

Tab 7	SPB 7022 by HE; OGSR/Campus Emergency Response						
Tab 3	SB 494 by Avila (CO-INTRODUCERS) Perry; (Identical to H 00511) Graduate Program Admissions						
674090	A	S	RCS	HE, Avila	Delete L.22 - 24:	01/10 09:21 AM	
Tab 1	SB 222 by Rodriguez; (Identical to H 00217) College Campus Facilities in Areas of Critical State Concern						
942192	A	S	RCS	HE, Rodriguez	Delete L.32 - 35:	01/10 09:21 AM	
Tab 2	SB 282 by Rodriguez; (Similar to H 01019) Nonpublic Religious Postsecondary Educational Institutions						
Tab 4	SB 522 by Simon; (Identical to H 00501) Tallahassee Community College						
Tab 5	SB 622 by Simon; Requirements for Career Education Program Basic Skills						

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

EDUCATION POSTSECONDARY
Senator Grall, Chair
Senator Stewart, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, January 9, 2024

TIME: 4:30—6:00 p.m.

PLACE: 301 Senate Building

MEMBERS: Senator Grall, Chair; Senator Stewart, Vice Chair; Senators Book, Burgess, Collins, Garcia, Jones, Perry, and Simon

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	SB 222 Rodriguez (Identical H 217)	College Campus Facilities in Areas of Critical State Concern; Providing that beds for health care workers may be included in the construction of dormitories on the campus of a Florida College System institution; revising the number of beds that may be provided in such dormitories for employees, educators, health care workers, and first responders, etc. HE 01/09/2024 Fav/CS AED AP	Fav/CS Yeas 8 Nays 0
2	SB 282 Rodriguez (Similar H 1019)	Nonpublic Religious Postsecondary Educational Institutions; Removing religious colleges from the list of institutions specified as not being under the jurisdiction or purview of the Commission for Independent Education; providing requirements that must be met by nonpublic religious postsecondary educational institutions that operate without being licensed by the commission; requiring the commission to provide such institutions annually with a written notice of exemption from licensure and of compliance, etc. HE 01/09/2024 Favorable AED RC	Favorable Yeas 8 Nays 0
3	SB 494 Avila (Identical H 511)	Graduate Program Admissions; Requiring an institution of higher education to waive certain examination requirements for a servicemember who applies for admission to a graduate program that requires such examination, etc. HE 01/09/2024 Fav/CS MS RC	Fav/CS Yeas 8 Nays 0
4	SB 522 Simon (Identical H 501)	Tallahassee Community College; Renaming the college as "Tallahassee State College", etc. HE 01/09/2024 Favorable RC	Favorable Yeas 9 Nays 0

COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

Education Postsecondary

Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 4:30—6:00 p.m.

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
5	SB 622 Simon	Requirements for Career Education Program Basic Skills; Deleting a requirement that certain postsecondary students complete an entry-level examination; deleting a requirement that the State Board of Education designate examinations to assess student mastery of basic skills; deleting a requirement that students who lack the required basic skills be referred to specified instruction or education, etc. HE 01/09/2024 Temporarily Postponed AED FP	Temporarily Postponed

Consideration of proposed bill:

6	SPB 7022	OGSR/Campus Emergency Response; Amending a provision which provides an exemption from public record and public meeting requirements for those portions of a campus emergency response which address the response of a public postsecondary educational institution to an act of terrorism or other public safety crisis or emergency; removing a provision allowing disclosure of certain information to certain entities; removing the scheduled repeal of the exemption, etc.	Submitted and Reported Favorably as Committee Bill Yeas 8 Nays 0
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TAB	OFFICE and APPOINTMENT (HOME CITY)	FOR TERM ENDING	COMMITTEE ACTION
Senate Confirmation Hearing: A public hearing will be held for consideration of the below-named executive appointments to the offices indicated.			
Board of Trustees, Florida A & M University			
7	Crossman, John M. (Orlando)	01/01/2026	Recommend Confirm Yeas 8 Nays 0
8	Gibbons, Deveron M. (St. Petersburg)	01/06/2028	Recommend Confirm Yeas 8 Nays 0
9	Figgers, Nattie G. (Coral Springs)	01/06/2026	Recommend Confirm Yeas 8 Nays 0
Board of Trustees, Florida Atlantic University			
10	Paez, Pablo E. (West Palm Beach)	01/16/2028	Recommend Confirm Yeas 8 Nays 0
Board of Trustees, University of Central Florida			
11	Gaekwad, Digvijay "Danny" (Ocala)	01/06/2028	Recommend Confirm Yeas 8 Nays 0
Board of Trustees, Florida State University			
12	Ballard, Kathryn S. (Tallahassee)	01/06/2028	Recommend Confirm Yeas 8 Nays 0

COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

Education Postsecondary

Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 4:30—6:00 p.m.

TAB	OFFICE and APPOINTMENT (HOME CITY)	FOR TERM ENDING	COMMITTEE ACTION
Board of Trustees, Florida International University			
13	Gonzalez, Alan (Miami Lakes)	01/06/2026	Recommend Confirm Yeas 8 Nays 0
14	Yakubov, Yaffa (Miami Beach)	01/06/2026	Recommend Confirm Yeas 8 Nays 0
15	Hondal, Francis (Miami-Dade)	01/06/2025	Recommend Confirm Yeas 8 Nays 0
Board of Trustees, New College of Florida			
16	Jacquot, Joe (Jacksonville)	01/06/2025	Recommend Confirm Yeas 8 Nays 0
Board of Trustees, University of Florida			
17	O'Keefe, Daniel T. (Windermere)	01/06/2028	Recommend Confirm Yeas 8 Nays 0
TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
18	Other Related Meeting Documents		

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 Postsecondary Education

BILL: SPB 7022

INTRODUCER: Education Postsecondary Committee

SUBJECT: OGSR/Campus Emergency Response

DATE: January 10, 2024

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Brick	Bouck		ED Submitted as Comm. Bill/Fav
2.				

I. Summary:

SPB 7022 saves from repeal the public records exemption relating to any portion of a campus emergency response held by a public postsecondary institution, a state or local law enforcement agency, a county or municipal emergency management agency, the Executive Office of the Governor, the Department of Education, the Board of Governors of the State University System, or the Division of Emergency Management, as well as that portion of a public meeting which would reveal information related to a campus emergency response.

The exemption from public records and public meetings requirements stands repealed on October 2, 2024, unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature.

The bill takes effect October 1, 2024.

II. Present Situation:

Access to Public Records – Generally

The Florida Constitution provides that the public has the right to inspect or copy records made or received in connection with official governmental business.¹ The right to inspect or copy applies to the official business of any public body, officer, or employee of the state, including all three branches of state government, local governmental entities, and any person acting on behalf of the government.²

Additional requirements and exemptions related to public records are found in various statutes and rules, depending on the branch of government involved. For instance, s. 11.0431, F.S., provides public access requirements for legislative records. Relevant exemptions are codified in s. 11.0431(2)-(3), F.S., and the statutory provisions are adopted in the rules of each house of the

¹ FLA. CONST., art. I, s. 24(a).

² *Id.*

Legislature.³ Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.420 governs public access to judicial branch records.⁴ Lastly, chapter 119, F.S., provides requirements for public records held by executive agencies.

Executive Agency Records – The Public Records Act

Chapter 119, F.S., known as the Public Records Act, provides that all state, county, and municipal records are open for personal inspection and copying by any person, and that providing access to public records is a duty of each agency.⁵

A public record includes virtually any document or recording, regardless of its physical form or how it may be transmitted.⁶ The Florida Supreme Court has interpreted the statutory definition of “public record” to include “material prepared in connection with official agency business which is intended to perpetuate, communicate, or formalize knowledge of some type.”⁷

The Florida Statutes specify conditions under which public access to public records must be provided. The Public Records Act guarantees every person’s right to inspect and copy any public record at any reasonable time, under reasonable conditions, and under supervision by the custodian of the public record.⁸ A violation of the Public Records Act may result in civil or criminal liability.⁹

The Legislature may exempt public records from public access requirements by passing a general law by a two-thirds vote of both the House and the Senate.¹⁰ The exemption must state with specificity the public necessity justifying the exemption and must be no broader than necessary to accomplish the stated purpose of the exemption.¹¹

³ See Rule 1.48, *Rules and Manual of the Florida Senate* (2022-2024), and Rule 14.1, *Rules of the Florida House of Representatives* (2022-2024).

⁴ *State v. Wooten*, 260 So. 3d 1060 (Fla. 4th DCA 2018).

⁵ Section 119.01(1), F.S. Section 119.01(2), F.S., defines “agency” as “any state, county, district, authority, or municipal officer, department, division, board, bureau, commission, or other separate unit of government created or established by law including, for the purposes of this chapter, the Commission on Ethics, the Public Service Commission, and the Office of Public Counsel, and any other public or private agency, person, partnership, corporation, or business entity acting on behalf of any public agency.”

⁶ Section 119.01(12), F.S., defines “public record” to mean “all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, tapes, photographs, films, sound recordings, data processing software, or other material, regardless of the physical form, characteristics, or means of transmission, made or received pursuant to law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business by any agency.”

⁷ *Shevin v. Byron, Harless, Schaffer, Reid and Assoc., Inc.*, 379 So. 2d 633, 640 (Fla. 1980).

⁸ Section 119.07(1)(a), F.S.

⁹ Section 119.10, F.S. Public records laws are found throughout the Florida Statutes, as are the penalties for violating those laws.

¹⁰ FLA. CONST., art. I, s. 24(c).

¹¹ *Id.* See, e.g., *Halifax Hosp. Medical Center v. News-Journal Corp.*, 724 So. 2d 567 (Fla. 1999) (holding that a public meetings exemption was unconstitutional because the statement of public necessity did not define important terms and did not justify the breadth of the exemption); *Baker County Press, Inc. v. Baker County Medical Services, Inc.*, 870 So. 2d 189 (Fla. 1st DCA 2004) (holding that a statutory provision written to bring another party within an existing public records exemption is unconstitutional without a public necessity statement).

General exemptions from the public records requirements are contained in the Public Records Act.¹² Specific exemptions often are placed in the substantive statutes relating to a particular agency or program.¹³

When creating a public records exemption, the Legislature may provide that a record is “exempt” or “confidential and exempt.” Custodians of records designated as “exempt” are not prohibited from disclosing the record; rather, the exemption means that the custodian cannot be compelled to disclose the record.¹⁴ Custodians of records designated as “confidential and exempt” may not disclose the record except under circumstances specifically defined by the Legislature.¹⁵

Open Government Sunset Review Act

The Open Government Sunset Review Act¹⁶ (the Act) prescribes a legislative review process for newly created or substantially amended¹⁷ public records or open meetings exemptions, with specified exceptions.¹⁸ It requires the automatic repeal of such exemption on October 2 of the fifth year after creation or substantial amendment, unless the Legislature reenacts the exemption.¹⁹

The Act provides that a public records or open meetings exemption may be created or maintained only if it serves an identifiable public purpose and is no broader than is necessary.²⁰ An exemption serves an identifiable public purpose if it meets one of the following purposes *and* the Legislature finds that the purpose of the exemption outweighs open government policy and cannot be accomplished without the exemption:

- It allows the state or its political subdivisions to effectively and efficiently administer a governmental program, and administration would be significantly impaired without the exemption;²¹
- It protects sensitive, personal information, the release of which would be defamatory, cause unwarranted damage to the good name or reputation of the individual, or would jeopardize the individual’s safety. If this public purpose is cited as the basis of an exemption, however, only personal identifying information is exempt;²² or
- It protects information of a confidential nature concerning entities, such as trade or business secrets.²³

¹² See, e.g., s. 119.071(1)(a), F.S. (exempting from public disclosure examination questions and answer sheets of examinations administered by a governmental agency for the purpose of licensure).

¹³ See, e.g., s. 213.053(2)(a), F.S. (exempting from public disclosure information contained in tax returns received by the Department of Revenue).

¹⁴ See *Williams v. City of Minneola*, 575 So. 2d 683, 687 (Fla. 5th DCA 1991).

¹⁵ *WFTV, Inc. v. The School Board of Seminole*, 874 So. 2d 48 (Fla. 5th DCA 2004).

¹⁶ Section 119.15, F.S.

¹⁷ An exemption is considered to be substantially amended if it is expanded to include more records or information or to include meetings as well as records. Section 119.15(4)(b), F.S.

¹⁸ Section 119.15(2)(a) and (b), F.S., provide that exemptions that are required by federal law or are applicable solely to the Legislature or the State Court System are not subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act.

¹⁹ Section 119.15(3), F.S.

²⁰ Section 119.15(6)(b), F.S.

²¹ Section 119.15(6)(b)1., F.S.

²² Section 119.15(6)(b)2., F.S.

²³ Section 119.15(6)(b)3., F.S.

The Act also requires specified questions to be considered during the review process.²⁴ In examining an exemption, the Act directs the Legislature to carefully question the purpose and necessity of reenacting the exemption.

If the exemption is continued and expanded, then a public necessity statement and a two-thirds vote for passage are required.²⁵ If the exemption is continued without substantive changes or if the exemption is continued and narrowed, then a public necessity statement and a two-thirds vote for passage are *not* required. If the Legislature allows an exemption to sunset, the previously exempt records will remain exempt unless provided for by law.²⁶

Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans

The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) is required to prepare a state comprehensive emergency management plan (CEMP). The CEMP serves as the master operations document for Florida and is the framework through which the state handles emergencies and disasters.²⁷

In addition, each state agency and facility, such as a prison, office building, or university, is required to have a disaster preparedness plan that is coordinated with the applicable local emergency management agency and approved by the FDEM.²⁸ This plan is known as a continuity of operations plan (COOP).²⁹ A COOP must outline a comprehensive and effective program to ensure the continuity of essential state functions under all circumstances.³⁰

Campus Emergency Response

The exemption from public records and public meetings requirements for the campus emergency response of a public postsecondary educational institution was enacted in 2017.³¹ The law provides a public records exemption for any portion of a campus emergency response held by a public postsecondary educational institution, state or local law enforcement agency, county or municipal emergency management agency, the Executive Office of the Governor (EOG), the DOE, the BOG, or the DEM.³² The law also provides a public meetings exemption for any

²⁴ Section 119.15(6)(a), F.S. The specified questions are:

- What specific records or meetings are affected by the exemption?
- Whom does the exemption uniquely affect, as opposed to the general public?
- What is the identifiable public purpose or goal of the exemption?
- Can the information contained in the records or discussed in the meeting be readily obtained by alternative means? If so, how?
- Is the record or meeting protected by another exemption?
- Are there multiple exemptions for the same type of record or meeting that it would be appropriate to merge?

²⁵ See generally s. 119.15, F.S.

²⁶ Section 119.15(7), F.S.

²⁷ Section 252.35(2), F.S.

²⁸ Section 252.365(3), F.S.

²⁹ Florida Division of Emergency Management, *2022 Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan*, available at <https://portal.floridadisaster.org/preparedness/External/CEMP/2022%20State%20CEMP%20Base%20Plan.pdf>, at 26-27.

³⁰ Section 252.365(3)(a), F.S.

³¹ Chapter 2017-184, Laws of Fla.

