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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 establishing the Florida College System to be comprised of
6 public postsecondary educational institutions meeting
7 certain criteria; providing system purposes; providing
8 limitations; authorizing the name change of an institution
9 under certain conditions; providing for local boards of
10 trustees and membership thereof; amending s. 1004.35,
11 F.S.; conforming provisions; creating s. 1004.87, F.S.;
12 establishing the Florida College System Task Force for the
13 purpose of developing recommendations for the transition
14 of community colleges to baccalaureate-degree-granting
15 colleges and for establishing and funding state colleges;
16 providing for membership and appointments; providing
17 duties of the task force; requiring reporting; providing
18 for dissolution of the task force; creating s. 1004.875,
19 F.S.; creating the State College Pilot Project for the
20 purpose of developing recommendations for the transition
21 of community colleges to state colleges and for developing
22 a funding model for the Florida College System;
23 designating certain institutions to participate in the
24 pilot project; providing duties of the institutions;
25 requiring reporting; providing an effective date.

26
27 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

28
29 Section 1. Paragraphs (b), (e), (k), (u), and (x) of

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30 subsection (3) of section 1000.21, Florida Statutes, are amended
31 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 (x) Santa Fe ~~Community~~ College.

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

44 1001.60 Florida College System.--

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

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

57 (a) The programs and services offered by institutions in
58 the Florida College System in providing associate and

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

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

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

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

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

82 c. Continue to provide outreach to underserved populations.

83 d. Continue to provide remedial education.

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

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88 3. An institution in the Florida College System shall not
89 use the designation "university."

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

94 Section 3. Section 1004.35, Florida Statutes, is amended to
95 read:

96 1004.35 Broward County campuses of Florida Atlantic
97 University; coordination with other institutions.--The State
98 Board of Education, the Board of Governors, and Florida Atlantic
99 University shall consult with Broward ~~Community~~ College and
100 Florida International University in coordinating course offerings
101 at the postsecondary level in Broward County. Florida Atlantic
102 University may contract with the Board of Trustees of Broward
103 ~~Community~~ College and with Florida International University to
104 provide instruction in courses offered at the Southeast Campus.
105 Florida Atlantic University shall increase course offerings at
106 the Southeast Campus as facilities become available.

107 Section 4. Section 1004.87, Florida Statutes, is created to
108 read:

109 1004.87 Florida College System Task Force.--

110 (1) The Florida College System Task Force is established
111 within the Division of Community Colleges of the Department of
112 Education for the purpose of developing findings and issuing
113 recommendations regarding the transition of community colleges to
114 baccalaureate-degree-granting colleges and the criteria for
115 establishing and funding state colleges.

116 (2) (a) All members of the task force must be appointed on

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117 or before August 31, 2008, and the task force shall hold its
118 first meeting on or before September 15, 2008.

119 (b)1. The task force shall be comprised of the Commissioner
120 of Education and 11 members appointed by the Commissioner.

121 2. The Commissioner of Education shall be the chair and a
122 voting member of the task force.

123 3. The appointees shall include seven community college
124 presidents, one state university president, the president of an
125 institution that is eligible to participate in the William L.
126 Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program, the president of
127 an institution that is licensed by the Commission for Independent
128 Education and grants baccalaureate degrees, and one member at
129 large. The community college presidents appointed to the task
130 force may not include the presidents of the institutions named to
131 participate in the State College Pilot Project. The community
132 college presidents appointed to the task force must reflect the
133 diversity of program offerings and service areas of the 28
134 community colleges and include representatives of community
135 colleges that are authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees,
136 community colleges that are not authorized to grant baccalaureate
137 degrees, community colleges that have urban service areas,
138 community colleges that have rural service areas, community
139 colleges the service areas of which have populations of 500,000
140 or more, and community colleges the service areas of which have
141 populations of fewer than 500,000.

142 (3) The task force shall:

143 (a) Recommend a program approval process for new
144 baccalaureate degree programs that are designed to meet the
145 employment needs of Florida, including approval as a

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146 baccalaureate-degree-granting community college and as a state
147 college.

148 (b) Recommend a funding model that considers projected
149 enrollment, adjustments for actual enrollment, program mix, and
150 comparable support for similar programs across all institutions,
151 including state colleges and community colleges authorized by the
152 State Board of Education to award baccalaureate degrees pursuant
153 to s. 1007.33. The funding model must ensure that the programs
154 and services offered by institutions in the Florida College
155 System in providing associate and baccalaureate degrees are
156 delivered in a cost-effective manner that demonstrates
157 substantial savings to the student and to the state over the cost
158 of providing the degree at a state university.

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

163 (d) Monitor implementation of the State College Pilot
164 Project.

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

168 (4) Any recommendation from the task force to the
169 Legislature requires approval by at least three-fourths of the
170 membership of the task force.

