

## CHAPTER 2023-98

### House Bill No. 265

An act relating to high school equivalency diplomas; amending s. 1003.435, F.S.; prohibiting a district school board from requiring certain students to take a course before taking the high school equivalency examination unless the student failed to earn a passing score on a specified practice test; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 1003.435, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.435 High school equivalency diploma program.—

(4)(a) A candidate for a high school equivalency diploma shall be at least 18 years of age on the date of the examination, except that in extraordinary circumstances, as provided for in rules of the district school board of the district in which the candidate resides or attends school, a candidate may take the examination after reaching the age of 16.

(b) A district school board may not require a student who has reached the age of 16 to take any course before taking the examination unless the student fails to achieve a passing score on the GED practice test as established by State Board of Education rule.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

Approved by the Governor May 17, 2023.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 17, 2023.