold up to a 5-percent 328 administrative fee for enrollment for up to and including 250 329 students. For charter schools with a population of 251 or more 330 students, the difference between the total administrative fee calculation and the amount of the administrative fee withheld 331 332 may only be used for capital outlay purposes specified in s.

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333 1013.62(2).

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334 3. In addition, a sponsor may withhold only up to a 5-335 percent administrative fee for enrollment for up to and 336 including 500 students within a system of charter schools which 337 meets all of the following:

a. Includes both conversion charter schools andnonconversion charter schools;

b. Has all schools located in the same county;

341 c. Has a total enrollment exceeding the total enrollment of 342 at least one school district in the state;

d. Has the same governing board; and

e. Does not contract with a for-profit service provider formanagement of school operations.

346 4. The difference between the total administrative fee 347 calculation and the amount of the administrative fee withheld 348 pursuant to subparagraph 3. may be used for instructional and 349 administrative purposes as well as for capital outlay purposes 350 specified in s. 1013.62(2).

5. Each charter school shall receive 100 percent of the funds awarded to that school pursuant to s. 1012.225. Sponsors shall not charge charter schools any additional fees or surcharges for administrative and educational services in addition to the maximum 5-percent administrative fee withheld pursuant to this paragraph.

357 <u>6. The sponsor of a virtual charter school may withhold a</u>
 358 <u>fee of up to 5 percent. The funds shall be used to cover the</u>
 359 <u>cost of services provided under subparagraph (a)1. and for the</u>
 360 <u>school district's local instructional improvement system</u>
 361 <u>pursuant to s. 1006.281 or other technological tools that are</u>



362 required to access electronic and digital instructional 363 materials. Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 364 365 1002.37, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsections (8), (9), 366 (10), and (11) are added to that section, to read: 367 1002.37 The Florida Virtual School.-368 (3) Funding for the Florida Virtual School shall be 369 provided as follows: 370 (a)1. For a student in grades 9 through 12, a "full-time equivalent student" for the Florida Virtual School is one 371 student who has successfully completed six full-credit courses 372 373 credits that shall count toward the minimum number of credits 374 required for high school graduation. A student who completes 375 fewer less than six full-credit courses is credits shall be a 376 fraction of a full-time equivalent student. Half-credit course completions shall be included in determining a full-time 377 378 equivalent student. Credit completed by a student in excess of 379 the minimum required for that student for high school graduation 380 is not eligible for funding. 381 2. For a student in kindergarten through grade 8, a "full-382 time equivalent student" is one student who has successfully 383 completed six courses or the prescribed level of content that 384 counts toward promotion to the next grade. A student who 385 completes fewer than six courses or the prescribed level of 386 content shall be a fraction of a full-time equivalent student. 387 3. Beginning in the 2014-2015 fiscal year, when s. 388 1008.22(3)(g) is implemented, the reported full-time equivalent 389 students and associated funding of students enrolled in courses requiring passage of an end-of-course assessment shall be 390

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391	adjusted after the student completes the end-of-course
392	assessment. However, no adjustment shall be made for home
393	education program students who choose not to take an end-of-
394	course assessment.
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396	For purposes of this paragraph, the calculation of "full-time
397	equivalent student" shall be as prescribed in s.
398	<u>1011.61(1)(c)1.b.(V).</u>
399	(8)(a) The Florida Virtual School may provide full-time
400	instruction for students in kindergarten through grade 12 and
401	part-time instruction for students in grades 4 through 12. Part-
402	time instruction for grades 4 and 5 may be provided only to
403	public school students taking grade 6 through grade 8 courses.
404	(b) For students receiving part-time instruction in grades
405	4 and 5 and students receiving full-time instruction in
406	kindergarten through grade 12 from the Florida Virtual School,
407	the combined total of all FTE reported by both the school
408	district and the Florida Virtual School may not exceed 1.0 FTE.
409	(9) Elementary school principals must notify all parents of
410	students who score level 4 or level 5 on FCAT Reading or FCAT
411	Mathematics of the option for the student to take accelerated
412	courses through the Florida Virtual School.
413	(10)(a) Public school students receiving full-time
414	instruction in kindergarten through grade 12 by the Florida
415	Virtual School must take all statewide assessments required
416	pursuant to s. 1008.22.
417	(b) Public school students receiving part-time instruction
418	by the Florida Virtual School in courses requiring statewide
419	end-of-course assessments must take all statewide end-of-course

