

By Senator Perry

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to pathways to college and career  
3           success; creating s. 1004.991, F.S.; requiring the  
4           Commissioner of Education to conduct an annual review  
5           of career and technical education offerings in the K-  
6           12 education system and the Florida College System;  
7           providing requirements for the annual review;  
8           requiring the commissioner to annually provide a  
9           report summarizing the annual review to the Governor  
10          and the Legislature; providing requirements for the  
11          report; requiring the State Board of Education to  
12          adopt rules; amending s. 1007.23, F.S.; requiring the  
13          statewide articulation agreement to provide for a  
14          reverse transfer agreement; providing requirements for  
15          the reverse transfer agreement; amending s. 1007.25,  
16          F.S.; requiring state universities to annually notify  
17          their students of a specified provision of law;  
18          amending s. 1009.26, F.S.; authorizing state  
19          universities or Florida College System institutions to  
20          waive tuition and fees for students who meet specified  
21          requirements; providing an effective date.

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

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25           Section 1. Section 1004.991, Florida Statutes, is created  
26 to read:

27           1004.991 Duties of the commissioner in reviewing career and  
28 technical education offerings.-

29           (1) The Commissioner of Education shall conduct an annual

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30 review of career and technical education offerings in the K-12  
31 education system and the Florida College System, in consultation  
32 with the Department of Economic Opportunity, CareerSource  
33 Florida, Inc., leaders of business and industry, the Board of  
34 Governors of the State University System, the Florida College  
35 System, school districts, and other education stakeholders, to  
36 determine the alignment of existing offerings with employer  
37 demand, postsecondary degree or certificate programs, and  
38 professional industry certifications. The review must identify  
39 career and technical education offerings that are linked to  
40 occupations that are in high demand by employers, require high-  
41 level skills, and provide middle-level and high-level wages. The  
42 review must include analyses of:

43 (a) Participating students and their educational outcomes,  
44 including the following:

45 1. Academic achievement;

46 2. Attainment of industry certifications;

47 3. Program completion;

48 4. Applied learning experiences;

49 5. College credit attainment through the career and  
50 technical education program, including dual enrollment or  
51 articulation;

52 6. Postsecondary enrollment and credential attainment,  
53 including enrollment in 4-year degree programs for Florida  
54 College System students; and

55 7. Employment outcomes, including wages;

56 (b) Demographics of participating students by pathway and  
57 credential attainment;

58 (c) Educational settings of the courses;

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- 59       (d) Alignment with high-growth, high-demand, and high-wage  
60 employment opportunities;
- 61       (e) Current and projected economic, labor, and wage data on  
62 the needs of the state, regional and global economies, and  
63 workforce;
- 64       (f) Alignment with certificate or degree programs offered  
65 at the postsecondary level or professional industry  
66 certifications;
- 67       (g) Employment outcomes, including wages, by career and  
68 technical education program offerings;
- 69       (h) Apprenticeship and preapprenticeship offerings;
- 70       (i) Qualifications and specialized knowledge and expertise  
71 of instructors and the opportunities for these educators to  
72 upskill in the latest in-demand skills of employers; and
- 73       (j) The extent to which federal, state, and local funding  
74 is used to foster career and technical education program success  
75 and program efficiency.
- 76       (2) Using the findings from the annual review as provided  
77 in subsection (1), the commissioner shall phase out K-12 career  
78 and technical education offerings that are not aligned with the  
79 needs of employers or do not provide program completers with  
80 middle- or higher-wage jobs. Additionally, the commissioner  
81 shall encourage school districts and Florida College System  
82 institutions to offer new programs that are currently in demand  
83 by employers but are not offered by school districts or Florida  
84 College System institutions.
- 85       (3) By December 1 of each year, the commissioner shall  
86 provide to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
87 Speaker of the House of Representatives a report summarizing the

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88 following:

89 (a) The review's findings pursuant to subsection (1);

90 (b) A list of existing career and technical education  
91 programs by school or institution which are not aligned with  
92 employer demand or do not provide students with an opportunity  
93 to earn a living wage;

94 (c) A list of knowledge areas, skills, and competencies  
95 employers demand which are not being provided through existing  
96 career and technical education program offerings; and

97 (d) The commissioner's recommendations to improve the  
98 operational efficiency and student success in the state's career  
99 and technical education program offerings.

100 (4) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules pursuant  
101 to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this section.

102 Section 2. Subsection (7) is added to section 1007.23,  
103 Florida Statutes, to read:

104 1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.—

105 (7) The articulation agreement must specifically provide  
106 for a reverse transfer agreement for Florida College System  
107 associate in arts degree-seeking students who transfer to a  
108 state university before earning an associate in arts degree. The  
109 agreement must include, but is not limited to, the following  
110 provisions:

111 (a) The state universities' annual identification of  
112 students, described under this subsection, who have completed  
113 requirements for an associate in arts degree.

114 (b) The transfer of credits earned at the state university  
115 back to the Florida College System institution.

116 (c) Provisions for the annual notification to students,

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117 described under this subsection, of the reverse transfer policy.

118 Section 3. Subsection (11) of section 1007.25, Florida  
119 Statutes, is amended to read:

120 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;  
121 other degree requirements.—

122 (11) Students at state universities may request associate  
123 in arts certificates if they have successfully completed the  
124 minimum requirements for the degree of associate in arts ~~(A.A.)~~.  
125 The university must grant the student an associate in arts  
126 degree if the student has successfully completed minimum  
127 requirements for college-level communication and computation  
128 skills adopted by the State Board of Education and 60 academic  
129 semester hours or the equivalent within a degree program area,  
130 including 36 semester hours in general education courses in the  
131 subject areas of communication, mathematics, social sciences,  
132 humanities, and natural sciences, consistent with the general  
133 education requirements specified in the articulation agreement  
134 pursuant to s. 1007.23. Universities must annually notify their  
135 students of this provision.

136 Section 4. Subsection (16) is added to section 1009.26,  
137 Florida Statutes, to read:

138 1009.26 Fee waivers.—

139 (16) A state university or Florida College System  
140 institution may waive tuition and fees for a student who was  
141 enrolled in a state university or Florida College System  
142 institution within the past 10 years or earlier, but who has not  
143 reenrolled in the preceding 5 years and who successfully  
144 completed all but the equivalent of 10 percent of the required  
145 coursework for an associate or bachelor's degree.

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Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.