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CHAMBER ACTION

<u>Senate</u>	.	<u>House</u>
Comm: RCS	.	
4/15/2008	.	
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	.	

1 The Committee on Higher Education (Oelrich) recommended the
2 following **amendment**:

3
4 **Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

5 Delete everything after the enacting clause
6 and insert:

7
8 Section 1. Florida Distance Learning Task Force.--

9 (1) The Florida Distance Learning Task Force is established
10 to make recommendations to facilitate access to undergraduate
11 distance learning resources that enable public postsecondary
12 educational institutions to fulfill their missions while
13 contributing to and sharing in the distance learning resources of
14 the Florida Distance Learning Consortium.

15 (2) (a) Members of the task force shall be appointed by the
16 chancellors of the Division of Community Colleges and the Board
17 of Governors and shall be comprised of nine members.



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18 (b) The membership of the task force shall consist of:

19 1. Four members from the State University System, with one
20 member being a state university president, one member having
21 experience in academic affairs or student affairs, one member
22 having experience in finance or business services, and one member
23 being from the Chancellor's Office of the Board of Governors and
24 having experience in distance learning education.

25 2. Four members from the Community College System, with one
26 member being a community college president, one member having
27 experience in academic affairs or student affairs, one member
28 having experience in finance or business services, and one member
29 being from the Chancellor's Office of the Division of Community
30 Colleges and having experience in distance learning education.

31 3. One member who is the executive director of the Florida
32 Distance Learning Consortium.

33 (3) The task force shall submit to the Governor, the
34 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
35 Representatives, the State Board of Education, the Board of
36 Governors, and the university and community college boards of
37 trustees, no later than March 1, 2009, a detailed report that
38 includes, but is not limited to, recommendations regarding:

39 (a) The management and promotion of the Florida Higher
40 Education Distance Learning Catalog pursuant to s. 1004.09,
41 Florida Statutes, to help increase student access to
42 undergraduate distance learning courses and degree programs and,
43 in particular, students seeking accelerated access in order to
44 complete their degrees.

45 (b) The creation of a central content repository for
46 instructional resources which can be used by faculty in



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47 developing, evaluating, and enhancing distance learning courses
48 and degree programs.

49 (c) The potential use of distance learning as a means to
50 address critical educational needs of the state.

51 (d) The evaluation and promotion of new and proven
52 instructional methods, emerging technologies, and quality
53 distance learning courses and degree programs.

54 (e) The coordination and support of educational programs
55 and other training opportunities for faculty and professional
56 staff in developing, evaluating, and enhancing distance learning
57 courses and degree programs.

58 (f) A process for negotiating statewide licensing and
59 pricing agreements for distance learning resources and entering
60 into agreements with distance learning resource providers when
61 such negotiations and agreements result in cost savings for the
62 participating institutions.

63 (g) Opportunities for building partnerships among
64 educational institutions, businesses, and communities.

65 (h) Methods that will improve student access to and
66 completion of distance learning courses and degree programs.

67 (i) Policies that address ways to increase access and cost-
68 effectiveness in the development and delivery of undergraduate
69 distance learning courses and degree programs. Such recommended
70 policies must address the cost variations that exist within the
71 delivery system and identify the best practices that minimize
72 costs of the development and delivery of distance learning
73 courses while enhancing the effectiveness of instruction.

74 (j) An accountability mechanism to assess the effectiveness
75 of the services provided by the Florida Distance Learning
76 Consortium.



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77 (k) The future role of the Florida Distance Learning
78 Consortium as a facilitator of the state's public undergraduate
79 postsecondary distance learning.

80 (l) A process for reporting on the data collected by the
81 Florida Higher Education Distance Learning Catalog.

82 (m) The definition of a distance learning course.

83 (n) A plan for developing and implementing an online system
84 that streamlines and automates the registration process for
85 students who have been admitted to a public postsecondary
86 educational institution and who wish to enroll in a course listed
87 in the Florida Higher Education Distance Learning Catalog. The
88 task force shall identify and address the applicable
89 administrative, programmatic, and technical issues and protocols
90 necessary to ensure the implementation of such a system as an
91 alternative to the standard registration process of each
92 institution which complies with the academic policies and
93 procedures of the institutions offering the course. At a minimum,
94 the system must:

95 1. Allow a qualified student to register for any
96 undergraduate course listed in the catalog, including courses
97 offered by an institution that is not the student's degree-
98 granting or home institution.

