

**Agency for Workforce Innovation
2006 Regular Legislative Session
Final Summary**

Substantive Legislation Passed by the Legislature

A “Plus-Plus”

As one of the Governor’s educational priorities this session, **HB 7087**, the A++ package became an omnibus bill with many components of interest to the Agency in both areas of Early Learning and Workforce. Career and Professional Academies, Ready to Work, Jobs for Florida’s Graduates and the Public School Start Date were issues included in the legislation and are summarized below.

- ***Career and Professional Academies***

Originally filed as **HB 513** by **Rep. Bilirakis (R-Palm Harbor)** and **SB 1480, Sen. Wise (R-Jacksonville)** this issue was amended onto the Governor’s the A++ Package, HB 7087.

A Career and professional academy, as created under the new F.S. 1003.493, is a research-based program that integrates a rigorous academic curriculum with an industry-driven career curriculum. Career and professional academies may be offered by public schools, school districts, or the Florida Virtual School. Students completing career and professional academy programs receive a standard high school diploma, the highest available industry certification, and postsecondary credit if the academy partners with a postsecondary institution.

According to the legislation the goals of career and professional academies are to:

- (a) Increase student academic achievement and graduation rates through integrated academic and career curricula.
- (b) Focus on career preparation through rigorous academics and industry certification.
- (c) Raise student aspiration and commitment to academic achievement and work ethics.
- (d) Support the revised graduation requirements pursuant to s. 1003.428 by providing creative, applied majors.
- (e) Promote acceleration mechanisms, such as dual enrollment, articulated credit, or occupational completion points, so that students may earn postsecondary credit while in high school.

(f) Support the state's economy by meeting industry needs for skilled employees in high-demand occupations.

A career and professional academy may be offered either as a school-within-a-school career academy or a total school configuration providing multiple academies each structured around an occupational cluster.

- ***Ready to Work***

This legislation also passed as part of the A++ package, creating F.S. 1004.99 was also funded in Agency's budget at \$4million in non-recurring General Revenue for one year.

The Florida Ready to Work Certification Program is designed to enhance the workplace skills of Florida's students to better prepare them for successful employment in specific occupations.

The Florida Ready to Work Certification Program may be conducted in public middle and high schools, community colleges, technical centers, one-stop career centers, vocational rehabilitation centers, and Department of Juvenile Justice educational facilities. The program may be made available to other entities that provide job training. The Department of Education shall establish institutional readiness criteria for program implementation.

The Florida Ready to Work Certification Program shall be composed of:

(a) A comprehensive identification of workplace skills for each occupation identified for inclusion in the program by the Agency for Workforce Innovation and the Department of Education.

(b) A pre-instructional assessment that delineates the student's mastery level on the specific workplace skills identified for that occupation.

(c) A targeted instructional program limited to those identified workplace skills in which the student is not proficient as measured by the pre-instructional assessment. Instruction must utilize a web-based program and be customized to meet identified specific needs of local employers.

(d) A certificate and portfolio awarded to students upon successful completion of the instruction. Each portfolio must delineate the skills demonstrated by the student as evidence of the student's preparation for employment.

- ***Jobs for Florida's Graduates***

The statute creating this program, 446.609 F.S., was repealed in HB 7087.

- ***K-12 Public School Start Date***

HB 7087 mandates beginning with the 2007-2008 school year each school district may not set opening dates for public schools earlier than 14 days prior to Labor Day.

Minimum Wage Notification

HB 1211 sponsored by **Rep. Terry Fields (D-Jacksonville)** and **SB 786** sponsored by **Sen. Tony Hill (D-Jacksonville)** requires employers to post current state minimum wage. The legislation also requires the Agency to make signage available.

School Readiness Funding Formula Equity Allocation

SB 840, sponsored by the Senate Committee on Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations, chaired by **Sen. Mike Fasano (R-New Port Richey)**, requires AWI to recommend to the Legislature a school readiness equity allocation formula to allocate funds each January 1st. The legislation also eliminates the approval of the formula by the Legislative Budget Commission.

Space Florida

HB 1489 sponsored by **Rep. Leslie Waters (R-St. Petersburg)** and **SB 2580** sponsored by **Sen. Mike Fasano (R-New Port Richey)** passed the legislature. The bill re-designates the “Florida Space Authority” as “Space Florida”. The legislation encompassed some of the recommendations of the Commission on the Future of Space and Aeronautics in Florida. The Commission was created by Governor Jeb Bush through an executive order issued on June 10, 2005. Rep. Waters was an appointed member of the Commission. The commission was created to “assess and make recommendations on how to strengthen Florida’s role as a leader in space and aeronautics and to maximize the economic development and job creation opportunities throughout the state.”

