

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/CS/HB 917 Career and Technical Education

SPONSOR(S): Education & Employment Committee and Choice & Innovation Subcommittee, Snyder and others

TIED BILLS: None. **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** CS/CS/CS/SB 460

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION: 105 Y's 3 N's **GOVERNOR'S ACTION:** Pending

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

CS/CS/HB 917 passed the House on February 27, 2024, as amended. The bill was amended in the Senate on March 1, 2024 and returned to the House. The House concurred in the Senate amendment and subsequently passed the bill as amended on March 7, 2024.

The bill authorizes a minor aged 16 or 17 years to work on any residential building construction, if the minor has earned an Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) 10 certification, does not perform any work in violation of federal law or OSHA rules, does not work on any scaffolding, roof, superstructure or ladder above 6 feet, and is being supervised by an individual meeting specified criterion.

The bill revises the definition of journeyworker to include passing a state-approved industry test, if required, and modifies the criteria by which local governments must issue a journeyworker license in specified trades, and requires license reciprocity.

The bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to convene, no later than December 1, 2024, a workgroup to identify best practices in career and technical education (CTE) pathways from middle school to high school and to identify the three math pathways for students enrolled in secondary grades.

The bill expands the duties of the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help to include coordinating with the DOE, the Department of Commerce, and CareerSource Florida, Inc. to publish and disseminate a statewide CTE education asset map by March 1, 2025, informing workforce and industry partners of opportunities to partner and expand CTE in the state. The information disseminated must be in a user-friendly format detailing secondary CTE courses, funding, workforce alignment, and career dual enrollment programs.

The bill repeals the Florida Talent Development Council and requires that the REACH Office assumes its responsibilities, including coordinating, facilitating, and communicating statewide efforts to meet supply and demand needs for the state's health care workforce.

The bill authorizes a school district and Florida College System institution to exempt from postsecondary career education program basic skills requirements a student who possesses a high school diploma from an eligible private school, or, for a student in a home education program or a personalized education program, a signed affidavit submitted by the student's parent or legal guardian.

The bill authorizes district school boards, as an alternative to the required annual career fair, to consult with local workforce development boards, advisory committees, and business groups to determine free or cost-effective methods to provide other career and industry networking and exposure opportunities for secondary and elementary students.

The bill has an indeterminate fiscal impact on state and local governments. See Fiscal Comments.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

Hazardous Occupations Prohibited

Present Situation

Prohibitions regarding the employment of minors age 16 or 17 in hazardous occupations in Florida are consistent with regulations adopted by the United States Secretary of Labor.¹ No minor under 18 years of age, whether such person's disabilities of nonage have been removed, may be employed or permitted or suffered to work on any scaffolding, roof, superstructure, residential or nonresidential building construction, or ladder above 6 feet.² This prohibition does not apply to a student learner who:³

- Is enrolled in a youth vocational training program under a recognized state or local educational authority.
- Is employed under a written agreement that provides:
 - That the work of the student learner in the occupation declared particularly hazardous is to be incidental to the training.
 - That such work will be intermittent and for short periods of time and under the direct and close supervision of a qualified and experienced person.
 - That safety instructions shall be given by the school and correlated by the employer with on-the-job training.
 - That a schedule of organized and progressive work processes to be performed on the job is to have been prepared.

Every employer in the construction industry is required to secure the payment of workers' compensation to his or her employees.⁴ Employers who fail to secure the payment of workers' compensation for their employees are required to stop working and are liable for administrative and criminal penalties.⁵ Employers must provide this benefit to all employees, including minors, whether lawfully or unlawfully employed.⁶

Employers in the construction industry are also required to provide certain training for their employees.⁷ Employers are required to instruct each employee in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and the regulations applicable to the work environment to control or eliminate any hazards or other exposure to illness or injury.⁸ Employers are encouraged to use the safety and health training programs provided by the Secretary of Labor.⁹

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) within the Department of Labor, provides an Outreach Training Program to promote workplace safety and health and to make workers more knowledgeable about workplace hazards and their rights.¹⁰ The OSHA Outreach Training Program provides training on the recognition, avoidance, abatement, and prevention of workplace hazards.

