

CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Committee on Education K-20 recommends the following:

2
3 **Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5 A bill to be entitled

6 An act relating to educator preparation institutes;
7 creating s. 1004.85, F.S.; providing a definition;
8 providing for postsecondary institutions to create
9 educator preparation institutes; providing purpose of the
10 institutes; authorizing institutes to offer alternative
11 certification programs; requiring Department of Education
12 response to a request for approval; providing criteria for
13 alternative certification programs; providing requirements
14 for program participants; providing for participants to
15 receive a credential signifying mastery of professional
16 preparation and education competence; authorizing school
17 districts to use an alternative certification program at
18 an educator preparation institute to satisfy certain
19 requirements; requiring performance evaluations; requiring
20 certain criteria for instructors; providing rulemaking
21 authority; amending s. 1012.56, F.S., relating to educator
22 certification requirements; revising means of

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23 | demonstrating mastery of professional preparation and
24 | education competence; providing an effective date.

25 |

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

27 |

28 | Section 1. Section 1004.85, Florida Statutes, is created
29 | to read:

30 | 1004.85 Postsecondary educator preparation institutes.--

31 | (1) As used in this section, "educator preparation
32 | institute" means an institute created by a postsecondary
33 | institution and approved by the Department of Education.

34 | (2) Postsecondary institutions may seek approval from the
35 | Department of Education to create educator preparation
36 | institutes for the purpose of providing any or all of the
37 | following:

38 | (a) Professional development instruction to assist
39 | teachers in improving classroom instruction and in meeting
40 | certification or recertification requirements.

41 | (b) Instruction to assist potential and existing
42 | substitute teachers in performing their duties.

43 | (c) Instruction to assist paraprofessionals in meeting
44 | education and training requirements.

45 | (d) Instruction for baccalaureate degree holders to become
46 | certified teachers as provided in this section in order to
47 | increase routes to the classroom for mid-career professionals
48 | who hold a baccalaureate degree and college graduates who were
49 | not education majors.

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50 (3) Educator preparation institutes approved pursuant to
51 this section may offer alternative certification programs
52 specifically designed for noneducation major baccalaureate
53 degree holders to enable program participants to meet the
54 educator certification requirements of s. 1012.56. Such programs
55 shall be competency-based educator certification preparation
56 programs that prepare educators through an alternative route. An
57 educator preparation institute choosing to offer an alternative
58 certification program pursuant to the provisions of this section
59 must implement a program previously approved by the Department
60 of Education for this purpose or a program developed by the
61 institute and approved by the department for this purpose.
62 Approved programs shall be available for use by other approved
63 educator preparation institutes.

64 (a) Within 90 days after receipt of a request for
65 approval, the Department of Education shall approve an
66 alternative certification program or issue a statement of the
67 deficiencies in the request for approval. The department shall
68 approve an alternative certification program if the institute
69 provides sufficient evidence of the following:

70 1. Instruction must be provided in professional knowledge
71 and subject matter content that includes educator-accomplished
72 practices and competencies specified in State Board of Education
73 rule; meets subject matter content requirements and professional
74 competency testing requirements; and includes competencies
75 associated with teaching scientifically based reading
76 instruction and strategies that research has shown to be
77 successful in improving reading among low-performing readers.

78 2. The program must provide field experience with
 79 supervision from qualified educators.

80 3. The program must provide a certification ombudsman to
 81 facilitate the process and procedures required for participants
 82 who complete the program to meet any requirements related to the
 83 background screening pursuant to s. 1012.32 and educator
 84 professional or temporary certification pursuant to s. 1012.56.

85 (b) Each program participant must:

86 1. Meet certification requirements pursuant to s.
 87 1012.56(1) by obtaining a statement of status of eligibility and
 88 meet the requirements of s. 1012.56(2)(a)-(f).

89 2. Participate in field experience that is appropriate to
 90 his or her educational plan.

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

94 (c) Upon completion of an alternative certification
 95 program approved pursuant to this subsection, a participant
 96 shall receive a credential from the sponsoring institution
 97 signifying satisfaction of the requirements of s. 1012.56(5)
 98 relating to mastery of professional preparation and education
 99 competence. A participant shall be eligible for educator
 100 certification through the Department of Education upon
 101 satisfaction of all requirements for certification set forth in
 102 s. 1012.56(2), including demonstration of mastery of general
 103 knowledge, subject area knowledge, and professional preparation
 104 and education competence, through testing or other statutorily
 105 authorized means.

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106 (d) If an institution offers an alternative certification
107 program approved pursuant to this subsection, such program may
108 be used by the school district or districts served by that
109 institution to fully satisfy the requirements for the provision
110 of a competency-based professional preparation alternative
111 certification program as required in s. 1012.56(7).

112 (4) Each institute approved pursuant to this section shall
113 submit to the Department of Education annual performance
114 evaluations that measure the effectiveness of the programs,
115 including the pass rates of participants on all examinations
116 required for teacher certification, employment rates,
117 longitudinal retention rates, and employer satisfaction surveys.
118 The employer satisfaction surveys must be designed to measure
119 the sufficient preparation of the educator to enter the
120 classroom.

121 (5) Instructors for an alternative certification program
122 approved pursuant to this section must possess a master's degree
123 in education or a master's degree in an appropriate related
124 field and document teaching experience.

125 (6) Educator preparation institutes approved pursuant to
126 this section and providing approved instructional programs for
127 any of the purposes in subsection (2) are eligible for funding
128 from federal and state funds, as appropriated by the
129 Legislature.

130 (7) The State Board of Education may adopt rules pursuant
131 to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of this
132 section.

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

136 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.--

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

140 (f) Completion of professional preparation courses as
141 specified in state board rule, successful completion of a
142 professional education competence demonstration program pursuant
143 to paragraph (7)(b), and achievement of a passing score on the
144 professional education competency examination required by state
145 board rule; ~~or~~

146 (g) Successful completion of a professional preparation
147 alternative certification and education competency program,
148 outlined in paragraph (7)(a); or

149 (h) Successful completion of an alternative certification
150 program pursuant to s. 1004.85 and achievement of a passing
151 score on the professional education competency examination
152 required by state board rule.

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