³² Section 1004.0962(2), F.S.

portion of a public meeting which would reveal information related to a campus emergency response.³³

A campus emergency response is a public postsecondary educational institution's response to or plan for responding to an act of terrorism³⁴ or other public safety crisis or emergency.³⁵ The law provides that a campus emergency response includes information relating to:³⁶

- Records, information, photographs, audio and visual presentations, schematic diagrams, surveys, recommendations, or consultations or portions thereof.
- Threat assessments conducted by any agency or private entity.
- Threat response plans.
- Emergency evacuation plans.
- Sheltering arrangements.
- Manuals for security personnel, emergency equipment, or security training.
- Security systems or plans.
- Vulnerability analyses.
- Postdisaster activities, including provisions for emergency power, communications, food, and water.
- Postdisaster transportation.
- Supplies, including drug caches.
- Identification of staff involved in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery activities.
- Emergency equipment.
- Individual identification of affected or at-risk students, faculty, and staff before, during, or after an emergency; the transfer of records concerning affected or at-risk students, faculty, and staff; and methods of responding to family inquiries.

A public postsecondary educational institution, state or local law enforcement agency, county or municipal emergency management agency, EOG, DOE, BOG, or DEM is authorized to disclose information made exempt to another governmental entity if disclosure is necessary for the receiving entity to perform its duties or responsibilities, or upon a showing of good cause before a court of competent jurisdiction.³⁷ This authorization appears unnecessary, however, because if records are exempt from the Public Records Act but not confidential, the exemption does not prohibit the showing of the information.³⁸

In 2022, the Legislature reviewed the public record and public meeting exemptions and extended the repeal date from October 2, 2022, to October 2, 2024. The public record exemption was narrowed to exempt only the identification of staff involved in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery activities, instead of staffing information generally. The public record

³³ Section 1004.0962(5), F.S.

³⁴ "Terrorism" means an activity that involves a "violent act or an act dangerous to human life which is a violation of the criminal laws of this state or of the United States;" or a violation of s. 815.06, F.S., intended to "intimidate, injure, or coerce a civilian population; influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or affect the conduct of government through destruction of property, assassination, murder, kidnapping, or aircraft piracy." Section 775.30(1), F.S.

³⁵ Section 1004.0962(1), F.S.

³⁶ *Id.*

³⁷ Section 1004.0962(4), F.S.

³⁸ *Williams v. City of Minneola*, 575 So.2d 683, 687 (Fla. 5th DCA), review denied, 589 So.2d 289 (Fla.1991), appeal after remand, 619 So.2d 983 (Fla. 5th DCA 1993). *See also* s. 119.011(8), F.S.

exemption was also narrowed to provide that the individual identification of students, faculty, and staff applies only to those persons affected or at risk before, during, or after an emergency. Lastly, the provision of the exemption protecting the transfer of records was narrowed to apply to only affected or at-risk students, faculty, and staff.³⁹

The exemption from public records and public meetings requirements is subject to the requirements of the Act and is repealed on October 2, 2024, unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature.⁴⁰

Chapter 2017-184, Laws of Florida, which established the exemption from public records disclosure requirements for specified portions of campus emergency responses for public postsecondary educational institutions, included a public necessity statement that provided a rationale for the exemption. This rationale recognized that campus emergency responses made publicly available for inspection or copying could be used to hamper or disable a public postsecondary education institution's response to an act of terrorism or other crisis or emergency. Furthermore, providing terrorists and other criminals the capabilities to plot, plan, and coordinate complicated acts of terror and violence on university and college campuses would lead to an increase in the number of Floridians subjected to fatal injury if a public postsecondary educational institution's response to these events were hampered or disabled.⁴¹

Open Government Sunset Review Findings and Recommendations

In August 2023, the Senate Education Postsecondary Committee and the House Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee jointly sent an Open Government Sunset Review questionnaire to the 12 institutions of the State University System and the 28 institutions of the Florida College System. The survey sought information regarding the need to maintain the exemption related to a campus emergency response of a public postsecondary institution for responding to an act of terrorism or other public safety crisis or emergency.

All of the respondents recommended that the exemption remain in effect to ensure institutional security in the case of an emergency and to protect the safety of institutional constituents.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SPB 7022 saves from repeal the current public records exemption relating to any portion of a campus emergency response held by a public postsecondary institution, a state or local law enforcement agency, a county or municipal emergency management agency, the Executive Office of the Governor, the Department of Education, the Board of Governors of the State University System, or the Division of Emergency Management, as well as that portion of a public meeting which would reveal information related to a campus emergency response.

The bill also removes a superfluous provision of the exemption that authorizes entities to disclose the exempt information in specified circumstances, as entities are not prohibited under public records and meeting requirements from disclosing the information.

³⁹ Chapter 2022-133, Laws of Fla.

⁴⁰ Section 1004.0962(6), F.S.

⁴¹ Chapter 2017-184, s. 2, Laws of Fla.

The exemption from public records and public meetings requirements stands repealed on October 2, 2024, unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature.

The bill takes effect October 1, 2024.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

Not applicable.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

Vote Requirement

Article I, s. 24(c) of the State Constitution requires a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting for final passage of a bill creating or expanding an exemption to the public records requirements. This bill continues a current public records and public meetings exemption beyond its current date of repeal. The bill does not create or expand an exemption. Thus, the bill does not require an extraordinary vote for enactment.

Public Necessity Statement

Article I, s. 24(c) of the State Constitution requires a bill creating or expanding an exemption to the public records requirements to state with specificity the public necessity justifying the exemption. This bill continues a current public records and public meetings exemption without expansion. Thus, a statement of public necessity is not required.

Breadth of Exemption

Article I, s. 24(c) of the State Constitution requires an exemption to the public records requirements to be no broader than necessary to accomplish the stated purpose of the law. The purpose of the law is to protect portions of a public postsecondary educational institution's campus emergency response to protect the health and safety of students, faculty, staff, and the public at large. The bill exempts only information relating to a public postsecondary educational institution's response to or plan for responding to an act of terrorism or other public safety crisis or emergency. The exemption does not appear to be broader than necessary to accomplish the purpose of the law.

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:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 1004.0962 of the Florida Statutes.

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.

FOR CONSIDERATION By the Committee on Education Postsecondary

589-00910-24

20247022pb

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to a review under the Open Government Sunset Review Act; amending s. 1004.0962, F.S., which provides an exemption from public record and public meeting requirements for those portions of a campus emergency response which address the response of a public postsecondary educational institution to an act of terrorism or other public safety crisis or emergency; removing a provision allowing disclosure of certain information to certain entities; removing the scheduled repeal of the exemption; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (4) and (6) of section 1004.0962, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1004.0962 Campus emergency response of a public postsecondary educational institution; public records exemption; public meetings exemption.—

~~(4) Information made exempt by this section may be disclosed:~~

~~(a) To another governmental entity if disclosure is necessary for the receiving entity to perform its duties and responsibilities; or~~

~~(b) Upon a showing of good cause before a court of competent jurisdiction.~~

~~(6) This section is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed~~

Page 1 of 2

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

589-00910-24

20247022pb

~~on October 2, 2024, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.~~

Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

Page 2 of 2

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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 Postsecondary

BILL: CS/SB 494

INTRODUCER: Education Postsecondary Committee and Senator Avila

SUBJECT: Graduate Program Admissions

DATE: January 10, 2024

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Jahnke	Bouck	HE	Fav/CS
2.			MS	
3.			RC	

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 494 requires an institution of higher education to waive the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) for servicemembers who apply for admission to a graduate program that requires the examination.

The bill is effective July 1, 2024.

II. Present Situation:

Graduate Record Examination

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is the world's most widely used admissions test for graduate and professional schools.¹ The GRE General Test and GRE Subject Tests are taken by individuals applying to graduate, business, and law programs. For more than 70 years, GRE scores have been used by admissions and fellowship panels at thousands of graduate programs around the world to supplement an applicant's undergraduate grades and other qualifications for graduate study.²

¹ ETS, GRE, <https://www.ets.org/gre.html> (last visited Jan. 2, 2024).

² ETS, GRE Information Bulletin (2023), available at <https://www.ets.org/pdfs/gre/gre-info-bulletin.pdf>, at 4.

The GRE General Test measures verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, and analytical writing skills. The test closely aligns with the types of skills that are required for success in today's demanding graduate programs, including business and law.³

The GRE Subject Tests measure achievement in specific subject areas and assume undergraduate majors or extensive background in those disciplines. These tests are available in Mathematics, Physics, and Psychology.⁴

Graduate Management Admission Test

The Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC) was established in 1953 to solve a common problem schools faced: the need for a standardized exam to accurately assess a candidate's ability to perform in the rigors of a graduate management degree program. After thorough research and development, the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) exam was created by business schools for business schools. It was specifically designed to assist with the business school admissions process.⁵ The GMAT is the most widely used exam for admission to graduate business and management programs.⁶

The GMAT exam is designed to test skills that are highly important to business and management programs. It assesses analytical writing and problem-solving abilities, along with the data sufficiency, logic, and critical reasoning skills that are vital to real-world business and management success. Additionally, the GMAT exam assesses Integrated Reasoning, a section designed to measure a test taker's ability to evaluate information presented in new formats and from multiple sources—skills necessary for management students to succeed in a technologically advanced and data-rich world.⁷

Graduate Program Admissions

The State University System (SUS) offers opportunities for graduate study in over 1,000 academic programs.⁸ The Board of Governors has established that it is the responsibility of the universities and university boards of trustees to establish their own standards for graduate school admission.⁹ Admission decisions for graduate programs are typically made at the program or department level, in concert with the admission criteria adopted by each university. These criteria are typically published on the university admissions office website.¹⁰

³ ETS, *GRE Information Bulletin* (2023), available at <https://www.ets.org/pdfs/gre/gre-info-bulletin.pdf>, at 4.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ MBA.com, GMAT Exam, *GMAT History*, <https://www.mba.com/exams/gmat-exam/about/gmat-history> (last visited Jan. 2, 2024).

⁶ MBA.com, Exams, *GMAT Exams*, <https://www.mba.com/exams/gmat-exam> (last visited Jan. 2, 2024).

⁷ Graduate Management Admission Council, *About the GMAT Exam*, <https://www.gmac.com/gmat-other-assessments/about-the-gmat-exam> (last visited Jan. 2, 2024).

⁸ State University System, *Graduate & Professional Admissions*, <https://www.flbog.edu/universities/admissions-transfers/graduate-professional-admissions/> (last visited Jan. 2, 2024).

⁹ Board of Governors Regulation 6.001 and 6.003.

¹⁰ State University System, *Graduate & Professional Admissions*, <https://www.flbog.edu/universities/admissions-transfers/graduate-professional-admissions/> (last visited Jan. 2, 2024).

GRE and GMAT Waivers

As a response to the COVID pandemic, many SUS institutions temporarily waived GRE requirements for the majority of graduate program admission criteria. This temporary waiver is still in effect for many of the SUS institutions. For example, Florida Atlantic University will waive the GRE and GMAT scores for all applicants seeking entry to graduate programs up to and including the entry term of Spring 2024.¹¹ Florida State University is extending the temporary waiver through Fall 2026 for most Master's and Specialist's programs.¹²

Additionally, some graduate programs offer GRE/GMAT waivers for applicants who meet specified criteria. Applicants for the Master of Science in Management program at the University of South Florida (USF) can request a GRE/GMAT waiver if the applicant has 3 years of professional or managerial experience or has earned a bachelor's degree from USF, a Florida preeminent institution, or an AAU school, and has a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.¹³

GRE and GMAT Waivers for Military Applicants

In addition to the temporary GRE waivers still available for all applicants, many universities nationwide provide GMAT waivers for military applicants. The universities with GMAT waivers for military applicants recognize that military service provides veterans with real-world leadership and decision-making experience. These real-world experiences often serve as a more reliable indicator of success in an MBA program compared to solely relying on GMAT scores.¹⁴ Universities with MBA programs that waive GMAT requirements include:¹⁵

- University of Arizona
- Ohio State University
- Western Michigan
- Xavier
- North Carolina State University
- Purdue
- University of Miami
- Syracuse University

Waivers exempting military applicants from GRE requirements for graduate program admissions are not as prevalent as GMAT waivers. However, some graduate programs like the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago provide waivers for applicants who have completed five years of active duty national military service.¹⁶ Similarly, the School of Computing and

¹¹ Florida Atlantic University, Graduate College, *Prospective Graduate Students*, <https://www.fau.edu/graduate/admissions/prospective-graduate-students/> (last visited Jan. 3, 2024).

¹² Florida State University, *Master's Degree Programs*, <https://gradschool.fsu.edu/academics-research/degree-programs/masters-degree-programs> (last visited Jan. 3, 2024).

¹³ University of South Florida, Graduate, *Master of Science in Management*, <https://www.usf.edu/business/graduate/ms-management/application-process.aspx> (last visited Jan. 3, 2024).

¹⁴ Veterans.com, *GMAT Waivers*, <https://veteran.com/gmat-waivers/> (last visited Jan. 3, 2024).

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy, *GRE Requirements and Waivers*, <https://harris.uchicago.edu/admissions/blog/gre-requirements-and-waivers> (last visited Jan. 4, 2024).

Information Science at the University of Maine offers a GRE waiver for military members and veterans with five or more years of military experience.¹⁷

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

CS/SB 494 creates s. 1004.032, F.S., which requires an institution of higher education to waive the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) for servicemembers who apply for admission to a graduate program that requires the examination.

The bill provides definitions, to include:

- A “graduate program” as an advanced academic degree program in a specialized field of study, including, but not limited to, a master’s or doctoral degree program, which degree is pursued after one has obtained a bachelor’s degree.
- An “institution of higher education” as a state university.¹⁸
- A “servicemember” as any person serving as a member of the United States Armed Forces on active duty or state active duty and all members of the Florida National Guard and United States Reserve Forces.¹⁹

The bill is effective on July 1, 2024.

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.

¹⁷ University of Maine, *GRE Waiver Request* (2019), available at <https://online.umaine.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/72/2019/11/GREWaiverRequestInSCIS.pdf>.

¹⁸ Section 1000.21(8), F.S., provides a list of all state universities.

¹⁹ Section 250.01, F.S.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates section 1004.32 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)**CS by Education Postsecondary on January 9, 2023:**

The committee substitute removes reference to a Florida College System institution from the definition of “institution of higher education.”

B. Amendments:

None.



674090

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
01/10/2024	.	
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	.	
	.	

The Committee on Education Postsecondary (Avila) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment

Delete lines 22 - 24
and insert:

(d) "Institution of higher education" means a state
university as defined in s. 1000.21(8).

By Senator Avila

39-00064C-24

2024494__

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to graduate program admissions;
creating s. 1004.032, F.S.; defining terms; requiring
an institution of higher education to waive certain
examination requirements for a servicemember who
applies for admission to a graduate program that
requires such examination; providing an effective
date.

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

Section 1. Section 1004.032, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

1004.032 Graduate program admission for servicemembers.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "GMAT" means the Graduate Management Admission Test.

(b) "Graduate program" means an advanced academic degree
program in a specialized field of study, including, but not
limited to, a master's or doctoral degree program, which degree
is pursued after one has obtained a bachelor's degree.

(c) "GRE" means the Graduate Record Examination.

(d) "Institution of higher education" means a Florida
College System institution or a state university as those terms
are defined in s. 1000.21(5) and (8), respectively.

(e) "Servicemember" has the same meaning as in s. 250.01.

