The Committee on Education (Diaz) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment to Amendment (865050) (with title amendment)**

Between lines 381 and 382
insert:

Section 9. Section 1009.551, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1009.551 The Florida Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program.—

(1) The Florida Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program is created within the Department of Education. The
purpose of the program is to enable high schools and Florida
College System institutions to offer applied learning
opportunities for students in high-demand career pathways linked
to occupations that will provide students with middle-level and
high-level wages.

(2) The Legislature intends that the program provide
individual grants statewide to serve students in grades 9-12 and
students within the first 60 hours of college coursework who
enter a career pathway that enables them to master the skills
they need to graduate with a career certificate or a 2-year
technical degree to secure an entry-level position in an
industry.

(3) Selected institutions must provide students with an
opportunity to earn industry certifications, 60 hours of college
credit, or an associate of arts degree by the time they graduate
from high school, and the opportunity to gain valuable work
experience through internships, externships, apprenticeships, or
other job training programs. Grants issued under the program
must be used to enroll students in work-based education programs
that lead to career opportunities in high-demand fields.

(4) Each grant application must include the expertise of
public institutions and the participation of one secondary
partner and one or more postsecondary and industry partners.

(5) The commissioner shall establish an application process
for allocated grants under the program.

(a) Proposals for the grant must be funded competitively.

(b) School districts, charter schools, and Florida College
System institutions may apply for grant funding under this
section. As a condition of the grant, applicants must agree to
timely provide the information described in subsection (8) to the commissioner.

(6) To be eligible for a grant under the program, proposals must:

   (a) Give students opportunities to earn the following:
       1. Industry certifications, associate degrees,
       postsecondary certificates, or college credit aligned to high-demand workforce needs of the state, region, or local area and linked to occupations that provide a middle wage or high wage within 6 years; and
       2. Applied learning experiences through internships, externships, apprenticeships, or other job training programs;

   (b) Provide students with mentorship or career counseling informed by labor market demand;

   (c) Provide industry and employer partner memoranda of understanding to ensure the program is aligned to in-demand skills and which show the nature of the industry and employer partnership;

   (d) Identify how the proposal will address opportunities for underrepresented students, such as minority, low-income, or rural students, or for girls in computer science courses;

   (e) Identify how the school district, charter school, or Florida College System institution will use the grant funding and leverage other available funds to provide continued support for the program;

   (f) Provide the training and academic preparation at no cost to students; and

   (g) Identify the postsecondary partners to ensure appropriate articulation and dual enrollment opportunities and
provide memoranda of understanding which show the nature of the postsecondary partnership.

(7) Priority for grants must be given to proposals that increase opportunities for underrepresented students, such as minority, low-income, or rural students, or for girls in computer science courses.

(8) By December 1 of each year, the commissioner shall report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives all of the following:

(a) The number of participating students and their outcomes, including the following:

1. Academic achievement;
2. Attainment of industry certifications, associate degrees, or college credit;
3. Applied learning experiences of the participating students;
4. Postsecondary enrollment, or continued enrollment at a postsecondary institution, following completion of the program, if applicable;
5. Employment outcomes and wages, as applicable; and

(b) The demographics of participating students and their outcomes as described in paragraph (a).

(c) Identification of high-demand career pathways linked to occupations that provide students with middle-level and high-level wages as reflected by labor market demand.

(9) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement this section.
And the title is amended as follows:

Delete line 430

and insert:

List; creating s. 1009.551, F.S.; creating the Florida Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program within the department; providing the purpose of the program; providing legislative intent; providing requirements for the program; providing requirements for grant applications for the program; requiring the Commissioner of Education to establish an application process for the program; providing that proposals for grants be funded competitively; authorizing school districts, charter schools, and Florida College System institutions to apply for grants under the program; providing for eligibility requirements; providing that priority for grants be given to proposals that meet specified criteria; requiring the commissioner to annually report certain information to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules; providing an effective date.