

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to higher education; amending  
3           s. 240.3836, F.S.; providing legislative  
4           intent; providing a process for authorizing  
5           community colleges to offer baccalaureate  
6           degree programs; amending s. 240.2011, F.S.;  
7           creating a fiscally autonomous campus of the  
8           University of South Florida; amending s.  
9           240.527, F.S.; requiring a Campus Board of the  
10          University of South Florida St. Petersburg;  
11          requiring separate accreditation; providing  
12          powers and duties of the Campus Board and the  
13          Campus Executive Officer; providing a procedure  
14          for preparing a budget request; providing for  
15          central support services contracts and a letter  
16          of agreement; excluding certain entities from  
17          certain provisions; adding to the State  
18          University System the New College in Sarasota;  
19          creating fiscally autonomous campuses of the  
20          University of South Florida; requiring a Campus  
21          Board of the University of South Florida  
22          Sarasota/Manatee; authorizing separate  
23          accreditation; providing powers and duties of  
24          the Campus Board and the Campus Executive  
25          Officer; providing a procedure for preparing a  
26          budget request; providing for  
27          central-support-services contracts and a letter  
28          of agreement; establishing a mission, goals,  
29          and board of trustees for New College of  
30          Florida; providing Legislative intent;  
31          redesignating St. Petersburg Junior College as

1 "St. Petersburg College"; requiring  
2 accreditation; providing a mission; providing  
3 for students and fees; providing conditional  
4 authority to offer baccalaureate-degree-level  
5 programs; authorizing certain  
6 baccalaureate-degree programs and a process for  
7 increasing their number; establishing a  
8 governing board and a coordinating board;  
9 providing for dispute resolution; providing for  
10 certain employment classifications; providing  
11 for the acquisition of land, buildings, and  
12 equipment; authorizing the power of eminent  
13 domain; providing for state funding; requiring  
14 a cost-accounting process; providing an  
15 effective date.

16  
17 WHEREAS, in the past 10 years, Florida has aggressively  
18 pursued strategies to increase the number of citizens who  
19 complete a high-quality baccalaureate degree program,  
20 including the allocation of over \$575 million to build a new  
21 university, add branch campuses and centers for existing  
22 universities, create joint-use facilities in cooperation with  
23 community colleges, and increase the use of technology, and

24 WHEREAS, despite these efforts, Florida continues to  
25 rank among the lowest in the nation in the production of  
26 baccalaureate degrees, especially in the fields experiencing  
27 the greatest workforce demand, and

28 WHEREAS, these high-demand fields include teachers,  
29 health care professionals, and qualified managers for private  
30 firms and public service agencies, including agencies that  
31 protect public safety, and

1           WHEREAS, Pinellas County is Florida's most densely  
2 populated county and is experiencing great need for these  
3 professionals, and it has no free-standing state university,  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, Pinellas County is home to more than twice as  
6 many college-age citizens as the number who live in four of  
7 the counties that have free-standing state universities, and

8           WHEREAS, enrollment at the College University Center at  
9 St. Petersburg Junior College has increased to 725 students in  
10 only 1 year of operation, providing positive proof that the  
11 area can benefit from innovative access to  
12 baccalaureate-degree education that is affordable and  
13 convenient to students who are working full time, NOW  
14 THEREFORE,

15  
16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

17  
18           Section 1. Section 240.3836, Florida Statutes, is  
19 amended to read:

20           240.3836 Site-determined baccalaureate degree access  
21 program; funding.--

22           (1) The Legislature recognizes that public and private  
23 postsecondary education institutions play essential roles in  
24 improving the quality of life and economic well-being of the  
25 state and its residents. The Legislature also recognizes that  
26 economic development needs and the educational needs of  
27 place-bound, nontraditional students have increased the demand  
28 for local access to baccalaureate degree programs. In some,  
29 but not all, geographic regions, baccalaureate degree programs  
30 are being delivered successfully at the local community  
31 college through agreements between the community college and

1 4-year postsecondary institutions within or outside of the  
2 state. It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to  
3 further expand access to baccalaureate degree programs through  
4 the use of community colleges ~~apply this concept in the~~  
5 ~~creation and funding of a program that supports local economic~~  
6 ~~development and responds to public demand for increased access~~  
7 ~~to baccalaureate degrees in areas of the state that are~~  
8 ~~underserved by 4-year institutions.~~

