

**STORAGE NAME:** h1801.cu.doc  
**DATE:** March 23, 2001

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON  
COMMITTEE ON COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES  
ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 1801 (PCB CU 01-01)  
**RELATING TO:** The University of West Florida and Florida Atlantic University  
**SPONSOR (S):** Committee on Colleges & Universities & Representative Kilmer  
**TIED BILL (S):** None

**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE (S)/COUNCIL (S)/COMMITTEE (S) OF REFERENCE:**

- (1) COMMITTEE ON COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES YEAS 11 NAYS 0
  - (2)
  - (3)
  - (4)
  - (5)
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I. SUMMARY:

Current law authorizes the Board of Regents (BOR) to approve new degree programs for state universities but prohibits the establishment of any new college, school, or functional equivalent of any program leading to a degree which is offered as a credential for a specific license granted under the Florida Statutes or State Constitution without specific approval of the Legislature.

The BOR approved implementation authorization for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of West Florida (UWF) in November 2000. UWF would like to begin implementation of the program with the admission of freshmen in Fall 2001. Proof of graduation from an approved nursing program is necessary to become a registered professional nurse or a licensed practical nurse in Florida. This bill authorizes a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program at UWF.

The BOR approved implementation authorization for a Master's in Social Work at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) in July 2000. FAU would like to begin implementation of the program by admitting the first class for Fall 2001. A master's or doctoral degree from a graduate school of social work is necessary to become a licensed clinical social worker. This bill authorizes a Master's in Social Work degree program at FAU.

Information provided by UWF estimates the first year cost of the proposed nursing program to be \$512,260. Information provided by FAU estimates the first year cost of the proposed social work program to be \$362,380.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- |                                   |   |  |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 1. <u>Less Government</u>         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 2. <u>Lower Taxes</u>             | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. <u>Individual Freedom</u>      | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 4. <u>Personal Responsibility</u> | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 5. <u>Family Empowerment</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

This bill authorizes new degree program offerings at the University of West Florida (UWF) and Florida Atlantic University (FAU).

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

**State University System Academic Degree Program Approval**

Section 240.209(3)(c), F.S., authorizes the Board of Regents (BOR) to approve new degree programs for all state universities. In approving a new degree program, the BOR considers 25 criteria in the evaluation process: strategic plan; program duplication; planning process; appropriate timetable; needs assessment; headcount/FTE estimates; appropriate course of study; appropriate credit hours; common prerequisites; institutional strengths; recent program review follow-up; exploration of distance learning; faculty availability; faculty experience; commitment to hire new faculty; library resources; facilities; equipment; scholarship and assistantships; clinical and internship sites identified; impact of institutional resource shifting; budget; community college articulation; accreditation; and faculty productivity. In addition to BOR approval, current law requires approval of the Legislature to implement new colleges, schools, or functional equivalents that offer a degree that is a credential for specific licensure.

The BOR recently approved a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program at UWF and a Master's in Social Work at FAU. Both of these programs result in degrees that serve as credentials for licensure.

**Requirements for Florida Licensure as a Nurse**

Section 464.008, F.S., sets forth the licensure by examination requirements for persons desiring to be licensed as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse. These requirements include proof of graduation from an approved nursing program. Section 464.003, F.S., defines "approved program" as a nursing program conducted in a school, college, or university which is approved by the Board of Nursing pursuant to s. 464.019, F.S., for the education of nurses.

**Approval of Nursing Programs**

Section 464.019, F.S., requires an institution desiring to conduct an approved nursing program for the education of professional or practical nurses to apply to the Department of Health and submit evidence that demonstrates compliance with the Nurse Practice Act (Part I of ch. 464, F.S.) and

with rules of the Board of Nursing. The application must include a program review fee that may not exceed \$1,000.

The Board of Nursing must adopt rules regarding educational objectives, faculty qualifications, curriculum guidelines, administrative procedures, and clinical training as are necessary to ensure that approved programs graduate nurses capable of competent practice under the Nurse Practice Act.

The Department of Health must survey each institution applying for approval and submit its findings to the Board of Nursing. If the Board of Nursing is satisfied that the program meets the requirements of the Nurse Practice Act and rules pursuant thereto, the Board of Nursing must certify the program for approval and the Department of Health must approve the program. Provisional approval of new programs may be granted pending the licensure results of the first graduating class.