99 2. Allow for the expedited transfer of the distance
100 learning course credit awarded by the institution offering the
101 distance learning course to the student's degree-granting or home
102 institution upon the student's successful completion of the
103 distance learning course.

104 3. Be accessible from the catalog.

105 4. Comply with applicable technology security standards and
106 guidelines established by the Agency for Enterprise Information



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107 Technology to ensure the secure transmission of student
108 information.

109 (4) This section expires July 1, 2009.

110 Section 2. Section 1004.09, Florida Statutes, is created to
111 read:

112 1004.09 Florida Higher Education Distance Learning
113 Catalog.--

114 (1) The Florida Higher Education Distance Learning Catalog
115 is established as an interactive, Internet-based central point of
116 access to distance learning courses, degree programs, and
117 resources offered by public postsecondary educational
118 institutions and is intended to assist in the coordination and
119 collaboration of articulation and access pursuant to part II of
120 chapter 1007.

121 (2) The Florida Distance Learning Consortium must establish
122 operational guidelines and procedures for the catalog, which must
123 include:

124 (a) Requiring participating institutions to provide clear,
125 complete, and timely information concerning requirements for the
126 distance learning course and degree program, the type of required
127 technology and technical equipment, any prerequisite courses or
128 technology competencies and skills, the availability of academic
129 support services, financial aid resources, and the costs, fees,
130 and payment information and policies.

131 (b) Requiring that distance learning courses and degree
132 programs meet applicable and appropriate accreditation standards
133 and criteria.

134 (c) Requiring that, at a minimum, the catalog is reviewed
135 at the start of each academic semester to ensure distance
136 learning courses and degree programs comply with the operational



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137 guidelines and procedures established by the Florida Distance
138 Learning Consortium.

139 (3) The catalog must include an Internet-based analytic
140 tool that allows for the collection and analysis of data,
141 including:

142 (a) The number and type of students who use the catalog to
143 search for distance learning courses and degree programs.

144 (b) The number and type of requests for information on
145 distance learning courses and degree programs that are not listed
146 in the catalog.

147 (c) The comparison of distance learning course and degree
148 program cost data.

149 (d) An evaluation of course completions, graduation, and
150 retention rates of students enrolled in distance learning
151 courses.

152 (e) The summary of specific requests by course type or
153 course number, delivery method, offering institution, and
154 semester.

155 (f) Other types of data as determined by the consortium.

156 Section 3. Subsection (12) of section 1009.23, Florida
157 Statutes, is amended, present subsection (16) of that section is
158 redesignated as subsection (17), and a new subsection (16) is
159 added to that section, to read:

160 1009.23 Community college student fees.--

161 (12) (a) In addition to tuition, out-of-state, financial
162 aid, capital improvement, student activity and service, and
163 technology fees authorized in this section, each community
164 college board of trustees is authorized to establish fee
165 schedules for the following user fees and fines: laboratory fees,
166 which does not apply to a distance learning course; parking fees



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167 and fines; library fees and fines; fees and fines relating to
168 facilities and equipment use or damage; access or identification
169 card fees; duplicating, photocopying, binding, or microfilming
170 fees; standardized testing fees; diploma replacement fees;
171 transcript fees; application fees; graduation fees; and late fees
172 related to registration and payment. Such user fees and fines
173 shall not exceed the cost of the services provided and shall only
174 be charged to persons receiving the service. A community college
175 may not charge any fee except as authorized by law ~~or rules of~~
176 ~~the State Board of Education~~. Parking fee revenues may be pledged
177 by a community college board of trustees as a dedicated revenue
178 source for the repayment of debt, including lease-purchase
179 agreements and revenue bonds with terms not exceeding 20 years
180 and not exceeding the useful life of the asset being financed.
181 Community colleges shall use the services of the Division of Bond
182 Finance of the State Board of Administration to issue any revenue
183 bonds authorized by the provisions of this subsection. Any such
184 bonds issued by the Division of Bond Finance shall be in
185 compliance with the provisions of the State Bond Act. Bonds
186 issued pursuant to the State Bond Act shall be validated in the
187 manner established in chapter 75. The complaint for such
188 validation shall be filed in the circuit court of the county
189 where the seat of state government is situated, the notice
190 required to be published by s. 75.06 shall be published only in
191 the county where the complaint is filed, and the complaint and
192 order of the circuit court shall be served only on the state
193 attorney of the circuit in which the action is pending.