The bill creates Space Florida and repeals the Florida Space Authority (FSA), the Florida Space Research Institute (FSRI), and the Florida Aerospace Finance Corporation (FAFC), as well as their boards. Many of the exiting FSA powers and duties are revised and several FSRI and FAFC duties are retained while others are eliminated. The bill repeals the Spaceport Management Council.

Space Florida is directed to do the following:

- 1) Seek federal support to upgrade the infrastructure and technologies at current state and federal launch sites;
- 2) Promote and facilitate launch activity by assisting commercial launch operators with completing federal documentation and authorization requirements; and
- 3) Pursue the development of additional commercial spaceports in partnership with local and federal government and private entities.

Space Florida is required to coordinate its activities with Enterprise Florida, Workforce Florida and other state agencies.

CHOICE Academies

SB 772 sponsored by **Sen. Lee Constantine (R-Altamonte Springs)** was amended late in the session with the substance of **HB 513** sponsored by **Rep. Mike Bilirakis (R-Palm Harbor)** relating to CHOICE Academies.

A "CHOICE academy" is a career and professional academy that meets the goals and requirements specified in s.1003.493 and offer a rigorous and relevant academic curriculum leading to industry-recognized certification, college credit, and credit toward a high school diploma. Existing career education courses may serve as a foundation for the creation of a CHOICE academy.

The purposes of a CHOICE academy are to:

- (a) Draw upon ongoing partnerships between education and workforce development or economic development organizations to enhance the quality and opportunities for career education for high school students by exposure to in-demand career education as identified by such organizations in the local community.
- (b) Build upon the state system of school improvement and education accountability by providing students with a solid academic foundation, opportunities to obtain industry-recognized certification or credentials, and preparation for postsecondary educational experiences in related fields.
- (c) Prepare graduating high school students to make appropriate choices relative to employment and future educational experiences.

The Department of Education may establish application guidelines for an annual competitive process and eligibility criteria for school district participation. The Okaloosa County School District and other school districts that have received funding from Workforce Florida, Inc., for the establishment of CHOICE academies prior to July 1, 2006, shall receive an expedited review for CHOICE academy designation by the department.

The duties assigned to the Department of Education (DOE) include working with Workforce Florida, Inc. to provide technical assistance to participating school districts in submitting applications for designation of specific CHOICE academies located in specific schools in the school district, reorganizing career education opportunities, developing CHOICE academies with career themes in areas deemed appropriate by Workforce Florida, Inc., or local economic development organizations, and developing funding plans. Also Workforce Florida, Inc. is to jointly work with DOE and in consultation with school districts, develop evaluation criteria for CHOICE academies. Such criteria shall include increased academic performance of students and schools using school-level accountability data.

General Appropriations Act

Governor and Agency's Priorities

Workforce and Early Learning

Funded with non-recurring general revenue funds:

- **Workforce Cluster Centers** **\$4,000,000**
Banner Centers as recommended by the Roadmap to Florida's Future
- **Florida Ready to Work Initiative** **\$4,000,000**
The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall profile skills associated with occupations included in the initiative. The Department of Education shall coordinate with the Agency for Workforce Innovation to implement the initiative, with full implementation in Fiscal Year 2008-2009.
- **Florida Rebuilds** **\$12,000,000**
Funding to continue workforce training in the construction industry as part of the Florida Rebuilds initiative, Workforce Florida, Inc. shall initiate high school construction programs to meet the purposes of the Florida Rebuilds program in up to 10 school districts. Workforce Florida, Inc., in determining those school districts, must consider drop out rates and FCAT performance in those districts.
- **Incumbent Worker Training** **\$3,652,385**
\$2,000,000 is funded from the Employment Security Administration Trust Fund

Funded with recurring General Revenue funds:

- **Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten** **\$388,100,000**
Base Student Allocation *\$2,560*
The allocation includes 5 percent in addition to the base student allocation to fund administrative and other program costs of the Early Learning Coalitions relating to the voluntary prekindergarten education program.

Funded with funds from the Welfare Transition Trust Fund (TANF):

- **Non-custodial Parent Program** **\$750,000**
Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough counties
The Pinellas Workforce Board (WorkNet) shall administer the funds, which shall be maintained as a single project for the three counties.