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420	assessments required pursuant to s. 1008.22(3)(c)2.
421	(c) All statewide assessments must be taken within the
422	school district in which the student resides. School districts
423	must provide the student with access to the district's testing
424	facilities.
425	(11) The Florida Virtual School shall receive a school
426	grade pursuant to s. 1008.34 for students receiving full-time
427	instruction.
428	Section 4. Subsections (1), (2) and (3), paragraph (a) of
429	subsection (4), subsections (5), (6), and (7), paragraphs (a)
430	and (d) of subsection (8), and subsection (11) of section
431	1002.45, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
432	1002.45 School district Virtual instruction programs
433	(1) PROGRAM
434	(a) For purposes of this section, the term:
435	1. "Approved provider" means a provider that is approved by
436	the Department of Education under subsection (2), the Florida
437	Virtual School, a franchise of the Florida Virtual School, or a
438	community college.
439	2. "Virtual instruction program" means a program of
440	instruction provided in an interactive learning environment
441	created through technology in which students are separated from
442	their teachers by time or space, or both <del>, and in which a</del>
443	Florida-certified teacher under chapter 1012 is responsible for
444	at least:
445	a. Fifty percent of the direct instruction to students in
446	kindergarten through grade 5; or
447	b. Eighty percent of the direct instruction to students in
448	<del>grades 6 through 12</del> .

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449 (b) Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, Each school 450 district shall provide all enrolled public school eligible 451 students within its boundaries multiple opportunities for 452 participation the option of participating in part-time and full-453 time a virtual instruction program options. Each school district 454 must provide at least three virtual instruction options and 455 provide parents with timely written notification of an open 456 enrollment period for full-time students of at least 90 days 457 that ends no later than 30 days prior to the first day of the 458 school year. The purpose of the program is to make quality 459 virtual instruction available to students using online and 460 distance learning technology in the nontraditional classroom. A 461 school district virtual instruction The program shall provide 462 the following be:

463 1. Full-time <u>virtual instruction</u> for students enrolled in
464 kindergarten through grade 12.

465 2. Full-time or Part-time virtual instruction for students
466 enrolled in grades 9 through 12 courses that are measured
467 pursuant to subparagraph (8) (a)2.

468 <u>3. Full-time or part-time virtual instruction for students</u> 469 who are enrolled in dropout prevention and academic intervention 470 programs under s. 1003.53, Department of Juvenile Justice 471 education programs under s. 1003.52, core-curricula courses to 472 meet class size requirements under s. 1003.03, or community 473 colleges under this section.

(c) To provide students with the option of participating in virtual instruction programs as required by paragraph (b), a school district may:

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1. Contract with the Florida Virtual School or establish a

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478 franchise of the Florida Virtual School for the provision of a 479 program under paragraph (b). Using this option is subject to the 480 requirements of this section and s. 1011.61(1)(c)1.b.(III) and 481 (IV).

482 2. Contract with an approved provider under subsection (2) 483 for the provision of a full-time program under subparagraph 484 (b)1. <u>or subparagraph (b)3.</u> or a <del>full-time or</del> part-time program 485 under subparagraph (b)2. or subparagraph (b)3.

3. Enter into an agreement with <u>other</u> another school districts district to allow the participation of its students in an approved virtual instruction program provided by the other school district. The agreement must indicate a process for the transfer of funds required by paragraph (7) (b).

491 <u>4. Establish district operated part-time or full-time</u>
 492 <u>kindergarten through grade 12 virtual instruction programs under</u>
 493 <u>paragraph (b) for students enrolled in the school district. A</u>
 494 <u>full-time program shall operate under its own Master School</u>
 495 <u>Identification Number.</u>

4965. Enter into an agreement with a virtual charter school497authorized by the school district pursuant to s. 1002.33.

499 Contracts under subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. may include 500 multidistrict contractual arrangements that may be executed by a regional consortium for its member districts. A multidistrict 501 502 contractual arrangement or an agreement under subparagraph 3. is 503 not subject to s. 1001.42(4)(d) and does not require the 504 participating school districts to be contiguous. These 505 arrangements may be used to fulfill the requirements of 506 paragraph (b).