¹ Compare s.450.061, F.S., with 29 CFR Part 570, Subpart E (Occupations Particularly Hazardous for the Employment of Minors Between 16 and 18 Years of Age or Detrimental to Their Health or Well-Being). However, the Secretary of Labor has not selected residential construction as a particularly hazardous activity. See 3 EMP. COORD. Compensation IV s. 24.20 (January 2024).

² Section 450.061(2)(b), F.S.

³ Sections 450.061(2) and 450.161, F.S.

⁴ Sections 440.10(1)(a) and 440.38(1), F.S.

⁵ See ss.440.105 and 440.107, F.S.

⁶ Section 440.02(18)(a), F.S.

⁷ 29 C.F.R. § 1926.21.

⁸ 29 C.F.R. § 1926.21(b)(2).

⁹ 29 C.F.R. § 1926.21(b)(1).

¹⁰ USDOL, OSHA, *Outreach Training Program: Program Overview*, <https://www.osha.gov/training/outreach/overview> (last visited Mar. 12, 2024).

Outreach classes also provide overview information regarding OSHA, including workers' rights, employer responsibilities, and how to file a complaint.¹¹

The 10-hour training program is primarily intended for entry level workers. The 30-hour training program is intended to provide workers with some safety responsibility a greater depth and variety of training. All outreach training is intended to cover an overview of the hazards a worker may encounter on a job site. Training emphasizes hazard identification, avoidance, control and prevention, not OSHA standards.¹²

In the Fiscal Year 2023, 1,341,168 individuals were trained through the Outreach Training Program.¹³ The construction 10-hour certification comprised 42 percent of the trainings.¹⁴

Fair Labor Standards Act

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) establishes minimum wage, overtime pay, recordkeeping, and youth employment standards affecting employees in the private sector and in Federal, State, and local governments.¹⁵

Within the FLSA, the child labor provisions were enacted to protect the educational opportunities of minors and prohibit their employment in jobs and under conditions which are detrimental to their health or well-being. These provisions include restrictions on the types of jobs that minors may perform.¹⁶

The FLSA establishes an 18-year minimum age for nonagricultural occupations that are declared to be particularly hazardous for 16 and 17-year old minors, or detrimental to their health or well-being. There are currently 17 hazardous occupations orders (HO) which include a partial or total ban on the occupations or industries they cover.¹⁷ Some examples of the HOs include banning 16 and 17-year old's from operating certain power-driven metal-working machines and meat processing machines, from jobs in the manufacture of brick, tile and similar products, and from most jobs in roofing operations, including work performed on the ground and removal of the old roof, and all work on or about a roof.¹⁸

Effect of the Bill

The bill authorizes minors aged 16 or 17 years to be employed on any residential building construction if:

- the minor has earned his or her OSHA 10 certification;
- the work being performed by the minor does not include work on any scaffolding, roof, superstructure, or ladder above 6 feet;
- the minor's work does not violate the federal Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, any OSHA rule, or federal law related to minors in the workplace; and
- the minor is under the direct supervision of a person who has earned his or her OSHA 10 certification, is 21 years of age or older, and has at least 2 years of work experience related to the work he or she is supervising.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ USDOL, OSHA, *Outreach Training Program Annual Number of Trainees*, <https://www.osha.gov/training/outreach/growth> (last visited Mar. 12, 2024).

¹⁴ USDOL, OSHA, *Number of Trainees by Class Type*, <https://www.osha.gov/training/outreach/growth#tab2> (last visited Mar. 12, 2024).

¹⁵ U.S. Department of Labor, *Wages and the Fair Labor Standards Act*, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/flsa> (last visited Mar. 12, 2024).

¹⁶ 29 C.F.R. § 570

¹⁷ USDOL, Fact Sheet #43: *Child Labor Provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act for Nonagricultural occupations* (Dec. 2016), <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/fact-sheets/43-child-labor-non-agriculture#notes1> (last visited Mar. 12, 2024.)