9 (2) A community college may be authorized by the State  
10 Board of Education to offer a limited number of baccalaureate  
11 degrees designed to meet local workforce needs through one of  
12 the following processes:

13 (a) A community college may enter into a formal  
14 agreement with the state university in its service area for  
15 the community college to deliver specified baccalaureate  
16 degree programs. The agreement must be submitted to the State  
17 Board of Education for approval. The college's proposal must  
18 include the following information:

19 1. Demand for the baccalaureate degree program is  
20 identified by the workforce development board, local  
21 businesses and industry, local chambers of commerce, and  
22 potential students.

23 2. Unmet need for graduates of the proposed degree  
24 program is substantiated.

25 3. The community college has the facilities and  
26 academic resources to deliver the program.

27  
28 The proposal must be submitted to the Postsecondary Education  
29 Planning Commission for review and comment. Upon approval of  
30 the State Board of Education for the specific degree program  
31 or programs, the college shall pursue regional accreditation

1 by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of  
2 Colleges and Schools. Any additional baccalaureate degree  
3 programs the college wishes to offer must be approved by the  
4 State Board of Education.

5 (b) A community college may develop a proposal to  
6 deliver specified baccalaureate degree programs in its  
7 district. The proposal must be submitted to the State Board of  
8 Education for approval. The college's proposal must include  
9 the following information:

10 1. Demand for the baccalaureate degree program is  
11 identified by the workforce development board, local  
12 businesses and industry, local chambers of commerce, and  
13 potential students.

14 2. Unmet need for graduates of the proposed degree  
15 program is substantiated.

16 3. The community college has the facilities and  
17 academic resources to deliver the program.

18  
19 The proposal must be submitted to the Postsecondary Education  
20 Planning Commission for review and comment. Upon approval of  
21 the State Board of Education for the specific degree program  
22 or programs, the college shall pursue regional accreditation  
23 by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of  
24 Colleges and Schools. Any additional baccalaureate degree  
25 programs the college wishes to offer must be approved by the  
26 State Board of Education.

27 (3) A community college may not terminate its  
28 Associate-in-Arts or Associate-in-Science degree programs as a  
29 result of the authorization provided in subsection (2). The  
30 Legislature intends that the primary mission of a community  
31 college, including a college that offers baccalaureate-degree

1 programs, continues to be the provision of associate degrees  
2 that provide access to a university.

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 local occupational forecasts support~~  
8 ~~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.~~

31

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 ~~s. 240.605, students participating in a site-determined~~  
18 ~~baccalaureate degree program may not receive a Florida~~  
19 ~~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. Subject to the availability of~~  
25 ~~legislative appropriations specifically provided for this~~  
26 ~~purpose, the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission must~~  
27 ~~recommend to the Commissioner of Education the total funds to~~  
28 ~~be released to each participating community college for the~~  
29 ~~initiation of the approved site-determined baccalaureate~~  
30 ~~degree access program. The community college shall distribute~~  
31 ~~funds to the participating 4-year postsecondary institution at~~

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

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

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

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

25 Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 240.2011, Florida  
26 Statutes, is amended to read:

27 240.2011 State University System defined.--The State  
28 University System shall consist of the following:

29 (5) The University of South Florida, with a main  
30 campus located in Hillsborough County and a fiscally

31

1 autonomous campus in Pinellas County, named the University of  
2 South Florida St. Petersburg.

3 Section 3. Section 240.527, Florida Statutes, is  
4 amended to read:

5 (Substantial rewording of section. See  
6 s. 240.527, F.S., for present text.)

7 240.527 The University of South Florida St.  
8 Petersburg.--

9 (1) The St. Petersburg campus of the University of  
10 South Florida is established and shall be known as the  
11 "University of South Florida St. Petersburg."

12 (a) The Legislature intends that the University of  
13 South Florida St. Petersburg be operated and maintained as a  
14 separate organizational and budget entity of the University of  
15 South Florida, and that all legislative appropriations for the  
16 University of South Florida St. Petersburg be set forth as  
17 separate line items in the annual General Appropriations Act.

18 (b) The University of South Florida St. Petersburg  
19 shall have a Campus Board and a Campus Executive Officer.

