

The Florida Senate
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: Higher Education Committee

BILL: SB 1568

INTRODUCER: Senator Lynn

SUBJECT: Education and Economic Development

DATE: April 6, 2007

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Harkey	Matthews	HE	Favorable
2.			CM	
3.			HI	
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

This bill establishes the Florida Business and Education Collaborative as a state-level advisory group that is charged with promoting economic-development aligned strategies for public and private postsecondary education. The bill requires the Governor to appoint the members of the collaborative and outlines their responsibilities. The collaborative must make annual reports.

This bill creates one undesignated section of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Under s. 1001.705(1)(b)7., F.S., the Board of Governors of the State University System is required to develop strategic plans for the State University System and each constituent university. Under s. 1008.31(2)(c), F.S., the Department of Education is required to maintain an accountability system that measures student progress toward specific goals, including “skilled workforce and economic development as measured by evidence of employment and earnings.”

Workforce innovation is governed by ch. 445, F.S., which requires the aligning of the state’s educational and workforce needs under a business-friendly, supply-and-demand system. This chapter implements the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998.¹ Under this chapter, Workforce, Florida, Inc., is the principal workforce policy organization for the state and is charged with helping Floridians enter, remain in and advance in the workplace and helping to develop the state’s business climate. Section 445.003, F.S., requires Florida’s approach to implementing the Workforce Investment Act to have six elements:

¹ P.L. 105-220.

- Streamlining Services—coordinating and consolidating Florida’s employment and training programs at locally-managed one-stop delivery centers;
- Empowering individuals—to make informed decisions, choosing the qualified training program that meets their needs;
- Universal Access—through a one-stop delivery system;
- Increased accountability—holding the state, localities, and training providers accountable for their performance;
- Local Board and Private Sector Leadership—focusing on strategic planning, policy development, and oversight of the local system; and
- Local Flexibility and Integration—providing localities with exceptional flexibility to build on existing reforms.

Under s. 216.136(7), F.S., a Workforce estimating conference must meet at least 2 times per year to review data concerning demands for short-term and long-term employment in high skills/high wage jobs as well as other jobs as the conference determine is needed by the state’s planning and budgeting system. Representatives from the Department of Education, the Agency for Workforce Innovation, and Workforce Florida, Inc., conduct the workforce estimating conference.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill creates the Florida Business and Education Collaborative as a state-level advisory group to the Governor, Legislature, State Board of Education, Board of Governors, boards of independent colleges, universities, and private career schools, and other interested parties. The bill does not assign the collaborative to an agency for administrative purposes.

The collaborative is charged with promoting economic development-aligned strategies for public and private postsecondary education, and making recommendations to state policy boards to assist in defining and attaining economic goals. The collaborative would act solely in an advisory capacity. This advisory role is integral to its success, as the entities it will serve have varying missions, regulations, and governance structures.

Members of the collaborative must be appointed by the Governor, including state business leaders and legislative members; representative leaders of public and nonpublic community colleges, colleges and universities, career schools, and workforce education institutions and entities; and national education and economic development policy leaders. The bill does not indicate how many members will sit on the board, nor whether the members will be compensated for per diem and travel expenses.

The bill outlines the responsibilities of the collaborative to include:

- Collaboration with appropriate state entities for an assessment of the degree of alignment of postsecondary programmatic offerings and graduation outcomes with economic development needs, goals, and targeted occupational areas;
- Recommendation of performance outcomes, trends, standards, and targets for achievement of state goals related to workforce skills, education disciplines and outcomes, and research and development capacity;

- Recommendations concerning funding approaches to align educational outputs to Florida's economic priorities; and
- Reporting its findings and recommendations annually by December 31.

The bill will take effect upon becoming a law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

The collaborative may require data or other assistance from nonpublic postsecondary education institutions and other private entities that would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on those entities.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The collaborative may require data or other assistance from state universities, community colleges, and school districts postsecondary programs that would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on those institutions.

The bill does not specify where the collaborative would be housed for administrative purposes. The bill does not define the frequency of the meetings of the collaborative, the number of members, or whether members would be reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses. Accordingly, the fiscal impact is indeterminate.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

This Senate Professional Staff Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

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