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CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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Floor: 1e/RE/2R
4/30/2008 10:12 PM

1 Senator Gaetz moved the following amendment to amendment
2 (510960):

3
4 Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

5 Between line(s) 1295 and 1296,
6 insert:

7
8 Section 29. Section 1002.375, Florida Statutes, is created
9 to read:

10 1002.375 Alternative credit for high school courses; pilot
11 project.--

12 (1) The Commissioner of Education shall implement a pilot
13 project in up to three school districts beginning in the 2008-
14 2009 school year which allows school districts to award
15 alternative course credit for students enrolled in nationally or
16 state-recognized industry certification programs, as defined by
17 the Agency for Workforce Innovation in accordance with the



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18 criteria described in s. 1003.492(2). The Commissioner of  
19 Education shall establish criteria for districts that participate  
20 in the pilot program. School districts interested in  
21 participating in the program must submit a letter of interest by  
22 July 15, 2008, to the Commissioner of Education identifying up to  
23 five nationally or state-recognized industry certification  
24 programs, as defined by the Agency for Workforce Innovation in  
25 accordance with the criteria described in s. 1003.492(2), under  
26 which the district would like to award alternative credit for the  
27 eligible courses identified in subsection (2). The Commissioner  
28 of Education shall select up to three participating school  
29 districts by July 30, 2008. The Commissioner of Education shall  
30 submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and  
31 the Speaker of the House of Representatives identifying the  
32 number of students choosing to earn alternative credit, the  
33 number of students that received alternative credit, and  
34 legislative recommendations for expanding the use of alternative  
35 credit for core academic courses required for high school  
36 graduation. The report shall be submitted by January 1, 2010.

37 (2) For purposes of designing and implementing a successful  
38 pilot project, eligible alternative credit courses include  
39 Algebra 1a, Algebra 1b, Algebra 1, Geometry, and Biology.  
40 Alternative credits shall be awarded for courses in which a  
41 student is not enrolled, but for which the student may earn  
42 academic credit by enrolling in another course or sequence of  
43 courses required to earn a nationally or state-recognized  
44 industry certificate, as defined by the Agency for Workforce  
45 Innovation in accordance with the criteria described in s.  
46 1003.492(2), of which the majority of the standards-based content  
47 in the course description is consistent with the alternative



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48 credit course description approved by the Department of  
49 Education.

50 (3) An alternative credit course is not subject to:

51 (a) The definition of credit under s. 1003.436;

52 (b) The time requirements of s. 1011.60(2); or

53 (c) The net hours of instruction requirements for purposes  
54 of determining full-time equivalency pursuant to s.

55 1011.61(1)(a)1. under the Florida Education Finance Program.

56 (4) The Department of Education may approve a course as an

57 alternative credit course pursuant to this section. In order to

58 earn credit, each participating student must pass an end-of-

59 course assessment that measures proficiency in the Sunshine State

60 Standards addressed by the course. The Department of Education

61 shall approve each end-of-course assessment and the minimum

62 passing score for each assessment. Approved assessments shall be

63 limited to assessments for Algebra 1a, Algebra 1b, Algebra 1,

64 Geometry, and Biology developed by the Florida Virtual School, or

65 end-of-course statewide standardized assessments for these

66 courses which may be adopted or developed by the department. The

67 department shall approve the method of administering end-of-

68 course assessments for alternative credit courses in each

69 participating school district in order to ensure the validity of

70 the assessment results.

71 (5) School districts shall report all enrollments and

72 credits awarded for alternative education courses pursuant to

73 this section under procedures prescribed by the Department of

74 Education.

75 (6) The Department of Education shall maintain a list of

76 approved assessments and minimum passing scores for each approved

77 course. The approved list must be incorporated into the Course



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78 Code Directory. The department shall prescribe the information a  
79 district must provide in order to have a course considered for  
80 inclusion in the directory listing for the approved courses used  
81 in the pilot program. A properly completed request by a district  
82 to have a course included in the directory must be approved or  
83 denied by the department within 30 days after receipt. When a  
84 request is denied, the department must provide the district with  
85 its reason for denial in writing within 10 days after the denial.