(2) An institution of higher education shall waive the GRE
or GMAT requirement for a servicemember who applies for
admission to a graduate program that requires such examination.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

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 Postsecondary

BILL: CS/SB 222

INTRODUCER: Education Postsecondary Committee and Senator Rodriguez

SUBJECT: College Campus Facilities in Areas of Critical State Concern

DATE: January 10, 2024

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Jahnke	Bouck	HE	Fav/CS
2.			AED	
3.			AP	

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 222 provides that additional beds for healthcare workers may be included in the construction of dormitories on the campus of a Florida College System (FCS) institution, and revises the number of beds that may be provided in such dormitories for employees, educators, healthcare workers, and first responders. The bill revises the evacuation requirement for an FCS institution's hurricane evacuation plan. Additionally, the bill authorizes certain funds to be used to construct or maintain dormitories.

The bill is effective July 1, 2024.

II. Present Situation:

Florida College System Dormitory Facilities

A Florida College System (FCS) institution or its direct-support organization has limited authority to plan and construct facilities and to acquire additional property.¹ Residency opportunities within the FCS are predominantly off campus and provided through a third party, often for specific student populations such as international students, student-athletes, or specific scholarship recipients.² FCS institutions were developed as commuter schools. With 28

¹ Section 1013.40, F.S.

² Florida College System, *Student Housing in the Florida College System*, available at <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7480/urlt/0082726-faqhousing.pdf>.

institutions and multiple campuses all over the state, colleges were located so students would drive no further than 50 miles to be able to attend college.³ Historically, two colleges have institution-owned dormitories, Chipola College and Florida Gateway College, which were started in facilities that originally housed World War II bases for servicemen. Chipola College continues to operate a college-owned dormitory for athletes only. Florida Gateway College allows any student to apply for their limited number of beds.⁴

An FCS institution campus within a municipality designated as an area of critical state concern,⁵ which meets planning and development requirements, may construct dormitories for up to 340 beds for FCS institution students and an additional 25 beds for employees, educators, and first responders.⁶ Such dormitories are exempt from the building permit allocation system and may be constructed up to 60 feet in height if the dormitories are otherwise consistent with the comprehensive plan, the FCS institution has a hurricane evacuation plan that requires all dormitory occupants to be evacuated 48 hours in advance of tropical force winds, and transportation is provided for dormitory occupants during an evacuation.⁷

In 2008, the College of the Florida Keys (CFK) was granted legislative authority to build a dormitory facility with 100 beds, which was subsequently constructed and opened in 2011.⁸ Although there has been no further construction of student housing at CFK, the authorized number of beds has increased to 365, and there are restrictions regarding bonding and the revenues CFK can use for construction, debt service payments, maintenance and operation of dorm facilities. CFK is the only college within a municipality designated as an area of critical state concern that meets the requirements specified in law.⁹

Other colleges can provide student housing only through their foundations. A direct-support organization may, at the request of the board of trustees, provide residency opportunities on or near campus for students.¹⁰

State funds and tuition and fee revenues may not be used for construction, debt service payments, maintenance, or operation of such dormitories. Additional dormitory beds constructed after July 1, 2016, may not be financed through the issuance of bonds.¹¹ However, nonpublic entities may issue bonds as part of a public-private partnership between the college and a nonpublic entity.

³ Email, Florida Department of Education, Division of Florida Colleges (Nov. 20, 2023), with attachment.

⁴ Email, Florida Department of Education, Division of Florida Colleges (Nov. 20, 2023).

⁵ Section 380.05, F.S. The Areas of Critical State Concern Program was created by the "Florida Environmental Land and Water Management Act of 1972." The program is intended to protect resources and public facilities of major statewide significance, within designated geographic areas, from uncontrolled development that would cause substantial deterioration of such resources. The designated Areas of Critical State Concern are the Apalachicola Bay Area, the Green Swamp Area, the Big Cypress Area, the Florida Keys Area, and the City of Key West Area.

⁶ Section 1013.40(4), F.S.

⁷ Section 1013.40(4), F.S.

⁸ Section 1013.40(4), F.S. Email, Florida Department of Education, Division of Florida Colleges (Nov. 20, 2023).

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Section 1004.70(4)(a), F.S.

¹¹ Section 1013.40(4), F.S.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

CS/SB 222 amends s. 1013.40, F.S., by providing that beds for healthcare workers may be included in the additional beds authorized for employees, educators, and first responders in the construction of dormitories on the campus of a Florida College System (FCS) institution. The bill also revises from 25 to 50 the number of dormitory beds that may be provided for such individuals.

The bill revises an FCS institution's hurricane evacuation plan to require all dormitory occupants to be evacuated 48 hours in advance from hurricane-force winds rather than tropical force winds. Additionally, the bill authorizes state grant funds and capital improvement fees to be used for the construction, debt service payments, maintenance, or operation of dormitories.

The bill is effective July 1, 2024.

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:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 1013.40 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Education Postsecondary on January 9, 2023:

The committee substitute retains the provisions in the bill regarding dormitory beds and makes the following modifications:

- Revises a Florida College System institution's hurricane evacuation plan to require all dormitory occupants to be evacuated 48 hours in advance from hurricane-force winds rather than tropical storm-force winds.
- Authorizes state grant funds and capital improvement fees to be used for the construction and maintenance of dormitories.

B. Amendments:

None.



942192

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
01/10/2024	.	
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	.	

The Committee on Education Postsecondary (Rodriguez) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 32 - 35
and insert:
evacuated 48 hours in advance of hurricane-force ~~tropical-force~~
winds, and transportation is provided for dormitory occupants
during an evacuation. State grant funds and capital improvement
fees ~~tuition and fee revenues~~ may ~~not~~ be used for construction,
debt service



942192

11 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====
12 And the title is amended as follows:
13 Delete line 10
14 and insert:
15 may be used for construction of dormitories;

By Senator Rodriguez

40-00365A-24

2024222__

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to college campus facilities in areas of critical state concern; amending s. 1013.40, F.S.; providing that beds for health care workers may be included in the construction of dormitories on the campus of a Florida College System institution; revising the number of beds that may be provided in such dormitories for employees, educators, health care workers, and first responders; revising which funds may not be used for construction of dormitories; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 1013.40, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1013.40 Planning and construction of Florida College System institution facilities; property acquisition.—

(4) The campus of a Florida College System institution within a municipality designated as an area of critical state concern, as defined in s. 380.05, and having a comprehensive plan and land development regulations containing a building permit allocation system that limits annual growth, may construct dormitories for up to 340 beds for Florida College System institution students, and an additional 50 ~~25~~ beds for employees, educators, health care workers, and first responders. Such dormitories are exempt from the building permit allocation system and may be constructed up to 60 feet in height if the dormitories are otherwise consistent with the comprehensive

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40-00365A-24

2024222__

plan, the Florida College System institution has a hurricane evacuation plan that requires all dormitory occupants to be evacuated 48 hours in advance of tropical ~~storm~~-force winds, and transportation is provided for dormitory occupants during an evacuation. State ~~appropriations funds and tuition and fee revenues~~ may not be used for construction, debt service payments, maintenance, or operation of such dormitories. Additional dormitory beds constructed after July 1, 2016, may not be financed through the issuance of bonds by the Florida College System institution; however, bonds may be issued by nonpublic entities as part of a public-private partnership between the college and a nonpublic entity.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

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The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

SB 222

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

1/9/24

Meeting Date

Senate Postsec. edu

Committee

Name Megan Fay

Phone 850-222-9075

Address 124 West. Jefferson St.

Street

Email megan@cccfla.com

Tallahassee FL

City

State

32301

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

OR

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

The College of the
FL Keys

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022JointRules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

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 Postsecondary

BILL: SB 282

INTRODUCER: Senator Rodriguez

SUBJECT: Nonpublic Religious Postsecondary Educational Institutions

DATE: January 10, 2024

REVISED: _____

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. Jahnke	Bouck	HE	Favorable
2. _____	_____	AED	_____
3. _____	_____	RC	_____

I. Summary:

SB 282 modifies requirements for nonpublic religious postsecondary institutions. Specifically the bill:

- Provides additional requirements for nonpublic religious postsecondary educational institutions to be exempt from the jurisdiction or purview of the Commission for Independent Education (commission).
- Requires the commission to annually provide such institutions with a written notice of exemption from licensure and of compliance.
- Provides requirements and penalties for noncompliance.

The bill is effective July 1, 2024.

II. Present Situation:

The Commission for Independent Education

The Commission for Independent Education (commission) was established in 2001 and is responsible for matters relating to nonpublic postsecondary educational institutions.¹ The commission's functions include consumer protection, program improvements, institutional policies and administration, data management, and the licensure of independent schools, colleges, and universities.²

¹ Section 1005.21, F.S. The commission exercises duties formerly assigned to the State Board of Independent Colleges and Universities (s. 246.031, F.S. (2001)) and the State Board of Nonpublic Career Education (s. 246.205, F.S. (2001)).

² Section 1005.21, F.S., and Florida Department of Education, *Commission for Independent Education*, <https://www.fldoe.org/policy/cie/> (last visited Jan. 5, 2024).

Licensure of Nonpublic Postsecondary Educational Institutions

Each college or school operating within the state must obtain licensure from the commission unless the institution is not under the commission's purview or jurisdiction as provided in law.³ The commission has developed 12 standards by which to evaluate institutions for licensure.⁴

Provisional Licensure is the first level of licensure obtained by an applicant and allows the institution to advertise, recruit students, accept fees and tuition from students, and hold classes. Provisional Licensure is granted when the commission has determined that an applicant is in substantial compliance with the standards for licensure. A Provisional License is typically granted for one year. The process to obtain Provisional Licensure for a new applicant normally takes six to twelve months.⁵ A provisional license may include conditions required by the commission and all conditions must be met before the institution may receive a different licensure status.⁶

Annual Licensure is typically the second level of licensure obtained by an institution holding a Provisional License, or seeking renewal of an Annual License, when the commission has determined that an institution is in full compliance with the standards for licensure. An institution may continue to hold an Annual License as long as the institution remains in full compliance with the standards for licensure, does not undergo a substantive change, or meets the requirements and applies for a License by Means of Accreditation. An Annual License is typically granted for one year. Prior to the granting of an initial Annual License, a satisfactory on-site visit must occur. The process to obtain an initial Annual License or renewal of an Annual License normally takes three months from receipt of the Application for Annual License.⁷

Institutions that hold an Annual License may add new degrees, programs, or majors to their offerings or alter any licensed program by more than 20 percent since their last review, change the title of a program or the credential awarded, or discontinue a program upon approval by the commission.⁸

Religious Institutions

The commission does not have jurisdiction or purview over all nonpublic postsecondary educational institutions. Certain postsecondary educational institutions are exempt from licensure and jurisdiction under the commission.⁹

³ Sections 1005.31(1)(a) and 1005.06, F.S.

⁴ Section 1005.31(1)(b), F.S. and Rule 6E-2.004, F.A.C. Standards include administrative organization, academic programs, admissions requirements, finances, faculty, library resources, facilities, student services, and advertising.

⁵ Section 1005.31, F.S. and Florida Department of Education, *2021-2022 Commission for Independent Education Annual Report* (2023), available at <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7748/urlt/2122annualreport.pdf> at 15.

⁶ Section 1005.31(5), F.S.

⁷ Florida Department of Education, *2021-2022 Commission for Independent Education Annual Report* (2023), available at <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7748/urlt/2122annualreport.pdf> at 20.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Section 1005.06, F.S. These include public colleges and universities; institutions that are otherwise licensed, such as dental schools, midwifery schools, or real estate schools; institutions eligible for the Effective Access for Student Education tuition assistance program; continuing education programs; and religious institutions. *Id.*

Religious institutions are not under the jurisdiction or purview of the commission and are not required to obtain licensure.¹⁰ A religious college may operate without governmental oversight if the college annually verifies by sworn affidavit to the commission that:¹¹

- The name of the institution includes a religious modifier or the name of a religious patriarch, saint, person, or symbol of the church.
- The institution offers only educational programs that prepare students for religious vocations as ministers, professionals, or laypersons in the categories of ministry, counseling, theology, education, administration, music, fine arts, media communications, or social work.
- The titles of degrees issued by the institution cannot be confused with secular degree titles. For this purpose, each degree title must include a religious modifier that immediately precedes, or is included within, any of the following degrees: Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Master of Arts, Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy, and Doctor of Education. The religious modifier must be placed on the title line of the degree, on the transcript, and whenever the title of the degree appears in official school documents or publications.
- The duration of all degree programs offered by the institution is consistent with the standards of the commission.
- The institution's consumer practices are consistent with those specified in law.¹²

The commission may provide such a religious institution a letter stating that the institution has met the requirements specified in law and is not subject to governmental oversight.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 1005.06, F.S., to shift to a new statutory provision the exemption of religious colleges from the jurisdiction or purview of the Commission for Independent Education (commission).

The bill creates s. 1005.12, F.S., to provide additional requirements that must be met by nonpublic religious postsecondary educational institutions, such as religious colleges, to operate without being licensed by the commission. Such institutions must meet two or more of the following criteria:

- Be incorporated in this state.
- Be a limited liability company in this state.
- Be under a domestic or foreign corporation registered in this state.
- Be a ministry under an entity with an Internal Revenue Service taxpayer identification number.
- Be tax exempt under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Be registered under a fictitious name in this state under one of the entities specified in the previous criteria.

¹⁰ Section 1005.06(1)(f), F.S. and Rule 6E-5.001, F.A.C.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² Section 1005.04, F.S.

The bill maintains current law that allows such institutions to operate exempt from licensure in the state by requiring the institution to annually provide the commission by sworn affidavit, either electronically or in print, all of the following information or affirmations:

- The name of the institution, which must include a religious modifier or the name of a religious patriarch, saint, person, or symbol of the church.
- That the institution offers only educational programs that prepare students for religious vocations as ministers, professionals, or laypersons in the categories of ministry, counseling, theology, education, administration, business, accounting, finance, music, fine arts, media, social work, or communications.
- The titles of any of the following degrees conferred by the institution, which must include a religious modifier on the title line of the degree, on the transcript, and whenever the title of the degree appears in the institution's official documents or publications:
 - Associate of Arts.
 - Associate of Science.
 - Bachelor of Arts.
 - Bachelor of Science.
 - Master of Arts.
 - Master of Science.
 - Doctor of Philosophy.
 - Doctor of Education.
- That the duration of all degree programs offered by the institution is consistent with the standards of the commission.
- That the institution's consumer practices are consistent with those specified in law.¹³

Instead of commission discretion in providing a letter that an institution has met the requirements in law, the bill requires the commission to annually provide the nonpublic religious postsecondary educational institutions with a written notice of exemption from licensure and of compliance with the requirements specified in law. The bill specifies that the written notice from the previous year remains effective until the commission's workload permits its appropriate adjudication of a subsequent year's sworn affidavit submitted by the institution.

The bill provides two verification methods to determine compliance by the nonpublic religious postsecondary educational institution:

- A finding of compliance by the commission after the institution submits the required documentation in print or electronically.
- A finding of compliance by a religious nongovernmental education association based in the state which the commission may cooperate with to administer its duties under this section.

To issue a finding of compliance, the bill requires the religious nongovernmental education association approved by the commission to:

- Operate in the state and require its members to reside in the state.
- Ensure that its members are trained by the association to verify compliance under this section.
- Have a review team composed of at least three members, of which no more than two members may derive income from the same institution as one another.

¹³ Section 1005.04, F.S.

