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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), (u), and (x) of
31 subsection (3) of section 1000.21, Florida Statutes, are amended
32 to read:

33 1000.21 Systemwide definitions.--As used in the Florida K-
34 20 Education Code:

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

38 (b) Broward ~~Community~~ College.

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

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

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

42 (x) Santa Fe ~~Community~~ College.

43 Section 2. Section 1001.60, Florida Statutes, is created to
44 read:

45 1001.60 Florida College System.--

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

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

58 (a) The programs and services offered by institutions in

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59 the Florida College System in providing associate and
60 baccalaureate degrees shall be delivered in a cost-effective
61 manner that demonstrates substantial savings to the student and
62 to the state over the cost of providing the degree at a state
63 university.

64 (b)1. With the approval of the institution's local board of
65 trustees, an institution in the Florida College System may change
66 the institution's name and use the designation "college" if it
67 has been authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees pursuant to s.
68 1004.73 or s. 1007.33 or if it has received approval from the
69 State Board of Education pursuant to this paragraph.

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

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

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

83 c. Continue to provide outreach to underserved populations.

84 d. Continue to provide remedial education.

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

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88 pursuant to s. 1007.23.

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

93 Section 3. Section 1004.87, Florida Statutes, is created to
94 read:

95 1004.87 Florida College System Task Force.--

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

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

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

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117 grant baccalaureate degrees, community colleges that are not
118 authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees, community colleges
119 that have urban service areas, community colleges that have rural
120 service areas, community colleges the service areas of which have
121 populations of 500,000 or more, and community colleges the
122 service areas of which have populations of fewer than 500,000.
123 The Commissioner of Education shall be a voting member of the
124 task force and the chair of the task force.

125 (3) The task force shall:

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

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

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

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146 (d) Monitor implementation of the State College Pilot
147 Project.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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175 Section 4. Section 1004.875, Florida Statutes, is created
176 to read:

177 1004.875 State College Pilot Project.--

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

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

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

199 (3) The institutions participating in the pilot project
200 shall:

201 (a) Maintain, as the institution's primary mission,
202 responsibility for responding to community needs for

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203 postsecondary academic education and career degree education as
204 prescribed in s. 1004.65(6).

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

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

212 (d) Continue to provide outreach to underserved
213 populations.

214 (e) Continue to provide remedial education.

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

219 (g) Be prohibited from awarding graduate credit or graduate
220 degrees.

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

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

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

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232 transition of a community college to a state college. Any
233 recommendations of the institutions participating in the pilot
234 project require approval by two-thirds of the participating
235 institutions. At a minimum, the following areas should be
236 addressed during the course of the pilot project:

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

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

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

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

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