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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 (b), (e), (k), and (u) of subsection  
31 (3) of 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 (b) Broward ~~Community~~ College.

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

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

40 (u) Polk ~~Community~~ College.

41 Section 2. Section 1001.60, Florida Statutes, is created to  
42 read:

43 1001.60 Florida College System.--

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

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

56 (a) The programs and services offered by institutions in  
57 the Florida College System in providing associate and  
58 baccalaureate degrees shall be delivered in a cost-effective

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59 manner that demonstrates substantial savings to the student and  
60 to the state over the cost of providing the degree at a state  
61 university.

62 (b)1. With the approval of the institution's local board of  
63 trustees, an institution in the Florida College System may change  
64 the institution's name and use the designation "college" if it  
65 has been authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees pursuant to s.  
66 1004.73 or s. 1007.33 or if it has received approval from the  
67 State Board of Education pursuant to this paragraph.

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

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

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

81 c. Continue to provide outreach to underserved populations.

82 d. Continue to provide remedial education.

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

87 (3) LOCAL BOARDS OF TRUSTEES.--Each institution within the

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88 Florida College System shall be governed by a local board of  
89 trustees as provided in s. 1001.64. The membership of each local  
90 board of trustees shall be as provided in s. 1001.61.

91 Section 3. Section 1004.87, Florida Statutes, is created to  
92 read:

93 1004.87 Florida College System Task Force.--

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

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

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

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

123 (3) The task force shall:

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

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

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

144 (d) Monitor implementation of the State College Pilot  
145 Project.

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

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

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

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

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

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

173 Section 4. Section 1004.875, Florida Statutes, is created  
174 to read:

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175 1004.875 State College Pilot Project.--

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

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

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

197 (3) The institutions participating in the pilot project  
198 shall:

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

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

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

210 (d) Continue to provide outreach to underserved  
211 populations.

212 (e) Continue to provide remedial education.

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

217 (g) Be prohibited from awarding graduate credit or graduate  
218 degrees.

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

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

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



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232 project require approval by two-thirds of the participating  
233 institutions. At a minimum, the following areas should be  
234 addressed during the course of the pilot project:

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

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

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

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

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