

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to postsecondary education enhancements;
3 requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and
4 Government Accountability to conduct a study of certain
5 enrollment forecasting models; requiring a final report;
6 requiring the Department of Education to conduct a review
7 of certain courses in the statewide course numbering
8 system and update the system as appropriate; requiring a
9 report; requiring nonpublic postsecondary institutions
10 that participate in statewide course numbering to provide
11 certain information in their catalogs; requiring the
12 department's website to include certain information;
13 requiring the department to review certain examinations
14 and recommend articulated acceleration mechanisms;
15 amending s. 1007.33, F.S.; identifying the areas in which
16 community colleges may propose to deliver baccalaureate
17 degree programs; removing requirement that proposal be
18 submitted to the Council for Education Policy Research and
19 Improvement for review; amending s. 1009.25, F.S.;
20 revising provisions relating to the number of and
21 qualifications for community college fee exemptions;
22 amending s. 1011.83, F.S.; providing a residency
23 requirement for funding baccalaureate degree programs at
24 community colleges; providing requirements for funding
25 nonrecurring and recurring costs associated with such
26 programs; limiting per-student funding to a specified
27 percentage of costs associated with state university
28 baccalaureate degree programs; providing certain reporting

29 and funding requirements; amending s. 1009.23, F.S.;

30 providing guidelines and restrictions for setting tuition

31 and out-of-state fees for community college upper-division

32 courses; providing an effective date.

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

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36 Section 1. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and

37 Government Accountability (OPPAGA) shall conduct a study of the

38 higher education enrollment forecasting models currently used in

39 the state. The study must analyze the current models and provide

40 options for improvements. The review shall specifically examine

41 ways to include Florida's changing demographics in the

42 forecasts. During the course of the study OPPAGA shall consult

43 with staff from the Office of Economic and Demographic Research.

44 A final report with recommendations shall be submitted to the

45 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of

46 Representatives by February 1, 2008.

47 Section 2. (1) The Department of Education shall conduct

48 a comprehensive review of the courses that are listed in the

49 statewide course numbering system to:

50 (a) Identify courses that are listed in the system that

51 have not been taught at an institution for the preceding 5

52 years;

53 (b) Identify courses of nonpublic postsecondary

54 institutions that may be inappropriately designated as

55 equivalent for purposes of transfer of credit; and

56 (c) Update the statewide course numbering system as
57 appropriate based on these findings.

58 (2) The Department of Education shall submit a report of
59 its findings and actions to the President of the Senate and the
60 Speaker of the House of Representatives by February 1, 2008.

61 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or rule to
62 the contrary, any nonpublic postsecondary institution, as a
63 condition of initial or continued participation in the statewide
64 course numbering system, shall identify in all of its catalogs,
65 printed or electronic, the specific courses offered by the
66 institution that are included in the statewide course numbering
67 system.

68 (4) No later than July 1, 2008, the Department of
69 Education shall develop and maintain in the department's website
70 a listing of all courses in the statewide course numbering
71 system and the institutions that offer each course. The listing
72 shall be available to the public. Each institution that
73 participates in the statewide course numbering system shall
74 include in all of its catalogs, printed or electronic, a
75 statement advising the reader of the website address and its use
76 as a resource for information on the transferability of credits
77 to other Florida institutions.

78 Section 3. No later than March 1, 2008, the Department of
79 Education shall review the Excelsior College Examinations (ECE)
80 and Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support
81 (DANTES) standardized subject area tests (DSST) and recommend to
82 the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors, the
83 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of

84 Representatives any examination that should be identified as an
85 articulated acceleration mechanism under s. 1007.27, Florida
86 Statutes. The department shall also identify the minimum scores,
87 maximum credit, and course or courses for which credit is to be
88 awarded for each examination recommended by the department.

89 Section 4. Subsection (3) of section 1007.33, Florida
90 Statutes, is amended to read:

91 1007.33 Site-determined baccalaureate degree access.--

92 (3) A community college may develop a proposal to deliver
93 specified baccalaureate degree programs in the areas of teaching
94 and nursing and in the areas of math and science for the purpose
95 of preparing graduates to enter a teaching position and to
96 deliver bachelor of applied science workforce-related degrees in
97 high need/high demand majors ~~its district to meet local~~
98 ~~workforce needs.~~ The bachelor of applied science degree is a
99 workforce baccalaureate degree designed primarily for associate
100 in science degree holders desiring career advancement or
101 advanced technical training. The proposal must be submitted to
102 the State Board of Education for approval. The community
103 college's proposal must include the following information:

104 (a) Demand for the baccalaureate degree program is
105 identified by the workforce development board, local businesses
106 and industry, local chambers of commerce, and potential
107 students.

