

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

.

1 Schools & Learning Council offered the following:

2
3 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

4 Between lines 161 and 162, insert:

5 Section 3. Section 1003.215, Florida Statutes, is created
6 to read:

7 1003.215 Student Preparedness Pilot Program.--

8 (1) The Legislature finds it to be in the public interest
9 that all students exit from the public schools with academic
10 skills that provide the students with the opportunity to pursue
11 postsecondary education or with skills that lead to ready to
12 work certification, industry certification, or skill licensure.

13 (2) (a) Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, and
14 continuing through the 2014-2015 school year, there is created
15 the Student Preparedness Pilot Program to be piloted by school
16 districts. Students in a school district selected to implement

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17 the pilot program pursuant to subsection (3) who attain the age
18 of 16 years but have not reached the age of 18 years and who
19 choose to exercise their option not to regularly attend school
20 pursuant to s. 1003.21(1)(c) shall be subject to the attendance
21 and completion requirements of this section.

22 (b) In the 2008-2009 school year, each school district
23 selected pursuant to subsection (3) shall use its current level
24 of funding to review, identify, and develop curricula options
25 for the implementation of the pilot program requirements
26 pursuant to paragraph (5)(a) for students who attain the age of
27 16 years but have not reached the age of 18 years whose academic
28 goals may not include a traditional high school diploma. These
29 options shall include, but are not limited to, nontraditional
30 academic options and flexible attendance options and may include
31 a phase-in of students by age or grade. Each selected school
32 district must develop a plan to meet the student's needs and the
33 attendance and completion requirements of this section prior to
34 implementation of the pilot program in the 2009-2010 school
35 year.

36 (3) The Department of Education shall develop an
37 application process for all school districts to apply to
38 participate in the pilot program. The State Board of Education
39 shall select the pilot program districts, one of which shall be
40 the Duval County School District.

41 (4) Parents of public school students enrolled in a
42 participating pilot program district must receive accurate and
43 timely information regarding their child's academic progress and

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44 must be informed of ways they can help their child to succeed in
45 school.

46 (5) (a) A student in a participating pilot program district
47 who attains the age of 16 years but has not reached the age of
48 18 years has the right to file a formal declaration of intent to
49 terminate school enrollment if the declaration is signed by the
50 parent. The parent has the right to be notified by the school
51 district of the district's receipt of the student's declaration
52 of intent to terminate school enrollment. The student's guidance
53 counselor or other school personnel must conduct an exit
54 interview pursuant to s. 1003.21(1)(c). Any student in a
55 participating pilot program district who files a declaration
56 seeking to terminate school enrollment but has not reached the
57 age of 18 years shall be required, until completion or
58 attainment of the age of 18 years, to continue pursuing credits
59 toward a high school diploma, pursue a high school equivalency
60 diploma with participation in the Florida Ready to Work
61 Certification Program under s. 1004.99, participate in a career
62 or job training program leading to industry certification or
63 skill licensure that is developed by or in cooperation with the
64 district school board, or participate in the Florida Ready to
65 Work Certification Program under s. 1004.99.

66 (b) A Student Preparedness Pilot Program student subject
67 to the attendance and completion requirements of this section is
68 not an "eligible student" for purposes of school grading under
69 s. 1008.34(3)(b) if the student has selected a nontraditional
70 academic option of the pilot program.

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71 (6) Students who become or have become married or who are
72 pregnant and parenting have the right to attend school and
73 receive the same or equivalent educational instruction as other
74 students.