¹⁸ *Id.*

Apprentices and Journeyworkers

Present Situation

Apprentice

Florida law defines an apprentice as a person at least 16 years of age who has entered into a written apprentice agreement with a registered sponsor. The sponsor can be an employer, an association of employers, or a local joint apprenticeship committee. The purpose of this agreement is to enable the apprentice to learn a recognized skilled trade through actual work experience under the supervision of a journeywork craftsman. Training for an apprentice should be combined with properly coordinated studies of related technical and supplementary subjects.¹⁹

An apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program must be registered and approved by the Department of Education (DOE).²⁰ A student who earns credit upon completion of a registered apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program may use such credit to satisfy high school graduation credit requirements for fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or career and technical education (CTE), or electives. The State Board of Education (SBE) is required to approve and identify in the Course Code Directory the apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs from which earned credit may be used to satisfy high school graduation requirements.²¹

The term of an apprenticeship may be completed through either a time-based approach, a competency-based approach, or a hybrid approach, as follows:²²

- The time-based approach measures skill acquisition through the apprentice's completion of at least 2,000 hours of on-the-job training, exclusive of related technical instruction.
- The competency-based approach measures the apprentice's successful demonstration of acquired skills and knowledge, demonstrated through on-the-job training and related technical instruction.
- The hybrid approach measures the individual apprentice's skill acquisition through a combination of a range of specified number of hours of on-the-job training and the successful demonstration of competency.

Journeyworkers

Florida apprenticeship standards define a journeyworker as a person working in an apprenticeable occupation who has successfully completed a registered apprenticeship program or who has worked the number of years required by established industry practices for the particular trade or occupation.²³

Counties and municipalities are authorized to issue journeyman licenses in various trades. These trades include plumbing, pipe fitting, mechanical, HVAC trades, electrical or alarm system trades.²⁴ An individual who holds a valid, active journeyman license in one of these trades issued by any county or municipality may work as a journeyman in the trade in which he or she is licensed in any other county or municipality without taking an additional examination or paying an additional license fee, if he or she:²⁵

¹⁹ Section 446.021(2), F.S.; *see also* Florida Department of Education, *Apprentice Florida Report*, (2022-2023), at 3 and 9, <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/9904/urlt/2223ApprenticeshipReport.pdf> (last visited Mar. 12, 2024).

²⁰ Sections 446.021(5) and 446.021(6), F.S.

²¹ Section 1003.4282(7)(a)3., F.S.

²² Rule 6A-23.004(2), F.A.C.

²³ Section 446.021(4), F.S.; *see also* Florida Department of Education, *Apprentice Florida Report*, (2022-2023), at 3 and 9, <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/9904/urlt/2223ApprenticeshipReport.pdf> (last visited Mar. 12, 2024).

²⁴ Sections 489.1455 and 489.5335, F.S.

²⁵ Sections 489.5335(2) and 489.1455(2), F.S.

- Has scored at least 70 percent, or after October 1, 1997, at least 75 percent, on a proctored journeyman Block and Associates examination or other proctored examination approved by the board for the trade in which he or she is licensed;
- Has completed a registered apprenticeship program and demonstrates 4 years' verifiable practical experience in the trade for which he or she is licensed, or demonstrates 6 years' verifiable practical experience in the trade for which he or she is licensed;
- Has satisfactorily completed specialized and advanced module coursework approved by the Florida Building Commission, as part of the building code compliance and mitigation training program,²⁶ specific to the discipline or, pursuant to authorization by the certifying authority, provides proof of completion of such curriculum or coursework within 6 months after such certification; and
- Has not had a license suspended or revoked within the last 5 years.

