

HB 0471

2004

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to community colleges; creating s.
 3 1004.85, F.S.; authorizing community colleges to create
 4 teacher institutes; authorizing community colleges through
 5 teacher institutes to offer competency-based alternative
 6 teacher certification programs; requiring Department of
 7 Education approval of such programs; providing
 8 requirements for program completion; providing eligibility
 9 for funding; providing program requirements; authorizing
 10 rulemaking; amending s. 1012.56, F.S.; providing that
 11 successful completion of a community college alternative
 12 certification program meets certain educator certification
 13 requirements; providing an effective date.

14
 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 17 Section 1. Section 1004.85, Florida Statutes, is created
 18 to read:

19 1004.85 Community college teacher institutes.--

20 (1) Community colleges are authorized to create teacher
 21 institutes for the purpose of providing any or all of the
 22 following:

23 (a) Professional development instruction to assist
 24 teachers in improving classroom instruction and in meeting
 25 certification or recertification requirements.

26 (b) Instruction to assist potential and existing
 27 substitute teachers in performing their duties.

28 (c) Instruction to assist paraprofessionals in meeting
 29 education and training requirements.

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30 (d) Instruction for baccalaureate degree holders to become
 31 certified teachers as provided in this section.

32 (2) Community colleges may offer alternative certification
 33 programs specifically designed for noneducation major
 34 baccalaureate degree holders to enable program participants to
 35 meet the educator certification requirements of s. 1012.56. Such
 36 programs shall be provided at community college teacher
 37 institutes created pursuant to this section and shall be
 38 competency-based teacher certification preparation programs that
 39 prepare teachers through an alternative route. Such educator
 40 preparation programs are intended for mid-career professionals,
 41 dislocated professionals, and other baccalaureate degree holders
 42 who want to become teachers in this state. A community college
 43 choosing to offer an alternative certification program shall
 44 implement a program previously approved by the Department of
 45 Education for this purpose or a program developed by the
 46 community college and approved by the Department of Education
 47 for this purpose. Approved programs shall be available for
 48 implementation statewide.

49 (a) A community college program shall be approved by the
 50 Department of Education if the community college provides
 51 sufficient evidence of the following:

52 1. The program must be administered in collaboration with
 53 other institutions, agencies, or organizations and must be
 54 provided with leadership through an advisory committee composed
 55 of nationally certified teachers, representatives from the
 56 district school board or boards, and currently employed
 57 teachers.

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58 2. Instruction must be provided in professional knowledge
59 and subject matter content that includes educator-accomplished
60 practices and competencies and meets subject matter content
61 requirements, professional competency testing requirements, and
62 competencies associated with teaching reading, where
63 appropriate.

64 (b) Each program participant must:

65 1. Meet temporary certification requirements by obtaining
66 a temporary certificate, pursuant to s. 1012.56(6), or document
67 eligibility to obtain a temporary certificate, including meeting
68 the requirements of s. 1012.56(2)(a)-(f).

69 2. Participate in field experience that is appropriate to
70 his or her educational plan.

71 3. Fully demonstrate his or her ability to teach the
72 subject area for which he or she is seeking certification prior
73 to completion of the program.

74 (c) Upon completion of the program, a participant shall
75 receive a credential from the sponsoring community college,
76 pursuant to authority granted in s. 1004.65. Such credential
77 shall satisfy the requirements of s. 1012.56(5) relating to
78 mastery of professional preparation and education competence. A
79 participant shall be eligible for educator certification through
80 the Department of Education upon satisfaction of all
81 requirements for certification set forth in s. 1012.56(2),
82 including demonstration of mastery of general knowledge, subject
83 area knowledge, and professional preparation and education
84 competence, through testing or other statutorily authorized
85 means.

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86 (d) Community colleges offering approved programs are
87 eligible for funding from federal and state funds. Participants
88 who complete a program pursuant to this section shall be
89 included for the purpose of performance-based funding.

90 (e) Each community college offering an approved program
91 shall submit to the Department of Education annual performance
92 evaluations that measure the effectiveness of the program,
93 including the pass rates of participants on all examinations
94 required for teacher certification and employer satisfaction
95 surveys.

96 (f) If a community college offers an approved program
97 pursuant to this section, such program may be used by the school
98 district or districts served by that community college to fully
99 satisfy the requirements for the provision of a competency-based
100 professional preparation alternative certification program as
101 required in s. 1012.56(7).

102 (g) Instructors for a community college program approved
103 pursuant to this section must possess a master's degree in
104 education or in an education field and document recent teaching
105 experience.

106 (3) The State Board of Education may adopt rules pursuant
107 to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of this
108 section.

109 Section 2. Paragraphs (f) and (g) of subsection (5) of
110 section 1012.56, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph
111 (h) is added to said subsection, to read:

112 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.--

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113 (5) MASTERY OF PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND EDUCATION
 114 COMPETENCE.--Acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of
 115 professional preparation and education competence are:

116 (f) Completion of professional preparation courses as
 117 specified in state board rule, successful completion of a
 118 professional education competence demonstration program pursuant
 119 to paragraph (7)(b), and achievement of a passing score on the
 120 professional education competency examination required by state
 121 board rule; ~~or~~

122 (g) Successful completion of a professional preparation
 123 alternative certification and education competency program,
 124 outlined in paragraph (7)(a); or

125 (h) Successful completion of a community college program
 126 pursuant to s. 1004.85 and achievement of a passing score on the
 127 professional education competency examination required by state
 128 board rule.

129 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.