

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

**BILL #:** HB 155 Certificates of Completion  
**SPONSOR(S):** Valdés and others  
**TIED BILLS:** None **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1068

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee		Sleap	Sanchez
2) Education & Employment Committee			

### SUMMARY ANALYSIS

A Florida high school student who earns the required 24 credits for a standard high school diploma, or the required 18 credits through the Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) options graduation pathway, but fails to pass the required statewide assessments or achieve a 2.0 GPA must be awarded a certificate of completion.

The bill requires that before a student is awarded a certification of completion, the student must be advised of their educational options, to include workforce education programs and adult general education programs.

The bill provides a student who is awarded a certificate of completion, is eligible to enroll in workforce education programs offered at a school district career center and charter technical career center.

The bill requires a charter technical career center to identify the workforce education programs a student awarded a certificate of completion is eligible to enroll in.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2022.

# FULL ANALYSIS

## I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

### A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

#### Present Situation

##### Florida High School Diploma

##### *Requirements*

Florida law establishes academic requirements for earning a standard high school diploma to include five options:

- successful completion of 24 credits;<sup>1</sup>
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathway option;<sup>2</sup>
- an International Baccalaureate curriculum;<sup>3</sup>
- an Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum;<sup>4</sup> or
- the Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) option.<sup>5</sup>

The 24 credits required for a standard high school diploma include:

- four credits in English Language Arts (ELA);
- four credits in mathematics;
- three credits in science;
- three credits in social studies;
- one credit in fine or performing arts, speech, and debate, or practical arts;
- one credit in physical education; and
- eight credits in electives.<sup>6</sup>

Within the 24 credits, at least one course must be completed through online learning.<sup>7</sup> In addition to successful completion of the required courses, a student must earn a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale<sup>8</sup> and must pass the following required statewide standardized assessments:

- grade 10 ELA assessment or earn a concordant score on the SAT or ACT;<sup>9</sup> and
- Algebra I end-of-course (EOC) assessment or, earn a comparative score on the Math section of the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), the SAT, the ACT or the Geometry EOC assessment.<sup>10</sup>

##### *Certificate of Completion*

---

<sup>1</sup> Section 1003.4282(1)(a), F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Section 1003.4282(10), F.S.

<sup>3</sup> Section 1003.4282(1)(a), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> Section 1002.3105(5), F.S.

<sup>6</sup> Section 1003.4282(3)(a)-(g), F.S.

<sup>7</sup> Section 1003.4282(4), F.S.

<sup>8</sup> Section 1003.4282(6)(a), F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Section 1003.4282(3)(a), F.S.; Rule 6A-1.09422(8)(a)2., F.A.C. Beginning with students who entered grade 9 in the 2018-2019 school year, students and adults who have not earned the required passing score on the Grade 10 FSA ELA assessment, may meet the testing requirement to earn a high school diploma by earning a specified concordant score.

<sup>10</sup> Section 1003.4282(3)(b)1., F.S.; Rule 6A-1.09422(8)(b)2., F.A.C. Beginning with students who entered grade 9 in the 2018-2019 school year, students and adults who have not earned the required passing score on the Algebra I EOC assessment, may meet the testing requirements to earn a high school diploma by earning a specified comparative score.

A student who earns the required 24 credits, or the required 18 credits through the ACCEL options graduation pathway, but fails to pass the required statewide assessments or achieve a 2.0 GPA must be awarded a certificate of completion in a form prescribed by the State Board of Education (SBE).<sup>11</sup> However, a student who is otherwise entitled to a certificate of completion may elect to remain in high school either as a full-time student or a part-time student for up to one additional year and receive special instruction designed to remedy his or her identified deficiencies.<sup>12</sup>

### Certificate of Completion- Admission to Postsecondary Education

Current law requires a student who has been awarded a certificate of completion to be eligible to enroll in certificate career education programs at a Florida College System (FCS) institution.<sup>13</sup> A certificate career education program is defined as a course of study that leads to at least one occupational completion point.<sup>14</sup> The program may also confer credit that may articulate with a diploma or career degree education program, if authorized by rules of the SBE.<sup>15</sup>

### Career Centers

Florida law allows a district school board to operate a career center as part of the district school system.<sup>16</sup> A career center is an educational institution which offers terminal courses of a technical nature, as well as courses for adults and out-of-school youth.<sup>17</sup> A center operates under the control of the district school board where it is located and each center is directed by a director who is responsible to the district school superintendent.<sup>18</sup> Currently, there are 51 career centers operating in 32 school districts in Florida.<sup>19</sup>