A local government may charge a registration fee for reciprocity, not to exceed \$25.²⁷ Subject to limited exceptions,²⁸ state law related to electrical and alarm system contracting does not limit the power of a municipality or county to require that one electrical journeyman, who is a graduate of the Institute of Applied Technology in Construction Excellence or licensed locally, be present on an industrial or commercial new construction site with a facility of 50,000 gross square feet or more when electrical work in excess of 77 volts is being performed in order to supervise or perform such work.²⁹

Effect of the Bill

The bill modifies how apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs may satisfy the high school graduation credit requirements for fine or performing arts, speech and debate, career and technical education, or electives. The bill authorizes such credit for a student who earned credit for completion of 1 year of related technical instruction in a registered apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program, rather than completion of the program.

The bill adds the requirement for journeyworkers to pass a state-approved industry test, if required for the specific industry, and amends the type of apprenticeship program the journeyworker must complete to be a state-approved apprenticeship program.

The bill modifies the criteria for counties and municipalities to issue journeyman licenses in the plumbing, pipe fitting, mechanical, HVAC, electric, and alarm system trades. Counties and municipalities are authorized to issue journeyman licenses in these trades if the individual meets the following requirements:

- Scores at least 70 percent, or after October 1, 1997, at least 75 percent, on a Block and Associates examination or other proctored examination approved by the board for the trade in which he or she is licensed.
- Completes a registered and state-approved apprenticeship program as defined under the law or accumulates at least 12,000 hours of on-the-job training in his or her specific trade.
- Satisfactorily completes specialized and advanced module coursework approved by the Florida Building Commission, as part of the building code training program established under the law, specific to the discipline or, pursuant to authorization by the certifying authority, and provides proof of completion of such coursework within 6 months after such certification.

The bill removes the authorization for a county or municipality to charge a registration fee for reciprocity and requires counties and municipalities to recognize a person as a journeyman in the plumbing, pipe fitting, mechanical, HVAC, electric, and alarm system trades if the person was issued a journeyman license in such trade by a county or municipality in the state.

²⁶ Section 553.841, F.S.

²⁷ Sections 489.5335(3), F.S. and 489.1455(3), F.S.

²⁸ Section 489.503, F.S.

²⁹ Section 489.537(3)(f), F.S.

Reimagine Education and Career Help Act

Present Situation

In 2021, the Legislature created the Reimagining Education and Career Help Act (REACH Act). The REACH Act serves to address the evolving needs of Florida's economy by increasing the level of collaboration and cooperation among state businesses and education communities while improving training and providing for equity and access to a more integrated workforce and education system for Florida.³⁰

To facilitate alignment and coordination of entities responsible for Florida's workforce development system (WDS),³¹ the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH Office) was created in the Executive Office of the Governor. The Director of the REACH Office is appointed by, and serves at the pleasure of, the Governor.³²

Among the duties of the REACH Office are:

- Serving as an advisor to the Governor on matters related to the state's WDS.³³
- Establishing criteria and goals for workforce development and diversification in Florida's WDS.³⁴
- Coordinating state and federal workforce related programs, plans, resources, and activities provided by CareerSource Florida Inc. (CareerSource), the Department of Commerce,³⁵ and the DOE.³⁶
- Serving on the Credentials review Committee to identify nondegree and degree credentials of value and facilitate the collection of data necessary to conduct committee work.³⁷
- Facilitating coordination among the Department of Commerce, the DOE, and CareerSource, to develop and expand apprenticeship, preapprenticeship, and other work-based learning models and streamline efforts to recruit and onboard new apprentices, preapprentices, students, and employers interested in work-based learning opportunities.³⁸

The Florida Talent Development Council

The Florida Talent Development Council, directed by the Governor's REACH Office,³⁹ was created to develop a coordinated, data-driven, statewide approach to meeting Florida's needs for a 21st century workforce that employers and educators use as part of Florida's talent supply system.⁴⁰ Among various assigned tasks, the council is required to coordinate, facilitate, and communicate statewide efforts to meet supply and demand needs for the state's health care workforce.⁴¹

³⁰ Section 14.36, F.S.

