

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 Committee on Education

BILL: SB 7076

INTRODUCER: Education Committee

SUBJECT: State University Building Designations

DATE: March 12, 2019

REVISED: _____

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
Olenick	Sikes		Ed Summited as Comm.Bill/Fav
1. _____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

SPB 7076 establishes a process for naming and renaming state university facilities. Specifically the bill:

- Requires the Board of Governors (BOG) to adopt regulations to specify authority, procedures, and elements related to the naming or renaming of any state university facilities.
- Requires the BOG regulations to specify elements addressing the respective responsibilities of the BOG and state university boards of trustees and presidents, and procedural requirements regarding transparency, public engagement, nongift-related and gift-related considerations, approval, and other transparency and accountability requirements deemed appropriate by the BOG.
- Repeals Florida law that designated the building housing the FSU College of Law as the B.K. Roberts Hall.
- Provides legislative intent regarding the naming of the FSU College of Law facility.

The bill has no impact on state revenues or expenditures.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

II. Present Situation:

University-Owned and University-Controlled Buildings and Facilities

Section 1001.706(7)(b), F.S. authorizes the Board of Governors (BOG) to develop guidelines for university boards of trustees relating to the use, maintenance, protection, and control of university-owned and university-controlled buildings and groups, property and equipment, name, trademarks and other proprietary marks, and the financial and other resources of the university.

Section 267.062, F.S., describes a state university facility to include a building, road, bridge, park, recreational complex, or other similar facility.

Additionally, BOG Regulation 9.005 (Naming of Buildings and Facilities) delegates and specifies authority, procedures, and elements related to the naming of any state university building, road, bridge, park, recreational complex, other similar facility or educational site for individuals or groups who have made significant contributions to the university or the state.¹

In 2017-2018, Florida State University President John Thrasher followed state law and BOG regulation in exploring potential actions and recommendations² related to Francis Eppes Hall, Francis Eppes Statute, and the B.K Roberts College of Law. As a result, President Thrasher created the “President’s Advisory Panel on University Namings and Recognitions” to examine and make recommendations on university policies concerning campus names and markers, including statues and other recognitions. In addition, the panel:

- Researched issues, met and engaged with university constituencies, and determined criteria for appropriate naming policies.
- Made recommendations related to Francis Eppes Hall and Francis Eppes Statute which were implementable at the institutional level by the university president and the university board of trustees.

In conjunction, the panel recommended a name change to the B.K Roberts College of Law. However, because the facility was named by legislation³ in 1973 the panel was limited in its ability to implement recommendations beyond seeking legislative action.

Since 1973 at least 170 state university facilities have been named via legislation.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

University-Owned and University-Controlled Buildings and Facilities

SPB 7076 amends s, 1001.706, F.S., to establish a process for naming and renaming state university facilities. Specifically the bill:

- Requires the Board of Governors (BOG) to adopt regulations to specify authority, procedures, and elements related to the naming or renaming of any state university facilities.
- Requires the BOG regulations to specify elements addressing the respective responsibilities of the Board of Governors and state university boards of trustees and presidents, and procedural requirements regarding transparency, public engagement, nongift-related and gift-related considerations, approval, and other transparency and accountability requirements deemed appropriate by the BOG.
- Repeals Florida law that designated the building housing the FSU College of Law as the B.K. Roberts Hall.
- Provides legislative intent regarding the naming of the FSU College of Law facility.

¹ The BOG regulation definition does not include statues or monuments.

² Florida State University, *President Advisory Panel on University Naming and Recognitions* (2018) available at <https://president.fsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Panel-Report-July-2018.pdf>

³ Ch. 73-370, L.O.F

In effect, the bill allows state universities more flexibility in naming and renaming university facilities.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill has no impact on state revenues or expenditures.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends 1001.706 of the Florida Statutes.

This bill repeals chapter 73-370, Laws of Florida.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

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

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