108 (b) Unmet need for graduates of the proposed degree
109 program is substantiated.

110 (c) The community college has the facilities and academic
111 resources to deliver the program.

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113 ~~The proposal must be submitted to the Council for Education~~
114 ~~Policy Research and Improvement for review and comment.~~ Upon
115 approval of the State Board of Education for the specific degree
116 program or programs, the community college shall pursue regional
117 accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern
118 Association of Colleges and Schools. Any additional
119 baccalaureate degree programs the community college wishes to
120 offer must be approved by the State Board of Education.

121 Section 5. Subsection (3) of section 1009.25, Florida
122 Statutes, is amended to read:

123 1009.25 Fee exemptions.--

124 (3) At the discretion of the community college board of
125 trustees, each community college is authorized to grant student
126 fee exemptions from all fees adopted by the State Board of
127 Education and the community college board of trustees for up to
128 1 percent of the community college's prior year full-time
129 equivalent students or 40 full-time equivalent students,
130 whichever is greater, to students whose enrollment addresses
131 priorities of the community college and to students who have
132 graduated from a Florida public high school and who attended a
133 Florida public high school for 3 years at each institution.

134 Section 6. Section 1011.83, Florida Statutes, is amended
135 to read:

136 1011.83 Financial support of community colleges.--

137 (1) Each community college that has been approved by the
138 Department of Education and meets the requirements of law and
139 rules of the State Board of Education shall participate in the

140 Community College Program Fund. However, funds to support
141 workforce education programs conducted by community colleges
142 shall be provided pursuant to s. 1011.80.

143 (2) Funding for baccalaureate degree programs approved
144 pursuant to s. 1007.33 shall be specified in the General
145 Appropriations Act. A student in a baccalaureate degree program
146 approved pursuant to s. 1007.33 who is not classified as a
147 resident for tuition purposes pursuant to s. 1009.21 may not be
148 included in calculations of full-time equivalent enrollments for
149 state funding purposes.

150 (3) Funds specifically appropriated by the Legislature for
151 baccalaureate degree programs approved pursuant to s. 1007.33
152 may be used only for such programs. A community college shall
153 fund the nonrecurring costs related to the initiation of a new
154 baccalaureate degree program under s. 1007.33 without new state
155 appropriations unless special grant funds are appropriated in
156 the General Appropriations Act. A new baccalaureate degree
157 program may not accept students without a recurring legislative
158 appropriation for this purpose.

159 (4) State policy for funding baccalaureate degree programs
160 approved pursuant to s. 1007.33 shall be to limit state support
161 for recurring operating purposes to no more than 85 percent of
162 the amount of state expenditures for direct instruction per
163 credit hour in upper-level state university programs. A
164 community college may temporarily exceed this limit due to
165 normal enrollment fluctuations or unforeseeable circumstances or
166 while phasing in new programs. This subsection does not
167 authorize the Department of Education to withhold legislative

168 appropriations to any community college.

169 (5) A community college that grants baccalaureate degrees
 170 shall maintain reporting and funding distinctions between any
 171 baccalaureate degree program approved under s. 1007.33 and any
 172 other baccalaureate degree programs involving traditional
 173 concurrent-use partnerships.

174 Section 7. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 1009.23,
 175 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

176 1009.23 Community college student fees.--

177 (1) Unless otherwise provided, ~~the provisions of this~~
 178 section applies apply only to fees charged for college credit
 179 instruction leading to an associate in arts degree, an associate
 180 in applied science degree, ~~or~~ an associate in science degree, or
 181 a baccalaureate degree authorized by the State Board of
 182 Education pursuant to s. 1007.33 and for noncollege credit
 183 college-preparatory courses defined in s. 1004.02.

184 (2) (a) All students shall be charged fees except students
 185 who are exempt from fees or students whose fees are waived.

186 (b) Tuition and out-of-state fees for upper-division
 187 courses must reflect the fact that the community college has a
 188 less expensive cost structure than that of a state university.
 189 Therefore, the board of trustees shall establish tuition and
 190 out-of-state fees for upper-division courses in baccalaureate
 191 degree programs approved pursuant to s. 1007.33 consistent with
 192 law and proviso language in the General Appropriations Act.
 193 However, the board of trustees may not vary tuition and out-of-
 194 state fees as provided in subsection (4). ~~Identical fees shall~~
 195 ~~be required for all community college resident students within a~~

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196 | ~~college who take a specific course, regardless of the program in~~
197 | ~~which they are enrolled.~~

198 | Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.