³¹ "Workforce development system" means the entities and activities that contribute to the state's talent pipeline system through education, training, and support services that prepare individuals for employment or career advancement, and the entities that are responsible for oversight or conducting those activities such as CareerSource Florida, Inc., local workforce development boards, one-stop career centers, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Education, and the Department of Children and Family. *See s.* 14.36(2)(c), F.S.

³² Section 14.36(1), F.S.

³³ Section 14.36(3)(a), F.S.

³⁴ Section 14.36(3)(b), F.S.

³⁵ In 2023 the Department of Economic Opportunity was renamed the Department of Commerce. s. 10, ch. 2023-173, L.O.F.

³⁶ Section 14.36(3)(d), F.S.

³⁷ Section 14.36(3)(f), F.S.

³⁸ Section 14.36(3)(k), F.S.

³⁹ Section 14.36(3)(j), F.S.

⁴⁰ Section 1004.015(1), F.S.

⁴¹ Section 1004.015(6), F.S.

Annually, by December 1, the Florida Talent Development Council is required to report on the health care workforce and any other relevant information on the Florida Talent Development Council's web page.⁴²

To support the efforts of the office, the Board of Governors (BOG) and the SBE are required to provide 10-year trend information on nursing education programs. The Department of Health, the BOG, the SBE, the Commission for Independent Education, the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida, the Florida Center for Nursing, and postsecondary institutions participating in a state grant, fund, or performance-based incentive program are required to provide data, by institution and program, on:⁴³

- The number of student slots available.
- The number of student applications submitted, the number of qualified student applicants, the number of students accepted, and the number of students enrolled.
- The number of program graduates.
- Program retention rates of students tracked from program entry to graduation.
- Graduate passage rates for, and the number of times each graduate took, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination.
- The number of graduates who become employed as practical or professional nurses in this state.
- The educational advancement of nurses through career pathways for the preceding 10 years by comparing their initial degree to the highest degree they obtained.
- The outcomes of students enrolled at institutions participating in the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund or the Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) Fund.
- The outcomes of graduates who have received a nursing student loan forgiveness repayment. This data must include, for the previous 4 fiscal years, the number of graduates who have received a repayment, the amount repaid on behalf of each graduate, each graduate's employer of record for each repayment and the length of employment at each employer, and the level or levels of nursing licensure earned by each graduate.

The BOG and the SBE are also required to develop definitions for data elements and a uniform survey for use by the Department of Health, the Commission for Independent Education, the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida, and postsecondary institutions participating in a state loan forgiveness program, grant, fund, or performance-based incentive program to collect the required data. The survey must include, but is not limited to, a student's age, gender, race, ethnicity, veteran status, wage, employer information, loan debt, and retirement expectations.⁴⁴

Effect of the Bill

The bill expands the duties of the REACH Office to include coordinating with the DOE, Department of Commerce, and CareerSource, to publish and disseminate, by March 1, 2025, a statewide asset map of CTE to inform workforce and industry partners of opportunities to partner and expand CTE in the state. The information must be disseminated in a user-friendly form. Additionally, the bill requires the information to:

- List secondary CTE courses offered by each school district in the state categorized by career cluster, school, grade level, and number of students enrolled.
- Identify the total amount of funding provided for the secondary CTE programs offered by each school district in the state.
- Compare existing secondary CTE program offerings, funding, and outcomes, including credential attainment, to data on in-demand careers and the state's economic needs to identify industry opportunities in which increased program offerings would support state and local needs.

⁴² *Id.*

⁴³ Section 1004.015(6)(a), F.S.

⁴⁴ Section 1004.015(6)(b), F.S.

- Compare alignment and funding of existing secondary CTE program offerings and outcomes, including credential attainment, to data on in-demand careers and the state’s economic needs to identify opportunities to better align funding of programs to industry demand and statewide economic needs. Funding alignment may consider the use of virtual reality and other workforce education technologies for secondary CTE program offerings and outcomes, including credential attainment.
- List career dual enrollment programs offered in each school district in the state categorized by program type, offering location, and the number of students enrolled. The list must indicate the credential earned upon completion of the program and if the credential is part of a sequence as identified by the Credentials Review Committee.

