1	A bill to be entitled				
2	An act relating to compulsory school attendance;				
3	amending s. 1003.21, F.S.; revising the required age				
4	for compulsory school attendance from 16 to 18 years				
5	of age; deleting a requirement that a student's parent				
6	sign a declaration of intent to terminate school				
7	enrollment; deleting a requirement that the school				
8	district notify a student's parent upon receipt of				
9	such declaration; amending s. 1002.20, F.S.; providing				
10	that adult education high school equivalency programs				
11	meet specified attendance requirements; conforming				
12	provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.				
13	1003.51, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made				
14	by the act; providing an effective date.				
15					
16	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:				
17					
18	Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (1) of				
19	section 1003.21, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:				
20	1003.21 School attendance				
21	(1)(a)1. All children who have attained the age of 6 years				
22	or who will have attained the age of 6 years by February 1 of				
23	any school year or who are older than 6 years of age but who				
24	have not attained the age of $\underline{18}$ $\underline{16}$ years, except as otherwise				
25	provided, are required to attend school regularly during the				
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26 entire school term.

27 2. Children who will have attained the age of 5 years on 28 or before September 1 of the school year are eligible for 29 admission to public kindergartens during that school year under 30 rules adopted by the district school board.

31 A student who attains the age of 18 16 years during (C) 32 the school year is not subject to compulsory school attendance 33 beyond the date upon which he or she attains that age if the 34 student files a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment with the district school board. Public school 35 36 students who have attained the age of 18 $\frac{16}{16}$ years and who have not graduated are subject to compulsory school attendance until 37 the formal declaration of intent is filed with the district 38 39 school board. The declaration must acknowledge that terminating 40 school enrollment is likely to reduce the student's earning potential and must be signed by the student and the student's 41 42 parent. The school district shall notify the student's parent of 43 receipt of the student's declaration of intent to terminate enrollment. The student's certified school counselor or 44 45 other school personnel shall conduct an exit interview with the 46 student to determine the reasons for the student's decision to terminate school enrollment and actions that could be taken to 47 48 keep the student in school. The student's certified school 49 counselor or other school personnel shall inform the student of opportunities to continue his or her education in a different 50

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environment, including, but not limited to, adult education and high school equivalency examination preparation. Additionally, the student shall complete a survey in a format prescribed by the Department of Education to provide data on student reasons for terminating enrollment and actions taken by schools to keep students enrolled.

57 Section 2. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (2) of 58 section 1002.20, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

59 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.-Parents of public 60 school students must receive accurate and timely information 61 regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed 62 of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12 63 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory 64 rights including, but not limited to, the following:

65

(2) ATTENDANCE.-

(a) Compulsory school attendance.—The compulsory school attendance laws apply to all children between the ages of 6 and <u>18</u> 16 years, as provided in s. 1003.21(1) and (2)(a), and, in accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.21(1) and (2)(a):

1. A student who attains the age of <u>18</u> 16 years during the school year has the right to file a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment if the declaration is signed by the parent. The parent has the right to be notified by the school district of the district's receipt of the student's declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment.

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76 2. Students who become or have become married or who are 77 pregnant and parenting have the right to attend school and 78 receive the same or equivalent educational instruction as other 79 students.

80 Regular school attendance.-Parents of students who (b) have attained the age of 6 years by February 1 of any school 81 82 year but who have not attained the age of 18 16 years must 83 comply with the compulsory school attendance laws. Parents have 84 the option to comply with the school attendance laws by 85 attendance of the student in a public school, including an adult education high school equivalency program; a parochial, 86 87 religious, or denominational school; a private school; a home 88 education program; or a private tutoring program, in accordance 89 with the provisions of s. 1003.01(13).

90 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 91 1003.51, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.51 Other public educational services.-

(4) Each district school board shall:

94 (a) Notify students in juvenile justice education programs 95 who attain the age of 16 years of the law regarding compulsory 96 school attendance and make available the option of enrolling in 97 an education program to attain a Florida high school diploma by 98 taking the high school equivalency examination before release 99 from the program. The Department of Education shall assist 100 juvenile justice education programs with becoming high school

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FLORIDA	HOUSE	OF REP	RESENTA	A T I V E S
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101	equivalency examination centers.
102	Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

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