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507	(d) A <u>virtual</u> charter school may <u>provide full-time virtual</u>
508	instruction for students in kindergarten through grade 12 if the
509	virtual charter school has a charter approved pursuant to s.
510	1002.33 authorizing full-time virtual instruction. A virtual
511	charter school may:
512	1. Contract with the Florida Virtual School.
513	2. Contract with an approved provider under subsection (2).
514	<u>3.</u> Enter into <u>an</u> <del>a joint</del> agreement with <del>the</del> school
515	districts to allow the participation of its students district in
516	which it is located for the charter school's students to
517	participate in <u>a</u> the school district's virtual instruction
518	program. The agreement must indicate a process for reporting of
519	student enrollment and the transfer of funds required by
520	paragraph (7)(f).
521	(e) Each school district shall:
522	1. Provide to the department by October 1, 2011, and by
523	each October 1 thereafter, a copy of each contract and the
524	amounts paid per unweighted full-time equivalent student for
525	services procured pursuant to subparagraphs (c)1. and 2.
526	2. Expend the difference in funds provided for a student
527	participating in the school district virtual instruction program
528	pursuant to subsection (7) and the price paid for contracted
529	services procured pursuant to subparagraphs (c)1. and 2. for the
530	district's local instructional improvement system pursuant to s.
531	1006.281 or other technological tools that are required to
532	access electronic and digital instructional materials.
533	3. At the end of each fiscal year, but no later than
534	September 1, report to the department an itemized listing of the
535	technological tools purchased with these funds.

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(2) PROVIDER QUALIFICATIONS.-

(a) The department shall annually <u>publish online</u> <del>provide</del>
school districts with</del> a list of providers approved to offer
virtual instruction programs. To be approved by the department,
a provider must document that it:

541 1. Is nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies,542 employment practices, and operations;

543 2. Complies with the antidiscrimination provisions of s. 544 1000.05;

3. Locates an administrative office or offices in this state, requires its administrative staff to be state residents, requires all instructional staff to be Florida-certified teachers under chapter 1012, and conducts background screenings for all employees or contracted personnel, as required by s. 1012.32, using state and national criminal history records;

4. Possesses prior, successful experience offering online courses to elementary, middle, or high school students <u>as</u> demonstrated by quantified student learning gains in each subject area and grade level provided for consideration as an instructional program option;

556 5. Is accredited by a regional accrediting association as 557 defined by State Board of Education rule; the Southern 558 Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and 559 School Improvement, the North Central Association Commission on 560 Accreditation and School Improvement, the Middle States 561 Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Elementary 562 Schools and Commission on Secondary Schools, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, the Northwest Association 563 564 of Accredited Schools, the Western Association of Schools and

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565	Colleges, or the Commission on International and Trans-Regional
566	Accreditation; and
567	6. Ensures instructional and curricular quality through a
568	detailed curriculum and student performance accountability plan
569	that addresses every subject and grade level it intends to
570	provide through contract with the school district, including:
571	a. Courses and programs that meet the standards of the
572	International Association for K-12 Online Learning and the
573	Southern Regional Education Board.
574	b. Instructional content and services that align with, and
575	measure student attainment of, student proficiency in the Next
576	Generation Sunshine State Standards.
577	c. Mechanisms that determine and ensure that a student has
578	satisfied requirements for grade level promotion and high school
579	graduation with a standard diploma, as appropriate;
580	7. Publishes for the general public, in accordance with
581	disclosure requirements adopted in rule by the State Board of
582	Education, as part of its application as a provider and in all
583	contracts negotiated pursuant to this section:
584	a. Information and data about the curriculum of each full-
585	time and part-time program.
586	b. School policies and procedures.
587	c. Certification status and physical location of all
588	administrative and instructional personnel.
589	d. Hours and times of availability of instructional
590	personnel.
591	e. Student-teacher ratios.
592	f. Student completion and promotion rates.
593	g. Student, educator, and school performance accountability
I	

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594 outcomes; and

595 <u>8.6.</u> If the provider is a community college, employs 596 instructors who meet the certification requirements for 597 instructional staff under chapter 1012.

(b) An approved provider shall retain its approved status for a period of 3 years after the date of the department's approval under paragraph (a) as long as the provider continues to comply with all requirements of this section. <u>However, each</u> <u>provider approved by the department for the 2011-2012 school</u> <u>year must reapply for approval to provide a part-time program</u> for students in grades 9 through 12.