The bill repeals s. 1004.015, F.S., the Florida Talent Development Council, and requires that the REACH Office assumes its responsibilities, including coordinating, facilitating, and communicating statewide efforts to meet supply and demand needs for the state’s health care workforce. Additionally, the bill requires the REACH Office to publish a report on the DOE’s website, utilizing data collected by the BOG and the SBE on nursing education programs and their outcomes.

Career and Technical Education and Mathematics Pathways

Middle Grades Career Planning

Florida law requires the completion of a career and education planning course in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade.⁴⁵ The course must:⁴⁶

- be Internet-based, and customizable to each student and include research-based assessments to assist students in determining educational and career options and goals;
- result in a completed personalized academic and career plan for the student, which must use, when available, Florida’s online career planning and work-based learning coordination system;⁴⁷
- teach each student how to access and update the plan and encourage the student to update the plan at least annually as the student progresses through middle school and high school;
- emphasize the importance of entrepreneurship and employability skills; and
- include information from the economic security report and other state career planning resources.

The required personalized academic and career plan must inform students of high school graduation requirements including a detailed explanation of the requirements for earning a high school diploma designation and the CTE pathway to earn a standard high school diploma; the requirements for each scholarship in the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program requirements; state university and Florida college admission requirements; opportunities to earn college credit in high school, including Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Advanced International Certificate of Education, dual enrollment (including career dual enrollment), work-based learning opportunities (including internships, preapprenticeship and apprenticeship programs); career education courses (including career-themed courses and course sequences that lead to Industry certification).⁴⁸

Statewide Mathematics Pathways

⁴⁵ Section 1003.4156(1)(e), F.S.

⁴⁶ *Id.*

⁴⁷ Xello, *For the Future of Work Florida*, <https://xello.world/en/florida-college-career-ready/> (last visited Mar. 12, 2024). Xello is Florida’s official, K-12 career planning and work-based learning coordination provider.

⁴⁸ Section 1003.4156(1)(e), F.S.

In 2018, the Florida Student Success Center⁴⁹ established three workgroups to identify current challenges in mathematics pathways and develop policy and practice recommendations to improve student achievement across Florida's education systems. The charge to the workgroups was to explore complex issues surrounding mathematics pathways to prepare high school students for transition into Florida College System (FCS) institutions, and FCS institution students for transition into four-year universities.⁵⁰

In 2022, the SBE adopted statewide mathematics pathways at the postsecondary level to facilitate seamless transfer of credits, reduce excess credit hours, and ensure students take the courses needed for their future careers. Students entering the FCS in the 2024-2025 academic year and thereafter must be advised of the mathematics pathway that aligns to the mathematics skills needed for success in the corresponding academic programs aligned to their career goals.⁵¹

In 2023, the Florida Legislature required the DOE to convene a workgroup to:⁵²

- Identify best practices in CTE pathways from middle school to high school to aid middle school students in career planning and facilitate their transition to high school programs. The career pathway must be linked to postsecondary programs.
- Establish three mathematics pathways for students enrolled in secondary grades by aligning mathematics courses to programs, postsecondary education, and careers. The workgroup shall collaborate to identify the three mathematics pathways and the mathematics course sequence within each pathway which align to the mathematics skills needed for success in the corresponding academic programs, postsecondary education, and careers.

Effect of the Bill

The bill requires the DOE to convene, no later than December 1, 2024, the workgroup to identify best practices in CTE pathways from middle school to high school and to identify the three math pathways for students enrolled in secondary grades.

