

By Senator Gaetz

1-00573-25

2025102\_\_

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to exceptional student education;  
3           creating s. 1003.5717, F.S.; requiring the Department  
4           of Education to develop and implement, by a specified  
5           date, a workforce credential program for students with  
6           an autism spectrum disorder; providing the purpose of  
7           the program; providing requirements for the program;  
8           requiring the department to produce an annual report  
9           during a specified timeframe; providing requirements  
10          for the report; providing an effective date.

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12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14           Section 1. Section 1003.5717, Florida Statutes, is created  
15 to read:

16           1003.5717 Workforce credential program for students with  
17 autism spectrum disorder.—The Department of Education shall  
18 develop and implement by January 31, 2026, a workforce  
19 credential program for students with an autism spectrum  
20 disorder. The purpose of the program is to assist such students  
21 in securing employment upon graduation. The program must allow  
22 for such students to earn badges that designate that the  
23 students have acquired specific skills that meet employer needs.

24           (1) Each badge must require the student to demonstrate five  
25 discrete skills or behaviors, including, but not limited to,  
26 workplace safety.

27           (2) The badge must be validated by two members of  
28 instructional staff who specialize in exceptional student  
29 education.

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30       (3) Beginning with the 2026 calendar year through the 2030  
31 calendar year, the department shall prepare an annual report by  
32 January 31 of the following year detailing the operations of the  
33 program. At a minimum, the report must include the badges  
34 offered by the program, data on postgraduation student  
35 employment, data on student participation rates in the program,  
36 and any other outcome data deemed necessary by the department to  
37 be included.

38       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.