

By the Committee on Higher Education; and Senator Oelrich

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to postsecondary education; amending s.
3 1000.21, F.S.; redesignating the names of certain
4 community colleges as colleges; creating s. 1001.60, F.S.,
5 relating to the Florida College System; providing system
6 purposes; defining the system as comprised of 2-year and
7 4-year public postsecondary institutions that grant
8 academic degrees at the undergraduate level; providing
9 limitations; authorizing a name change under certain
10 conditions; providing for local boards of trustees;
11 providing membership for the boards; creating the Florida
12 College System Task Force for the purpose of developing
13 recommendations for the migration of community colleges to
14 baccalaureate-degree-granting colleges; providing for
15 membership and appointments; providing duties of the task
16 force and reporting requirements; providing for the task
17 force to be dissolved unless extended by general law;
18 creating the State College Pilot Project; designating
19 certain institutions to participate in the project;
20 providing duties and reporting requirements for the
21 institutions; providing an effective date.

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

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25 Section 1. Paragraphs (e) and (k) of subsection (3) of
26 section 1000.21, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

27 1000.21 Systemwide definitions.--As used in the Florida K-
28 20 Education Code:

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29 (3) "Community college," except as otherwise specifically
30 provided, includes the following institutions and any branch
31 campuses, centers, or other affiliates of the institution:

32 (e) Daytona Beach ~~Community~~ College.

33 (k) Indian River ~~Community~~ College.

34 Section 2. Section 1001.60, Florida Statutes, is created to
35 read:

36 1001.60 Florida College System.--

37 (1) PURPOSES.--In order to maximize open access for
38 students, respond to community needs for postsecondary academic
39 education and career degree education, and provide associate and
40 baccalaureate degrees that will best meet the state's employment
41 needs, the Legislature establishes a system of governance for the
42 Florida College System.

43 (2) FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM.--There shall be a single
44 Florida College System comprised of 2-year and 4-year public
45 postsecondary educational institutions that grant academic
46 degrees at the undergraduate level as provided by law. An
47 institution within the Florida College System may not offer
48 graduate degree programs.

49 (a) The programs and services offered by institutions in
50 the Florida College System in providing associate and
51 baccalaureate degrees shall be delivered in a cost-effective
52 manner that demonstrates substantial savings to the student and
53 to the state over the cost of providing the degree at a state
54 university.

55 (b)1. An institution in the Florida College System may drop
56 the term "community" from the name of the institution if it has
57 been authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees pursuant to ss.

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58 1004.73 or 1007.33 or if it has received approval from the State
59 Board of Education pursuant to this paragraph.

60 2. With the approval of an institution's local board of
61 trustees, any institution in the Florida College System may
62 request approval from the State Board of Education to drop the
63 term "community" from the institution's name. The State Board of
64 Education may approve the request if the institution enters into
65 an agreement with the State Board of Education to do the
66 following:

67 a. Maintain as the institution's primary mission
68 responsibility for responding to community needs for
69 postsecondary academic education and career degree education as
70 prescribed in s. 1004.65(6).

71 b. Maintain an open-door admissions policy for associate
72 level degree programs and workforce education programs.

73 c. Continue to provide outreach to underserved populations.

74 d. Continue to provide remedial education.

75 e. Comply with all provisions of the statewide articulation
76 agreement that relate to 2-year and 4-year public degree-granting
77 institutions as adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant
78 to s. 1007.23.

79 (3) LOCAL BOARDS OF TRUSTEES.--Each institution within the
80 Florida College System shall be governed by a local board of
81 trustees as provided in s. 1001.64. The membership of each local
82 board of trustees shall be as provided in s. 1001.61.

83 Section 3. Florida College System Task Force.--

84 (1) The Florida College System Task Force is established
85 within the Division of Community Colleges of the Department of
86 Education for the purpose of developing findings and issuing

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87 recommendations regarding the migration of community colleges to
88 baccalaureate-degree-granting colleges and the criteria for
89 establishing and funding state colleges.

90 (2) (a) All members of the task force must be appointed on
91 or before July 15, 2008, and the task force shall hold its first
92 meeting on or before August 15, 2008.

93 (b) The task force shall be comprised of eight community
94 college presidents appointed by the Commissioner of Education.
95 The appointees shall reflect the diversity of program offerings
96 and service areas of the 28 community colleges and include
97 representatives of community colleges that are authorized to
98 grant baccalaureate degrees, community colleges that are not
99 authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees, community colleges
100 that have urban service areas, community colleges the service
101 areas of which have populations of 500,000 or more, and community
102 colleges the service areas of which have populations of fewer
103 than 500,000. The Commissioner of Education shall be the chair of
104 the task force.