605 (3) SCHOOL DISTRICT VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION PROGRAM
 606 REQUIREMENTS.-Each school district virtual instruction program
 607 under this section must:

(a) Align virtual course curriculum and course content tothe Sunshine State Standards under s. 1003.41.

(b) Offer instruction that is designed to enable a studentto gain proficiency in each virtually delivered course of study.

612 (c) Provide each student enrolled in the program with all613 the necessary instructional materials.

(d) Provide, when appropriate, each full-time student
enrolled in the program who qualifies for free or reduced-price
school lunches under the National School Lunch Act or is on the
direct certification list and who does not have a computer or
Internet access in his or her home with:

619 1. All equipment necessary for participants in the school
620 district virtual instruction program, including, but not limited
621 to, a computer, computer monitor, and printer, if a printer is
622 necessary to participate in the program; and

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623 2. Access to or reimbursement for all Internet services 624 necessary for online delivery of instruction. (e) Not require tuition or student registration fees. 625 626 (4) CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS.-Each contract with an approved 627 provider must at minimum: 628 (a) Set forth a detailed curriculum plan that illustrates 629 how students will be provided services and be measured for 630 attainment of to attain proficiency in the Next Generation 631 Sunshine State Standards for each grade level and subject. (5) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY.-A student may enroll in a virtual 632 633 instruction program provided by the school district or by a 634 virtual charter school operated in the district in which he or 635 she resides if the student meets eligibility requirements for 636 virtual instruction pursuant to s. 1002.455. at least one of the 637 following conditions: 638 (a) The student has spent the prior school year in 639 attendance at a public school in this state and was enrolled and 640 reported by a public school district for funding during the 641 preceding October and February for purposes of the Florida 642 Education Finance Program surveys. 643 (b) The student is a dependent child of a member of the United States Armed Forces who was transferred within the last 644 12 months to this state from another state or from a foreign 645 646 country pursuant to the parent's permanent change of station 647 orders. 648 (c) The student was enrolled during the prior school year 649 in a school district virtual instruction program under this

650 section or a K-8 Virtual School Program under s. 1002.415.

(d) The student has a sibling who is currently enrolled in

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652	a school district virtual instruction program and that sibling
653	was enrolled in such program at the end of the prior school
654	<del>year.</del>
655	(6) STUDENT PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTSEach student
656	enrolled in a <del>school district</del> virtual instruction program <u>or</u>
657	virtual charter school must:
658	(a) Comply with the compulsory attendance requirements of
659	s. 1003.21. Student attendance must be verified by the school
660	district.
661	(b) Take state assessment tests within the school district
662	in which such student resides, which must provide the student
663	with access to the district's testing facilities.
664	(7) VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION PROGRAM AND VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOL
665	FUNDING
666	(a) Students enrolled in a virtual instruction program or a
667	virtual charter school shall be funded through the Florida
668	Education Finance Program as provided in the General
669	Appropriations Act. However, such funds may not be provided for
670	the purpose of fulfilling the class size requirements in ss.
671	1003.03 and 1011.685.
672	(b) For purposes of a <del>school district</del> virtual instruction
673	program <u>or a virtual charter school</u> , "full-time equivalent
674	student" has the same meaning as provided in s.
675	1011.61(1)(c)1.b.(III) or (IV).
676	(c) A "full-time equivalent student" for a student enrolled
677	part-time in a grade 6 through 12 program has the same meaning
678	as provided in s. 1011.61(1)(c)1.b.(IV).
679	(d) A student may not be reported as more than 1.0 full-
680	time equivalent student in any given school year.

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(e) The reported full-time equivalent students and
 associated funding of students enrolled in courses requiring
 passage of an end-of-course assessment shall be adjusted after
 the student completes the end-of-course assessment.

685 (f) (b) The school district in which the student resides 686 shall report full-time equivalent students for a the school 687 district virtual instruction program or a virtual charter school 688 to the department in a manner prescribed by the department, and 689 funding shall be provided through the Florida Education Finance 690 Program. Funds received by the school district of residence for 691 a student in a virtual instruction program provided by another 692 school district under this section shall be transferred to the 693 school district providing the virtual instruction program.

(g) (c) A community college provider may not report students
 who are served in a school district virtual instruction program
 for funding under the Community College Program Fund.

