

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to postsecondary education;  
3           providing legislative findings and intent;  
4           creating the site-determined baccalaureate  
5           degree access program; authorizing funding;  
6           providing requirements for the use of such  
7           funds; providing for participation by community  
8           colleges and 4-year postsecondary institutions;  
9           specifying duties of the Postsecondary  
10          Education Planning Commission; specifying  
11          funding levels; requiring program reviews and  
12          evaluation; providing an effective date.

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

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16           Section 1. Site-determined baccalaureate degree access  
17 program; funding.--

18           (1) The Legislature recognizes that public and private  
19 postsecondary education institutions play essential roles in  
20 improving the quality of life and economic well-being of the  
21 state and its residents. The Legislature also recognizes that  
22 economic development needs and the educational needs of  
23 place-bound, nontraditional students have increased the demand  
24 for local access to baccalaureate degree programs. In some,  
25 but not all, geographic regions, baccalaureate degree programs  
26 are being delivered successfully at the local community  
27 college through agreements between the community college and  
28 4-year postsecondary institutions within or outside of the  
29 state. It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to apply  
30 this concept in the creation and funding of a program that  
31 supports local economic development and responds to public

1 demand for increased access to baccalaureate degrees in areas  
2 of the state that are underserved by 4-year institutions.

3 (2) Categorical funding is authorized for the  
4 site-determined baccalaureate degree access program created by  
5 this section. Funds may not be used to support the  
6 construction, renovation, or remodeling of facilities. This  
7 program is voluntary and does not preclude other mutually  
8 agreed upon arrangements between community colleges and 4-year  
9 institutions for the delivery of baccalaureate degrees on  
10 community college sites.

11 (3) Each community college wishing to participate in  
12 the site-determined baccalaureate degree access program must:

13 (a) Identify baccalaureate degree programs that are  
14 not currently offered at the community college but are  
15 proposed for delivery at the college to meet the academic and  
16 economic development needs of one or more communities within  
17 the college's service area. When assessing local needs, the  
18 college should seek input from the appropriate chamber of  
19 commerce, workforce development council, and other civic and  
20 business groups. As used in this section, the term "economic  
21 development" means entrepreneurial efforts, the attraction of  
22 new business and industry to the area, and the expansion of  
23 existing business and industry.

24 (b) Determine the number of students interested in  
25 pursuing each proposed baccalaureate degree program and  
26 identify the enrollment patterns, any special characteristics  
27 of those students, and any unique combination or modification  
28 of course offerings that may be necessary to meet student  
29 enrollment needs.

30 (c) Submit a proposal to the Postsecondary Education  
31 Planning Commission requesting validation of the need for the

1 proposed baccalaureate degree program and tentative approval  
2 for program funding. The proposal must include:

3 1. A description of each proposed baccalaureate degree  
4 program identifying the junior-level and senior-level courses  
5 to be offered and designating whether the program should be  
6 offered for a cohort group or as an ongoing degree program.

7 2. Evidence that regional occupational forecasts  
8 support the existence of jobs for graduates of the proposed  
9 baccalaureate degree programs.

10 3. An estimated number of students to be served by  
11 each proposed degree program.

12 4. An assurance that the community college's existing  
13 facilities are sufficient to meet the additional demands for  
14 classroom and laboratory space for the proposed degree  
15 programs.

16 5. Evidence that the college has requested the  
17 participation of no fewer than three regionally accredited  
18 4-year postsecondary institutions, including at least one  
19 member of the State University System. Any member of the  
20 State University System and any independent, regionally  
21 accredited, 4-year institution that is chartered in, and has  
22 its primary campus located in Florida may be a partner in a  
23 site-determined baccalaureate degree access program at any  
24 community college.

25 6. A tentative agreement between the community college  
26 and the 4-year postsecondary institution selected to offer the  
27 upper-level courses leading to the proposed degree or degrees.

28 7. Any additional provisions that the Postsecondary  
29 Education Planning Commission considers pertinent to the  
30 proposal.

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1           (4) The Postsecondary Education Planning Commission,  
2 after soliciting comments from the Board of Regents and the  
3 State Board of Community Colleges, shall validate the need for  
4 each baccalaureate degree program proposed for delivery  
5 according to this section and shall notify the community  
6 college that its proposal has been approved or rejected. The  
7 commission shall establish procedures for the timely  
8 submission, review, and approval of the proposals and  
9 agreements required by this section. These procedures must be  
10 designed to allow the initiation of approved baccalaureate  
11 degree programs at least 3 times each fiscal year.