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| <i>Miami-Dade County (Non Custodial Parent Program)</i> | \$666,000 |
| To expand Gulf Coast Community Care's current Non-custodial Parent Program in, which shall be administered by the South Florida Workforce Board. | |
| • Passport to Economic Progress programs | \$2,000,000 |
| Hillsborough, Manatee, and Sarasota counties | |

Special Legislative Projects - Workforce

Funded with Non-Recurring Funds from the Special Employment Security Trust Fund:

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| • Jubilee Job Link | \$50,000 |
| Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon and Wakulla County | |
| • Job Training and Job Circulation | \$250,000 |
| Hardee, Highlands and Polk County | |
| • Youth Summer Jobs Program | \$100,000 |
| Broward County | |
| • Youth Development Strategies | \$200,000 |
| Dade County | |
| • Non-Custodial Parent Program | \$100,000 |
| Brevard County | |

Funded with non-recurring general revenue funds:

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| • Connections Job Development Program | \$20,000 |
| Hernando, Pasco and Pinellas County | |
| • Prosperity Campaign | \$25,000 |
| Pasco County | |
| • Persons with Disabilities – Report Required | \$1,000,000 |
| Workforce Florida, Inc. shall provide reports on January 15th and June 30th to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to the Agency for Persons with Disabilities on the number of persons being served and the resources being invested from all funds to assist persons with disabilities to gain employment. The report must include a description of the statewide goals as established by Workforce Florida, Inc. and a discussion of the progress made towards achieving those goals. | |

Special Legislative Projects - Early Learning

Funded with funds from the Welfare Transition Trust Fund (TANF):

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| • Home Instruction Program for Pre-School Youngsters | \$1,400,000 |
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Funded with recurring General Revenue funds:

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| • Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten - Accountability | \$500,000 |
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The Agency for Workforce Innovation in coordination with the Early Learning Coalitions ensure program accountability and to improve the quality of the prekindergarten programs.

Funded with funds from the Child Care and Development Block Grant Fund

- **Child Care Developmental Services - Orange County** **\$100,000**
- **Alachua County Success by Six Program** **\$250,000**
- **TEACH Scholarships** **\$3,000,000**

A minimum of \$3,000,000 shall be used to enhance the quality of child care through the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps Program (T.E.A.C.H.), or a substantially similar program that is designed to increase the education and training of, and reduce the turnover among, child care personnel through the award of educational scholarships in this state. The Agency for Workforce Innovation may contract for the administration of the T.E.A.C.H. or, if approved by the Legislative Budget Commission, may administer or contract for the administration of a substantially similar program.

Agency Related Proviso or Implementing Bill Language

- ***Minimum Funding Level for VPK
Implementing Bill Language (HB 5005)***

For programs offered by school districts pursuant to s. 1002.61 (VPK), each district's funding shall be based on a full-time equivalent student enrollment that is evenly divisible by 10. If the result of dividing a district's full-time equivalent student enrollment by 10 is not a whole number, the district's enrollment calculation shall be adjusted by adding the minimum number of full-time equivalent students to produce a full-time equivalent enrollment calculation that is evenly divisible by 10.

- ***Leased Space***

From the funds in Specific Appropriations 2244 through 2310, no funds shall be used to pay for space being leased by the Agency for Workforce Innovation or a Regional Workforce Board if it has been determined that there is no longer a need for the leased space.

- ***Federal Compliance Guidelines***

The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall determine whether any funds provided for specific workforce programs, projects or initiatives are not an allowable use of federal funds. If the agency finds that any project or initiative for which funds are specifically appropriated in this act is not an allowable use of federal funds, the agency shall notify the Executive Office of the Governor, the chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee and the chair of the House Fiscal Council.

Legislative Initiatives NOT Passed

Early Learning Incentives Task Force

Legislation sponsored by Rep. Lorraine Ausley (D-Tallahassee) and Sen. Nan Rich (D-Sunrise) would have required the Agency to work with the Early Learning Advisory Council to study early learning quality incentives and rating systems. The bill would have also required the OPPAGA to study the administration of the effectiveness of Child Care Executive Partnership.

Statewide Prosperity Campaign

The legislation would have created a Florida Prosperity Campaign Council within Workforce Florida, Inc.. The legislation was sponsored by Rep. Ed Jennings (D-Gainesville) and Sen. Nan Rich (D-Sunrise)

Public Records Exemption - Employers – Job Posting

Sponsored by Rep. Pat Patterson (R-Deland), HB 1103 provided an exemption from public record requirements for records contained within one-stop management information systems that would identify employer who is posting job openings.

Small Business Health Care Insurance

Sponsored by Rep. Dorothy Hukill (R-New Smyrna Beach) HB 1265 and SB 2428 sponsored by Sen. Mike Fasano (R-New Port Richey) would have established a pilot program to provide rebates to small businesses who provided health insurance coverage for employees.

Alternate Base Period for Unemployment Compensation

Sen. JD Alexander (R-Lake Wales) sponsored SB 2482 which would have moved the qualifying period for unemployment claims to an alternate base period. The Agency estimated the cost to the Unemployment Benefit Trust Fund, funded solely by employer taxes, to be approximately \$21 Million.

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