75 (7) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
76 Accountability (OPPAGA), in cooperation with the participating
77 pilot program districts, the applicable state attorneys' offices
78 and regional workforce boards, the Agency for Workforce
79 Innovation, the Department of Education, and the Department of
80 Juvenile Justice, shall conduct a study annually of the impact
81 of the pilot program on dropout and graduation rates, on the
82 employability of students, and on juvenile crime, using 2007-
83 2008 data as the baseline for the research. OPPAGA shall develop
84 criteria for collection and reporting of data with input from
85 the cooperating entities. The results of each annual report
86 shall be made available to participating pilot program
87 districts, the applicable state attorneys' offices and regional
88 workforce boards, the Agency for Workforce Education, the
89 Department of Education, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the
90 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
91 House of Representatives by January 1 following each school
92 year, beginning January 1, 2012.

93 Section 4. Subsections (8) and (13) of section 1003.01,
94 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

95 1003.01 Definitions.--As used in this chapter, the term:

96 (8) "Habitual truant" means a student who: has 15
97 unexcused absences within 90 calendar days with or without the
98 knowledge or consent of the student's parent; is subject to

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99 compulsory school attendance under s. 1003.21(1) and (2)(a) or
100 is subject to the Student Preparedness Pilot Program under s.
101 1003.215;~~7~~ and is not exempt under s. 1003.21(3), ~~or~~ s. 1003.24,
102 or ~~by meeting the criteria for~~ any other exemption specified by
103 law or rules of the State Board of Education. Such a student
104 must have been the subject of the activities specified in ss.
105 1003.26 and 1003.27(3), without resultant successful remediation
106 of the truancy problem before being dealt with as a child in
107 need of services according to the provisions of chapter 984.

108 (13) (a) "Regular school attendance" means the actual
109 attendance of a student during the school day as defined by law
110 and rules of the State Board of Education. Regular attendance
111 within the intent of s. 1003.21 may be achieved by attendance
112 in:

- 113 1.(a) A public school supported by public funds;
114 2.(b) A parochial, religious, or denominational school;
115 3.(e) A private school supported in whole or in part by
116 tuition charges or by endowments or gifts;
117 4.(d) A home education program that meets the requirements
118 of chapter 1002; or
119 5.(e) A private tutoring program that meets the
120 requirements of chapter 1002.

121 (b) "Regular program attendance" for a student in the
122 Student Preparedness Pilot Program under s. 1003.215 means
123 actual attendance by the student in traditional or
124 nontraditional academic options as defined by law and rules of
125 the State Board of Education. The district school superintendent
126 shall be responsible for enforcing such attendance.

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127 Section 5. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
128 1003.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

129 1003.21 School attendance.--

130 (1)

131 (c) A student who attains the age of 16 years during the
132 school year is not subject to compulsory school attendance
133 beyond the date upon which he or she attains that age if the
134 student files a formal declaration of intent to terminate school
135 enrollment with the district school board. Public school
136 students who have attained the age of 16 years and who have not
137 graduated are subject to compulsory school attendance until the
138 formal declaration of intent is filed with the district school
139 board. The declaration must acknowledge that terminating school
140 enrollment is likely to reduce the student's earning potential
141 and must be signed by the student and the student's parent. The
142 school district must notify the student's parent of receipt of
143 the student's declaration of intent to terminate school
144 enrollment. The student's guidance counselor or other school
145 personnel must conduct an exit interview with the student to
146 determine the reasons for the student's decision to terminate
147 school enrollment and actions that could be taken to keep the
148 student in school. The student must be informed of opportunities
149 to continue his or her education in a different environment,
150 including, but not limited to, adult education and GED test
151 preparation. Additionally, the student must complete a survey in
152 a format prescribed by the Department of Education to provide
153 data on student reasons for terminating enrollment and actions
154 taken by schools to keep students enrolled. A student enrolled

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155 in a Student Preparedness Pilot Program school district must
156 receive information regarding the program's attendance and
157 completion requirements under s. 1003.215.

