

By the Committees on Higher Education Appropriations; Higher Education; and Senator Oelrich

605-06472-08

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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 the public
7 postsecondary educational institutions that grant 2-year
8 and 4-year academic degrees; providing limitations;
9 authorizing a name change under certain conditions;
10 providing for institutions within the Florida College
11 System to be governed by local boards of trustees;
12 providing membership for the boards; creating s. 1004.87,
13 F.S.; creating the Florida College System Task Force for
14 the purpose of developing recommendations for the
15 transition of community colleges to baccalaureate-degree-
16 granting colleges; providing for membership and
17 appointments; providing duties of the task force and
18 reporting requirements; providing for the task force to be
19 dissolved unless extended by general law; creating s.
20 1004.875, F.S.; creating the State College Pilot Project
21 for the purpose of recommending to the Legislature an
22 approval process for the transition of certain community
23 colleges to state colleges; designating certain
24 institutions to participate in the project; providing
25 duties and reporting requirements for the institutions;
26 providing an effective date.

27
28 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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30 Section 1. Paragraphs (e) and (k) of subsection (3) of
31 section 1000.21, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

32 1000.21 Systemwide definitions.--As used in the Florida K-
33 20 Education Code:

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

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

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

39 Section 2. Section 1001.60, Florida Statutes, is created to
40 read:

41 1001.60 Florida College System.--

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

48 (2) FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM.--There shall be a single
49 Florida College System comprised of the public postsecondary
50 educational institutions identified in s. 1000.21(3) which grant
51 2-year and 4-year academic degrees as provided by law. An
52 institution within the Florida College System may not offer
53 graduate degree programs.

54 (a) The programs and services offered by institutions in
55 the Florida College System in providing associate and
56 baccalaureate degrees shall be delivered in a cost-effective
57 manner that demonstrates substantial savings to the student and
58 to the state over the cost of providing the degree at a state

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59 | university.

60 | (b)1. With the approval of the institution's local board of
61 | trustees, an institution in the Florida College System may change
62 | the institution's name and use the designation "college" if it
63 | has been authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees pursuant to s.
64 | 1004.73 or s. 1007.33 or if it has received approval from the
65 | State Board of Education pursuant to this paragraph.

66 | 2. With the approval of an institution's local board of
67 | trustees, any institution in the Florida College System may
68 | request approval from the State Board of Education to change the
69 | institution's name and use the designation "college." The State
70 | Board of Education may approve the request if the institution
71 | enters into an agreement with the State Board of Education to do
72 | the following:

73 | a. Maintain as the institution's primary mission
74 | responsibility for responding to community needs for
75 | postsecondary academic education and career degree education as
76 | prescribed in s. 1004.65(6).

77 | b. Maintain an open-door admissions policy for associate-
78 | level degree programs and workforce education programs.

79 | c. Continue to provide outreach to underserved populations.

80 | d. Continue to provide remedial education.

81 | e. Comply with all provisions of the statewide articulation
82 | agreement which relate to 2-year and 4-year public degree-
83 | granting institutions as adopted by the State Board of Education
84 | pursuant to s. 1007.23.

85 | (3) LOCAL BOARDS OF TRUSTEES.--Each institution within the
86 | Florida College System shall be governed by a local board of
87 | trustees as provided in s. 1001.64. The membership of each local

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88 | board of trustees shall be as provided in s. 1001.61.

89 | Section 3. Section 1004.87, Florida Statutes, is created to
90 | read:

91 | 1004.87 Florida College System Task Force.--

92 | (1) The Florida College System Task Force is established
93 | within the Division of Community Colleges of the Department of
94 | Education for the purpose of developing findings and issuing
95 | recommendations regarding the transition of community colleges to
96 | baccalaureate-degree-granting colleges and the criteria for
97 | establishing and funding state colleges.

98 | (2) (a) All members of the task force must be appointed on
99 | or before August 31, 2008, and the task force shall hold its
100 | first meeting on or before September 15, 2008.

101 | (b) The task force shall be comprised of 11 members
102 | appointed by the Commissioner of Education. The appointees shall
103 | include eight community college presidents, one state university
104 | president, the president of an institution that is eligible to
105 | participate in the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access
106 | Grant Program, and one member at large. The community college
107 | presidents appointed to the task force may not include the
108 | presidents of the institutions named to participate in the State
109 | College Pilot Project. The community college presidents appointed
110 | to the task force must reflect the diversity of program offerings
111 | and service areas of the 28 community colleges and include
112 | representatives of community colleges that are authorized to
113 | grant baccalaureate degrees, community colleges that are not
114 | authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees, community colleges
115 | that have urban service areas, community colleges that have rural
116 | service areas, community colleges the service areas of which have

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117 populations of 500,000 or more, and community colleges the
118 service areas of which have populations of fewer than 500,000.
119 The Commissioner of Education shall be a voting member of the
120 task force and the chair of the task force.

