

CHAPTER 2014-33

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 487

An act relating to agricultural industry certifications; amending s. 570.07, F.S.; requiring the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to annually provide to the State Board of Education and the Department of Education information and industry certifications for farm occupations to be considered for placement on industry certification funding lists; amending s. 1003.492, F.S.; defining industry certification as part of career education programs; requiring the state board to adopt rules for implementing an industry certification process for farm occupations; amending s. 1003.4935, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (43) is added to section 570.07, Florida Statutes, to read:

570.07 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; functions, powers, and duties.—The department shall have and exercise the following functions, powers, and duties:

(43) In cooperation with the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida and the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences at the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, to annually provide to the State Board of Education and the Department of Education information and industry certifications for farm occupations to be considered for placement on the Industry Certification Funding List and the Post-secondary Industry Certification Funding List pursuant to s. 1008.44. Information and industry certifications provided by the department must be based upon the best available data.

Section 2. Section 1003.492, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.492 Industry-certified career education programs.—

(1) Secondary schools offering career-themed courses, as defined in s. 1003.493(1)(b), and career and professional academies shall be coordinated with the relevant and appropriate industry to prepare a student for further education or for employment in that industry.

(2) Industry certification as used in this section is a voluntary process through which students are assessed by an independent, third-party certifying entity using predetermined standards for knowledge, skills, and competencies, resulting in the award of a credential that is nationally recognized and must be at least one of the following:

(a) Within an industry that addresses a critical local or statewide economic need;

(b) Linked to an occupation that is included in the workforce system's targeted occupation list; or

(c) Linked to an occupation that is identified as emerging.

~~(3)(2)~~ The State Board of Education shall use the expertise of Workforce Florida, Inc., and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to develop and adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 for implementing an industry certification process.

(a) For nonfarm occupations, industry certification shall be defined by ~~the Department of Economic Opportunity,~~ based upon the highest available national standards for specific industry certification; to ensure student skill proficiency and to address emerging labor market and industry trends. A regional workforce board or a school principal may apply to Workforce Florida, Inc., to request additions to the approved list of industry certifications based on high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand job requirements in the regional economy. ~~The list of industry certifications approved by Workforce Florida, Inc., and the Department of Education shall be published and updated annually by a date certain, to be included in the adopted rule.~~

(b) For farm occupations submitted pursuant to s. 570.07, industry certification shall demonstrate student skill proficiency and be based upon the best available data to address critical local or statewide economic needs.

(4) The list of industry certifications approved by Workforce Florida, Inc., the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the Department of Education shall be published and updated annually by a date certain, to be included in the adopted rule.

~~(5)(3)~~ The Department of Education shall collect student achievement and performance data in industry-certified career education programs and career-themed courses and shall work with Workforce Florida, Inc., and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in the analysis of collected data. The data collection and analyses shall examine the performance of participating students over time. Performance factors shall include, but not be limited to, graduation rates, retention rates, Florida Bright Futures Scholarship awards, additional educational attainment, employment records, earnings, industry certification, and employer satisfaction. The results of this study shall be submitted to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives annually by December 31.

Section 3. Subsection (3) of section 1003.4935, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.4935 Middle grades career and professional academy courses and career-themed courses.—

(3) Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, if a school district implements a middle school career and professional academy or a career-themed course, the Department of Education shall collect and report student achievement data pursuant to performance factors identified under s. 1003.492(5) ~~1003.492(3)~~ for students enrolled in an academy or a career-themed course.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.

Approved by the Governor May 12, 2014.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 12, 2014.