20 (c) As soon as possible, but no later than the  
21 effective date of this act, the President of the University of  
22 South Florida shall begin the process of application to the  
23 Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges  
24 and Schools for separate accreditation of the University of  
25 South Florida St. Petersburg. If the application is not  
26 approved or is provisionally approved, the University of South  
27 Florida shall correct any identified deficiencies and shall  
28 continue to work for accreditation.

29 (2) The Board of Trustees of the University of South  
30 Florida shall appoint to the Campus Board, from  
31 recommendations of the President of the University of South

1 Florida, five residents of Pinellas County. If a resident of  
2 Pinellas County is appointed to the Board of Trustees of the  
3 University of South Florida, the board shall appoint that  
4 member to serve jointly as a member of the Campus Board. If  
5 more than one Pinellas County resident is appointed to the  
6 Board of Trustees, the board shall select one joint member.  
7 The Board of Trustees may reappoint a member to the Campus  
8 Board for one additional term. The Campus Board has the powers  
9 and duties provided by law, which include the authority to:

10 (a) Review and approve an annual legislative budget  
11 request to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education. The  
12 Campus Executive Officer shall prepare the legislative budget  
13 request in accordance with guidelines established by the  
14 Florida Board of Education. This request must include items  
15 for campus operations and fixed capital outlay.

16 (b) Approve and submit an annual operating plan and  
17 budget for review and consultation by the Board of Trustees of  
18 the University of South Florida. The campus operating budget  
19 must reflect the actual funding available to that campus from  
20 separate line-item appropriations contained in each annual  
21 General Appropriations Act, which line-item appropriations  
22 must initially reflect the funds reported to the Florida  
23 Legislature for the University of South Florida St. Petersburg  
24 Campus for fiscal year 2000-2001 and any additional funds  
25 provided in the fiscal year 2001-2002 legislative  
26 appropriation.

27 (c) Enter into central support services contracts with  
28 the Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida for  
29 any services that the St. Petersburg campus cannot provide  
30 more economically, including payroll processing, accounting,  
31 technology, construction administration, and other desired

1 services. However, all legal services for the campus must be  
2 provided by a central services contract with the university.  
3 The Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida and  
4 the Campus Board shall determine in a letter of agreement any  
5 allocation or sharing of student fee revenue between the  
6 University of South Florida's main campus and the St.  
7 Petersburg campus.

8  
9 The Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida may  
10 lawfully delegate other powers and duties to the Campus Board  
11 for the efficient operation and improvement of the campus and  
12 for the purpose of vesting in the campus the attributes  
13 necessary to meet the requirements for separate accreditation  
14 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

15 (3) The University of South Florida St. Petersburg  
16 shall be administered by a Campus Executive Officer who shall  
17 be appointed by, report directly to, and serve at the pleasure  
18 of the President of the University of South Florida. The  
19 President shall consult with the Campus Board before hiring or  
20 terminating the Campus Executive Officer. The Campus Executive  
21 Officer has authority and responsibility as provided in law,  
22 including the authority to:

23 (a) Administer campus operations within the annual  
24 operating budget as approved by the Campus Board.

25 (b) Recommend to the Campus Board an annual  
26 legislative budget request that includes funding for campus  
27 operations and fixed capital outlay.

28 (c) Recommend to the Campus Board an annual campus  
29 operating budget.

30  
31

1           (d) Recommend to the Campus Board appropriate services  
2 and terms and conditions to be included in annual central  
3 support services contracts.

4           (e) Carry out any additional responsibilities assigned  
5 or delegated by the President of the University of South  
6 Florida for the efficient operation and improvement of the  
7 campus, especially any authority necessary for the purpose of  
8 vesting in the campus attributes necessary to meet the  
9 requirements for separate accreditation.

10           (4) Students enrolled at the University of South  
11 Florida, including those enrolled at a branch campus, have the  
12 same rights and obligations as provided by law, policy, or  
13 rule adopted by the University of South Florida, the Florida  
14 Department of Education, or other lawful entity. The  
15 University of South Florida shall provide a comprehensive and  
16 coordinated system of student registration so that a student  
17 enrolled at any campus of the University of South Florida has  
18 the ability to register for courses at any other campus of the  
19 University of South Florida.