194 (b) The State Board of Education may adopt rules pursuant
195 to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this subsection.



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196 (16) (a) Each community college may assess a student who
197 enrolls in a course listed in the Florida Higher Education
198 Distance Learning Catalog established pursuant to s. 1004.09 a
199 per-credit-hour distance learning course user fee.

200 (b) The amount of the distance learning course user fee may
201 not exceed the additional costs of the services provided which
202 are attributable to the development and delivery of the distance
203 learning course. If a community college assesses the distance
204 learning course user fee, the institution may not assess any
205 other fees to cover the additional costs. By September 1 of each
206 year, each board of trustees shall report to the Division of
207 Community Colleges the total amount of revenue generated by the
208 distance learning course user fee for the prior academic year and
209 how the revenue was expended.

210 (c) The link for the catalog must be prominently displayed
211 on the institution's website to inform students of the catalog.

212 Section 4. Present subsection (17) of section 1009.24,
213 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (18), and a new
214 subsection (17) is added to that section, to read:

215 1009.24 State university student fees.--

216 (17) (a) A state university may assess a student who enrolls
217 in a course listed in the Florida Higher Education Distance
218 Learning Catalog established pursuant to s. 1004.09 a per-credit-
219 hour distance learning course fee.

220 (b) The amount of the distance learning course fee may not
221 exceed the additional costs of the services provided which are
222 attributable to the development and delivery of the distance
223 learning course. If the distance learning course fee is assessed
224 by a state university, the institution may not assess duplicative
225 fees to cover the additional costs.



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226 (c) The link for the catalog must be prominently displayed
227 on the institution's website informing students of the catalog.

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

229
230 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

231 And the title is amended as follows:

232 Delete everything before the enacting clause
233 and insert:

234 A bill to be entitled
235 An act relating to postsecondary distance learning;
236 establishing the Florida Distance Learning Task Force;
237 providing for membership; requiring the task force to
238 submit a report containing certain recommendations to the
239 Governor, the Legislature, and certain entities by a
240 specified date; providing for future expiration; creating
241 s. 1004.09, F.S.; establishing the Florida Higher
242 Education Distance Learning Catalog; requiring that the
243 Florida Distance Learning Consortium establish guidelines
244 and procedures and provide information on certain
245 requirements and information relating to distance learning
246 courses and degree programs; requiring that the catalog
247 include an Internet-based analytic tool that collects and
248 analyzes certain data; amending s. 1009.23, F.S.;
249 exempting a distance learning course from laboratory fees;
250 authorizing the State Board of Education to adopt rules;
251 authorizing a community college to assess a student
252 enrolled in a course listed in the catalog a per-credit-
253 hour user fee; requiring that such fee not exceed a
254 certain amount; prohibiting the assessment of other fees
255 if the distance learning course user fee is assessed;



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256 requiring that the board of trustees report to the
257 Division of Community Colleges the total amount of revenue
258 generated by such fee for the preceding year and how such
259 fee was expended; requiring that the link for the catalog
260 be prominently displayed on the institution's website;
261 amending s. 1009.24, F.S.; authorizing a state university
262 to assess a per-credit-hour distance learning course fee;
263 requiring that such fee not exceed a certain amount;
264 prohibiting the state university from assessing
265 duplicative fees to cover the same additional costs;
266 requiring that the link to the catalog be prominently
267 displayed on the institution's website; providing an
268 effective date.