697

(8) ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.-

698 (a) Each approved provider contracted under this section699 must:

700 1. Participate in the statewide assessment program under s. 701 1008.22 and in the state's education performance accountability 702 system under s. 1008.31.

2. Receive a school grade under s. 1008.34 or a school improvement rating under s. 1008.341, as applicable. The school grade or school improvement rating received by each approved provider shall be based upon the aggregated assessment scores of all students served by the provider statewide. The department shall publish the school grade or school improvement rating received by each approved provider on its Internet website. The

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710 department shall develop an evaluation method for providers of 711 part-time programs which includes the percentage of students 712 making learning gains, the percentage of students successfully 713 passing any required end-of-course assessment, the percentage of 714 students taking Advanced Placement examinations, and the 715 percentage of students scoring 3 or higher on an Advanced 716 Placement examination. 717 (d) An approved provider's contract must be terminated if the provider receives a school grade of ``D'' or ``F'' under s. 718 719 1008.34 or a school improvement rating of "Declining" under s. 720 1008.341 for 2 years during any consecutive 4-year period or has 721 violated any qualification requirement pursuant to subsection 722 (2). A provider that has a contract terminated under this 723 paragraph may not be an approved provider for a period of at 724 least 1 year after the date upon which the contract was 725 terminated and until the department determines that the provider 726 is in compliance with subsection (2) and has corrected each 727 cause of the provider's low performance. 728 (11) RULES.-The State Board of Education shall adopt rules 729 necessary to administer this section, including rules that 730 prescribe disclosure requirements under subsection (2) and 731 school district reporting requirements under subsection (7).

732 Section 5. Section 1002.455, Florida Statutes, is created 733 to read:

734 <u>1002.455 Student eligibility for K-12 virtual instruction.</u>
735 <u>(1) A student may enroll in virtual instruction in the</u>
736 <u>school district in which he or she resides if the student meets</u>
737 <u>at least one of the following conditions:</u>
738 <u>(a) The student has spent the prior school year in</u>

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739	attendance at a public school in the state and was enrolled and
740	reported by a public school district for funding during October
741	and February for purposes of the Florida Education Finance
742	Program surveys;
743	(b) The student is a dependent child of a member of the
744	United States Armed Forces who was transferred within the last
745	12 months to this state from another state or from a foreign
746	country pursuant to the parent's permanent change of station
747	orders;
748	(c) The student was enrolled during the prior school year
749	<u>in a virtual instruction program under s. 1002.45 or a K-8</u>
750	Virtual School Program under s. 1002.415;
751	(d) The student has a sibling who is currently enrolled in
752	a school district virtual instruction program and that sibling
753	was enrolled in such program at the end of the prior school
754	year; or
755	(e) The student is eligible to enter kindergarten or first
756	grade.
757	(2) The virtual instruction options for which this
758	eligibility section applies include:
759	(a) School district operated part-time or full-time
760	kindergarten through grade 12 virtual instruction programs under
761	s. 1002.45(1)(b) for students enrolled in the school district.
762	(b) Full-time virtual charter school instruction authorized
763	<u>under s. 1002.33.</u>
764	(c) Courses delivered in the traditional school setting by
765	personnel providing direct instruction through a virtual
766	environment or though a blended virtual and physical environment
767	pursuant to s. 1003.498 and as authorized pursuant to s.
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768 1002.321(4)(f).

769 (d) Virtual courses offered in the course code directory to 770 students within the school district or to students in other 771 school districts throughout the state pursuant to s. 1003.498.

772Section 6. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (2) of773section 1003.428, Florida Statutes, to read:

774 1003.428 General requirements for high school graduation; 775 revised.-

(2) The 24 credits may be earned through applied,
integrated, and combined courses approved by the Department of
Education. The 24 credits shall be distributed as follows:

779 (c) Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2011-780 2012 school year, at least one course within the 24 credits 781 required in this subsection must be completed through online 782 learning. However, an online course taken during grades 6 783 through 8 fulfills this requirement. This requirement shall be 784 met through an online course offered by the Florida Virtual 785 School, an online course offered by the high school, or an 786 online dual enrollment course offered pursuant to a district 787 interinstitutional articulation agreement pursuant to s. 788 1007.235. A student who is enrolled in a full-time or part-time 789 virtual instruction program under s. 1002.45 meets this 790 requirement. 791 Section 7. Section 1003.498, Florida Statutes, is created 792 to read: 793 1003.498 School district virtual course offerings.-794 (1) School districts may deliver courses in the traditional