20           (5) The following entities are not affected by this  
21 section and remain under the administrative control of the  
22 University of South Florida:

23           (a) The University of South Florida College of Marine  
24 Science, which is a component college of the main campus.

25           (b) The Florida Institute of Oceanography, which is a  
26 Type One Institute.

27           (c) The University of South Florida Pediatric Research  
28 Center.

29           (d) The University of South Florida/USGS joint  
30 facility.

31

1           (6) Nothing contained within this section shall be  
2 construed to adversely impact the accreditation of the  
3 University of South Florida.

4           Section 4. Effective July 1, 2001, subsection (5) of  
5 section 240.2011, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection  
6 (12) is added to that section, to read:

7           240.2011 State University System defined.--The State  
8 University System shall consist of the following:

9           (5) The University of South Florida, with a main  
10 campus located in Hillsborough County and two fiscally  
11 autonomous campuses, one in Pinellas County, named the  
12 University of South Florida St. Petersburg, and the other  
13 named the University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee.

14           (12) New College of Florida, located in Sarasota  
15 County, which is the 4-year residential liberal arts honors  
16 college of the state of Florida.

17           Section 5. The University of South Florida  
18 Sarasota/Manatee.--

19           (1) The Sarasota/Manatee campus of the University of  
20 South Florida is established and shall be known as the  
21 "University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee."

22           (a) The Legislature intends that the University of  
23 South Florida Sarasota/Manatee be operated and maintained as a  
24 separate organizational and budget entity of the University of  
25 South Florida and that all legislative appropriations for the  
26 University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee be set forth as  
27 separate line items in the annual General Appropriations Act.

28           (b) The University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee  
29 shall have a Campus Board and a Campus Executive Officer.

30           (c) As soon as possible, but no later than July 1,  
31 2002, the President of the University of South Florida shall



1 begin the process of application to the Commission on Colleges  
2 of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for  
3 separate accreditation of the University of South Florida  
4 Sarasota/Manatee. If the application is not approved or is  
5 provisionally approved, the University of South Florida shall  
6 correct any identified deficiencies and shall continue to work  
7 for accreditation.

8 (2) The Board of Trustees of the University of South  
9 Florida shall appoint to the Campus Board, from  
10 recommendations of the President of the University of South  
11 Florida, three residents of Manatee County and two residents  
12 of Sarasota County, to serve 4-year staggered terms. If one or  
13 more residents of Sarasota County or Manatee County is  
14 appointed to the Board of Trustees of the University of South  
15 Florida, the board shall, at the next vacancy of the campus  
16 board, appoint one of those members to serve jointly as a  
17 member of the Campus Board. The Board of Trustees may  
18 reappoint a member to the Campus Board for one additional  
19 term. The Campus Board has the powers and duties provided by  
20 law, which include the authority to:

21 (a) Review and approve an annual legislative budget  
22 request to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education. The  
23 Campus Executive Officer shall prepare the legislative budget  
24 request in accordance with guidelines established by the  
25 Florida Board of Education. This request must include items  
26 for campus operations and fixed capital outlay.

27 (b) Approve and submit an annual operating plan and  
28 budget for review and consultation by the Board of Trustees of  
29 the University of South Florida. The campus operating budget  
30 must reflect the actual funding available to that campus from  
31 separate line-item appropriations contained in each annual

1 General Appropriations Act, which line-item appropriations  
2 must initially reflect the funds reported to the Florida  
3 Legislature for the University of South Florida  
4 Sarasota/Manatee Campus for fiscal year 2000-2001 and any  
5 additional funds provided in the fiscal year 2001-2002  
6 legislative appropriation.

7 (c) Enter into central support services contracts with  
8 the Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida for  
9 any services that the campus at Sarasota/Manatee cannot  
10 provide more economically, including payroll processing,  
11 accounting, technology, construction administration, and other  
12 desired services. However, all legal services for the campus  
13 must be provided by a central services contract with the  
14 university. The Board of Trustees of the University of South  
15 Florida and the Campus Board shall determine in a letter of  
16 agreement any allocation or sharing of student fee revenue  
17 between the University of South Florida's main campus and the  
18 Sarasota/Manatee campus.