158 Section 6. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section
159 1003.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

160 1003.26 Enforcement of school attendance.--The Legislature
161 finds that poor academic performance is associated with
162 nonattendance and that school districts must take an active role
163 in promoting and enforcing attendance as a means of improving
164 student performance. It is the policy of the state that each
165 district school superintendent be responsible for enforcing
166 school attendance of all students subject to the compulsory
167 school age in the school district and supporting enforcement of
168 school attendance by local law enforcement agencies. The
169 responsibility includes recommending policies and procedures to
170 the district school board that require public schools to respond
171 in a timely manner to every unexcused absence, and every absence
172 for which the reason is unknown, of students enrolled in the
173 schools. District school board policies shall require the parent
174 of a student to justify each absence of the student, and that
175 justification will be evaluated based on adopted district school
176 board policies that define excused and unexcused absences. The
177 policies must provide that public schools track excused and
178 unexcused absences and contact the home in the case of an
179 unexcused absence from school, or an absence from school for
180 which the reason is unknown, to prevent the development of
181 patterns of nonattendance. The Legislature finds that early
182 intervention in school attendance is the most effective way of

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183 producing good attendance habits that will lead to improved
184 student learning and achievement. Each public school shall
185 implement the following steps to promote and enforce regular
186 school attendance:

187 (1) CONTACT, REFER, AND ENFORCE.--

188 (f)1. If the parent of a child who has been identified as
189 exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance enrolls the child in a
190 home education program pursuant to chapter 1002, the district
191 school superintendent shall provide the parent a copy of s.
192 1002.41 and the accountability requirements of this paragraph.
193 The district school superintendent shall also refer the parent
194 to a home education review committee composed of the district
195 contact for home education programs and at least two home
196 educators selected by the parent from a district list of all
197 home educators who have conducted a home education program for
198 at least 3 years and who have indicated a willingness to serve
199 on the committee. The home education review committee shall
200 review the portfolio of the student, as defined by s. 1002.41,
201 every 30 days during the district's regular school terms until
202 the committee is satisfied that the home education program is in
203 compliance with s. 1002.41(1)(b). The first portfolio review
204 must occur within the first 30 calendar days of the
205 establishment of the program. The provisions of subparagraph 2.
206 do not apply once the committee determines the home education
207 program is in compliance with s. 1002.41(1)(b).

208 2. If the parent fails to provide a portfolio to the
209 committee, the committee shall notify the district school
210 superintendent. The district school superintendent shall then

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211 terminate the home education program and require the parent to
212 enroll the child in an attendance option that meets the
213 definition of "regular school attendance" under s.
214 1003.01(13) (a) 1., 2., 3., or 5., ~~(b), (c), or (e)~~, within 3
215 days. Upon termination of a home education program pursuant to
216 this subparagraph, the parent shall not be eligible to reenroll
217 the child in a home education program for 180 calendar days.
218 Failure of a parent to enroll the child in an attendance option
219 as required by this subparagraph after termination of the home
220 education program pursuant to this subparagraph shall constitute
221 noncompliance with the compulsory attendance requirements of s.
222 1003.21 and may result in criminal prosecution under s.
223 1003.27(2). Nothing contained herein shall restrict the ability
224 of the district school superintendent, or the ability of his or
225 her designee, to review the portfolio pursuant to s.
226 1002.41(1) (b).

227 Section 7. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section
228 1004.99, Florida Statutes, is amended, subsection (4) is
229 renumbered as subsection (5), and a new subsection (4) is added
230 to that section, to read:

231 1004.99 Florida Ready to Work Certification Program.--

232 (3) The Florida Ready to Work Certification Program shall
233 be composed of:

234 (d) A Florida Ready to Work Credential ~~certificate~~ and
235 portfolio awarded to students upon successful completion of the
236 instruction. Each portfolio must delineate the skills
237 demonstrated by the student as evidence of the student's
238 preparation for employment.

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239 (4) A Florida Ready to Work Credential shall be awarded to
240 a student who successfully passes assessments in Reading for
241 Information, Applied Mathematics, and Locating Information or
242 any other assessments of comparable rigor. Each assessment shall
243 be scored on a scale of 3 to 7. The level of the credential each
244 student receives is based on the following:

245 (a) A bronze-level credential requires a minimum score of
246 3 or above on each of the assessments.

