

Bill No. SB 2084

Barcode 514550

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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The Committee on Commerce and Consumer Services (Saunders)  
recommended the following amendment:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

On page 4, line 8, through  
page 10, line 22, delete those lines

and insert:

(d) "Center of Excellence" means an organization of  
personnel, facilities, and equipment established to accomplish  
the purposes and objectives of this act.

(e) "Community college" means a public community  
college in this state as defined in s. 1000.21.

(f) "Private university" means a baccalaureate  
degree-granting independent nonprofit university that is  
accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern  
Association of Colleges and Schools and that is located in and  
chartered as a domestic corporation by the state.

(g) "Research center" means an institute, center, or  
clinic that includes research and development or education as  
a principal mission of the organization.

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1       (h) "State university" means a public university in  
2 this state as defined in s. 1000.21.

3       (4) FLORIDA TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH, AND SCHOLARSHIP  
4 BOARD.--The Florida Technology, Research, and Scholarship  
5 Board is created within the Board of Governors of the State  
6 University System to guide the establishment of Centers of  
7 Excellence and the attraction of world class scholars.

8       (a) The board shall consist of 11 members. Seven  
9 members shall be appointed by the Governor, one of whom the  
10 Governor shall appoint as chair of the board, one of whom must  
11 be a member of the board of directors of Enterprise Florida,  
12 Inc., and one of whom must be a member of the Board of  
13 Governors of the State University System. Two members shall be  
14 appointed by the President of the Senate and two members shall  
15 be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.  
16 Appointed members must be representative of business leaders,  
17 industrial researchers, academic researchers, scientists, and  
18 leaders in the emerging and advanced technology sector.  
19 Appointed members may not serve for more than 4 years and any  
20 vacancy that occurs during these appointees' terms shall be  
21 filled in the same manner as the original appointment. A  
22 majority of members constitutes a quorum.

23       (b) Members of the board shall serve without  
24 compensation, but are entitled to receive reimbursement for  
25 per diem and travel expenses in accordance with s. 112.061  
26 while in the performance of their duties.

27       (c) The Board of Governors shall provide staff support  
28 for the activities of the board and per diem and travel  
29 expenses for board members.

30       (d) The board is charged with recommending criteria to  
31 the Board of Governors for the 21st Century World Class

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1 Scholars Program and with providing guidance to the Board of  
 2 Governors regarding the implementation and administration of  
 3 the Centers of Excellence Program. The board shall recommend  
 4 to the Board of Governors the qualifications, standards, and  
 5 requirements for approval of investments in Centers of  
 6 Excellence under this act. The board may form committees of  
 7 its members and is encouraged to consult with Enterprise  
 8 Florida, Inc., the Florida Research Consortium, Bio-Florida,  
 9 IT Florida, the Florida Aviation and Aerospace Alliance, and  
 10 any other entity whose input may be helpful in determining the  
 11 requirements and standards for the program.

12 (5) THE 21ST CENTURY WORLD CLASS SCHOLARS PROGRAM.--

13 (a) This act allocates state matching funds to attract  
 14 21st Century World Class Scholars to state universities.

15 (b) The 21st Century World Class Scholars Program  
 16 shall be used as a tool to develop the state's capabilities in  
 17 science and high-technology research, emphasizing Florida's  
 18 identified strengths in science and technology while also  
 19 recognizing new technologies as they may emerge.

20 (c) The board, in consultation with senior  
 21 administrators of state universities, state university  
 22 foundation directors, the Office of Tourism, Trade, and  
 23 Economic Development, the board of directors of Enterprise  
 24 Florida, Inc., and leading members of private industry, shall  
 25 develop and recommend to the Board of Governors criteria for  
 26 the 21st Century World Class Scholars Program. Such criteria  
 27 shall address, at a minimum, the following:

28 1. The presence of distinguished faculty members,  
 29 including whether the university has a substantial history of  
 30 external funding, along with the strong potential for  
 31 attracting a scholar of national or international eminence.

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1           2. The presence of academically outstanding students,  
2 along with the promise and potential for attracting additional  
3 highly qualified students.

4           3. The presence of adequate research and scholarly  
5 support services.

6           4. The existence of an academic environment having  
7 appropriate infrastructure, including buildings, classrooms,  
8 libraries, laboratories, and specialized equipment, that is  
9 conducive to the conduct of the highest quality of scholarship  
10 and research.

11           5. The demonstration of concordance with Florida's  
12 strategic plan for economic development or an emphasis on one  
13 or more emerging sciences or technologies that could favorably  
14 impact the state's economic future.