19  
20 The Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida may  
21 lawfully delegate other powers and duties to the Campus Board  
22 for the efficient operation and improvement of the campus and  
23 for the purpose of vesting in the campus the attributes  
24 necessary to meet the requirements for separate accreditation  
25 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

26 (3) The University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee  
27 shall be administered by a Campus Executive Officer who shall  
28 be appointed by, report directly to, and serve at the pleasure  
29 of the President of the University of South Florida. The  
30 President shall consult with the Campus Board before hiring or  
31 terminating the Campus Executive Officer. The Campus Executive

1 Officer has authority and responsibility as provided in law,  
2 including the authority to:

3 (a) Administer campus operations within the annual  
4 operating budget as approved by the Campus Board.

5 (b) Recommend to the Campus Board an annual  
6 legislative budget request that includes funding for campus  
7 operations and fixed capital outlay.

8 (c) Recommend to the Campus Board an annual campus  
9 operating budget.

10 (d) Recommend to the Campus Board appropriate services  
11 and terms and conditions to be included in annual central  
12 support services contracts.

13 (e) Carry out any additional responsibilities assigned  
14 or delegated by the President of the University of South  
15 Florida for the efficient operation and improvement of the  
16 campus, especially any authority necessary for the purpose of  
17 vesting in the campus attributes necessary to meet the  
18 requirements for separate accreditation.

19 (4) Students enrolled at the University of South  
20 Florida, including those enrolled at a branch campus, have the  
21 same rights and obligations as provided by law, policy, or  
22 rule adopted by the University of South Florida, the Florida  
23 Department of Education, or other lawful entity. The  
24 University of South Florida shall provide a comprehensive and  
25 coordinated system of student registration so that a student  
26 enrolled at any campus of the University of South Florida has  
27 the ability to register for courses at any other campus of the  
28 University of South Florida.

29 (5) Promote technology transfer between the research  
30 operations of the University of South Florida and local  
31 economic development agencies.

- 1           Section 6. New College of Florida.--  
2           (1) Mission and goals.--As a member of the State  
3 University System of Florida, New College of Florida preserves  
4 its distinctive mission as a residential liberal arts honors  
5 college. To maintain this mission, New College of Florida has  
6 the following goals:  
7           (a) To provide a quality education to students of high  
8 ability who, because of their ability, deserve a program of  
9 study that is both demanding and stimulating.  
10           (b) To engage in undergraduate educational reform by  
11 combining educational innovation with educational excellence.  
12           (c) To provide programs of study that allow students  
13 to design their educational experience as much as possible in  
14 accordance with their individual interests, values, and  
15 abilities.  
16           (d) To challenge undergraduates not only to master  
17 existing bodies of knowledge but also to extend the frontiers  
18 of knowledge through original research.  
19           (2) Accreditation.--As soon as possible, New College  
20 of Florida shall apply to the Commission on Colleges of the  
21 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for separate  
22 accreditation.  
23           (3) Board of Trustees.--The Governor shall appoint 11  
24 members to the Board of Trustees, to serve 4-year staggered  
25 terms, as follows:  
26           (a) Three residents of Sarasota County.  
27           (b) Two residents of Manatee County.  
28           (c) Until the expiration date of the terms of office  
29 of the members who are on the board June 30, 2001, six members  
30 shall be selected from the Board of Trustees of the New  
31 College Foundation.

1           Section 7. Legislative intent.--The Legislature  
2 intends to create an innovative means to increase access to  
3 baccalaureate-degree-level education in populous counties that  
4 are underserved by public baccalaureate-degree-granting  
5 institutions. This education is intended to address the  
6 state's workforce needs, especially the need for teachers,  
7 nurses, and business managers in agencies and firms that  
8 require expertise in technology.

9           Section 8. St. Petersburg College; mission.--St.  
10 Petersburg Junior College is redesignated as St. Petersburg  
11 College. The college shall immediately seek accreditation from  
12 the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as a  
13 baccalaureate-degree-granting college.

14           (1) The primary mission of St. Petersburg College is  
15 to provide high-quality undergraduate education at an  
16 affordable price for students and the state. The purpose is to  
17 promote economic development by preparing people for  
18 occupations that require a bachelor's degree and are in demand  
19 by existing or emerging public and private employers in this  
20 state.

21           (2) The college is to maintain the mission and  
22 policies of a Florida community college, including the  
23 open-door admissions policy and the authority to offer all  
24 programs consistent with a public community college's  
25 authority.

