A bill to be entitled

An act relating to alternative high school graduation
requirements; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; providing
that, as of a specified school year, certain students
are eligible for an alternative pathway to a standard
high school diploma through the Career and Technical
Education (CTE) pathway option; providing requirements
for the CTE pathway option; requiring that each
principal or his or her designee, who must be an
academic advisor, inform parents and students of the
CTE pathway option and establish certain processes
relating to the pathway; requiring district school
boards to incorporate certain information in the
student progression plan; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Present subsection (11) of section 1003.4282,
Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (12), and a new
subsection (11) is added to that section, to read:

1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school
diploma.—

(11) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION GRADUATION PATHWAY
OPTION.—Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, a student is
eligible to complete an alternative pathway to earning a
standard high school diploma through the Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathway option. Receipt of a standard high school diploma awarded through the CTE pathway option requires the student's successful completion of at least 18 credits. A student completing the CTE pathway option must earn at least a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

(a) In order for a student to satisfy the requirements of the CTE pathway option, a student must:

1. Complete three credits in English Language Arts. The three credits must be in ELA I, II, and III; however, a student may substitute up to three credits in ELA honors, AP, AICE, IB, or dual enrollment courses for the required ELA credits. A student also must pass the statewide, standardized grade 10 Reading assessment or, when implemented, the grade 10 ELA assessment, or earn a concordant score, in order to earn a standard high school diploma;

2. Complete three credits in mathematics. A student must earn one credit in Algebra I and one credit in Geometry. A student's performance on the statewide, standardized Algebra I end-of-course (EOC) assessment constitutes 30 percent of the student's final course grade. A student also must pass the statewide, standardized Algebra I EOC assessment, or earn a comparative score, in order to earn a standard high school diploma. A student's performance on the statewide, standardized Geometry EOC assessment constitutes 30 percent of the student's
final course grade. A student who earns an industry certification for which there is a statewide college credit articulation agreement approved by the State Board of Education may substitute the certification for one mathematics credit. Substitution may occur for up to one mathematics credit, except for Algebra I and Geometry;

3. Complete three credits in science. Two of the three required credits must have a laboratory component. A student must earn one credit in Biology I and two credits in equally rigorous courses. The statewide, standardized Biology I EOC assessment constitutes 30 percent of the student's final course grade. A student who earns an industry certification for which there is a statewide college credit articulation agreement approved by the State Board of Education may substitute the certification for two science credits, except for Biology I;

4. Complete three and one-half credits in social studies. A student must earn one credit in United States History; one credit in World History; one-half credit in economics; one-half credit in financial literacy; and one-half credit in United States Government. The United States History EOC assessment constitutes 30 percent of the student's final course grade;

5. Complete three credits in career and technical education. The courses must result in a program completion and an industry certification;

6. Complete two and one-half credits in work-based
learning programs. A student must earn two and one-half credits through work-based learning program courses. A student may substitute up to two and one-half credits of electives for work-based learning program courses to fulfill this requirement; and

7. Sit for the statewide, standardized Geometry EOC assessment, Biology I EOC assessment, and United States History EOC assessment.

(b) Upon completion of the requirements specified in paragraph (a), a student shall be awarded a standard high school diploma in a form prescribed by the State Board of Education.

(c) Each principal or his or her faculty designee, who must be designated as an academic advisor, shall:

1. Inform parents and students of the CTE pathway option available at the school and the graduation requirements for the CTE pathway option established pursuant to paragraph (a);

2. Establish a process by which a parent may request student participation in the CTE pathway option. The student must be provided the opportunity to participate in the CTE pathway option;

3. Establish a process to verify a student's progress and completion of the CTE pathway option; and

4. Meet with any student who has a cumulative grade point average that falls below 2.0 during the first semester in which his or her grade point average falls below 2.0, and any subsequent semester in which his or her grade point average
remains below 2.0, to discuss CTE pathway options.

(d) Each district school board shall incorporate the CTE pathway option to graduation in the student progression plan required under s. 1008.25.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.