- Prohibit a member of the review team from deriving income from the institution being reviewed.
- Annually submit to the commission, on behalf of the institution being reviewed, a sworn affidavit designating the association as the institution's agent to represent it before the commission and a written notice from the association's review team affirming the institution's compliance with this section.

The bill provides that if a nonpublic religious postsecondary educational institution has received from the commission a written notice of compliance and exemption from licensure, and the institution subsequently fails to comply, the commission is required to send the institution a notice of noncompliance, and the institution is required to do one of the following:

- Apply for a license from the commission within 45 days after issuance of the notice.
- Cease operating in this state within 45 days after issuance of the notice.

If the institution fails to take the specified actions for noncompliance, the bill requires the employee or agent of the institution who produced the sworn affidavit to be subject to criminal penalties for making a false statement on a sworn affidavit.

The bill authorizes the commission to take action if an exempt institution is later found to be out of compliance, either through a finding by the institution, or upon receiving written notices from two or more different nonpublic religious postsecondary educational institutions that the institution in question has failed to meet the specified requirements.

The bill also includes a number of conforming cross-references.

The bill is effective July 1, 2024.

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:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 553.865, 1005.03, 1005.04, 1005.06, 1005.21, and 1005.31.

This bill creates section 1005.12 of the Florida Statutes.

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.

By Senator Rodriguez

40-00390A-24

2024282__

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to nonpublic religious postsecondary
 3 educational institutions; amending s. 1005.06, F.S.;
 4 removing religious colleges from the list of
 5 institutions specified as not being under the
 6 jurisdiction or purview of the Commission for
 7 Independent Education; creating s. 1005.12, F.S.;
 8 providing requirements that must be met by nonpublic
 9 religious postsecondary educational institutions that
 10 operate without being licensed by the commission;
 11 requiring such institutions to provide a sworn
 12 affidavit with specified information to the
 13 commission; requiring the commission to provide such
 14 institutions annually with a written notice of
 15 exemption from licensure and of compliance; providing
 16 methods for verifying such compliance; authorizing a
 17 religious nongovernmental education association to
 18 cooperate with the commission to determine whether a
 19 nonpublic religious postsecondary educational
 20 institution is in compliance; providing requirements
 21 for such associations; requiring the commission to
 22 send a specified notice to nonpublic religious
 23 postsecondary educational institutions under certain
 24 circumstances; providing that noncompliant
 25 institutions must apply for a license or cease
 26 operations within a specified timeframe; requiring
 27 that the employee or agent of the noncompliant
 28 institution who produced the sworn affidavit be
 29 subject to criminal penalties under certain

Page 1 of 10

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

40-00390A-24

2024282__

30 circumstances; authorizing the commission to take
 31 action for noncompliance if certain conditions are
 32 met; amending ss. 553.865, 1005.03, 1005.04, 1005.21,
 33 and 1005.31, F.S.; conforming cross-references;
 34 providing an effective date.
 35
 36 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 37
 38 Section 1. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section
 39 1005.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 40 1005.06 Institutions not under the jurisdiction or purview
 41 of the commission.—
 42 (1) Except as otherwise provided in law, the following
 43 institutions are not under the jurisdiction or purview of the
 44 commission and are not required to obtain licensure:
 45 ~~(f) A religious college may operate without governmental~~
 46 ~~oversight if the college annually verifies by sworn affidavit to~~
 47 ~~the commission that:~~
 48 1. ~~The name of the institution includes a religious~~
 49 ~~modifier or the name of a religious patriarch, saint, person, or~~
 50 ~~symbol of the church.~~
 51 2. ~~The institution offers only educational programs that~~
 52 ~~prepare students for religious vocations as ministers,~~
 53 ~~professionals, or laypersons in the categories of ministry,~~
 54 ~~counseling, theology, education, administration, music, fine~~
 55 ~~arts, media communications, or social work.~~
 56 3. ~~The titles of degrees issued by the institution cannot~~
 57 ~~be confused with secular degree titles. For this purpose, each~~
 58 ~~degree title must include a religious modifier that immediately~~

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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~~precedes, or is included within, any of the following degrees: Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Master of Arts, Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy, and Doctor of Education. The religious modifier must be placed on the title line of the degree, on the transcript, and whenever the title of the degree appears in official school documents or publications.~~

~~4. The duration of all degree programs offered by the institution is consistent with the standards of the commission.~~

~~5. The institution's consumer practices are consistent with those required by s. 1005.04.~~

~~The commission may provide such a religious institution a letter stating that the institution has met the requirements of state law and is not subject to governmental oversight.~~

Section 2. Section 1005.12, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1005.12 Nonpublic religious postsecondary educational institutions.—

(1) Nonpublic religious postsecondary educational institutions, such as religious colleges, operating under this section without licensure are required to meet two or more of the following criteria:

(a) Be incorporated in this state.

(b) Be a limited liability company in this state.

(c) Be under a domestic or foreign corporation registered in this state.

(d) Be a ministry under an entity with an Internal Revenue Service taxpayer identification number.

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(e) Be tax exempt under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(f) Be registered under a fictitious name in this state under one of the entities specified in paragraphs (a)-(e).

(2) A nonpublic religious postsecondary educational institution may operate exempt from licensure in this state if the institution annually provides to the commission by sworn affidavit, either electronically or in print, all of the following information or affirmations:

(a) The name of the institution, which must include a religious modifier or the name of a religious patriarch, saint, person, or symbol of the church.

(b) That the institution offers only educational programs that prepare students for religious vocations as ministers, professionals, or laypersons in the categories of ministry, counseling, theology, education, administration, business, accounting, finance, music, fine arts, media, social work, or communications.

(c) The titles of any of the following degrees conferred by the institution, which must include a religious modifier on the title line of the degree, on the transcript, and whenever the title of the degree appears in the institution's official documents or publications:

1. Associate of Arts.

2. Associate of Science.

3. Bachelor of Arts.

4. Bachelor of Science.

5. Master of Arts.

6. Master of Science.

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117 7. Doctor of Philosophy.

118 8. Doctor of Education.

119 (d) That the duration of all degree programs offered by the
120 institution is consistent with the standards of the commission.

121 (e) That the institution's consumer practices are
122 consistent with those required by s. 1005.04.

123 (3) The commission shall annually provide the nonpublic
124 religious postsecondary educational institution with a written
125 notice stating that the institution is exempt from licensure and
126 has complied with the requirements of this section. The written
127 notice from the previous year remains effective until the
128 commission's workload permits its appropriate adjudication of a
129 subsequent year's sworn affidavit submitted by the institution.

130 (4) Verification of the nonpublic religious postsecondary
131 educational institution's compliance with this section may be
132 accomplished by one of the following methods:

133 (a) A finding of compliance by the commission after the
134 institution submits the required documentation in print or
135 electronically.

136 (b) A finding of compliance by a religious nongovernmental
137 education association based in this state which the commission
138 may cooperate with pursuant to s. 1005.22(1)(g) to administer
139 its duties under this section. In order to issue a finding of
140 compliance, a religious nongovernmental education association
141 approved by the commission must:

142 1. Operate in this state and require its members to reside
143 in this state.

144 2. Ensure that its members are trained by the association
145 to verify compliance under this section.

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146 3. Have a review team composed of at least three members,
147 of which no more than two members may derive income from the
148 same institution as one another.

149 4. Prohibit a member of the review team from deriving
150 income from the institution being reviewed.

151 5. Annually submit to the commission, on behalf of the
152 institution being reviewed, a sworn affidavit designating the
153 association as the institution's agent to represent it before
154 the commission and a written notice from the association's
155 review team affirming the institution's compliance with this
156 section.

157 (5) If a nonpublic religious postsecondary educational
158 institution has received from the commission a written notice of
159 compliance with this section and exemption from licensure, and
160 the institution subsequently fails to comply, the commission
161 must send the institution a notice of noncompliance, and the
162 institution must do one of the following:

163 (a) Apply for a license pursuant to s. 1005.31(1)(a) within
164 45 days after issuance of the notice.

165 (b) Cease operating in this state within 45 days after
166 issuance of the notice.

167 (6) If the institution does not take the specified actions
168 pursuant to subsection (5), the employee or agent of the
169 institution who produced the sworn affidavit is subject to the
170 penalties provided in s. 837.012 for making a false statement on
171 a sworn affidavit.

172 (7) The commission may take action pursuant to subsection
173 (5) upon a finding of noncompliance by the institution, or upon
174 receiving written notices from two or more different nonpublic

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175 religious postsecondary educational institutions under this
 176 section that the institution in question has failed to meet the
 177 requirements of this section.

178 Section 3. Paragraph (i) of subsection (3) of section
 179 553.865, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

180 553.865 Private spaces.—

181 (3) As used in this section, the term:

182 (i) "Postsecondary educational institution or facility"
 183 means:

184 1. A state university as defined in s. 1000.21(8);

185 2. A Florida College System institution as defined in s.
 186 1000.21(5);

187 3. A school district career center as described in s.
 188 1001.44(3);

189 4. A college or university licensed by the Commission for
 190 Independent Education pursuant to s. 1005.31(1)(a); or

191 5. An institution not under the jurisdiction or purview of
 192 the commission as identified in s. 1005.06(1) or s. 1005.12 ~~or~~
 193 ~~1005.06(1)(b)-(f).~~

194 Section 4. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section
 195 1005.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

196 1005.03 Designation "college" or "university."—

197 (1) The use of the designation "college" or "university" in
 198 combination with any series of letters, numbers, or words is
 199 restricted in this state to colleges or universities as defined
 200 in s. 1005.02 that offer degrees as defined in s. 1005.02 and
 201 fall into at least one of the following categories:

202 (e) A college that meets the description of either s.
 203 1005.06(1)(e) or s. 1005.12 ~~(f).~~

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204 Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 1005.04, Florida
 205 Statutes, is amended to read:

206 1005.04 Fair consumer practices.—

207 (1) Every institution that is under the jurisdiction of the
 208 commission or is exempt from the jurisdiction or purview of the
 209 commission pursuant to s. 1005.06(1)(c) or s. 1005.12 ~~(f)~~ and
 210 that either directly or indirectly solicits for enrollment any
 211 student shall:

212 (a) Disclose to each prospective student a statement of the
 213 purpose of such institution, its educational programs and
 214 curricula, a description of its physical facilities, its status
 215 regarding licensure, its fee schedule and policies regarding
 216 retaining student fees if a student withdraws, and a statement
 217 regarding the transferability of credits to and from other
 218 institutions. The institution shall make the required
 219 disclosures in writing at least 1 week prior to enrollment or
 220 collection of any tuition from the prospective student. The
 221 required disclosures may be made in the institution's current
 222 catalog;

223 (b) Use a reliable method to assess, before accepting a
 224 student into a program, the student's ability to complete
 225 successfully the course of study for which he or she has
 226 applied;

227 (c) Inform each student accurately about financial
 228 assistance and obligations for repayment of loans; describe any
 229 employment placement services provided and the limitations
 230 thereof; and refrain from promising or implying guaranteed
 231 placement, market availability, or salary amounts;

232 (d) Provide to prospective and enrolled students accurate

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information regarding the relationship of its programs to state licensure requirements for practicing related occupations and professions in Florida;

(e) Ensure that all advertisements are accurate and not misleading;

(f) Publish and follow an equitable prorated refund policy for all students, and follow both the federal refund guidelines for students receiving federal financial assistance and the minimum refund guidelines set by commission rule;

(g) Follow the requirements of state and federal laws that require annual reporting with respect to crime statistics and physical plant safety and make those reports available to the public;

(h) Publish and follow procedures for handling student complaints, disciplinary actions, and appeals; and

(i) Prior to enrollment, provide a written disclosure to a student or prospective student of all fees and costs that will be incurred by a student, the institution's refund policy, any exit examination requirements, and the grade point average required for completion of the student's program or degree. The disclosure shall include a statement regarding the scope of accreditation, if applicable. Institutions licensed by the Commission for Independent Education shall disclose the information required pursuant to this paragraph in a format prescribed by the commission.

Section 6. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section 1005.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1005.21 Commission for Independent Education.—

(2) The Commission for Independent Education shall consist

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of seven members who are residents of this state. The commission shall function in matters concerning independent postsecondary educational institutions in consumer protection, program improvement, and licensure for institutions under its purview. The Governor shall appoint the members of the commission who are subject to confirmation by the Senate. The membership of the commission shall consist of:

(d) One representative of a college that meets the criteria of s. 1005.12 ~~s. 1005.06(1)(f)~~.

Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and subsection (11) of section 1005.31, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 1005.31 Licensure of institutions.—

(1)(a) Each college or school operating within this state must obtain licensure from the commission unless the institution is not under the commission's purview or jurisdiction as provided in s. 1005.06, or the institution meets the requirements of s. 1005.12.

(11) The commission shall establish minimum standards for the approval of agents. The commission may adopt rules to ensure that licensed agents meet these standards and uphold the intent of this chapter. An agent may not solicit prospective students in this state for enrollment in any independent postsecondary educational institution under the commission's purview or in any out-of-state independent postsecondary educational institution unless the agent has received a license as prescribed by the commission or solicits for a postsecondary educational institution that is not under the jurisdiction of the commission pursuant to s. 1005.06(1)(g) ~~s. 1005.06(1)(h)~~.

Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

1/9/24
Meeting Date

Postsecondary Co.
Committee

282

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name BOB HARRIS

Phone 850-222-0720

Address 2618 Centennial Place
Street

Email bharris@lawfla.com

VALHASSER FL 32308
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☒ Against ☐ Information

OR

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☒ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

282

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Meeting Date

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Committee

Name

Phone

Address

Email

Street

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☒ For

☐ Against

☐ Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

☐ In Support

☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐

I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒

I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

FL Council of Private Colleges

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate
APPEARANCE RECORD

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1/9/24

Meeting Date

SB - 282

Bill Number or Topic

EDUCATION POST SECONDARY

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name DR. EARLE LEE

Phone (850) 633-4080

Address 41 N. 20TH STREET, A17

Email FCPLFLINC@OUTLOOK.COM

Street

MAINES CITY FL 33844

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

OR

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:



I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.



I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:



I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

Talk Sheet for Senate Bill 282 – Dr. Gene Youngblood

Mr. Chairman, my name is Dr. Gene Youngblood and I'm a former Commissioner with the Commission for Independent Education.

I have extensive Christian education training having earned accredited, Bachelor, Master of Divinity, and Doctor degrees.

My educational service consists of, developing and operating Conservative Christian Academy 1989 to 2006, serving as regent of Luther Rice University and associate adjunct professor of Old Testament, and leading Conservative Theological University since 1991 to present.

I want to thank Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez for her sponsorship of this important legislation – thank you, Senator.

I'm here today to express my support for SB 282 because, as a former Commissioner with the CIE, I can state without hesitation that if the CIE had the tools this bill provides, it could have been able to do a more effective job of protecting consumers in this sector of higher education for which the CIE is responsible.

During my years as a Commissioner with the CIE, I saw firsthand how the statutorily-required sworn affidavit that must be submitted by these types of institutions were summarily 'rubber-stamped' and sent back to the institution with the qualifier, and I quote: "your institution is not subject to governmental oversight".

In other words, the State of Florida was operating on the 'honor' system when it came to protecting Florida's students attending these types of institutions instead of actually verifying whether or not the sworn affidavit the institution had submitted was true. And that's just for those schools who submit the affidavit.