105 (3) The task force shall:

106 (a) Recommend a program-approval process for new
107 baccalaureate degree programs that are designed to meet the
108 employment needs of Florida, including approval as a
109 baccalaureate-degree-granting community college and as a state
110 college.

111 (b) Recommend a funding model that considers projected
112 enrollment, adjustments for actual enrollment, program mix, and
113 comparable support for similar programs across all institutions,
114 including community colleges authorized by the State Board of
115 Education to award baccalaureate degrees pursuant to s. 1007.33,

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116 Florida Statutes, and state colleges participating in the State
117 College Pilot Project. The funding model must ensure that the
118 programs and services offered by institutions in the Florida
119 College System in providing associate and baccalaureate degrees
120 are delivered in a cost-effective manner that demonstrates
121 substantial savings to the student and to the state over the cost
122 of providing the degree at a state university.

123 (c) Identify the areas, both geographic and academic, in
124 which an increased number of graduates who have baccalaureate
125 degrees are necessary in order to meet regional and statewide
126 workforce needs.

127 (d) Monitor implementation of the State College Pilot
128 Project.

129 (4) The task force shall exist within the Division of
130 Community Colleges of the Department of Education and shall be
131 staffed by existing employees of that office.

132 (5) Community colleges, state universities, the Commission
133 for Independent Education, and the Agency for Workforce
134 Innovation shall provide information and assistance to the task
135 force.

136 (6) The task force shall submit a report and
137 recommendations to the Governor, the State Board of Education,
138 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
139 Representatives by January 1, 2009. The report must include any
140 specific recommendations of the task force for legislative action
141 during the 2009 Regular Session of the Legislature.

142 (7) The task force shall be dissolved effective June 1,
143 2009, unless extended by general law.

144 Section 4. State College Pilot Project.--

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145 (1) The Legislature finds it is in the best interest of the
146 state to provide the residents of the state affordable access to
147 baccalaureate degree programs that are designed to meet regional
148 and statewide employment needs.

149 (2) Beginning with the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the State
150 College Pilot Project is created which shall be conducted as a
151 pilot project by St. Petersburg College, Okaloosa-Walton College,
152 and Indian River College in collaboration with the Florida
153 College System Task Force. The purpose of the project is to
154 recommend to the Legislature an approval process for the
155 transition of baccalaureate-degree-granting community colleges to
156 state colleges in order to meet the employment needs of Florida,
157 criteria for the migration of institutions in the Florida College
158 System to state colleges, and a funding model for the Florida
159 College System.

160 (3) The institutions participating in the pilot project
161 shall:

162 (a) Maintain, as the institution's primary mission,
163 responsibility for responding to community needs for
164 postsecondary academic education and career degree education as
165 prescribed in s. 1004.65(6), Florida Statutes.

166 (b) Maintain an open-door admissions policy for associate-
167 level degree programs and workforce education programs.

168 (c) Require, as a condition of admission to upper-division
169 programs, successful completion of the college-level
170 communication and mathematics skills examination established
171 pursuant to s. 1008.29, Florida Statutes, unless the student has
172 been awarded an associate degree from a community college or
173 state university.

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174 (d) Continue to provide outreach to underserved
175 populations.

176 (e) Continue to provide remedial education.

177 (f) Comply with all provisions of the statewide
178 articulation agreement which relate to 2-year and 4-year public
179 degree-granting institutions as adopted by the State Board of
180 Education pursuant to s. 1007.23, Florida Statutes.

181 (g) Be prohibited from awarding graduate credit or graduate
182 degrees.

183 (h) Be prohibited from participating in intercollegiate
184 athletics beyond the 2-year level.

185 (i) Deliver the programs and services in providing
186 associate and baccalaureate degrees in a cost-effective manner
187 that demonstrates substantial savings to the student and the
188 state over the cost of providing the degree at a state
189 university.

190 (4) (a) The institutions participating in the pilot project
191 shall collaborate with the Florida College System Task Force to
192 make recommendations to the State Board of Education and the
193 Legislature on specific issues that should be addressed in the
194 transition of a community college to a state college. At a
195 minimum, the following areas should be addressed during the
196 course of the pilot project:

197 1. The development of a program-approval process to be
198 followed by the State Board of Education when considering
199 proposals for new baccalaureate degree programs that are designed
200 to meet the employment needs of Florida. Proposals for new
201 baccalaureate degree programs are not limited to proposals
202 designed to meet regional workforce needs.

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203 2. The formulation of criteria for the migration of an
204 institution from a community college to a state college.
205 3. The development of a funding model for state colleges.
206 (b) A final report, including a status report on the
207 transition of the institutions participating in the pilot project
208 and recommendations on the issues outlined in paragraph (a),
209 shall be submitted to the President of the Senate and the Speaker
210 of the House of Representatives by February 1, 2009.

211 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.