In addition to career centers, current law allows for the operation of charter technical centers. Charter technical career centers are publicly-funded schools or technical centers operated under a charter granted by a district school board, Florida College System board of trustees or a consortium comprised of one or more of each.<sup>20</sup> A sponsoring consortium must include the school district in which the facility is located.<sup>21</sup> There is only one charter technical center operating in the state, Lake Technical College, sponsored by the Lake County school board.<sup>22</sup>

Current law does not expressly state that a student who has been awarded a certificate of completion is eligible to enroll in programs at a district career center or charter technical center. Although not expressly provided in law, Florida's career centers allow a student who has been awarded a certificate of completion to be eligible to enroll in programs at the institution.<sup>23</sup>

### Workforce Education Programs

---

<sup>11</sup> Section 1003.4282(6)(c), F.S.

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> Section 1007.263(4), F.S.

<sup>14</sup> Section 1004.02(20), F.S. *See also* S. 1004.02(21), F.S. An occupational completion point means the occupational competencies that qualify a person to enter an occupation that is linked to a career and technical program.

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> Section 1001.44(1), F.S.

<sup>17</sup> Section 1001.44(3)(a), F.S.

<sup>18</sup> *Id.*

<sup>19</sup> Florida Department of Education, Career and Adult Education, *District Postsecondary Institutions*, <https://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/dist-ps-instit.stml> (last visited Jan. 21, 2022). Lake Technical College operates as the only charter technical career center, authorized under s. 1002.34, F.S. and is sponsored by the Lake County School Board. *See* Florida Department of Education, Career & Adult Education, *Charter Technical Center Annual Report 2019-20*, at 5, available at <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/9904/urlt/charterreview20.pdf>.

<sup>20</sup> Section 1002.34(3)(a)-(b), F.S.

<sup>21</sup> Section 1002.34(3)(a), F.S.

<sup>22</sup> Florida Department of Education, *Charter Technical Centers Annual Report (2019-2020)*, at 5, available at <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/9904/urlt/charterreview20.pdf>.

<sup>23</sup> Email, Florida Association for Career and Technical Education (Jan. 25, 2022). Admission to a program may be limited to a student with a high school diploma or equivalent to meet program licensure requirements or training partner specified requirements.

A workforce education program is defined as the delivery of any of the following:

- Adult general education programs;
- Career certificate programs;
- Applied technology diploma programs;
- Continuing workforce education courses;
- Degree career education programs; or
- Apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs.<sup>24</sup>

Under current law, FCS institutions and school districts may conduct workforce education programs; however, only a FCS institution may award college credit for an associate in applied science (AAS) or an associate in science (AS) degree.<sup>25</sup> If an AAS or an AS degree program includes an occupational completion point<sup>26</sup> that confers a certificate or an applied technology diploma (ATD), a school district career center can operate that portion of the program.<sup>27</sup>

### **Effect of Proposed Changes**

The bill requires that before a student is awarded a Florida high school certification of completion, the student must be advised of their educational options, to include workforce education programs and adult general education programs.

The bill provides a student who is awarded a certificate of completion, is eligible to enroll in workforce education programs offered at a school district career center and charter technical career center.

The bill requires a charter technical career center to identify the workforce education programs a student awarded a certificate of completion is eligible to enroll in.

#### **B. SECTION DIRECTORY:**

**Section 1.** Amends s. 1001.44, F.S.; providing that students awarded a certificate of completion are eligible to enroll in workforce education programs.

**Section 2.** Amends s. 1002.34, F.S.; providing that students awarded a certificate of completion are eligible to enroll in workforce education programs; requiring the identification of such programs by charter technical career centers.

**Section 3.** Amends s. 1003.4282, F.S.; requiring that students be advised of specified educational options before awarded a certificate of completion.

**Section 4.** Provides an effective date of July 1, 2022.

## **II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

#### **A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:**

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

---

<sup>24</sup> Section 1011.80(1)(a)-(f), F.S.

<sup>25</sup> Section 1011.80(2), F.S.

<sup>26</sup> See S. 1004.02(21), F.S. An occupational completion point means the occupational competencies that qualify a person to enter an occupation that is linked to a career and technical program.

<sup>27</sup> Section 1011.80(2), F.S.

**B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:**

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

**C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:**

The bill allows students earning a certificate of completion to continue their education and expand employment opportunities by enrolling in workforce education programs offered at career centers and charter technical career centers.

**D. FISCAL COMMENTS:**

None.

**III. COMMENTS**

**A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:**

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

**B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:**

None.

**C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:**

None.

**IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES**

Not applicable.