So better enforcement by the State of Florida is one issue the bill addresses. Better compliance by the institutions is the other, equally important issue this bill addresses.

Talk Sheet for Senate Bill 282 – Dr. Gene Youngblood

By creating a critical compliance pathway for institutions who belong to a membership association, this bill compels greater participation among all institutions while also enabling the State of Florida to better quantify how many of these types of institutions exist in our state.

Through better state enforcement and better institutional compliance, Florida's students can and will be better protected, thanks to SB 282.

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 Postsecondary

BILL: SB 522

INTRODUCER: Senator Simon

SUBJECT: Tallahassee Community College

DATE: January 10, 2024

REVISED: _____

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. Jahnke	Bouck	HE	Favorable
2. _____	_____	RC	_____

I. Summary:

SB 522 changes the name of “Tallahassee Community College” to “Tallahassee State College.”

There may be costs associated with the name change, such as those related to signage, publication, documentation, advertising, and other related items. See Section V.

The bill is effective July 1, 2024.

II. Present Situation:

Florida College System

The Florida Constitution provides for a single state college system comprised of all public community and state colleges in the state.¹ This system is known as the Florida College System (FCS) and is comprised of 28 institutions.² The purpose of the FCS is to maximize open access for students, respond to community needs for postsecondary academic education, and career degree education.³ Each FCS institution is governed by a local board of trustees.⁴ The Florida College System is supervised by the State Board of Education (SBE).⁵

¹ FLA. CONST. art. IX, s. 8(a).

² Section 1000.21(5), F.S.

³ Section 1004.65(4) and (5), F.S.

⁴ FLA. CONST. art. IX, s. 8(b) and (c).

⁵ FLA. CONST. art. IX, s. 8(d).

Tallahassee Community College

Tallahassee Community College (TCC) opened in 1966 as “Tallahassee Junior College.”⁶ In 1970, the college’s name was changed to Tallahassee Community College to better reflect its community orientation and involvement.⁷ TCC is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS) to award associate’s and baccalaureate degrees.⁸ TCC offers baccalaureate degrees in the following programs: nursing; business administration; elementary education; and exceptional student education.

Florida College System Institution Name Change

With the approval of its board of trustees, an FCS institution may change the institution’s name and use the designation “college” or “state college” if it has been authorized by the SBE to grant baccalaureate degrees and has been accredited as a baccalaureate-degree-granting institution by an accrediting agency or association recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDOE).⁹

With the approval of its board of trustees, an FCS institution that either has not been authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees or has not been accredited as a baccalaureate-degree-granting institution by an accrediting agency or association recognized by the USDOE may request approval from the SBE to change the institution’s name and use the designation “college.”¹⁰ The SBE may approve the request if the FCS institution enters 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.
- Continue to provide remedial education.
- 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.

A district board of trustees that approves a change to the name of an institution must seek statutory codification of such name change during the next regular legislative session.¹¹

⁶ Tallahassee Community College, Memorandum, *Renaming of Tallahassee Community College* (Nov. 14, 2023), available at <https://www.tcc.fl.edu/media/divisions/board-of-trustees-documents/2023/november/District-Board-of-Trustees-Packet-Document.pdf>.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges, *Tallahassee Community College*, https://sacscoc.org/institutions/?institution_name=Tallahassee+COMmunity+College&results_per_page=25&curpage=1&institution=0011N00001h9EGAQA2 (last visited Jan. 3, 2024).

⁹ Section 1001.60(2)(b)1., F.S.

¹⁰ Section 1001.60(2)(b)2., F.S.

¹¹ Section 1001.60(2)(c), F.S.

Tallahassee Community College Name Change

In June 2023, TCC convened a task force to begin the process of seeking a name change and rebrand for the institution.¹² The task force included internal representatives from each division of the college, a staff council, members of the Faculty Senate, Alumni and Friends Association, and Student Government Association.¹³ Through a competitive bidding process, the task force also hired a consulting firm to assist the process by:¹⁴

- Providing a report that evaluates TCC’s current brand through research, surveys, and focus groups.
- Developing and testing a new name and logo, if applicable, that keeps with TCC’s mission and vision, reflects the already-defined brand position, and helps to improve its position and strength in the market.
- Developing primary logo variations and additional branding for departments and initiatives.
- Providing a rebrand communications strategy and implementation plan for execution by the task force.

As a result of the research conducted and report provided by the consulting firm, the task force provided recommendations for evaluation to the president of TCC, who then provided his recommendation to the TCC Board of Trustees.¹⁵ On November 14, 2023, the TCC Board of Trustees approved the president’s recommendation to change TCC’s name to “Tallahassee State College.”

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill changes the name of “Tallahassee Community College” to “Tallahassee State College.” As Tallahassee Community College (TCC) is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS) as a baccalaureate-degree-granting institution and the TCC Board of Trustees has approved the name change, TCC has met the statutory criteria to seek a name change from the Legislature.¹⁶

The bill is effective July 1, 2024.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

¹² Tallahassee Community College, Memorandum, *Renaming of Tallahassee Community College* (Nov. 14, 2023), available at <https://www.tcc.fl.edu/media/divisions/board-of-trustees-documents/2023/november/District-Board-of-Trustees-Packet-Document.pdf>.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ Tallahassee Community College, Memorandum, *Renaming of Tallahassee Community College* (Nov. 14, 2023), available at <https://www.tcc.fl.edu/media/divisions/board-of-trustees-documents/2023/november/District-Board-of-Trustees-Packet-Document.pdf>.

¹⁶ *Id.*

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:

There may be costs associated with the name change, such as those related to signage, publication, documentation, advertising, and other related items. These costs are estimated at approximately \$500,000, will be absorbed by the institution, and expended over two fiscal years.¹⁷

The name change and rebrand may also have an indeterminate positive fiscal impact as it may lead to an increase in enrollment, particularly in its baccalaureate programs.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

¹⁷ Tallahassee Community College, Memorandum, *Renaming of Tallahassee Community College* (Nov. 14, 2023), available at <https://www.tcc.fl.edu/media/divisions/board-of-trustees-documents/2023/november/District-Board-of-Trustees-Packet-Document.pdf>.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 1000.21 of the Florida Statutes.

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.

By Senator Simon

3-01283-24

2024522__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Tallahassee Community College;
3 amending s. 1000.21, F.S.; renaming the college as
4 "Tallahassee State College"; providing an effective
5 date.
6
7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
8
9 Section 1. Paragraph (aa) of subsection (5) of section
10 1000.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
11 1000.21 Systemwide definitions.—As used in the Florida
12 Early Learning-20 Education Code:
13 (5) "Florida College System institution" except as
14 otherwise specifically provided, includes all of the following
15 public postsecondary educational institutions in the Florida
16 College System and any branch campuses, centers, or other
17 affiliates of the institution:
18 (aa) Tallahassee State Community College, which serves
19 Gadsden, Leon, and Wakulla Counties.
20 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

The Florida Senate
APPEARANCE RECORD

1/9/24

Meeting Date

Edu Postsecondary

Committee

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

SB 522

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name ~~Jim~~ President Jim Murdaugh Phone (850) 201-8660

Address 444 Appleyard Dr Email jim.murdaugh@tcc.fl.edu

Tallahassee

City

FL

State

32304

Zip

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

Tallahassee Community
College

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022JointRules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

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 Postsecondary

BILL: SB 622

INTRODUCER: Senator Simon

SUBJECT: Requirements for Career Education Program Basic Skills

DATE: January 8, 2024

REVISED: _____

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. Brick	Bouck	HE	Pre-meeting
2. _____	_____	AED	_____
3. _____	_____	FP	_____

I. Summary:

SB 622 removes the requirement that students who enroll in a career and technical education program that is at least 450 hours must complete an examination of basic skills within the first six weeks of admission to the program. The bill also authorizes district school boards and Florida College System institutions to report for workforce and performance funding students in a career dual enrollment program who have not completed the basic skills assessment.

The bill is effective July 1, 2024.

II. Present Situation:

Requirements for Career Education Basic Skills

Each career and technical education (CTE) career certificate program, 450 clock hours or longer, includes associated basic academic skills (reading, mathematics, and language) that are required for completion from each CTE program. For the purpose of CTE and basic skills requirements, completion is accomplished when a student has demonstrated mastery of the entire program's standards and benchmarks and receives a Career Certificate of Completion.¹

Students who enroll in a program offered for career credit of 450 hours or more must complete an entry-level examination within the first six weeks after admission into the program.² The State Board of Education (SBE) designates examinations to assess student mastery of basic skills, which include the following:³

¹ Florida Department of Education, *Career and Technical Education, 2019-2020 Technical Assistance Paper, CTE Basic Skills Assessment Requirements* (Mar. 2020), available at <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5398/urlt/basic-skill-tap-att1.pdf>, at 2. The basic skills are exit, not entry requirements.

² Section 1004.91(2), F.S.

³ Rule 6A-10.040(1), F.A.C.

- Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE), Forms 11 and 12, 2017;
- Demonstration of basic communication and computation skills;⁴
- Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS), GOALS 900 Series, 2019;
- 2014 GED® Tests: Reasoning through Language Arts and Mathematical Reasoning where a minimum score as determined by the SBE has been attained on each test;⁵ and
- A test adopted by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission, used for admission into law enforcement or corrections training programs.⁶

Any student who lacks the required level of basic skills for the career program must be provided with a structured program of basic skills instruction to correct deficiencies.⁷ A student may not receive a career or technical certificate of completion without first demonstrating the basic skills required in the state curriculum frameworks for the career education program.⁸

An adult with a disability⁹ may be exempted from the basic skills assessment requirement. In addition, the following students are exempt from taking the initial basic skills assessment:¹⁰

- A student who possesses a college degree at the associate in applied science level or higher.
- A student who demonstrates readiness for public postsecondary education in communication and computation specified in SBE rule.¹¹
- A student who passes a specified state, national or industry certification or licensure examination that is aligned to the career education program.¹²
- An adult student who is enrolled in an apprenticeship program that is registered with the Department of Education.

Funding for Workforce Education Programs

Workforce education means adult general education or career education and may consist of a continuing workforce education course or a program of study leading to an occupational

⁴ The SBE determines the acceptable methods of demonstrating basic communication and computation skills. Methods include, but are not limited to, achieving a specified score on a common placement test such as the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test, the SAT, and the ACT, or specified performance in high school coursework. *See* Rule 6A-10.0315, F.A.C.

⁵ A student must attain a minimum score of 145 on Reasoning through Language Arts and Mathematical Reasoning. Rule 6A-6.0201, F.A.C.

⁶ Applicants who apply for entry into a Commission-approved Basic Recruit Training Program are required to obtain a passing score on a Commission-approved Basic Abilities Test for the law enforcement or correctional disciplines, prior to entering a program. Rule 11B-35.0011, F.A.C.

⁷ Section 1004.91(2), F.S. *See also* Rule 6A-10.040, F.A.C.

⁸ Section 1004.91(2), F.S.

⁹ An adult with disability means an individual who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment, and who requires modifications to the educational program, adaptive equipment, or specialized instructional methods and services in order to participate in workforce development programs that lead to competitive employment. Section 1004.02(6), F.S.

¹⁰ Section 1004.91(3), F.S.

¹¹ Rule 6A-10.0315, F.A.C.

¹² Section 943.17(1)(g), F.S., requires students in a career certificate program in law enforcement and corrections to complete a basic skills examination, based on FDLE rather than SBE standards, prior to entrance into the program. Law enforcement and correctional officer students are exempt from the basic skills requirement in s. 1004.91, F.S., because such students are required to pass the State Officer Certification Examination. Florida Department of Law Enforcement, *2024 FDLE Legislative Bill Analysis of SB 622* (Dec. 8, 2023), at 2.

completion point,¹³ a career certificate, an applied technology diploma, a career degree, or a registered apprenticeship certificate of completion.¹⁴ Workforce education includes:¹⁵

- Adult general education programs.¹⁶
- Career certificate programs.¹⁷
- Applied technology diploma programs.¹⁸
- Continuing workforce education courses.¹⁹
- Degree career education programs.²⁰
- Apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs.²¹

Any workforce education program may be conducted by a Florida College System institution or a school district career center, as approved by the SBE.²²

State funding for workforce education programs is calculated based on weighted student enrollment and program costs, minus tuition and fee revenues, and including various supplemental cost factors.²³ Performance funding for workforce education programs in school districts and Florida College System institutions is established in the General Appropriations Act.²⁴ Workforce education performance funding is based on student completion of postsecondary industry certifications identified on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List.²⁵

¹³ An occupational completion point is the occupational competencies that qualify a person to enter an occupation that is linked to a career and technical program.

¹⁴ Section 1004.02(25), F.S.

¹⁵ Section 1011.80(1), F.S.

¹⁶ “Adult general education” means comprehensive instructional programs designed to improve the employability of the state’s workforce through adult basic education, adult secondary education, English for Speakers of Other Languages, applied academics for adult education instruction, and instruction for adults with disabilities. Section 1004.02(3), F.S.

¹⁷ “Career certificate program” means a course of study that leads to at least one occupational completion point. The program may also confer credit that may articulate with a diploma or career degree education program Section 1004.02(20), F.S.

¹⁸ Applied technology diploma program means a course of study that is part of a technical degree program, is less than 60 credit hours, and leads to employment in a specific occupation. An applied technology diploma program may consist of either technical credit or college credit. Section 1004.02(7), F.S.

¹⁹ “Continuing workforce education” means instruction that does not result in a registered apprenticeship certificate of completion, technical certificate, diploma, associate in applied science degree, or associate in science degree. Section 1004.02(12), F.S.

²⁰ A degree career education program is a course of study that leads to an associate in applied science degree or an associate in science degree. Section 1004.02(13), F.S.

²¹ Preapprentice means any person 16 years of age or over engaged in any course of instruction in the public school system or elsewhere, which course is registered as a preapprenticeship program with the department. Apprentice means a person at least 16 years of age who is engaged in learning a recognized skilled trade through actual work experience under the supervision of journeyworker craftspersons, which training should be combined with properly coordinated studies of related technical and supplementary subjects, and who has entered into a written agreement, which may be cited as an apprentice agreement, with a registered apprenticeship sponsor who may be either an employer, an association of employers, or a local joint apprenticeship committee. Section 446.021(1)-(2), F.S.

²² Section 1011.80(2), F.S.

²³ Section 1011.80(6)(b), F.S. Continuing workforce education programs provided by district school boards or Florida College System institutions must be fully supported by fees. Section 1011.80(6)(a), F.S. For fee-exempt students (e.g., students in an apprenticeship program), state funding is 100 percent of the average cost of instruction. Section 1011.80(6)(c), F.S.

²⁴ Section 1011.80(7)(b), F.S.

²⁵ *Id.* The CAPE Industry Certification Funding List is annually adopted by the SBE pursuant to s. 1008.44, F.S.

A high school student dually enrolled²⁶ in a workforce education program operated by a Florida College System institution or school district career center generates the amount calculated for workforce education funding, including any payment of performance funding, and the proportional share of full-time equivalent enrollment generated through the Florida Education Finance Program for the student's enrollment in a high school.²⁷ However, a student may not be reported for funding in a dual enrollment workforce education program unless the student has completed the basic skills assessment required in law.²⁸

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill modifies s. 1004.91, F.S., to remove the requirement that students who enroll in a career and technical education program that is at least 450 hours must complete an examination of basic skills within the first six weeks of admission to the program. The bill, however, does not remove the specified exemptions from the basic skills assessment requirements.

