

By the Committee on Colleges & Universities and  
Representative Sanderson

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to postsecondary education;  
3           requiring the Board of Regents to oversee a  
4           study; requiring an independent consultant to  
5           conduct a study; providing an effective date.  
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7           WHEREAS, the social, economic, and technological  
8           changes taking place in our environment require the state to  
9           strive to eliminate any systemic, institutional, or geographic  
10          barriers to providing qualified students with postsecondary  
11          opportunities that will allow them timely access to degree  
12          attainment, and  
13          WHEREAS, Florida's production of baccalaureate degrees  
14          ranks among the lowest in the nation, and  
15          WHEREAS, Florida has the fewest number of 4-year public  
16          postsecondary institutions of any major state and those  
17          institutions, on average, are some of the largest institutions  
18          in the nation, and  
19          WHEREAS, Florida's higher education institutions have  
20          been able to accommodate limited growth in the past, the  
21          future will almost certainly require innovative ways to serve  
22          increased demands for 4-year degree programs, and  
23          WHEREAS, the structure of Florida's postsecondary  
24          delivery system will directly determine the effectiveness of  
25          the state's efforts to increase access both to educational  
26          opportunities and the production of graduates, and  
27          WHEREAS, the advantages of increasing degree access  
28          through universities that are primarily teaching institutions  
29          versus a research university model are lower operating costs,  
30          a focus on undergraduate education, and a limited  
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1 institutional mission without doctoral programs or a heavy  
2 concentration on research, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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6 Section 1. (1) During the interim preceding the 2001  
7 Regular Session of the Legislature, the Board of Regents shall  
8 oversee a study which shall examine the following:

9 (a) The production of baccalaureate and graduate  
10 degrees.

11 (b) The evaluation of facilities.

12 (c) The evaluation of sites.

13 (d) The evaluation of needs, including the  
14 availability of postsecondary education opportunities provided  
15 by existing institutions.

16 (2) This study shall be performed by an independent  
17 consultant with expertise in the field of postsecondary  
18 institutions. A report of final recommendations shall be  
19 presented to the Legislature by January 1, 2001.

20 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
21 law.