795 school setting by personnel certified pursuant to s. 1012.55 who 796 provide direct instruction through a virtual environment or

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797	though a blended virtual and physical environment.
798	(2) School districts may offer virtual courses for students
799	enrolled in the school district. These courses must be
800	identified in the course code directory. Students who meet the
801	eligibility requirements of s. 1002.455 may participate in these
802	virtual course offerings.
803	(a) Any eligible student who is enrolled in a public school
804	district may register and enroll in an online course offered by
805	his or her school district.
806	(b) Any eligible student who is enrolled in a public school
807	district may register and enroll in an online course offered by
808	any other district in the state, except as limited by the
809	following:
810	1. A student may not enroll in courses offered through
811	virtual instruction programs provided pursuant to s. 1002.45.
812	2. A student may not enroll in a virtual course offered by
813	another school district if:
814	a. The course is offered online by the school district in
815	which the student resides; or
816	b. The course is offered in the school in which the student
817	is enrolled. However, a student may enroll in an online course
818	offered by another school district if the school in which the
819	student is enrolled offers the course but the student is unable
820	to schedule the course in his or her school.
821	3. The district in which the student completes the course
822	shall report the student's completion in that course for funding
823	pursuant to s. 1011.61(1)(c)b.(VI) and the home district shall
824	not report the student for funding for that course.
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826 For purposes of this paragraph, the combined total of all school 827 district reported FTE may not be reported as more than 1.0 full-828 time equivalent student in any given school year. The Department 829 of Education shall establish procedures to enable interdistrict 830 coordination for the delivery and funding of this online option.

831 Section 8. Paragraph (g) of subsection (3) of section 832 1008.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

833

1008.22 Student assessment program for public schools.-

8.34 (3) STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM.-The commissioner shall 835 design and implement a statewide program of educational assessment that provides information for the improvement of the 836 837 operation and management of the public schools, including 838 schools operating for the purpose of providing educational 839 services to youth in Department of Juvenile Justice programs. 840 The commissioner may enter into contracts for the continued 841 administration of the assessment, testing, and evaluation programs authorized and funded by the Legislature. Contracts may 842 843 be initiated in 1 fiscal year and continue into the next and may 844 be paid from the appropriations of either or both fiscal years. 845 The commissioner is authorized to negotiate for the sale or 846 lease of tests, scoring protocols, test scoring services, and 847 related materials developed pursuant to law. Pursuant to the 848 statewide assessment program, the commissioner shall:

849 (g) Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, all statewide 850 end-of-course assessments shall be administered online. Study 851 the cost and student achievement impact of secondary end-of-852 course assessments, including web-based and performance formats, 853 and report to the Legislature prior to implementation. 854

Section 9. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section

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855 1011.61, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 856 1011.61 Definitions.-Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 1000.21, the following terms are defined as follows for the 857 858 purposes of the Florida Education Finance Program: 859 (1) A "full-time equivalent student" in each program of the 860 district is defined in terms of full-time students and part-time 861 students as follows: 862 (c)1. A "full-time equivalent student" is: 863 a. A full-time student in any one of the programs listed in 864 s. 1011.62(1)(c); or 865 b. A combination of full-time or part-time students in any 866 one of the programs listed in s. 1011.62(1)(c) which is the 867 equivalent of one full-time student based on the following 868 calculations: 869 (I) A full-time student, except a postsecondary or adult 870 student or a senior high school student enrolled in adult 871 education when such courses are required for high school 872 graduation, in a combination of programs listed in s. 873 1011.62(1)(c) shall be a fraction of a full-time equivalent 874 membership in each special program equal to the number of net 875 hours per school year for which he or she is a member, divided 876 by the appropriate number of hours set forth in subparagraph 877 (a)1. or subparagraph (a)2. The difference between that fraction 878 or sum of fractions and the maximum value as set forth in subsection (4) for each full-time student is presumed to be the 879 880 balance of the student's time not spent in such special 881 education programs and shall be recorded as time in the 882 appropriate basic program.

883

(II) A prekindergarten handicapped student shall meet the



884 requirements specified for kindergarten students.