15           (d) A state university must raise a minimum of \$1  
16 million to be eligible for state matching funds to recruit a  
17 21st Century World Class Scholar. Funds raised by the  
18 university shall be eligible for a one-to-one match from the  
19 state. Revenues received from state appropriations, student  
20 tuition and fees, and state-funded contracts or grants are not  
21 eligible for state match.

22           (e) Upon the verification by the Board of Governors  
23 that a state university has met the criteria for a 21st  
24 Century World Class Scholar, the Board of Governors shall  
25 release matching funds to the university. Funds shall be used  
26 for the purpose of recruiting a 21st Century World Class  
27 Scholar and shall be expended according to an expenditure plan  
28 approved by the Board of Governors.

29           (f) This act is not intended to replace or obviate  
30 existing programs.

31           (6) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.--

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- 1       (a) The purposes and objectives of a Center of  
2 Excellence include:
- 3           1. Identifying and pursuing opportunities for  
4 university scholars, research center scientists and engineers,  
5 and private businesses to form collaborative partnerships to  
6 foster and promote the research required to develop  
7 commercially promising, advanced, and innovative science and  
8 technology and to transfer those discoveries to commercial  
9 sectors.
- 10           2. Acquiring and leveraging public-sector and  
11 private-sector funding to provide the totality of funds,  
12 personnel, facilities, equipment, and other resources needed  
13 to support the research required to develop commercially  
14 promising, advanced, and innovative science and technology and  
15 to transfer those discoveries to commercial sectors.
- 16           3. Recruiting and retaining world class scholars,  
17 high-performing students, and leading scientists and engineers  
18 in technology disciplines to engage in research in this state  
19 and to develop commercially promising, advanced, and  
20 innovative science and technology.
- 21           4. Enhancing and expanding science and technology  
22 curricula and laboratory resources at universities and  
23 research centers in this state.
- 24           5. Increasing the number of high-performing students  
25 in science and technology disciplines who graduate from  
26 universities in this state and pursue careers in this state.
- 27           6. Stimulating and supporting the inception, growth,  
28 and diversification of science and technology-based businesses  
29 and ventures in Florida and increasing employment  
30 opportunities for the workforce needed to support such  
31 businesses.

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1       (b) The following entities are eligible to submit  
2 proposals for a center of excellence:

- 3           1. Any state university.
- 4           2. Any private university.
- 5           3. The H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research  
6 Institute.

7           4. The Florida Institute for Human and Machine  
8 Cognition, Inc.

9           5. Any community college, training center, or other  
10 public or private research center in the state which  
11 coordinates with a state university for purposes of this act.

12       (c) The board shall recommend to the Board of  
13 Governors criteria for approving proposals to create or expand  
14 a Center of Excellence. Such criteria shall consider:

15           1. The maturity of the applicant's existing programs  
16 relating to a proposed Center of Excellence.

17           2. The comprehensiveness and effectiveness of site  
18 plans relating to a proposed Center of Excellence.

19           3. The existing amount of the applicant's resources  
20 dedicated to activities relating to a proposed Center of  
21 Excellence.

22           4. The regional economic structure and climate.

23           5. The degree to which the applicant identifies and  
24 seizes opportunities to collaborate with other public or  
25 private entities for research purposes.

26           6. The presence of a comprehensive performance and  
27 accountability measurement system.

28           7. The use of an integrated research and development  
29 strategy using multiple levels of the educational system.

30           8. The ability of the applicant to raise research  
31 funds and leverage public and private investment dollars to

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1 support advanced and emerging scientific and technological  
2 research and development projects.

3 9. The degree to which the applicant transfers  
4 advanced and emerging sciences and technologies from its  
5 laboratories to the commercial sector.

6 10. The degree to which the applicant stimulates and  
7 supports the creation of new ventures.

8 11. The existence of a plan to enhance academic  
9 curricula by improving communication between academia and  
10 industry.

11 12. The existence of a plan to increase the number,  
12 quality, and retention rate of faculty and graduate students  
13 in advancing and emerging science and technology-based  
14 disciplines.

15 13. The existence of a plan to increase the likelihood  
16 of faculty and graduate students pursuing private-sector  
17 careers in the state.

18 14. The ability of the applicant to provide capital  
19 facilities necessary to support research and development.

20 (d) To call for proposals, the board shall notify the  
21 president or chief executive officer of the eligible entities  
22 identified in paragraph (b). The board shall periodically  
23 solicit proposals for Centers of Excellence.

24 (e) The board shall recommend to the Board of  
25 Governors for approval and funding those proposals that meet  
26 the criteria approved by the Board of Governors.

27 (f) If no proposal is judged worthy of approval during  
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30 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

31 And the title is amended as follows:

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1           On page 1, line 30, after the semicolon,

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3 insert:

4           identifying the entities that are eligible to

5           submit proposals for a center of excellence;

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