247 (b) A silver-level credential requires a minimum score of
248 4 or above on each of the assessments.

249 (c) A gold-level credential requires a minimum score of 5
250 or above on each of the assessments.

251 Section 8. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
252 1003.428, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

253 1003.428 General requirements for high school graduation;
254 revised.--

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

258 (b) Eight credits in majors, minors, or electives:

259 1. Four credits in a major area of interest, such as
260 sequential courses in a career and technical program, fine and
261 performing arts, or academic content area, selected by the
262 student as part of the education plan required by s. 1003.4156.
263 Students may revise major areas of interest each year as part of
264 annual course registration processes and should update their
265 education plan to reflect such revisions. Annually by October 1,
266 the district school board shall approve major areas of interest

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267 and submit the list of majors to the Commissioner of Education
268 for approval. Each major area of interest shall be deemed
269 approved unless specifically rejected by the commissioner within
270 60 days. Upon approval, each district's major areas of interest
271 shall be available for use by all school districts and shall be
272 posted on the department's website. Beginning with students
273 entering grade 9 in the 2008-2009 school year, a student must
274 earn a Florida Ready to Work Credential as created under s.
275 1004.99 in order to graduate with a career or technical major
276 area of interest.

277 2. Four credits in elective courses selected by the
278 student as part of the education plan required by s. 1003.4156.
279 These credits may be combined to allow for a second major area
280 of interest pursuant to subparagraph 1., a minor area of
281 interest, elective courses, or intensive reading or mathematics
282 intervention courses as described in this subparagraph.

283 a. Minor areas of interest are composed of three credits
284 selected by the student as part of the education plan required
285 by s. 1003.4156 and approved by the district school board.

286 b. Elective courses are selected by the student in order
287 to pursue a complete education program as described in s.
288 1001.41(3) and to meet eligibility requirements for
289 scholarships.

290 c. For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 on
291 FCAT Reading, the student must be enrolled in and complete an
292 intensive reading course the following year. Placement of Level
293 2 readers in either an intensive reading course or a content
294 area course in which reading strategies are delivered shall be

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295 determined by diagnosis of reading needs. The department shall
296 provide guidance on appropriate strategies for diagnosing and
297 meeting the varying instructional needs of students reading
298 below grade level. Reading courses shall be designed and offered
299 pursuant to the comprehensive reading plan required by s.
300 1011.62(8).

301 d. For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 or
302 Level 2 on FCAT Mathematics, the student must receive
303 remediation the following year. These courses may be taught
304 through applied, integrated, or combined courses and are subject
305 to approval by the department for inclusion in the Course Code
306 Directory.

307 Section 9. Subsection (1) of section 1009.536, Florida
308 Statutes, is amended to read:

309 1009.536 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award.--The
310 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award is created within
311 the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to recognize and
312 reward academic achievement and career preparation by high
313 school students who wish to continue their education.

314 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal
315 Vocational Scholars award if the student meets the general
316 eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures
317 Scholarship Program and the student:

318 (a) Completes the secondary school portion of a sequential
319 program of studies that requires at least three secondary school
320 career credits taken over at least 2 academic years, and is
321 continued in a planned, related postsecondary education program.
322 If the student's school does not offer such a two-plus-two or
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323 tech-prep program, the student must complete a job-preparatory
324 career education program selected by Workforce Florida, Inc.,
325 for its ability to provide high-wage employment in an occupation
326 with high potential for employment opportunities. On-the-job
327 training may not be substituted for any of the three required
328 career credits.

329 (b) Demonstrates readiness for postsecondary education by
330 earning a passing score on the Florida College Entry Level
331 Placement Test or its equivalent as identified by the Department
332 of Education.