(III) A full-time equivalent student for students in kindergarten through grade 5 in a school district virtual instruction program under s. 1002.45 <u>or a virtual charter school</u> <u>under s. 1002.33</u> shall consist of a student who has successfully completed a basic program listed in s. 1011.62(1)(c)1.a. or b., and who is promoted to a higher grade level.

891 (IV) A full-time equivalent student for students in grades 892 6 through 12 in a school district virtual instruction program 893 under s. 1002.45(1)(b)1., and 2., or 3. or a virtual charter 894 school under s. 1002.33 shall consist of six full credit 895 completions in programs listed in s. 1011.62(1)(c)1.b. or c. and 896 3. Credit completions may can be a combination of full-credit 897 courses or half-credit courses either full credits or half 898 credits. Beginning in the 2014-2015 fiscal year, when s. 899 1008.22(3)(g) is implemented, the reported full-time equivalent students and associated funding of students enrolled in courses 900 901 requiring passage of an end-of-course assessment shall be 902 adjusted after the student completes the end-of-course 903 assessment.

904 (V) A Florida Virtual School full-time equivalent student 905 shall consist of six full credit completions or the prescribed 906 level of content that counts toward promotion to the next grade 907 in the programs listed in s. 1011.62(1)(c)1.a. and b. for 908 kindergarten grades 6 through grade 8 and the programs listed in 909 s. 1011.62(1)(c)1.c. for grades 9 through 12. Credit completions 910 may can be a combination of full-credit courses or half-credit 911 courses either full credits or half credits. Beginning in the 912 2014-2015 fiscal year, when s. 1008.22(3)(g) is implemented, the

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913 reported full-time equivalent students and associated funding of 914 students enrolled in courses requiring passage of an end-of-915 course assessment shall be adjusted after the student completes 916 the end-of-course assessment.

917 <u>(VI) Each successfully completed full-credit course earned</u> 918 through an online course delivered by a district other than the 919 one in which the student resides shall be calculated as 1/6 FTE.

920 <u>(VII) (VI)</u> Each successfully completed credit earned under 921 the alternative high school course credit requirements 922 authorized in s. 1002.375, which is not reported as a portion of 923 the 900 net hours of instruction pursuant to subparagraph 924 (1) (a)1., shall be calculated as 1/6 FTE.

925 2. A student in membership in a program scheduled for more 926 or less than 180 school days or the equivalent on an hourly 927 basis as specified by rules of the State Board of Education is a 928 fraction of a full-time equivalent membership equal to the 929 number of instructional hours in membership divided by the 930 appropriate number of hours set forth in subparagraph (a)1.; 931 however, for the purposes of this subparagraph, membership in 932 programs scheduled for more than 180 days is limited to students 933 enrolled in juvenile justice education programs and the Florida Virtual School. 934

935

936 The department shall determine and implement an equitable method 937 of equivalent funding for experimental schools and for schools 938 operating under emergency conditions, which schools have been 939 approved by the department to operate for less than the minimum 940 school day.

941

Section 10. Section 1012.57, Florida Statutes, is amended



942 to read:

943

1012.57 Certification of adjunct educators.-

944 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of ss. 1012.32, 1012.55, 945 and 1012.56, or any other provision of law or rule to the 946 contrary, district school boards shall adopt rules to allow for 947 the issuance of an adjunct teaching certificate to any applicant who fulfills the requirements of s. 1012.56(2)(a)-(f) and (10) 948 949 and who has expertise in the subject area to be taught. An 950 applicant shall be considered to have expertise in the subject 951 area to be taught if the applicant demonstrates sufficient 952 subject area mastery through passage of a subject area test. The 953 adjunct teaching certificate shall be used for part-time 954 teaching positions.

955 (2) The <u>Legislature intends that this section</u> intent of 956 this provision is to allow school districts to tap the wealth of 957 talent and expertise represented in Florida's citizens who may 958 wish to teach part-time in a Florida public school by permitting 959 school districts to issue adjunct certificates to qualified 960 applicants.