86 (7) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules pursuant  
87 to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the pilot program  
88 created in this section.

89 Section 30. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section  
90 1011.61, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

91 1011.61 Definitions.--Notwithstanding the provisions of s.  
92 1000.21, the following terms are defined as follows for the  
93 purposes of the Florida Education Finance Program:

94 (1) A "full-time equivalent student" in each program of the  
95 district is defined in terms of full-time students and part-time  
96 students as follows:

97 (c)1. A "full-time equivalent student" is:

98 a. A full-time student in any one of the programs listed in  
99 s. 1011.62(1)(c); or

100 b. A combination of full-time or part-time students in any  
101 one of the programs listed in s. 1011.62(1)(c) which is the  
102 equivalent of one full-time student based on the following  
103 calculations:

104 (I) A full-time student, except a postsecondary or adult  
105 student or a senior high school student enrolled in adult  
106 education when such courses are required for high school  
107 graduation, in a combination of programs listed in s.



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108 1011.62(1)(c) shall be a fraction of a full-time equivalent  
109 membership in each special program equal to the number of net  
110 hours per school year for which he or she is a member, divided by  
111 the appropriate number of hours set forth in subparagraph (a)1.  
112 or subparagraph (a)2. The difference between that fraction or sum  
113 of fractions and the maximum value as set forth in subsection (4)  
114 for each full-time student is presumed to be the balance of the  
115 student's time not spent in such special education programs and  
116 shall be recorded as time in the appropriate basic program.

117 (II) A prekindergarten handicapped student shall meet the  
118 requirements specified for kindergarten students.

119 (III) A Florida Virtual School full-time equivalent student  
120 shall consist of six full credit completions in the programs  
121 listed in s. 1011.62(1)(c)1. and 4. Credit completions can be a  
122 combination of either full credits or half credits.

123 (IV) Each successfully completed credit earned under the  
124 alternative high school course credit requirements authorized in  
125 s. 1002.375, which is not reported as a portion of the 900 net  
126 hours of instruction pursuant to subparagraph (1)(a)1., shall be  
127 calculated as 1/6 FTE.

128 2. A student in membership in a program scheduled for more  
129 or less than 180 school days is a fraction of a full-time  
130 equivalent membership equal to the number of instructional hours  
131 in membership divided by the appropriate number of hours set  
132 forth in subparagraph (a)1.; however, for the purposes of this  
133 subparagraph, membership in programs scheduled for more than 180  
134 days is limited to students enrolled in juvenile justice  
135 education programs and the Florida Virtual School.

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137 The department shall determine and implement an equitable method  
 138 of equivalent funding for experimental schools and for schools  
 139 operating under emergency conditions, which schools have been  
 140 approved by the department to operate for less than the minimum  
 141 school day.

142  
 143 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

144 And the title is amended as follows:

145 On line(s) 1431, after the semicolon,  
 146 insert:

147  
 148 creating s. 1002.375, F.S.; establishing a pilot project  
 149 for awarding high school credit to students enrolled in  
 150 industry certification programs; requiring the  
 151 Commissioner of Education to establish criteria for  
 152 program participation; requiring that a school district  
 153 submit a letter of interest by a specified date in order  
 154 to participate in the pilot project; requiring that the  
 155 Commissioner of Education submit a report to the Governor  
 156 and the Legislature; providing for specified courses to be  
 157 included as alternative credit courses; exempting  
 158 alternative credit courses from certain requirements;  
 159 authorizing the Department of Education to approve certain  
 160 courses for credit by examination; requiring the  
 161 Department of Education to adopt passing minimum scores on  
 162 approved assessments and maintain a course directory;  
 163 requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules;  
 164 amending s. 1011.61, F.S., relating to definitions for the  
 165 Florida Education Finance Program; providing for an  
 166 alternate method of reporting full-time equivalent



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167 | membership for credit earned in alternative high school  
168 | credit courses for the pilot project created under s.  
169 | 1002.375, F.S.;