### **Board of Regent's Review of UWF's Nursing Proposal**

The BOR considered and approved UWF's request for authorization to implement a generic Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at the BOR's November 2000 meeting. Background materials for that meeting provide the following information:

UWF currently offers an RN to BSN nursing program, but not a four-year (generic) B.S. in Nursing. The proposed program seeks to provide the latter degree. Within the past several years, UWF has worked closely with the healthcare community in its service area to develop a proposed program which responds to an acute shortage of nurses in northwest Florida. Area hospitals have pledged \$300,000 to initiate the program and are willing to provide additional support in the form of tuition reimbursement for hospital employees, clinical experiences for students, use of hospital classrooms, clinical laboratories, and other in-kind contributions.

This program will adopt the statewide common prerequisites for nursing. The number of credit hours required will be 124, consistent with the requirements of the other generic B.S. in Nursing programs in the State University System (SUS). UWF has committed to hire one new faculty member in each of the next five years. A search is underway for the first of the new hires. UWF has also committed to providing necessary laboratories, equipment, and office and research space, phased in over the next three years.

UWF projects headcount for the first year to be 15 students (12 student FTE) and estimates costs for the first year of the program to be \$512,260. UWF projects headcount by the fifth year to be 60 students (45 student FTE) and estimates costs for the fifth year of the program to be \$667,759. This program has been identified as UWF's highest academic priority. UWF has indicated that it is prepared to make the financial commitment to the program from internal reallocation.

UWF seeks authorization to implement the program in Fall 2001 with the admission of freshmen into the program.

### **Requirements for Florida Licensure as a Clinical Social Worker**

Section 491.005, F.S., sets forth the licensure by examination requirements for a person desiring to be licensed as a clinical social worker. Those requirements include:

- (1) Receipt of a doctoral degree in social work from a graduate school of social work which at the time the applicant graduated was accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education; or
- (2) Receipt of a master's degree in social work from a graduate school of social work which at the time the applicant graduated:
  - (a) Was accredited by the Council on Social Work Education;
  - (b) Was accredited by the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work; or
  - (c) Has been determined to have been a program equivalent to programs approved by the Council on Social Work Education by the Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the Council on Social Work Education. An applicant who graduated from a program at a university or college outside of the United States or Canada must present documentation of the equivalency determination from the council in order to qualify.

### **Board of Regent's Review of FAU's Social Work Proposal**

The BOR considered and approved FAU's request for authorization to implement a Master's in Social Work (MSW) program at the BOR's July 2000 meeting. Background materials for that meeting provide the following information:

The proposed program is listed on the SUS Strategic Plan and is consistent with FAU's mission as a Research II University with responsibility for providing educational opportunities to a diverse urban population. While the proposed program duplicates existing programs at six other state universities, an argument for starting a new program at FAU is based on local demand. An appropriate and well-sequenced curriculum has been developed after reviews of existing accredited MSW programs. The 60-semester credit hour program is also similar in length and content to MSW programs at other SUS institutions.

The proposed program's budget indicates that the addition of new faculty and the expansion of library holdings in support of the new program will be necessary. Three of the new faculty have already been hired.

FAU projects headcount for the first year to be 40 students (20 student FTE) and estimates costs for the first year of the program to be \$362,380. FAU projects headcount by the fifth year of the program to be 160 students (100 student FTE) and estimates costs for the fifth year of the program to be \$536,460. FAU expects this to be a relatively low cost program to implement, when compared to other MSW programs, because they have a large number of faculty already in place. (Documentation provided by FAU indicates that the university has agreed to commit five new faculty lines from new resources in order for this program to begin.)

If requisite approvals are given, full implementation is expected in Fall 2001.

#### **C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:**

This bill authorizes a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program at the University of West Florida.

This bill also authorizes a Master's in Social Work degree program at Florida Atlantic University.

D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

This section need be completed only in the discretion of the Committee.

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

See FISCAL COMMENTS.

2. Expenditures:

See FISCAL COMMENTS.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Residents of the service areas of UWF and FAU will have access to degree programs in nursing and social work without having to leave their respective communities. Graduates of these programs will be available to respond to the professional workforce needs in nursing and social work in their respective communities.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

UWF estimates costs for the first year of the nursing program to be \$512,260. UWF has indicated that it is prepared to make the financial commitment to the program from internal reallocation.

FAU estimates costs for the first year of the social work program to be \$362,380. FAU has agreed to commit five new faculty lines from new resources in order for the program to begin.

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to expend funds or to take action which requires the expenditure of funds.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenues.

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

This bill does not reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

None.

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE ON COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES:

Prepared by:

Staff Director:

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Betty H. Tilton, Ph.D.

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