961 (3) Adjunct certificateholders should be used as a strategy 962 to enhance the diversity of course offerings offered to all 963 students. School districts may use the expertise of individuals 964 in the state who wish to provide online instruction to students 965 by issuing adjunct certificates to qualified applicants reduce 966 the teacher shortage; thus, adjunct certificateholders should 967 supplement a school's instructional staff, not supplant it. Each 968 school principal shall assign an experienced peer mentor to 969 assist the adjunct teaching certificateholder during the certificateholder's first year of teaching, and an adjunct 970



971	certificateholder may participate in a district's new teacher
972	training program. District school boards shall provide the
973	adjunct teaching certificateholder an orientation in classroom
974	management prior to assigning the certificateholder to a school.
975	(4) Each adjunct teaching certificate is valid through the
976	term of the annual contract between the educator and the school
977	district. Additional annual certifications and annual contracts
978	may be awarded by the district at the district's discretion but
979	<u>only</u> <del>for 5 school years and is renewable</del> if the applicant <u>is</u>
980	rated effective or highly effective under s. 1012.34 has
981	received satisfactory performance evaluations during each year
982	of teaching under adjunct teaching certification.
983	(5)-(2) Individuals who are certified and employed under
984	this section shall have the same rights and protection of laws
985	as teachers certified under s. 1012.56.
986	Section 11. By December 1, 2011, the Department of
987	Education shall submit a report to the Governor, the President
988	of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
989	which identifies and explains the best methods and strategies by
990	which the department can assist district school boards in
991	acquiring digital learning at the most reasonable prices
992	possible and provides a plan under which district school boards
993	may voluntarily pool their bids for such purchases. The report
994	shall identify criteria that will enable district school boards
995	to differentiate between the level of service and pricing based
996	upon factors such as the level of student support, the frequency
997	of teacher-student communications, instructional accountability
998	standards, and academic integrity. The report shall also include
999	ways to increase student access to digital learning, including
l	

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1000	identification and analysis of the best methods and strategies
1001	for implementing part-time virtual education in kindergarten
1002	through grade 5.
1003	Section 12. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.
1004	
1005	======================================
1006	And the title is amended as follows:
1007	Delete everything before the enacting clause
1008	and insert:
1009	A bill to be entitled
1010	An act relating to digital learning; creating s.
1011	1002.321, F.S.; creating the "Digital Learning Now
1012	Act"; providing legislative findings related to the
1013	elements to be included in high-quality digital
1014	learning; providing digital preparation requirements;
1015	providing for customized and accelerated learning;
1016	amending s. 1002.33, F.S.; authorizing the
1017	establishment of virtual charter schools; providing
1018	application requirements for establishment of a
1019	virtual charter school; authorizing a charter school
1020	to implement blended learning courses; providing
1021	funding for a virtual charter school; establishing
1022	administrative fees for a virtual charter school;
1023	amending s. 1002.37, F.S.; redefining the term "full-
1024	time equivalent student" as it applies to the Florida
1025	Virtual School; providing instruction, funding,
1026	assessment, and accountability requirements; amending
1027	s. 1002.45, F.S.; requiring school districts to
1028	provide all public school students the opportunity to

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1029 participate in virtual instruction programs; requiring 1030 school districts to provide full-time and part-time 1031 virtual instruction program options; authorizing a 1032 school district to enter into an agreement with a 1033 charter virtual school to provide virtual instruction 1034 to district students; authorizing virtual charter 1035 school contracts; providing additional provider 1036 qualifications relating to curriculum, student 1037 performance accountability, and disclosure; revising 1038 student eligibility requirements; providing funding 1039 and accountability requirements; creating s. 1002.455, 1040 F.S.; establishing student eligibility requirements 1041 for virtual instruction; amending s. 1003.428, F.S.; 1042 requiring at least one course required for high school 1043 graduation to be completed through online learning; 1044 creating s. 1003.498, F.S.; authorizing school districts to offer virtual courses and blended 1045 learning courses; amending s. 1008.22, F.S.; requiring 1046 1047 all statewide end-of-course assessments to be administrated online by the 2014-2015 school year; 1048 1049 amending s. 1011.61, F.S.; redefining the term "fulltime equivalent student" for purposes of virtual 1050 1051 instruction; amending s. 1012.57, F.S.; authorizing 1052 school districts to issue adjunct teaching 1053 certificates to individuals to provide online 1054 instruction; revising requirements for adjunct 1055 teaching certificateholders; providing for annual 1056 contracts; requiring the Department of Education to 1057 submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature



1058 relating to school district offering of, and student 1059 access to, digital learning; providing an effective 1060 date.