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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

The Committee on Education (Diaz) recommended the following:

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

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4 Between lines 381 and 382

5 insert:

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

8 1009.551 The Florida Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant
9 Program.—

10 (1) The Florida Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant
11 Program is created within the Department of Education. The



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12 purpose of the program is to enable high schools and Florida
13 College System institutions to offer applied learning
14 opportunities for students in high-demand career pathways linked
15 to occupations that will provide students with middle-level and
16 high-level wages.

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

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

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

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

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

38 (b) School districts, charter schools, and Florida College
39 System institutions may apply for grant funding under this
40 section. As a condition of the grant, applicants must agree to



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41 timely provide the information described in subsection (8) to
42 the commissioner.

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

45 (a) Give students opportunities to earn the following:

46 1. Industry certifications, associate degrees,
47 postsecondary certificates, or college credit aligned to high-
48 demand workforce needs of the state, region, or local area and
49 linked to occupations that provide a middle wage or high wage
50 within 6 years; and

51 2. Applied learning experiences through internships,
52 externships, apprenticeships, or other job training programs;

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

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

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

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

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

68 (g) Identify the postsecondary partners to ensure
69 appropriate articulation and dual enrollment opportunities and



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70 provide memoranda of understanding which show the nature of the
71 postsecondary partnership.

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

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

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

81 1. Academic achievement;

82 2. Attainment of industry certifications, associate
83 degrees, or college credit;

84 3. Applied learning experiences of the participating
85 students;

86 4. Postsecondary enrollment, or continued enrollment at a
87 postsecondary institution, following completion of the program,
88 if applicable;

89 5. Employment outcomes and wages, as applicable; and

90 6. Noncompletion rate.

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

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

96 (9) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
97 implement this section.

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99 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

100 And the title is amended as follows:

101 Delete line 430

102 and insert:

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