171 (5) The task force shall be staffed by existing employees
172 of the Division of Community Colleges.

173 (6) (a) Community colleges, state universities, the
174 Commission for Independent Education, and the Agency for

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175 Workforce Innovation shall provide information and assistance to
176 the task force.

177 (b) Independent postsecondary educational institutions,
178 representatives of the business community, and other stakeholders
179 are encouraged to provide the task force with information to
180 assist the task force in its deliberations.

181 (7) The task force shall submit a report and
182 recommendations to the Governor, the State Board of Education,
183 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
184 Representatives by March 2, 2009. The report must include any
185 comments from the task force regarding the final report resulting
186 from the State College Pilot Project and any specific
187 recommendations of the task force for legislative action during
188 the 2009 Regular Session of the Legislature.

189 (8) The task force shall be dissolved effective June 30,
190 2010, prior to which time it shall issue its final report with
191 recommended detailed criteria for implementing the Florida
192 College System as a permanent part of the state system of higher
193 education.

194 Section 5. Section 1004.875, Florida Statutes, is created
195 to read:

196 1004.875 State College Pilot Project.--

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

201 (2) (a) Beginning with the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the State
202 College Pilot Project is created, which shall be conducted by
203 Chipola College, Daytona Beach College, Edison College, Indian

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204 River College, Miami Dade College, Okaloosa-Walton College, Polk
205 College, Santa Fe College, and St. Petersburg College in
206 collaboration with the Florida College System Task Force. The
207 purpose of the pilot project is to recommend to the Legislature
208 an approval process for the transition of baccalaureate-degree-
209 granting community colleges to state colleges in order to meet
210 the employment needs of Florida, criteria for the transition of
211 institutions in the Florida College System to state colleges, and
212 a funding model for the Florida College System.

213 (b) With the approval of the community college's board of
214 trustees and continued compliance with the provisions of
215 subsection (3), a community college identified in paragraph (a)
216 as a participant in the State College Pilot Project may change
217 the institution's name and use the designation "state college."
218 An institution participating in the State College Pilot Project
219 shall not use the designation "university."

220 (3) Each institution identified in subsection (2) as a
221 participant in the pilot project shall:

222 (a) Maintain, as the institution's primary mission,
223 responsibility for responding to community needs for
224 postsecondary academic education and career degree education as
225 prescribed in s. 1004.65(6).

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

228 (c)1. Require, as a condition of admission to upper-
229 division programs, successful completion of the college-level
230 communication and mathematics skills examination (CLAST),
231 established pursuant to s. 1008.29, unless the student has been
232 awarded an associate degree from a community college or a state

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233 university.

234 2. For purposes of a longitudinal analysis of the CLAST,
235 and notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,
236 administer the CLAST to each student admitted to an upper-
237 division program unless the student has previously achieved the
238 minimum scores that constitute successful completion of the
239 examination as established pursuant to s. 1008.29(4). The
240 institution shall report annually the test scores of each student
241 tested pursuant to the provisions of this subparagraph and any
242 exemption the student has been provided pursuant to s. 1008.29(9)
243 to the Florida College System Task Force until its dissolution,
244 to the State Board of Education once the task force is dissolved,
245 and to the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
246 Accountability.

247 (d) Continue to provide outreach to underserved
248 populations.

249 (e) Continue to provide remedial education.

250 (f) Comply with all provisions of the statewide
251 articulation agreement that relate to 2-year and 4-year public
252 degree-granting institutions as adopted by the State Board of
253 Education pursuant to s. 1007.23.

254 (g) Be prohibited from awarding graduate credit or graduate
255 degrees.

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

258 (i) Deliver the programs and services in providing
259 associate and baccalaureate degrees in a cost-effective manner
260 that demonstrates substantial savings to the student and to the
261 state over the cost of providing the degree at a state

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262 university.

263 (4) (a) The institutions participating in the pilot project
264 shall collaborate with the Florida College System Task Force to
265 make recommendations to the State Board of Education, the
266 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
267 Representatives on specific issues that should be addressed in
268 the transition of a community college to a state college. Any
269 recommendations of the institutions participating in the pilot
270 project require approval by two-thirds of the participating
271 institutions. At a minimum, the following areas should be
272 addressed during the course of the pilot project:

273 1. The development of a program approval process to be
274 followed by the State Board of Education when considering
275 proposals for new baccalaureate degree programs that are designed
276 to meet the employment needs of Florida. Proposals for new
277 baccalaureate degree programs are not limited to proposals
278 designed to meet regional workforce needs.

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

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

282 (b) A final report, including a status report on the
283 transition of the institutions participating in the pilot project
284 and recommendations on the issues outlined in paragraph (a),
285 shall be submitted to the State Board of Education, the President
286 of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
287 the Florida College System Task Force by January 1, 2009.

288 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.