12           (5) Once the Postsecondary Education Planning  
13 Commission validates the need for the proposed baccalaureate  
14 degree program and notifies the community college that its  
15 proposal has been approved, the community college shall  
16 finalize an agreement with the regionally accredited, public  
17 or nonpublic, 4-year postsecondary institution selected to  
18 provide the upper-level instructional services in the approved  
19 baccalaureate degree program. The commission shall identify  
20 the common aspects that each agreement must address,  
21 including, but not limited to:

22           (a) A course delivery pattern based on the student  
23 enrollment patterns and characteristics included in the  
24 approved proposal.

25           (b) An articulation provision that guarantees  
26 acceptance of students who hold an associate in arts or  
27 associate in science degree and satisfy any other  
28 prerequisites for admission to the specific baccalaureate  
29 degree program.

30           (c) The provision of library services and student  
31 support services.

1           (d) An agreement that the participating 4-year  
2 postsecondary institution will continue offering instructional  
3 services at least until all qualified members of the initial  
4 group of students have had an opportunity to complete the  
5 degree program.

6           (e) The specific and measurable performance criteria  
7 that the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission may use  
8 to evaluate the outcomes and outputs of the baccalaureate  
9 degree program within an identified timeframe.

10           (f) An agreement that in-state student tuition for the  
11 degree program will not exceed the matriculation fee for the  
12 State University System unless the proposal approved by the  
13 Postsecondary Education Planning Commission allows the  
14 participating institutions to charge differentiated tuition  
15 and fees to encourage student attendance and participation.  
16 Out-of-state students shall pay full costs. Notwithstanding  
17 section 240.605, Florida Statutes, students participating in a  
18 site-determined baccalaureate degree program may not receive a  
19 Florida Resident Access Grant.

20           (6) Each participating community college must submit  
21 the agreement required by this section to the Postsecondary  
22 Education Planning Commission for review and final approval  
23 before initiating an approved site-determined baccalaureate  
24 degree access program. The Postsecondary Education Planning  
25 Commission must recommend to the Commissioner of Education the  
26 total funds to be released to each participating community  
27 college for the initiation of the approved site-determined  
28 baccalaureate degree access program. The community college  
29 shall distribute funds to the participating 4-year  
30 postsecondary institution at the rate specified in the  
31 approved agreement. The Postsecondary Education Planning

1 Commission shall not recommend the release of funding for any  
2 program that is terminated before or after the evaluation  
3 required by this section. The total funds to be released for  
4 the initiation of an approved program shall be based on the  
5 number of fundable upper-level student credit hours for each  
6 term. Unless otherwise provided in an appropriations act, the  
7 funding per credit hour shall be an amount equal to the state  
8 funds, excluding student fees, appropriated to the State  
9 University System for each full-time equivalent student  
10 enrolled in upper-level course work. Student credit hours  
11 funded under this program may not be duplicated in any other  
12 calculation of state funding for the 4-year institution.

13 (7) The Postsecondary Education Planning Commission  
14 may require the participating community colleges and 4-year  
15 postsecondary institutions to submit information necessary to  
16 monitor the annual performance of the program. Within 90 days  
17 after the 2nd and 4th year of the site-determined  
18 baccalaureate degree access program, the commission shall  
19 submit to the chairs of the education and fiscal committees of  
20 the Legislature a progress report, including an evaluation of  
21 the funding mechanism created by this section. The commission  
22 shall review each site-determined baccalaureate degree access  
23 program funded under this section to ascertain whether the  
24 performance measures specified in the agreement between the  
25 participating community college and the 4-year institution  
26 have been met. Each program must be reviewed 4 years after  
27 initiation unless a shorter timeframe is specified in the  
28 agreement. The performance measures must include the student  
29 graduation rate, the employment rate of program graduates both  
30 within and outside the community college service area, the  
31 continuing need to offer the specific baccalaureate degree

1 program in the community college service area, and such other  
2 information as the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission  
3 may determine necessary for program and performance  
4 evaluation. Based on its evaluation, the commission shall  
5 either approve continuation of the program, require  
6 modifications prior to program approval, or recommend that the  
7 participating institutions terminate the program after all  
8 qualified members of the initial group of students have an  
9 opportunity to complete the degree program. The commission  
10 must submit to the Commissioner of Education for inclusion in  
11 the legislative budget a request for funding for approved  
12 site-determined baccalaureate degree access programs.

13 (8) If no accredited 4-year institution is willing to  
14 provide a baccalaureate degree program approved by the  
15 Postsecondary Education Planning Commission under this  
16 section, the community college board of trustees may ask the  
17 commission to evaluate the college's request to offer the  
18 degree program. If the commission is satisfied that the  
19 community college should offer the degree program, it shall  
20 recommend to the Legislature the enactment of statutory  
21 authority for the community college to offer that specific  
22 baccalaureate degree program.

23 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
24 law.

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