26           (3) St. Petersburg College shall maintain the  
27 distinction between the college and its university center. St.  
28 Petersburg College is limited to community college programs  
29 and to selected baccalaureate-degree-level programs that meet  
30 community needs and are authorized as provided by this act.  
31 The University Center may make available more diverse program

1 offerings, but those programs are offered by a participating  
2 college or university and are not to be classified or funded  
3 as a program of St. Petersburg College.

4 (4) The academic policies of the upper-division  
5 program at St. Petersburg College must be in accordance with  
6 policies of the State University System.

7 (5) Sections 240.293 and 240.2945, Florida Statutes,  
8 apply to St. Petersburg College.

9 Section 9. St. Petersburg College; students.--

10 (1) St. Petersburg College shall maintain separate  
11 records for students who are enrolled in courses classified in  
12 the upper division and lower division of a baccalaureate  
13 program, according to the Common Course Numbering System. A  
14 student shall be reported as a community college student for  
15 enrollment in a lower-division course and as a  
16 baccalaureate-degree-program student for enrollment in an  
17 upper-division course.

18 (2) The Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College  
19 shall establish the level of matriculation, tuition, and other  
20 authorized student fees.

21 (a) For each credit hour of enrollment in a  
22 certificate-level course or lower-division-level college  
23 credit course, matriculation and tuition fees must be within  
24 the range authorized in law and rule for a community college  
25 student at that level.

26 (b) For each credit hour of enrollment in an  
27 upper-division-level course, matriculation and tuition fees  
28 must be in an amount established by the Board of Trustees of  
29 St. Petersburg College. However, fees for upper-division  
30 students must reflect the fact that the college does not incur  
31 the costs of major research programs. Therefore, the board

1 shall establish fees for upper-division students within a  
2 range that is lower than the fees established for students at  
3 a public university but higher than the fees for community  
4 college students.

5 (c) Other mandatory fees and local fees must be at the  
6 same level for all lower division students. For upper division  
7 students, other mandatory fees and local fees must be at a  
8 level less than fees established for University of South  
9 Florida students, regardless of program enrollment or level.  
10 However, students in workforce development education courses  
11 maintain the authorized fee exemptions described in section  
12 239.117, Florida Statutes, and may be exempt from local fees  
13 imposed by the Board of Trustees, at the board's discretion.

14 Section 10. St. Petersburg College; degrees.--

15 (1) In addition to the certificates, diplomas, and  
16 degrees authorized in section 240.301, Florida Statutes, St.  
17 Petersburg College may offer selected baccalaureate degrees.  
18 Initially, the college may offer programs that lead to a  
19 baccalaureate degree in the following fields:

20 (a) Bachelor of Science in Nursing. This program must  
21 be designed to articulate with the Associate in Science Degree  
22 in nursing. St. Petersburg College shall continue to offer the  
23 Associate in Science degree in nursing.

24 (b) Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in  
25 Elementary Education.

26 (c) Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in  
27 Special Education.

28 (d) Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in  
29 Secondary Education.

30 (e) Bachelor of Applied Science in fields selected by  
31 the Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College. The board

1 shall base the selection on an analysis of workforce needs and  
2 opportunities in the following counties: Pinellas, Pasco,  
3 Hernando, and other counties approved by the Florida  
4 Department of Education. For each program selected, St.  
5 Petersburg College must offer a related Associate-in-Science  
6 or Associate-in-Applied-Science degree program, and the  
7 baccalaureate-degree-level program must be designed to  
8 articulate fully with at least one Associate-in-Science degree  
9 program. The college is encouraged to develop articulation  
10 agreements for enrollment of graduates of related  
11 Associate-in-Applied-Science degree programs.

12 (2) St. Petersburg College may offer courses that  
13 enable teachers to qualify for certification and  
14 recertification as required by law or rule.

15 (3) The college may offer programs to provide  
16 opportunities for a person who holds a baccalaureate degree,  
17 but is not certified to teach, to obtain any additional  
18 courses required for teacher certification.

19 (4) Masters-degree-level programs and doctoral  
20 programs may be provided by agreement with a college or  
21 university participating in the University Center of St.  
22 Petersburg College.