The bill modifies s. 1011.80, F.S., to authorize a district school board and Florida College System institution to report for workforce and performance funding a student in a career dual enrollment program who has not completed the basic skills assessment.

The bill is effective July 1, 2024.

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.

²⁶ The dual enrollment program is the enrollment of an eligible secondary student or home education student in a postsecondary course creditable toward high school completion and a career certificate or an associate or baccalaureate degree. Section 1007.271(1), F.S.

²⁷ Section 1011.80(10), F.S.

²⁸ *Id.*

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill does not require appropriation of additional state funds. However, the bill may reallocate funds to those school districts and Florida College System institutions with relatively more students who are unable to complete a basic skills assessment but successfully complete dual enrollment coursework in workforce education programs.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 1004.91 and 1011.80.

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.

By Senator Simon

3-00816-24

2024622__

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to requirements for career education
 3 program basic skills; amending s. 1004.91, F.S.;
 4 deleting a requirement that certain postsecondary
 5 students complete an entry-level examination; deleting
 6 a requirement that the State Board of Education
 7 designate examinations to assess student mastery of
 8 basic skills; deleting a requirement that students who
 9 lack the required basic skills be referred to
 10 specified instruction or education; deleting a
 11 requirement that a student demonstrate specified basic
 12 skills in order to receive a career or technical
 13 certificate of completion; amending s. 1011.80, F.S.;
 14 conforming a provision to changes made by the act;
 15 providing an effective date.
 16
 17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 18
 19 Section 1. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 1004.91,
 20 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 21 1004.91 Requirements for career education program basic
 22 skills.—
 23 ~~(2) Students who enroll in a program offered for career~~
 24 ~~credit of 450 hours or more shall complete an entry-level~~
 25 ~~examination within the first 6 weeks after admission into the~~
 26 ~~program. The State Board of Education shall designate~~
 27 ~~examinations that are currently in existence, the results of~~
 28 ~~which are comparable across institutions, to assess student~~
 29 ~~mastery of basic skills. Any student found to lack the required~~

Page 1 of 4

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

3-00816-24

2024622__

30 ~~level of basic skills for such program shall be referred to~~
 31 ~~applied academics instruction or another adult general education~~
 32 ~~program for a structured program of basic skills instruction.~~
 33 ~~Such instruction may include English for speakers of other~~
 34 ~~languages. A student may not receive a career or technical~~
 35 ~~certificate of completion without first demonstrating the basic~~
 36 ~~skills required in the state curriculum frameworks for the~~
 37 ~~career education program.~~
 38 (2) (a) (3) (a) An adult student with a disability may be
 39 exempted from this section.
 40 (b) The following students are exempt from this section:
 41 1. A student who possesses a college degree at the
 42 associate in applied science level or higher.
 43 2. A student who demonstrates readiness for public
 44 postsecondary education pursuant to s. 1008.30 and applicable
 45 rules adopted by the State Board of Education.
 46 3. A student who passes a state or national industry
 47 certification or licensure examination that is identified in
 48 State Board of Education rules and aligned to the career
 49 education program in which the student is enrolled.
 50 4. An adult student who is enrolled in an apprenticeship
 51 program that is registered with the Department of Education in
 52 accordance with chapter 446.
 53 Section 2. Subsection (10) of section 1011.80, Florida
 54 Statutes, is amended to read:
 55 1011.80 Funds for operation of workforce education
 56 programs.—
 57 (10) A high school student dually enrolled under s.
 58 1007.271 in a workforce education program operated by a Florida

Page 2 of 4

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

3-00816-24

2024622__

59 College System institution or school district career center
 60 generates the amount calculated for workforce education funding,
 61 including any payment of performance funding, and the
 62 proportional share of full-time equivalent enrollment generated
 63 through the Florida Education Finance Program for the student's
 64 enrollment in a high school. If a high school student is dually
 65 enrolled in a Florida College System institution program,
 66 including a program conducted at a high school, the Florida
 67 College System institution earns the funds generated for
 68 workforce education funding, and the school district earns the
 69 proportional share of full-time equivalent funding from the
 70 Florida Education Finance Program. If a student is dually
 71 enrolled in a career center operated by the same district as the
 72 district in which the student attends high school, that district
 73 earns the funds generated for workforce education funding and
 74 also earns the proportional share of full-time equivalent
 75 funding from the Florida Education Finance Program. If a student
 76 is dually enrolled in a workforce education program provided by
 77 a career center operated by a different school district, the
 78 funds must be divided between the two school districts
 79 proportionally from the two funding sources. ~~A student may not~~
 80 ~~be reported for funding in a dual enrollment workforce education~~
 81 ~~program unless the student has completed the basic skills~~
 82 ~~assessment pursuant to s. 1004.91.~~ A student who is coenrolled
 83 in a K-12 education program and an adult education program may
 84 be reported for purposes of funding in an adult education
 85 program. If a student is coenrolled in core curricula courses
 86 for credit recovery or dropout prevention purposes and does not
 87 have a pattern of excessive absenteeism or habitual truancy or a

Page 3 of 4

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

3-00816-24

2024622__

88 history of disruptive behavior in school, the student may be
 89 reported for funding for up to two courses per year. Such a
 90 student is exempt from the payment of the block tuition for
 91 adult general education programs provided in s. 1009.22(3)(c).
 92 The Department of Education shall develop a list of courses to
 93 be designated as core curricula courses for the purposes of
 94 coenrollment.

95 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Page 4 of 4

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

1/9/24
Meeting Date

SB 622
Bill Number or Topic

Education Postsecondary
Committee

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Nancy Lawther, Ph.D. (Florida PTA)

Phone 407 855-7604

Address 1747 Orlando Central Pkwy
Street

Email legislaton@floridapta.org

Orlando FL 32809
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☒ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

Florida PTA

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

3000

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

Division of Elections

I, Cord Byrd, Secretary of State,
do hereby certify that

John Crossman

is duly appointed a member of the

**Board of Trustees,
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical
University**

for a term beginning on the Twenty-Second day of June, A.D.,
2023, until the First day of January, A.D., 2026 and is subject to
be confirmed by the Senate during the next regular session of the
Legislature.



*Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the
State of Florida, at Tallahassee, the Capital, this
the Twenty-Seventh day of July, A.D., 2023.*

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. Byrd", is written over a faint circular stamp.

Secretary of State

OATH OF OFFICE

(Art. II, § 5(b), Fla. Const.)

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

2023 JUL 24 AM 8:44

STATE OF FLORIDA

County of

Orange

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the State, and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of

Florida A-M University Board of Trustees

(Name of Office)

on which I am now about to enter, so help me God.

[NOTE: If you affirm, you may omit the words "so help me God." See § 92.52, Fla. Stat.]

[Signature]
Signature

(Affix Seal Below)

Sworn to and subscribed before me by means of ☒ physical presence

Or ☐ online notarization this 12th day of July, 2023.



Darryle Ann Roberts

Signature of Officer Administering Oath or of Notary Public

DARRYLE ANN ROBERTS

Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public

Personally Known ☒ or Produced Identification ☐

Type of Identification Produced _____

ACCEPTANCE

I accept the office listed in the above Oath of Office.

Mailing Address: Home ☐

Office ☒

1011 N. W. Highway 44
Street or Post Office Box

John Crossin
Print Name

Wine, Fla, FL 32789
City, State, Zip Code

[Signature]
Signature



RECEIVED

2023 JUN 28 AM 11:17

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

Florida Board of Governors
State University System of Florida
200 West College Avenue, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Phone 850.245.0466
Fax: 850.245.9685
www.flbog.edu

June 27, 2023

John Crossman
CrossMarc Services
1011 Wymore Road
Winter Park, FL 32789

Dear Mr. Crossman:

On June 22, 2023, the Florida Board of Governors approved the recommendation made by its Nomination and Governance Committee to appoint you as a member of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Board of Trustees. Please accept our congratulations.

The appointment acknowledges your numerous career milestones. Your achievements are sure to provide expertise to the State University System of Florida and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University as you serve in the capacity of a trustee. Your appointment is subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate, completion of trustee training, a System orientation session, and attendance at the annual Trustee Summits conducted by the Board of Governors. Your term begins on June 22, 2023 and ends on January 1, 2026.

You will receive an Oath of Office form and a Senate Questionnaire from the Florida Department of State. Both forms must be completed and submitted in order for you to be considered for confirmation by the Florida Senate during the 2024 legislative session. Please submit these forms to the Board of Governors Office at 200 West College Avenue, Suite 210, Tallahassee, FL 32301, so that we can record them into our record and hand deliver to the Department of State.

You are also required to file a Statement of Financial Interests form with the Florida Commission on Ethics. We have attached the 2022 Form 1 for your convenience. This form needs to be filed within 30 days of your appointment.

Thank you for your willingness to serve. We look forward to working with you as a member of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Board of Trustees.

Sincerely,

Ray Rodriguez
Chancellor

c: Brian Lamb, Chair, Board of Governors and Nomination and Governance Committee
Kelvin Lawson, Chair, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Board of Trustees
Larry Robinson, President, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
Linda Barge Miles, Board of Trustees Liaison
Shannon True, Director, University Trustee Relations

3000

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Elections**

I, Cord Byrd, Secretary of State,
do hereby certify that

Deveron Gibbons

is duly appointed a member of the

**Board of Trustees,
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical
University**

for a term beginning on the Twenty-Ninth day of March, A.D.,
2023, until the Sixth day of January, A.D., 2028 and is subject to
be confirmed by the Senate during the next regular session of the
Legislature.



*Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the
State of Florida, at Tallahassee, the Capital, this
the Seventeenth day of July, A.D., 2023.*

Secretary of State

(Art. II, § 5(b), Fla. Const.)

2023 JUL 13 AM 8:13

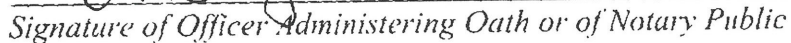
DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLIEN CLASSIFIED

County of Pinellas

Florida A & M University Trustee
(Name of Office)

[NOTE: If you affirm, you may omit the words "so help me God." See § 92.52, Fla. Stat.]

Or online notarization this 22 day of May, 2023.



Personally Known ☒ or Produced Identification ☐

Type of Identification Produced _____

Mailing Address: Home ☒ Office ☐

1050 18th Ave So.
Street or Post Office Box

St. Petersburg FL 33705
City, State, Zip Code

Deveron Gibbons
Print Name

Signature _____



RECEIVED

2023 APR 12 PM 2:00

UNIVERSITY ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

Florida Board of Governors
State University System of Florida
200 West College Avenue, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Phone 850.245.0466
Fax: 850.245.9685
www.flbog.edu

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ms. Inez Williams

FROM: Shannon True 
Director, University Trustee Relations and
Assistant to the Chancellor

DATE: April 12, 2023

RE: Amended Term Dates

This is to advise you that the previous term dates I had submitted were incorrect.
Please see the corrected term dates below.

January 23, 2023 Letter

To the Florida International University Board of Trustees:

Mr. Rogelio Tovar was reappointed for a term that begins January 25, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028

To the Florida State University Board of Trustees:

Mr. Jim Henderson was reappointed for a term that begins January 25, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028

To the New College of Florida Board of Trustees:

Mr. Ryan Anderson was appointed for a term that begins January 25, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028

To the University of Central Florida Board of Trustees:

Mr. Ricardo Cardenas was appointed for a term that begins January 25, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028

To the University of South Florida Board of Trustees:

Mr. Oscar Horton was reappointed for a term that begins January 25, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028

RECEIVED

April 12, 2023
Page 2 of 2

2023 APR 12 PM 2:00

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
TALLahassee, FL

February 23, 2023 Letter

To the Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees:

Mr. Richard Eide was reappointed for a term that begins February 22, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028.

To the University of West Florida Board of Trustees:

Mr. Alonzie Scott was appointed for a term that begins February 22, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2026

March 29, 2023 Letter

To the Florida A&M University Board of Trustees:

Mr. Deveron Gibbons was appointed for a term that begins March 29, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028.

To the Florida International University Board of Trustees:

Ms. Francis Hondal was appointed for a term that begins March 29, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2025.

To the University of Florida Board of Trustees:

Mr. Daniel O'Keefe was reappointed for a term that begins March 29, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028.

I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. Thank you for your assistance
in processing these appointments for their Senate confirmation. Please call me if you
need additional information.

17340

3000

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

Division of Elections

I, Cord Byrd, Secretary of State,
do hereby certify that

Nattie G. Figgers

is duly appointed a member of the

**Board of Trustees,
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical
University**

for a term beginning on the Twenty-Ninth day of March, A.D.,
2023, until the Sixth day of January, A.D., 2026 and is subject to
be confirmed by the Senate during the next regular session of the
Legislature.



*Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the
State of Florida, at Tallahassee, the Capital, this
the Twenty-First day of June, A.D., 2023.*

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'C. Byrd', is written over the printed name of the Secretary of State.

Secretary of State

DSDE 99 (3/03)



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

RECEIVED

2023 APR -5 AM 10:12

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

March 29, 2023

Secretary Cord Byrd
Department of State
R.A. Gray Building, Room 316
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Secretary Byrd:

Please be advised I have made the following appointment under the provisions of Section 1001.71, Florida Statutes:

Ms. Natlie Figgers
10211 West Sample Road
Suite 209
Coral Springs, Florida 33067

as a member of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Board of Trustees, filling a vacant seat previously occupied by David Lawrence Jr., subject to confirmation by the Senate. This appointment is effective March 29, 2023, for a term ending January 6, 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Ron DeSantis in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a cursive 'D' and 'S'.

Ron DeSantis
Governor

RD/na

OATH OF OFFICE

(Art. II, § 5(b), Fla. Const.)

RECEIVED

2023 JUN 21 AM 8:50

STATE OF FLORIDA

County of

BROWARD

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the State, and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of

Florida A & M University Board of Trustees
(Name of Office)

on which I am now about to enter, so help me God.

[NOTE: If you affirm, you may omit the words "so help me God." See § 92.52, Fla. Stat.]

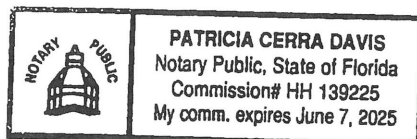
Nat G. Figgers
Signature

(Affix Seal Below)

Sworn to and subscribed before me by means of ☒ physical presence
Or ☐ online notarization this 16th day of June, 2023

Patricia Cerra Davis
Signature of Officer Administering Oath or of Notary Public
PATRICIA CERRA DAVIS
Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public

Personally Known ☐ or Produced Identification ☒
Type of Identification Produced FL. License



ACCEPTANCE

I accept the office listed in the above Oath of Office.

Mailing Address: Home ☐ Office ☒

300 SE 2nd St., Suite 600

Street or Post Office Box

Ft. Lauderdale 33301

City, State, Zip Code

Natlie G. Figgers

Print Name

Nat G. Figgers
Signature

3005

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Elections**

I, Cord Byrd, Secretary of State,
do hereby certify that

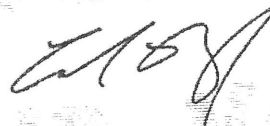
Pablo E. Paez

is duly appointed a member of the

**Board of Trustees,
Florida Atlantic University**

for a term beginning on the Twenty-Second day of June, A.D.,
2023, until the Sixth day of January, A.D., 2028 and is subject to
be confirmed by the Senate during the next regular session of the
Legislature.

*Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the
State of Florida, at Tallahassee, the Capital, this
the Twenty-First day of July, A.D., 2023.*



Secretary of State



RECEIVED

2023 JUN 28 AM 10:34

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

Florida Board of Governors
State University System of Florida
200 West College Avenue, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Phone 850.245.0466
Fax: 850.245.9685
www.flbog.edu

June 27, 2023

Pablo Paez
Executive Vice President, Corporate Relations
The GEO Group
4955 Technology Way
Boca Raton, FL 33431

Dear Mr. Paez:

On June 22, 2023, the Florida Board of Governors approved the recommendation made by its Nomination and Governance Committee to appoint you as a member of the Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees. Please accept our congratulations.

The appointment acknowledges your numerous career milestones. Your achievements are sure to provide expertise to the State University System of Florida and Florida Atlantic University as you serve in the capacity of a trustee. Your appointment is subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate, completion of trustee training, a System orientation session, and attendance at the annual Trustee Summits conducted by the Board of Governors. Your term begins on June 22, 2023 and ends on January 1, 2028.

You will receive an Oath of Office form and a Senate Questionnaire from the Florida Department of State. Both forms must be completed and submitted in order for you to be considered for confirmation by the Florida Senate during the 2024 legislative session. Please submit these forms to the Board of Governors Office at 200 West College Avenue, Suite 210, Tallahassee, FL 32301, so that we can record them into our record and hand deliver to the Department of State.

You are also required to file a Statement of Financial Interests form with the Florida Commission on Ethics. We have attached the 2022 Form 1 for your convenience. This form needs to be filed within 30 days of your appointment.

Thank you for your willingness to serve. We look forward to working with you as a member of the Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ray Rodriguez".

Ray Rodriguez
Chancellor

c: Brian Lamb, Chair, Board of Governors and Nomination and Governance Committee
Brad Levine, Chair, Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees
Stacy Volnick, Interim President, Florida Atlantic University
Andrew LaPlant, Board of Trustees Liaison
Shannon True, Director, University Trustee Relations

Kimball, Chris D.

RECEIVED

From: True, Shannon <Shannon.True@flbog.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 10:23 AM
To: Williams, Inez; Kimball, Chris D.
Cc: Kamoutsas, Rachel; Ivey, Danna
Subject: BOG Trustee Appointments
Attachments: Appointment Ltr to John Crossman.pdf; Appointment Ltr to Pablo Paez.pdf

2023 JUN 28 AM 10:34
DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE

The attachments/links in this message have been scanned by Proofpoint.

Good morning Inez and Chris,

This is to advise you that the Board of Governors made the following appointments to the University Boards of Trustees, on June 22, 2023.

To the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Board of Trustees:

- Mr. John Crossman was appointed for a term that begins June 22, 2023 and ends January 6, 2026. He is filling the vacancy left by Mr. Thomas Dortch.

To the Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees:

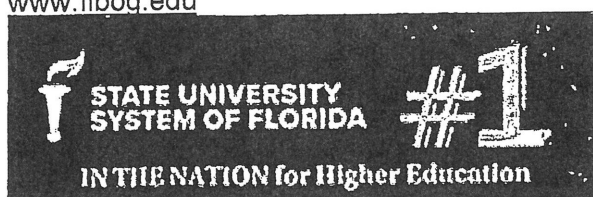
- Mr. Pablo Paez was appointed for a term that begins June 22, 2023 and ends January 6, 2028. He is filling Brent Burns' seat.

Attached are copies of the appointment letters sent to the new appointees from Chancellor Ray Rodrigues.

Thank you for your assistance in processing these appointments for their Senate confirmation.

Shannon M. True
Director, University Trustee Relations
and Assistant to the Chancellor

Board of Governors
State University System of Florida
200 West College Avenue
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(850) 245-9687 | Cell (850) 756-8577
www.flbog.edu



OATH OF OFFICE

(Art. II, § 5(b), Fla. Const.)

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

2023 JUL 21 AM 8:28

STATE OF FLORIDA

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

County of Palm Beach

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the State, and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of

Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees Member

(Name of Office)

on which I am now about to enter, so help me God.

[NOTE: If you affirm, you may omit the words "so help me God." See § 92.52, Fla. Stat.]

[Signature]
Signature

(Affix Seal Below)

Sworn to and subscribed before me by means of ☒ physical presence
Or ☐ online notarization this 14 day of July, 2023.



GRACE V. VENIERO
Commission # HH 174768
Expires November 2, 2025
Bonded Thru Budgetary Services

Grace V. Veniero
Signature of Officer Administering Oath or of Notary Public

Grace V. Veniero
Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public

Personally Known ☒ or Produced Identification ☐

Type of Identification Produced _____

ACCEPTANCE

I accept the office listed in the above Oath of Office.

Mailing Address: Home ☐ Office ☒

4955 Technology Way

Street or Post Office Box

Boca Raton, Florida 33431

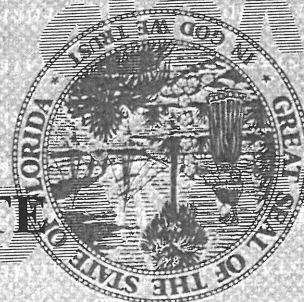
City, State, Zip Code

Pablo E. Paez

Print Name

[Signature]
Signature

3010



**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Elections**

I, Cord Byrd, Secretary of State,
do hereby certify that

Digvijay Gaekwad

is duly appointed a member of the

**Board of Trustees,
University of Central Florida**

for a term beginning on the Twenty-Fourth day of March, A.D.,
2023, until the Sixth day of January, A.D., 2028 and is subject to
be confirmed by the Senate during the next regular session of the
Legislature.

*Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the
State of Florida, at Tallahassee, the Capital, this
the Fourth day of May, A.D., 2023.*

Secretary of State



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
2023 MAR 29 AM 10:19
DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

March 24, 2023

Secretary Cord Byrd
Department of State
R.A. Gray Building, Room 316
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Secretary Byrd:

Please be advised I have made the following appointment under the provisions of Section 1001.71, Florida Statutes:

Mr. Digvijay "Danny" Gaekwad
11980 Southeast 22nd Avenue Road
Ocala, Florida 34480

as a member of the University of Central Florida Board of Trustees, subject to confirmation by the Senate. This appointment is effective March 24, 2023, for a term ending January 6, 2028.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron DeSantis", written over a horizontal line.

Ron DeSantis
Governor

RD/na

OATH OF OFFICE

(Art. II. § 5(b), Fla. Const.)

RECEIVED

STATE OF FLORIDA

County of Marion

2023 APR 13 AM 8:44

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the State, and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of

UCF Board of Trustee
(Title of Office)

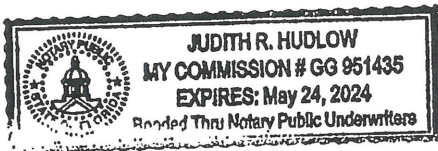
on which I am now about to enter, so help me God.

[NOTE: If you affirm, you may omit the words "so help me God." See § 92.52, Fla. Stat.]

[Signature]
Signature

Sworn to and subscribed before me by means of ☒ physical presence or
online notarization, this 30 day of March, 2023

Judith R. Hudlow
Signature of Officer Administering Oath or of Notary Public



Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public

Personally Known ☒ OR Produced Identification ☐

Type of Identification Produced _____

ACCEPTANCE

I accept the office listed in the above Oath of Office.

COPY

Mailing Address: ☒ Home ☐ Office

11980 SE 22nd Ave Rd

Street or Post Office Box

Ocala FL 34480

City, State, Zip Code

Digvijay Gaekwad

Print Name

[Signature]
Signature

3015

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Division of Elections

I, Cord Byrd, Secretary of State,
do hereby certify that

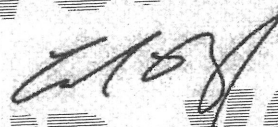
Kathryn Smith Ballard

is duly appointed a member of the
**Board of Trustees,
Florida State University**

for a term beginning on the Ninth day of June, A.D., 2023, until
the Sixth day of January, A.D., 2028 and is subject to be
confirmed by the Senate during the next regular session of the
Legislature.

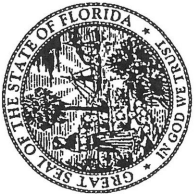
Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the
State of Florida, at Tallahassee, the Capital, this
the Twenty-First day of June, A.D., 2023.




Secretary of State

DSDE 99 (3/03)

The original document has a reflective line mark in paper. Hold at an angle to view when checking.



RON DeSANTIS
GOVERNOR

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
2023 JUN 16 AM 9:49
DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

June 9, 2023

Secretary Cord Byrd
Department of State
R.A. Gray Building, Room 316
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Secretary Byrd:

Please be advised I have made the following appointment under the provisions of Section 1001.71, Florida Statutes:

Mrs. Kathryn Ballard
7445 Heartland Circle
Tallahassee, Florida 32312

as a member of the Florida State University Board of Trustees, subject to confirmation by the Senate. This appointment is effective June 9, 2023 for a term ending January 6, 2028.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Ron DeSantis in dark ink.

Ron DeSantis
Governor

RD/ch

HAND DELIVERED

OATH OF OFFICE

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

(Art. II, § 5(b), Fla. Const.)

2023 JUN 20 PM 4:09

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

STATE OF FLORIDA

County of Leon

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the State, and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of

Florida State University Board of Trustees
(Name of Office)

on which I am now about to enter, so help me God.

[NOTE: If you affirm, you may omit the words "so help me God." See § 92.52, Fla. Stat.]

Kathryn Smith Ballard
Signature

(Affix Seal Below)

Sworn to and subscribed before me by means of X physical presence
Or online notarization this 20th day of June, 2023

Kathryn Smith Ballard
Signature of Officer Administering Oath or of Notary Public



Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public

Personally Known ☒ or Produced Identification ☐
Type of Identification Produced _____

ACCEPTANCE

I accept the office listed in the above Oath of Office.

Mailing Address: Home ☒ Office ☐

7445 Heartland Circle Kathryn Smith Ballard

Street or Post Office Box

Tallahassee, FL 32312

City, State, Zip Code

Print Name

Kathryn Smith Ballard
Signature

3025

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Elections**

I, Cord Byrd, Secretary of State,
do hereby certify that

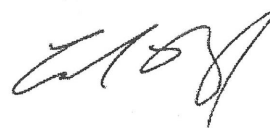
Alan Gonzalez

is duly appointed a member of the

**Board of Trustees,
Florida International University**

for a term beginning on the Twenty-Ninth day of March, A.D.,
2023, until the Sixth day of January, A.D., 2026 and is subject to
be confirmed by the Senate during the next regular session of the
Legislature.

*Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the
State of Florida, at Tallahassee, the Capital, this
the Twenty-Eighth day of August, A.D., 2023.*



Secretary of State



RON DeSANTIS
GOVERNOR

RECEIVED

2023 APR -5 AM 10:12

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

March 29, 2023

Secretary Cord Byrd
Department of State
R.A. Gray Building, Room 316
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Secretary Byrd:

Please be advised I have made the following appointment under the provisions of Section 1001.71, Florida Statutes:

Mr. Alan Gonzalez
6830 Loch Ness Drive
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

as a member of the Florida International University Board of Trustees, filling a vacant seat previously occupied by Carlos Trujillo, subject to confirmation by the Senate. This appointment is effective March 29, 2023, for a term ending January 6, 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron DeSantis".

Ron DeSantis
Governor

RD/na

OATH OF OFFICE

(Art. II, § 5(b), Fla. Const.)

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

2023 MAY -8 AM 11:22

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

STATE OF FLORIDA

County of Miami Dade

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the State, and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of

Board of Trustees, Florida International University

(Title of Office)

on which I am now about to enter, so help me God.

[NOTE: If you affirm, you may omit the words "so help me God." See § 92.52, Fla. Stat.]

[Signature]
Signature

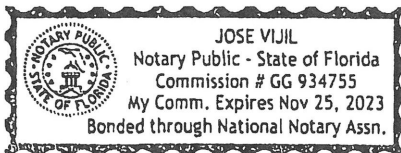
Sworn to and subscribed before me by means of X physical presence or
online notarization, this 28 day of April, 2023.

[Signature]
Signature of Officer Administering Oath or of Notary Public

Jose Vijil
Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public

Personally Known ☐ OR Produced Identification ☒

Type of Identification Produced FLDL



ACCEPTANCE

I accept the office listed in the above Oath of Office.

Mailing Address: ☒ Home ☐ Office

6830 Loch Ness Drive

Street or Post Office Box

Miami Lakes, FL 33014

City, State, Zip Code

Alan Gonzalez

Print Name

[Signature]
Signature

3025

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Elections**

I, Cord Byrd, Secretary of State,
do hereby certify that

Yaffa Yakubov

is duly appointed a member of the

**Board of Trustees,
Florida International University**

for a term beginning on the Twelfth day of September, A.D.,
2023, until the Sixth day of January, A.D., 2026 and is subject
to be confirmed by the Senate during the next regular session of
the Legislature.

*Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the
State of Florida, at Tallahassee, the Capital, this
the Fourteenth day of November, A.D., 2023.*



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Byrd", is positioned above the title "Secretary of State".

Secretary of State

OATH OF OFFICE

(Art. II, § 5(b), Fla. Const.)

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
2023 OCT 10 AM 8:59

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

STATE OF FLORIDA

County of MIAMI-DADE

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the State, and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of

Member of the Board of Trustees, Florida International University
(Full Name of Office - Abbreviations Not Accepted)

on which I am now about to enter, so help me God

[NOTE: If you affirm, you may omit the words "so help me God." See § 92.52, Fla. Stat.]

Signature

[Handwritten Signature]

(Affix Seal Below)

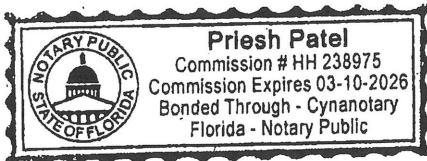
Sworn to and subscribed before me by means of X physical presence
Or online notarization this 29th day of September, 2023

Signature of Officer Administering Oath or of Notary Public

Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public

Personally Known ☒ or Produced Identification ☐

Type of Identification Produced



ACCEPTANCE

I accept the office listed in the above Oath of Office.

Mailing Address: Home ☒ Office ☐

3675 FLAMINGO DRIVE

Street or Post Office Box

Miami Beach, FL 33140

City, State, Zip Code

Print Name

Signature

[Handwritten Signature: Yaffa Yakubov]

[Handwritten Signature]



RON DeSANTIS
GOVERNOR

RECEIVED

2023 SEP 13 PM 2:28

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

September 12, 2023

Secretary Cord Byrd
Department of State
R.A. Gray Building, Room 316
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Secretary Byrd:

Please be advised I have made the following appointment under the provisions of Section 1001.71, Florida Statutes:

Ms. Yaffa Popack
3675 Flamingo Drive
Miami Beach, FL 33140

as a member of the Florida International University Board of Trustees, succeeding Jose Armas, subject to confirmation by the Senate. This appointment is effective September 12, 2023, for a term ending January 6, 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Ron DeSantis, written in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a cursive 'D' and 'S'.

Ron DeSantis
Governor

RD/es

3025

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Elections**

I, Cord Byrd, Secretary of State,
do hereby certify that

Francis Hondal

is duly appointed a member of the

**Board of Trustees,
Florida International University**

for a term beginning on the Twenty-Ninth day of March, A.D.,
2023, until the Sixth day of January, A.D., 2025 and is subject to
be confirmed by the Senate during the next regular session of the
Legislature.

*Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the
State of Florida, at Tallahassee, the Capital, this
the First day of August, A.D., 2023.*



[Signature]
Secretary of State

DSDE 99 (3/03)

The original document has a reflective line mark in paper. Hold at an angle to view when checking.



RECEIVED

2023 APR 12 PM 2:00

VISION RELATIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

Florida Board of Governors
State University System of Florida
200 West College Avenue, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Phone 850.245.0466
Fax: 850.245.9685
www.flbog.edu

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ms. Inez Williams

FROM: Shannon True 
Director, University Trustee Relations and
Assistant to the Chancellor

DATE: April 12, 2023

RE: Amended Term Dates

This is to advise you that the previous term dates I had submitted were incorrect.
Please see the corrected term dates below.

January 23, 2023 Letter

To the Florida International University Board of Trustees:
Mr. Rogelio Tovar was reappointed for a term that begins January 25, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028

To the Florida State University Board of Trustees:
Mr. Jim Henderson was reappointed for a term that begins January 25, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028

To the New College of Florida Board of Trustees:
Mr. Ryan Anderson was appointed for a term that begins January 25, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028

To the University of Central Florida Board of Trustees:
Mr. Ricardo Cardenas was appointed for a term that begins January 25, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028

To the University of South Florida Board of Trustees:
Mr. Oscar Horton was reappointed for a term that begins January 25, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028

RECEIVED

April 12, 2023
Page 2 of 2

2023 APR 12 PM 2:00

UNIVERSITY ELECTIONS
TALL, PASSED, FL

February 23, 2023 Letter

To the Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees:

Mr. Richard Eide was reappointed for a term that begins February 22, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028.

To the University of West Florida Board of Trustees:

Mr. Alonzie Scott was appointed for a term that begins February 22, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2026

March 29, 2023 Letter

To the Florida A&M University Board of Trustees:

Mr. Deveron Gibbons was appointed for a term that begins March 29, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028.

To the Florida International University Board of Trustees:

Ms. Francis Hondal was appointed for a term that begins March 29, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2025.

To the University of Florida Board of Trustees:

Mr. Daniel O'Keefe was reappointed for a term that begins March 29, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028.

I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. Thank you for your assistance in processing these appointments for their Senate confirmation. Please call me if you need additional information.

OATH OF OFFICE

(Art. II, § 5(b), Fla. Const.)

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

2023 JUL 10 AM 10:46

STATE OF FLORIDA

County of Dade

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE FL

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the State, and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of

FIU Board of Trustees

(Name of Office)

on which I am now about to enter, so help me God.

[NOTE: If you affirm, you may omit the words "so help me God." See § 92.52, Fla. Stat.]

[Signature]

Signature

(Affix Seal Below)

Sworn to and subscribed before me by means of ☒ physical presence

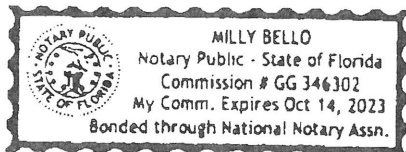
Or ☐ online notarization this 15th day of June, 2023.

Milly Bello

Signature of Officer Administering Oath or of Notary Public

Milly Bello

Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public



Personally Known ☒ or Produced Identification ☐

Type of Identification Produced _____

ACCEPTANCE

I accept the office listed in the above Oath of Office.

Mailing Address: Home ☒ Office ☐

16050 W Suburban Dr.

Street or Post Office Box

Miami, FL 33156

City, State, Zip Code

Francis Hondal

Print Name

[Signature]

Signature

3030

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Elections**

I, Cord Byrd, Secretary of State,
do hereby certify that

Joe Jacquot

is duly appointed a member of the

**Board of Trustees,
New College of Florida**

for a term beginning on the Nineteenth day of May, A.D., 2023,
until the Sixth day of January, A.D., 2025 and is subject to be
confirmed by the Senate during the next regular session of the
Legislature.

*Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the
State of Florida, at Tallahassee, the Capital, this
the Ninth day of August, A.D., 2023.*



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. Byrd".

Secretary of State



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

2023 MAY 24 AM 10:18

TALLAHASSEE, FL

May 19, 2023

Secretary Cord Byrd
Department of State
R.A. Gray Building, Room 316
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Secretary Byrd:

Please be advised I have made the following appointment under the provisions of Section 1001.71, Florida Statutes:

Mr. Joseph Jacquot
1 Independent Drive
Suite 2300
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

as a member of the New College of Florida Board of Trustees, succeeding Jason Speir, subject to confirmation by the Senate. This appointment is effective May 19, 2023, for a term ending January 6, 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Ron DeSantis in black ink.

Ron DeSantis
Governor

RD/zs

RECEIVED

2023 JUN 29 AM 8:27

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the State, and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of

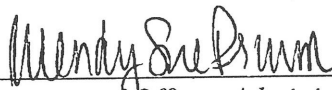
(Name of Office)

[NOTE: If you affirm, you may omit the words “so help me God.” See § 92.52, Fla. Stat.]

[Signature]

Sworn to and subscribed before me by means of X physical presence

24th day of May



Signature of Officer Administering Oath or of Notary Public

Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public

Personally Known ☒ *or Produced Identification* ☐

Type of Identification Produced _____

I accept the office listed in the above Oath of Office.

Office ☒

Street or Post Office Box

Print Name

City, State, Zip Code

Signature _____

Signature _____

3035

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

Division of Elections

I, Cord Byrd, Secretary of State,
do hereby certify that

Daniel T. O'Keefe

is duly appointed a member of the

**Board of Trustees,
University of Florida**

for a term beginning on the Twenty-Ninth day of March, A.D.,
2023, until the Sixth day of January, A.D., 2028 and is subject
to be confirmed by the Senate during the next regular session of
the Legislature.

*Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the
State of Florida, at Tallahassee, the Capital, this
the Twenty-Sixth day of April, A.D., 2023.*



Secretary of State



RECEIVED

Florida Board of Governors
State University System of Florida
200 West College Avenue, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Phone 850.245.0466
Fax: 850.245.9685
www.flbog.edu

2023 MAR 30 PM 12:58

UNIVERSITY ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ms. Inez Williams

FROM: Shannon True 
Director, University Trustee Relations and
Assistant to the Chancellor

DATE: March 29, 2023

RE: Appointments to the University Boards of Trustees by the Board of
Governors

This is to advise you that the Board of Governors made the following appointments to the University Boards of Trustees, on March 29, 2023.

To the Florida A&M University Board of Trustees:

- Mr. Deveron Gibbons was appointed for a term that begins March 29, 2023 and ends March 29, 2028.

To the Florida International University Board of Trustees:

- Ms. Francis Hondal was appointed for a term that begins March 29, 2023 and ends January 7, 2025.

To the University of Florida Board of Trustees:

- Mr. Daniel O'Keefe was reappointed for a term that begins March 29, 2023 and ends March 29, 2028.

Attached are copies of the appointment letters sent to the new appointees from Chancellor Ray Rodrigues.

Thank you for your assistance in processing these appointments for their Senate confirmation. Please call me if you need additional information.

Enclosures



RECEIVED

2023 APR 12 PM 2:00

FLORIDA ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

Florida Board of Governors
State University System of Florida
200 West College Avenue, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Phone 850.245.0466
Fax: 850.245.9685
www.flbog.edu

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ms. Inez Williams

FROM: Shannon True 
Director, University Trustee Relations and
Assistant to the Chancellor

DATE: April 12, 2023

RE: Amended Term Dates

This is to advise you that the previous term dates I had submitted were incorrect.
Please see the corrected term dates below.

January 23, 2023 Letter

To the Florida International University Board of Trustees:
Mr. Rogelio Tovar was reappointed for a term that begins January 25, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028

To the Florida State University Board of Trustees:
Mr. Jim Henderson was reappointed for a term that begins January 25, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028

To the New College of Florida Board of Trustees:
Mr. Ryan Anderson was appointed for a term that begins January 25, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028

To the University of Central Florida Board of Trustees:
Mr. Ricardo Cardenas was appointed for a term that begins January 25, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028

To the University of South Florida Board of Trustees:
Mr. Oscar Horton was reappointed for a term that begins January 25, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028

RECEIVED

April 12, 2023
Page 2 of 2

2023 APR 12 PM 2:00

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
TALLAHASSEE, FL

February 23, 2023 Letter

To the Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees:

Mr. Richard Eide was reappointed for a term that begins February 22, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028.

To the University of West Florida Board of Trustees:

Mr. Alonzie Scott was appointed for a term that begins February 22, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2026

March 29, 2023 Letter

To the Florida A&M University Board of Trustees:

Mr. Deveron Gibbons was appointed for a term that begins March 29, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028.

To the Florida International University Board of Trustees:

Ms. Francis Hondal was appointed for a term that begins March 29, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2025.

To the University of Florida Board of Trustees:

Mr. Daniel O'Keefe was reappointed for a term that begins March 29, 2023 and ends
January 6, 2028.

15-300
I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. Thank you for your assistance
in processing these appointments for their Senate confirmation. Please call me if you
need additional information.



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2023 MAR 30 PM 12:58

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
TALLAHASSEE, FL

Florida Board of Governors
State University System of Florida
200 West College Avenue, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Phone 850.245.0466
Fax: 850.245.9685
www.fibog.edu

March 29, 2023

Mr. Daniel O'Keefe
11068 Bayshore Drive
Windermere, FL 34786

Dear Mr. O'Keefe:

On March 29, 2023, the Florida Board of Governors approved the recommendation made by its Nomination and Governance Committee to reappoint you as a member of the University of Florida Board of Trustees. Please accept our congratulations.

The reappointment acknowledges your numerous career milestones. Your achievements are sure to provide expertise to the State University System of Florida and the University of Florida as you serve in the capacity of a trustee. Your reappointment is subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate, completion of trustee training, a System orientation session, and attendance at the annual Trustee Summit conducted by the Board of Governors. Your term begins on March 29, 2023 and ends on March 29, 2028.

You will receive an Oath of Office form and a Senate Questionnaire from the Florida Department of State. Both forms must be completed and submitted in order for you to be considered for confirmation by the Florida Senate during the 2023 legislative session.

You are also required to file a Statement of Financial Interests form with the Florida Commission on Ethics. We have attached the 2022 Form 1 for your convenience.

Thank you for your willingness to serve. We look forward to working with you as a member of the University of Florida Board of Trustees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ray Rodriguez".

Raymond Rodriguez
Chancellor

c: Brian Lamb, Chair, Board of Governors and Nomination and Governance Committee
Mori Hosseini, Chair, University of Florida Board of Trustees
Ben Sasse, President, University of Florida
Melissa Orth, Board of Trustees Liaison
Shannon True, Director, University Trustee Relations

OATH OF OFFICE

(Art. II, § 5(b), Fla. Const.)

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

2023 APR 26 AM 10:37

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE FL

STATE OF FLORIDA

County of Orange

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the State, and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of

Trustee on the Board of Trustees, University of Florida

(Name of Office)

on which I am now about to enter, so help me God.

[NOTE: If you affirm, you may omit the words "so help me God." See § 92.52, Fla. Stat.]

Dan O'Keefe
Signature

(Affix Seal Below)

Sworn to and subscribed before me by means of ☒ physical presence

Or ☐ online notarization this 25TH day of APRIL, 2023.



TERRY E. BISSEN
Commission # GG 977970
Expires May 22, 2024
Bonded Thru Budget Notary Services

Terry E. Bissen
Signature of Officer Administering Oath or of Notary Public

Terry E. Bissen

Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public

Personally Known ☒ or Produced Identification ☐

Type of Identification Produced _____

ACCEPTANCE

I accept the office listed in the above Oath of Office.

Mailing Address: Home ☒

Office ☐

11068 Bayshore Drive

Street or Post Office Box

Windermere, FL 34786

City, State, Zip Code

Daniel T. O'Keefe

Print Name

Dan O'Keefe
Signature

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: SB 301
Caption: Senate Education Postsecondary Committee

Case No.:

Type:
Judge:

Started: 1/9/2024 4:31:22 PM
Ends: 1/9/2024 5:00:54 PM **Length:** 00:29:33

4:31:21 PM	Chair Grall calls meeting to order
4:31:35 PM	Chair Grall calls meeting to order
4:31:39 PM	Quorum
4:31:49 PM	Tab 4- Tallahassee Community College
4:32:20 PM	Public Testimony
4:32:25 PM	President Jim Murdaugh, Tallahassee Community College
4:32:32 PM	Questions
4:33:12 PM	Senator Stewart
4:33:22 PM	President Jim Murdaugh, Tallahassee Community College
4:33:58 PM	Senator Simon waives close
4:34:07 PM	Roll call
4:34:19 PM	Tab 4 reported
4:34:27 PM	Tab 3- Graduate Program Admissions
4:34:35 PM	Senator Collins recognized to introduce Senator Avila's bill
4:34:51 PM	Amendment by Senator Avila
4:35:25 PM	Senator Collins explains the amendment
4:35:53 PM	Senator Collins waives close on amendment
4:35:56 PM	Back on the bill as amended
4:36:07 PM	Senator Collins waives close on Senator Avila's bill
4:36:18 PM	Roll call
4:36:26 PM	Tab 3 reported
4:36:48 PM	Tab 1- College Campus Facilities in Areas of Critical State Concern
4:36:55 PM	Senator Rodriguez explains the bill
4:37:22 PM	Amendment Barcode 942192
4:38:06 PM	Senator Rodriguez explains the amendment
4:38:42 PM	Senator Rodriguez waives close
4:38:50 PM	On bill as amended
4:39:07 PM	Public testimony
4:39:14 PM	Megan Fay waives in support
4:39:20 PM	Senator Rodriguez waives close
4:39:26 PM	Roll call
4:39:41 PM	Tab 1 reported
4:39:44 PM	Tab 2- Nonpublic Religious Postsecondary Educational Institutions
4:39:50 PM	Senator Rodriguez explains the bill
4:40:35 PM	Questions
4:40:37 PM	Senator Jones
4:40:44 PM	Senator Rodriguez
4:41:06 PM	Public testimony
4:41:14 PM	Dr. Earle Lee
4:45:41 PM	Bob Harris
4:49:08 PM	Mark Anderson, Florida Council of Private Colleges
4:53:36 PM	Debate
4:53:50 PM	Senator Book
4:54:34 PM	Senator Rodriguez closes on the bill
4:56:11 PM	Roll call
4:56:36 PM	Tab 2 reported
4:56:44 PM	Tab 7- OGSR/Campus Emergency Response
4:56:48 PM	Chairs turns to Senator Stewart
4:56:55 PM	Senator Grall explains the bill
4:57:52 PM	Senator Grall moves SPB 7022 be considered a committee bill
4:58:28 PM	Roll call
4:58:39 PM	Tab 7 reported

4:58:47 PM	Chair returns to Senator Grall
4:59:14 PM	Tabs 9-19 Confirmation Hearing for Appointments
4:59:17 PM	Senator Garcia moves to recommend appointees
4:59:27 PM	Roll call
4:59:36 PM	Confirmations reported
4:59:48 PM	Senator Simon wishes to be recorded
5:00:06 PM	Senator Jones moves to adjourn
5:00:11 PM	Meeting adjourned
5:00:39 PM	Recording Paused