

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Higher Education Committee

BILL: SB 1218

INTRODUCER: Senator Alexander

SUBJECT: South Florida Community College

DATE: January 24, 2012 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Harkey	deMarsh-Mathues	HE	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	BC	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill would codify the name of South Florida State College.

This bill amends s. 1000.21, Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

A community college district board of trustees may change its institutional name by using the designation “college” or “state college” after meeting either of the following sets of criteria:

- If the college has been authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees and has been accredited as a baccalaureate degree granting institution by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the board of trustees may approve changing the institution’s name and use the designation college or state college.¹
- If the college has not been authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees or has not been accredited by SACS, the college board of trustees must request approval of the name change from the State Board of Education (SBE) and must enter into an agreement with the SBE to do the following:
 - Maintain as its primary mission responsibility for responding to community needs for postsecondary academic education and career degree education;
 - Maintain an open-door admissions policy for associate-level degree programs and workforce education programs;
 - Continue to provide outreach to underserved populations;

¹ s. 1001.60(2)(b)1., F.S.

- Continue to provide remedial education; and
- Comply with all provisions of the statewide articulation agreement that relate to 2-year and 4-year public degree-granting institutions as adopted by the SBE.

After a name change has been approved, the institution's board of trustees must seek codification of the name change in the next regular session of the Legislature.²

South Florida Community College has begun the process of meeting the first set of criteria. On September 20, 2011, the SBE authorized South Florida Community College to grant a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Supervision and Management. On September 28, 2011, the college applied to the SACS Commission on Colleges for accreditation as a baccalaureate-degree granting institution. Also on September 28, 2012, the board of trustees voted to change the college's name to South Florida State College, effective July 1, 2012. The college was informed by SACS in December 2011, that the application would not be considered at the association's December 2011 meeting because of the absence of a required form. In January 2012, the college was informed in writing that the SACS Commission on Colleges will consider the application at its June 2012 meeting. Pending the approval by SACS, the college plans to admit students to the baccalaureate program in Applied Science in August 2012.

In keeping with the requirement in s. 1001.60(2)(c), F.S., that a board of trustees must seek codification of the institutional name in the next regular legislative session following the trustee's approval of the change, this bill would codify the name change approved by the board of trustees on September 28, 2011.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill would codify the name of South Florida State College.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

² s. 1001.60(2)(c), F.S.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The South Florida State College may incur costs for name change in signage, publications, documentation, and other related items. Payments of such costs, if any, will be the responsibility of the college.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.