Requirements for Career Education Basic Skills

Each CTE career certificate program, 450 clock hours or longer, has identified associated basic academic skills (reading, mathematics, and language) that are required for completion from each CTE program. For the purpose of CTE and basic skills requirements, completion is accomplished when a student has demonstrated mastery of the entire program's standards and benchmarks and receives a career or technical certificate of completion.⁵³

Students who enroll in a program offered for career credit of 450 clock hours or more must complete an entry-level examination within the first 6 weeks after admission into the program.⁵⁴ The SBE designates examinations to assess student mastery of basic communication (reading) or computation (mathematics) skills, which include the following:⁵⁵

- Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE), Forms 11 and 12, 2017;

⁴⁹ The Florida Student Success Center is part of the national Student Success Center Network and supports Florida's 28 state and community colleges' efforts to develop student-centered pathways and increase student completion rates. The Florida College System, *Florida Student Success Center*, <https://www.floridacollegesystemfoundation.org/fssc> (last visited Mar. 12, 2024).

⁵⁰ The Florida College System, *Mathematics Re-Design*, <https://www.floridacollegesystemfoundation.org/fssc-math-redesign> (last visited Mar. 12, 2024).

⁵¹ Rule 6A-10.024(17), F.A.C.; *see also* State Board of Education, *Mathematics Pathway List*, <https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-15154> (last visited Mar. 12, 2024).

⁵² Ch. 2023-81, L.O.F.; *see also* s. 1003.4282(10), F.S.

⁵³ Florida Department of Education, *Career and Technical Education, 2019-2020 Technical Assistance Paper, CTE Basic Skills Assessment Requirements* (Mar. 2020), at 2, <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5398/urlt/basic-skill-tap-att1.pdf> (last visited Mar. 12, 2024). The basic skills are exit requirements, not entry requirements.

⁵⁴ Section 1004.91(2), F.S.

⁵⁵ Rule 6A-10.040(1), F.A.C.

- Demonstration of basic communication and computation skills;⁵⁶
- Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System, GOALS 900 Series, 2019;
- 2014 GED® Tests: Reasoning through Language Arts and Mathematical Reasoning where a minimum score as determined by the SBE has been attained on each test;⁵⁷ and
- A test adopted by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission, used for admission into law enforcement or corrections training programs.⁵⁸

A student who lacks the required level of basic skills for the career program must be provided with a structured program of basic skills instruction to correct deficiencies.⁵⁹ A student may not receive a career or technical certificate of completion without first demonstrating the basic skills required in the state curriculum frameworks for the career education program.⁶⁰

An adult with a disability⁶¹ may be exempted from the basic skills assessment requirement. In addition, the following students are exempt from taking the initial basic skills assessment.⁶²

- A student who possesses a college degree at the associate in applied science level or higher.
- A student who demonstrates readiness for public postsecondary education in communication and computation specified in SBE rule.⁶³
- A student who passes a specified state, national or industry certification or licensure examination that is aligned to the career education program.⁶⁴
- An adult student who is enrolled in an apprenticeship program that is registered with the DOE.

Effect of the Bill

The bill authorizes an exemption from postsecondary career education program basic skills requirements for a student who possesses a high school diploma from a private school in compliance with state requirements, or, for a student in a home education program or a personalized education program, a signed affidavit submitted by the student's parent or legal guardian attesting that the student has completed a home education program or a personalized education program as prescribed under the law. A school district and FCS institution may exempt such students from the basic skills requirements.

School District Career Fairs

Present Situation

⁵⁶ The SBE determines the acceptable methods of demonstrating basic communication and computation skills. Methods include, but are not limited to, achieving a specified score on a common placement test such as the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test, the SAT, and the ACT, or specified performance in high school coursework. *see r. 6A-10.0315, F.A.C.*

⁵⁷ A student must attain a minimum score of 145 on Reasoning through Language Arts and Mathematical Reasoning. *see r. 6A-6.0201, F.A.C.*

⁵⁸ Applicants who apply for entry into a Commission-approved Basic Recruit Training Program are required to obtain a passing score on a Commission-approved Basic Abilities Test for the law enforcement or correctional disciplines, prior to entering a program. *See Rule 11B-35.0011, F.A.C.*

⁵⁹ Section 1004.91(2), F.S.; *see also r. 6A-10.040, F.A.C.*

⁶⁰ Section 1004.91(2), F.S.

