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A bill to be entitled  
 An act relating to university growth funding; creating s.  
 1011.96, F.S.; requiring future enrollment growth funds to  
 be appropriated to the Department of Education or to a  
 trust fund to be distributed to public or nonpublic  
 postsecondary educational institutions providing  
 instruction in fields vital to the citizens of the state;  
 providing for a request for proposals and requirements of  
 such proposals; requiring establishment annually of a  
 priority list; providing for creation of a committee and  
 specifying terms and duties thereof; providing an  
 effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1011.96, Florida Statutes, is created  
 to read:

1011.96 University growth funding.--

(1) To meet the critical workforce needs of Florida and to  
 maximize the number of diplomas, certificates, and degrees that  
 are awarded to postsecondary education students in fields vital  
 to the citizens of the state, beginning with the 2006-2007  
 fiscal year, all future enrollment growth funds for state  
 universities, community colleges, and postsecondary workforce  
 education programs shall be appropriated by the Legislature to  
 the Department of Education or to an appropriate trust fund  
 administered by the department to be distributed according to  
 the provisions of this section.

29       (2) The department shall develop and issue a request for  
30 proposals. In response to the request for proposals:

31       (a) A proposal may be made by an accredited public or  
32 nonpublic postsecondary educational institution in the state  
33 that provides postsecondary instruction in a field specified in  
34 the priority list established pursuant to subsection (3).

35       (b) A proposal must indicate the number of postsecondary  
36 diplomas, certificates, or degrees that the institution will  
37 award using funds received pursuant to this section and the  
38 fields in which the diplomas, certificates, or degrees will be  
39 awarded.

40       (c) A proposal must indicate how the funds received will  
41 leverage other grants and scholarships and how the funds will be  
42 used to offset student tuition costs.

43       (3) By March 1 of each year, the chair of Workforce  
44 Florida, Inc., shall advise the Legislature of the state's most  
45 pressing workforce needs for postsecondary instruction and the  
46 geographic locations of these needs. The Legislature shall  
47 annually establish a priority list for funds provided pursuant  
48 to this section in the General Appropriations Act.

49       (4) The rankings and decisions of the request-for-  
50 proposals process shall be made by a committee based on the  
51 priority list established pursuant to subsection (3). The  
52 committee shall be composed of nine members appointed by the  
53 Governor, none of whom may be elected officials. The members  
54 shall serve staggered 4-year terms. In order to achieve  
55 staggered terms, of the initial appointments, three members

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56 | shall serve 2-year terms, three members shall serve 3-year  
57 | terms, and three members shall serve 4-year terms.

58 |       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.