

BILL

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YEAR

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to public K-12 education; creating s.
 3 1003.64, F.S., the Education That Works Pilot Program;
 4 providing for application by school districts and
 5 selection for participation by the State Board of
 6 Education; requiring on-the-job training for participating
 7 high school students and cooperation by educators and
 8 employers; providing pilot program components; providing
 9 for corporate income tax credits for participating
 10 businesses; providing for data collection and reporting;
 11 requiring a cooperative agreement between the Department
 12 of Education and the Department of Revenue; requiring
 13 rulemaking by the State Board of Education and the
 14 Department of Revenue; providing an effective date.

15
 16 WHEREAS, according to the National Center for Education
 17 Statistics, during the 2008-2009 school year, a child will drop
 18 out of school every 9 seconds in the United States and
 19 approximately 542 students in Florida will drop out of school,
 20 and

21 WHEREAS, as measured using the Cumulative Promotion Index,
 22 the national high school graduation rate is 74.8 percent and the
 23 Florida graduation rate is 72.4 percent, with Broward County's
 24 graduation rate at 66.3 percent, and

25 WHEREAS, Florida spends approximately 35 percent of its
 26 total state revenue for public education, and

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

27 WHEREAS, in 2006, the state funded 46.5 percent of
 28 Florida's educational expenditures, the Federal Government
 29 funded 9.1 percent of Florida's educational expenditures, and
 30 the state's counties funded 44.4 percent of Florida's
 31 educational expenditures, and

32 WHEREAS, high school dropouts comprise approximately 75
 33 percent of the prison population in the state, and

34 WHEREAS, a decrease in the number of students who drop out
 35 of high school will result in a decrease in criminal activity,
 36 incarceration, unemployment, dependency on public assistance,
 37 and childbearing at a young age, and

38 WHEREAS, developing an individual education plan for a
 39 student who has difficulty functioning in a traditional school
 40 setting may provide the student with the opportunity to acquire
 41 a high school diploma through a nontraditional approach that
 42 combines academics and a real-world work environment, NOW,
 43 THEREFORE,

44
 45 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

46
 47 Section 1. Section 1003.64, Florida Statutes, is created
 48 to read:

49 1003.64 Education That Works Pilot Program.--

50 (1) There is created the Education That Works Pilot
 51 Program, the goal of which is the reduction in a school
 52 district's high school student dropout rate by allowing students
 53 to participate in a nontraditional education program that

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

54 provides real-world experience. The pilot program shall be
 55 implemented in selected school districts beginning with the
 56 2009-2010 school year and shall continue through the 2013-2014
 57 school year.

58 (2) The Department of Education shall develop an
 59 application process for school districts to apply to participate
 60 in the pilot program. The State Board of Education shall select
 61 the pilot program districts, at least one of which shall be a
 62 district with a student population in excess of 150,000
 63 students, one of which shall be a district with a student
 64 population of 50,000 to 150,000 students, and one of which shall
 65 be a district with a student population of fewer than 50,000
 66 students. One of the districts selected by the state board shall
 67 be the Broward County School District.

68 (3) Each school district participating in the pilot
 69 program shall adopt policies and procedures for on-the-job
 70 training for high school students. The pilot program shall be
 71 dependent on the cooperation of educators and employers in
 72 combining their resources to provide an enriching and rewarding
 73 educational and training experience for students.

74 (4) The pilot program shall target students who are most
 75 likely to drop out of school prior to high school graduation.
 76 The pilot program must provide participating students with an
 77 individual education plan that includes progress toward mastery
 78 of the Sunshine State Standards and completion of the high
 79 school graduation requirements as provided in s. 1003.428, s.
 80 1003.429, or s. 1003.43, Florida Statutes.

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

81 (5) The pilot program shall include, but not be limited
 82 to, the following components:

83 (a) Designated high school courses completed through
 84 cooperative job-training programs or internships established
 85 through the collaboration of schools and businesses.

86 (b) Academic studies integrated with practical work
 87 experience.

88 (c) Eligibility for course credit using criteria
 89 established by the district school board and approved by the
 90 Department of Education.

91 (6) As an incentive for participation in the pilot
 92 program, participating businesses shall be eligible for
 93 corporate income tax credits to help offset payroll costs
 94 associated with hiring students.

95 (7) A district school board shall collect and submit to
 96 the Department of Education achievement and performance data of
 97 students participating in the pilot program, which shall
 98 include, but not be limited to, graduation rates, retention
 99 rates, and employment records of participating students.

100 (8) The Department of Education and the Department of
 101 Revenue shall develop a cooperative agreement to assist in the
 102 administration of the pilot program.

103 (9) (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
 104 under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, Florida Statutes, for
 105 administration of this section as it relates to the role of the
 106 Department of Education.

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

107 (b) The Department of Revenue shall adopt rules under ss.
108 120.536(1) and 120.54, Florida Statutes, for administration of
109 this section as it relates to procedures for the allocation of
110 tax credits.

111 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.