⁶¹ An adult with disability means an individual who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment, and who requires modifications to the educational program, adaptive equipment, or specialized instructional methods and services in order to participate in workforce development programs that lead to competitive employment. *see s. 1004.02(6), F.S.*

⁶² Section 1004.91(3), F.S.

⁶³ Rule 6A-10.0315, F.A.C.

⁶⁴ Section 943.17(1)(g), F.S., requires students in a career certificate program in law enforcement and corrections to complete a basic skills examination, based on FDLE rather than SBE standards, prior to entrance into the program. Law enforcement and correctional officer students are exempt from the basic skills requirement in s. 1004.91, F.S., because such students are required to pass the State Officer Certification Examination. Florida Department of Law Enforcement, *2024 FDLE Legislative Bill Analysis of SB 622* (Dec. 8, 2023), at 2.

Each district school board must require each high school within its jurisdiction to host an annual career fair during the school year and establish a process to provide students in grades 11 and 12 the opportunity to meet or interview with potential employers during the career fair.⁶⁵ The career fair must be held on the campus of the high school, except that a group of high schools in the district or a group of districts may hold a joint career fair at an alternative location. A joint career fair must be held at a location within reasonable driving distance for students at all participating schools. The career fair must be held during the school day and may use Florida's online career planning and work-based learning system⁶⁶ as part of the career fair activities.⁶⁷

Effect of the Bill

The bill authorizes district school boards, as an alternative to the required annual career fair, to consult with local workforce development boards, advisory committees, and business groups to determine free or cost-effective methods to provide other career and industry networking opportunities, during the school day, for secondary students and exposure for elementary and secondary students to a representative variety of industries, businesses, and careers.

State Academic Standards

Present Situation

Florida's state academic standards establish the core content of the curricula to be taught in the state and specify the core content knowledge and skills that K-12 public school students are expected to acquire.⁶⁸ The standards must be rigorous and relevant and provide for the logical, sequential progression of core curricular content that incrementally increases a student's core content knowledge and skills over time. Curricular content for all subjects must integrate critical-thinking, problem-solving, and workforce-literacy skills; communication, reading, and writing skills; mathematics skills; collaboration skills; contextual and applied-learning skills; technology-literacy skills; information and media-literacy skills; and civic-engagement skills.⁶⁹

The standards must include distinct grade-level expectations for the core content knowledge and skills that a student is expected to have acquired by each individual grade level from kindergarten through grade 8. The standards for grades 9 through 12 may be organized by grade clusters of more than one grade level except as otherwise provided for visual and performing arts, physical education, health, and foreign language standards.⁷⁰

Florida's Commissioner of Education (commissioner), as needed, is required to develop and submit proposed revisions to the standards for review and comment by Florida educators, school administrators, representatives of the FCS and state universities who have expertise in the content knowledge and skills necessary to prepare a student for postsecondary education and careers, business and industry leaders, and the public. The commissioner, after considering reviews and comments, must submit the proposed revisions to the SBE for adoption.⁷¹

Effect of the Bill

⁶⁵ Section 1001.43(14), F.S.

⁶⁶ Xello, *The Future of Work Florida*, <https://xello.world/en/florida-college-career-ready/> (last visited Mar. 12, 2024). Xello is Florida's official, K-12 career planning and work-based learning coordination provider.

⁶⁷ Section 1001.43(14), F.S.

⁶⁸ Section 1003.41(1), F.S.

⁶⁹ *Id.*

⁷⁰ *Id.*

⁷¹ Section 1003.41(3), F.S.

The bill adds to the persons who the commissioner must include for review and comment on proposed revisions to state standards to include a representative from the Department of Commerce and specifies that business and industry leaders are limited to those for in-demand careers.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

See Fiscal Comments.

2. Expenditures:

See Fiscal Comments.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

Local governments currently assessing licensing and registration fees to journeyworkers in specified trades would see an indeterminate decrease in revenues and expenditures.