23 (5) For those students living outside Pinellas County,  
24 St. Petersburg College shall recruit for the upper-division  
25 only those students who have earned an associate degree. In  
26 recruiting upper division students in Pasco and Hernando  
27 Counties, St. Petersburg College shall work cooperatively with  
28 Pasco-Hernando Community College and shall seek to offer  
29 courses and programs at Pasco-Hernando Community College when  
30 feasible. The nursing programs, in particular, must be  
31 conducted cooperatively, and programs at St. Petersburg



1 College shall not conflict with Pasco-Hernando Community  
2 College's and the University of South Florida's cooperative  
3 nursing program.

4 Section 11. St. Petersburg College; boards.--

5 (1) The Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg Junior  
6 College is renamed the Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg  
7 College and serves as its governing board. The Governor shall  
8 appoint members as provided in section 240.313, Florida  
9 Statutes, and the board has the duties and authorities granted  
10 in sections 240.315 and 240.319, Florida Statutes, and by  
11 rules of the State Board of Education.

12 (2) The Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College  
13 may authorize direct support organizations as authorized in  
14 sections 240.299 and 240.331, Florida Statutes.

15 (3) The Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College  
16 may continue to award degrees, diplomas, and certificates as  
17 authorized for St. Petersburg Junior College, and in the name  
18 of St. Petersburg Junior College, until St. Petersburg College  
19 receives its accreditation.

20 (4) A coordinating board shall assist the Board of  
21 Trustees in its deliberations concerning issues that affect  
22 the upper division of the college. The coordinating board  
23 consists of the President of the University of South Florida,  
24 the President of St. Petersburg College, the President of  
25 Pasco-Hernando Community College, and the chairpersons of the  
26 boards of trustees of those institutions.

27 (5) Beginning 4 years after the college receives  
28 accreditation to offer baccalaureate degrees, the Board of  
29 Trustees of St. Petersburg College may determine additional  
30 programs to be offered, with the approval of the coordinating  
31

1 board. The determination must consider community needs and  
2 economic opportunities.

3 (6) The coordinating board shall meet at the request  
4 of the President of the University of South Florida or the  
5 President of St. Petersburg College.

6 (7) If the coordinating board cannot decide an issue  
7 of importance to the programs designed for upper-division  
8 students, the chief educational officer of this state shall  
9 resolve the issue.

10 Section 12. St. Petersburg College; employees.--

11 (1) Employment at St. Petersburg College is governed  
12 by the same laws that govern community colleges, except that  
13 upper-division faculty are eligible for continuing contract  
14 upon the completion of the fifth year of teaching.

15 (2) Employee records for all personnel shall be  
16 maintained as required by s. 240.337, Florida Statutes.

17 Section 13. St. Petersburg College; facilities.--The

18 St. Petersburg College may request funding from the Public  
19 Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund as a  
20 community college and as a university. The municipalities of  
21 Pinellas County, the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas  
22 County, and all other governmental entities are authorized to  
23 cooperate with the Board of Trustees in establishing this  
24 institution. The acquisition and donation of lands, buildings,  
25 and equipment for the use of St. Petersburg College are  
26 authorized as a public purpose. The Board of County  
27 Commissioners of Pinellas County and all municipalities in  
28 Pinellas County may exercise the power of eminent domain to  
29 acquire lands, buildings, and equipment for the use of St.  
30 Petersburg College, regardless of whether such lands,

31

1 buildings, and equipment are located in a community  
2 redevelopment area.

3 Section 14. St. Petersburg College; state funding.--

4 (1) The Legislature intends to fund St. Petersburg  
5 College as a community college for its workforce development  
6 education programs and for its lower-division-level college  
7 credit courses and programs.

8 (2) The Legislature intends to fund St. Petersburg  
9 College as a baccalaureate-degree-level institution for its  
10 upper-division-level courses and programs.

11 (3) During the 2001-2002 fiscal year, St. Petersburg  
12 College shall estimate the appropriate level of funding for  
13 these programs. By March 1, 2002, the college shall complete a  
14 cost study and shall submit to the Legislature a proposal for  
15 cost accounting and legislative budget requests designed to  
16 acknowledge its unique classification. The cost study must  
17 indicate actual costs projected for the first 4 years of  
18 operation as a baccalaureate-level institution, with the first  
19 students expected to enroll in the upper division in fall  
20 semester of 2002.

21 Section 15. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.  
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