

HB 487

2014

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to agricultural industry
3 certifications; amending s. 570.07, F.S.; requiring
4 the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to
5 annually provide to the State Board of Education and
6 the Department of Education information and industry
7 certifications for farm occupations to be placed on
8 industry certification funding lists; amending s.
9 1003.492, F.S.; defining industry certification as
10 part of career education programs; requiring the state
11 board to adopt rules for implementing an industry
12 certification process for farm occupations; requiring
13 placement on funding lists to determine annual funding
14 distributions to school districts and postsecondary
15 institutions; amending s. 1003.4935, F.S.; conforming
16 a cross-reference; providing an effective date.

17
18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

19
20 Section 1. Subsection (43) is added to section 570.07,
21 Florida Statutes, to read:

22 570.07 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services;
23 functions, powers, and duties.—The department shall have and
24 exercise the following functions, powers, and duties:

25 (43) In cooperation with the Institute of Food and
26 Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida, Florida

27 Agriculture and Mechanical University, schools, and other
28 agencies, to annually provide to the State Board of Education
29 and the Department of Education information and industry
30 certifications for farm occupations to be placed on the Industry
31 Certification Funding List and the Postsecondary Industry
32 Certification Funding List pursuant to s. 1008.44. The
33 information and industry certifications provided by the
34 department must be based upon the best available data. In
35 determining the best available data, the department shall
36 consult with the agricultural industry, the Institute of Food
37 and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida, Florida
38 Agriculture and Mechanical University, schools, and other
39 agencies.

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

42 1003.492 Industry-certified career education programs.—

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

48 (2) Industry certification as used in this section is a
49 voluntary process through which students are assessed by an
50 independent, third-party certifying entity using predetermined
51 standards for knowledge, skills, and competencies, resulting in
52 the award of a time-limited credential that is nationally

53 recognized and applicable to an occupation that is included in
54 the workforce system's targeted occupation list or determined to
55 be an occupation that is critical or emerging or addresses a
56 local need.

57 (3)-(2) The State Board of Education shall use the
58 expertise of Workforce Florida, Inc., to develop and adopt rules
59 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 for implementing an
60 industry certification process for nonfarm occupations. Industry
61 certification shall be ~~defined by the Department of Economic~~
62 ~~Opportunity,~~ based upon the highest available national standards
63 for specific industry certification, to ensure student skill
64 proficiency and to address emerging labor market and industry
65 trends. A regional workforce board or a school principal may
66 apply to Workforce Florida, Inc., to request additions to the
67 approved list of industry certifications based on high-skill,
68 high-wage, and high-demand job requirements in the regional
69 economy. The list of industry certifications approved by
70 Workforce Florida, Inc., and the Department of Education shall
71 be published and updated annually by a date certain, to be
72 included in the adopted rule.

73 (4) The Legislature finds that the agricultural industry
74 is critical to the state's economy and declares that industry
75 certification for farm occupations is critical, addresses a
76 local need, and is required for job growth. The State Board of
77 Education shall use the expertise of the Department of
78 Agriculture and Consumer Services to develop and adopt rules by

79 July 1, 2015, pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 for
 80 implementing an industry certification process for farm
 81 occupations. Industry certifications for farm occupations
 82 meeting the rules adopted by the State Board of Education shall
 83 be placed on the Industry Certification Funding List and the
 84 Postsecondary Industry Certification Funding List annually
 85 pursuant to s. 1008.44.

86 (5)~~(3)~~ The Department of Education shall collect student
 87 achievement and performance data in industry-certified career
 88 education programs and career-themed courses and shall work with
 89 Workforce Florida, Inc., and the Department of Agriculture and
 90 Consumer Services in the analysis of collected data. The data
 91 collection and analyses shall examine the performance of
 92 participating students over time. Performance factors shall
 93 include, but not be limited to, graduation rates, retention
 94 rates, Florida Bright Futures Scholarship awards, additional
 95 educational attainment, employment records, earnings, industry
 96 certification, and employer satisfaction. The results of this
 97 study shall be submitted to the President of the Senate and the
 98 Speaker of the House of Representatives annually by December 31.

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

101 1003.4935 Middle grades career and professional academy
 102 courses and career-themed courses.—

103 (3) Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, if a school
 104 district implements a middle school career and professional

HB 487

2014

105 academy or a career-themed course, the Department of Education
106 shall collect and report student achievement data pursuant to
107 performance factors identified under s. 1003.492(5) ~~1003.492(3)~~
108 for students enrolled in an academy or a career-themed course.

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