121 (3) The task force shall:

122 (a) Recommend a program-approval process for new
123 baccalaureate degree programs that are designed to meet the
124 employment needs of Florida, including approval as a
125 baccalaureate-degree-granting community college and as a state
126 college.

127 (b) Recommend a funding model that considers projected
128 enrollment, adjustments for actual enrollment, program mix, and
129 comparable support for similar programs across all institutions,
130 including community colleges authorized by the State Board of
131 Education to award baccalaureate degrees pursuant to s. 1007.33
132 and state colleges. The funding model must ensure that the
133 programs and services offered by institutions in the Florida
134 College System in providing associate and baccalaureate degrees
135 are delivered in a cost-effective manner that demonstrates
136 substantial savings to the student and to the state over the cost
137 of providing the degree at a state university.

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

142 (d) Monitor implementation of the State College Pilot
143 Project.

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144 (e) Recommend priorities and criteria for baccalaureate
145 programs that may be offered without specific approval by the
146 State Board of Education.

147 (4) Any recommendation from the task force to the
148 Legislature requires approval by two-thirds of the membership of
149 the task force.

150 (5) (a) Community colleges, state universities, the
151 Commission for Independent Education, and the Agency for
152 Workforce Innovation shall provide information and assistance to
153 the task force.

154 (b) Independent postsecondary educational institutions,
155 representatives of the business community, and other stakeholders
156 are encouraged to provide the task force with information to
157 assist the task force in its deliberations.

158 (6) The task force shall submit a report and
159 recommendations to the Governor, the State Board of Education,
160 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
161 Representatives by March 2, 2009. The report must include any
162 comments from the task force regarding the final report resulting
163 from the State College Pilot Project and any specific
164 recommendations of the task force for legislative action during
165 the 2009 Regular Session of the Legislature.

166 (7) The task force shall be dissolved effective June 30,
167 2010, prior to which time it shall issue its final report with
168 recommended detailed criteria for establishing the Florida
169 College System as a permanent part of the state system of higher
170 education.

171 Section 4. Section 1004.875, Florida Statutes, is created
172 to read:

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173 1004.875 State College Pilot Project.--

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

178 (2) (a) Beginning with the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the State
179 College Pilot Project is created which shall be conducted as a
180 pilot project by St. Petersburg College, Okaloosa-Walton College,
181 Daytona Beach College, and Indian River College in collaboration
182 with the Florida College System Task Force. The purpose of the
183 project is to recommend to the Legislature an approval process
184 for the transition of baccalaureate-degree-granting community
185 colleges to state colleges in order to meet the employment needs
186 of Florida, criteria for the transition of institutions in the
187 Florida College System to state colleges, and a funding model for
188 the Florida College System.

189 (b) With the approval of the community college's board of
190 trustees and continued compliance with the provisions of
191 subsection (3), a community college identified in paragraph (a)
192 as a participant in the State College Pilot Project may change
193 the institution's name and use the designation "state college."

194 (3) The institutions participating in the pilot project
195 shall:

196 (a) Maintain, as the institution's primary mission,
197 responsibility for responding to community needs for
198 postsecondary academic education and career degree education as
199 prescribed in s. 1004.65(6).

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

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202 (c) Require, as a condition of admission to upper-division
203 programs, successful completion of the college-level
204 communication and mathematics skills examination established
205 pursuant to s. 1008.29, unless the student has been awarded an
206 associate degree from a community college or state university.

207 (d) Continue to provide outreach to underserved
208 populations.

209 (e) Continue to provide remedial education.

210 (f) Comply with all provisions of the statewide
211 articulation agreement which relate to 2-year and 4-year public
212 degree-granting institutions as adopted by the State Board of
213 Education pursuant to s. 1007.23.

214 (g) Be prohibited from awarding graduate credit or graduate
215 degrees.

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

218 (i) Deliver the programs and services in providing
219 associate and baccalaureate degrees in a cost-effective manner
220 that demonstrates substantial savings to the student and the
221 state over the cost of providing the degree at a state
222 university.

223 (4) (a) The institutions participating in the pilot project
224 shall collaborate with the Florida College System Task Force to
225 make recommendations to the State Board of Education and the
226 Legislature on specific issues that should be addressed in the
227 transition of a community college to a state college. Any
228 recommendations of the institutions participating in the pilot
229 project require approval by two-thirds of the participating

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230 institutions. At a minimum, the following areas should be
231 addressed during the course of the pilot project:

232 1. The development of a program-approval process to be
233 followed by the State Board of Education when considering
234 proposals for new baccalaureate degree programs that are designed
235 to meet the employment needs of Florida. Proposals for new
236 baccalaureate degree programs are not limited to proposals
237 designed to meet regional workforce needs.

238 2. The formulation of criteria for the transition of an
239 institution from a community college to a state college.

240 3. The development of a funding model for state colleges.

241 (b) A final report, including a status report on the
242 transition of the institutions participating in the pilot project
243 and recommendations on the issues outlined in paragraph (a),
244 shall be submitted to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of
245 the House of Representatives, and the Florida College System Task
246 Force by January 1, 2009.

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