

Committee on Education Pre-K -12

CS/CS/HB 917 — Career and Technical Education

by Education & Employment Committee; Choice & Innovation Subcommittee; and Rep. Snyder and others (CS/CS/CS/SB 460 by Fiscal Policy Committee; Appropriations Committee on Education; Education Pre-K -12 Committee; and Senators Simon and Perry)

The bill authorizes minors aged 16 or 17 to work in residential construction if the minor:

- Has earned his or her Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10 certification;
- Is under the direct supervision of a person 21 years of age or older with at least two years of related experience and his or her OSHA 10 certification.
- Is not working on any scaffolding, roof, superstructure, or ladder above six feet.
- Is not in violation of any OSHA rule or federal law related to minors in the workplace.

The bill provides a uniform standard for counties and municipalities to issue a license to a journeyworker.

The bill authorizes district school boards, as an alternative to the required high school career fair, to consult with local workforce development boards, advisory committees, and business groups to determine free or cost-effective methods to provide other career and industry networking opportunities, during the school day, for secondary students and exposure for elementary and secondary students to a representative variety of industries, businesses, and careers.

The bill authorizes a student who earns credit for one year of related technical instruction for a registered apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program to use such credit to satisfy specified high school graduation credit requirements.

The bill authorizes an exemption from the career education basic skills assessment to certain students with a private school diploma or home education affidavit.

The bill adds to the duties of the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH Office) to study the status of career and technical education (CTE) in each school district within the state, and report findings by March 1, 2025. The REACH Office must also coordinate an annual statewide report on the supply and demand of nursing occupations. The bill also repeals the Florida Talent Development Council.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2024.

Vote: Senate 32-0; House 105-3