333 (c) Earns a minimum cumulative weighted grade point
334 average of 3.0, as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, on all
335 subjects required for a standard high school diploma, excluding
336 elective courses.

337 (d) Earns a minimum unweighted grade point average of 3.5
338 on a 4.0 scale for secondary career courses comprising the
339 career program.

340 (e) Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2008-
341 2009 school year, earns a gold-level Florida Ready to Work
342 Credential as created under s. 1004.99.

343 Section 10. Paragraph (j) is added to subsection (5) of
344 section 445.004, Florida Statutes, to read:

345 445.004 Workforce Florida, Inc.; creation; purpose;
346 membership; duties and powers.--

347 (5) Workforce Florida, Inc., shall have all the powers and
348 authority, not explicitly prohibited by statute, necessary or
349 convenient to carry out and effectuate the purposes as
350 determined by statute, Pub. L. No. 105-220, and the Governor, as
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351 well as its functions, duties, and responsibilities, including,
352 but not limited to, the following:

353 (j) In partnership with the Department of Education,
354 ensuring consistent use of the Florida Ready to Work Credential
355 as created under s. 1004.99.

358 -----
359 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

360 Remove line(s) 2-24 and insert:

361 An act relating to alternative high school courses and programs;
362 creating s. 1002.375, F.S.; establishing a pilot project for
363 awarding high school credit to students enrolled in industry
364 certification programs; requiring the Commissioner of Education
365 to establish criteria for program participation; requiring that
366 a school district submit a letter of interest by a specified
367 date in order to participate in the pilot project; requiring
368 that the Commissioner of Education submit a report to the
369 Governor and the Legislature; providing for specified courses to
370 be included as alternative credit courses; exempting alternative
371 credit courses from certain requirements; authorizing the
372 Department of Education to approve certain courses for credit by
373 examination; requiring the Department of Education to adopt
374 passing minimum scores on approved assessments and maintain a
375 course directory; requiring the State Board of Education to
376 adopt rules; amending s. 1011.61, F.S., relating to definitions
377 for the Florida Education Finance Program; providing for an
378 alternate method of reporting full-time equivalent membership

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HOUSE AMENDMENT

Bill No. CS/CS/SB 1906

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379 for credit earned in alternative high school credit courses for
380 the pilot project created under s. 1002.375, F.S.; creating s.
381 1003.215, F.S.; creating the Student Preparedness Pilot Program;
382 requiring the Duval County School District and each selected
383 school district to review and identify curricula options for
384 certain students; requiring students who attain the age of 16
385 years but have not reached the age of 18 years in pilot program
386 districts who do not regularly attend school to be subject to
387 specific attendance and completion requirements; providing for
388 an application and selection process for school district
389 participation; specifying procedures for termination of school
390 enrollment and requirements for pilot program attendance and
391 completion; specifying that students who select a nontraditional
392 academic option are not eligible students for purposes of school
393 grading; requiring an annual study and reporting by the Office
394 of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability;
395 amending s. 1003.01, F.S.; providing that habitual truancy
396 provisions apply to students subject to pilot program
397 requirements; defining regular program attendance in a pilot
398 program school district; amending s. 1003.21, F.S.; requiring a
399 student in a pilot program school district to be informed of
400 attendance and completion requirements; amending s. 1003.26,
401 F.S.; conforming cross-references; amending s. 1004.99, F.S.,
402 relating to the Florida Ready to Work Program; providing
403 requirements for attaining bronze, silver, and gold credential
404 levels; amending s. 1003.428, F.S.; requiring a student to earn
405 the credential for high school graduation with a career or
406 technical major area of interest; amending s. 1009.536, F.S.;

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HOUSE AMENDMENT
Bill No. CS/CS/SB 1906

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407 requiring a student to earn the credential for receipt of a
408 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award; amending s.
409 445.004, F.S.; requiring Workforce Florida, Inc., and the
410 Department of Education to ensure consistent use of the
411 credential; providing an effective date.