

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Higher Education Committee

BILL: SB 2612

INTRODUCER: Senator Oelrich

SUBJECT: Medical Student Education Funding

DATE: March 31, 2008

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Harkey	Matthews	HE	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
2.			HI	
3.			HA	
4.				
5.				
6.				

**I. Summary:**

This bill would require the state to fund medical student education using a formula that provides equal state support per full-time-equivalent student at state university colleges of medicine. The formula would have to be based on actual costs of education per student, including direct, indirect, and total costs.

This bill creates one unnumbered section of law.

**II. Present Situation:**

Florida currently has public medical schools providing medical education at the University of Florida, the University of South Florida, and Florida State University. The University of Florida and the University of South Florida Colleges of Medicine are part of health science centers that include other health-related colleges, while the College of Medicine at Florida State is not part of such a center. As of Fall 2007, enrollment in the three medical schools was as follows:

University of Florida	509 students
University of South Florida	481 students
Florida State university	356 students

In 2006, the Legislature authorized additional public medical schools at the University of Central Florida and Florida International University. These two schools are in the planning stage and have not yet served medical students. The American Medical Association's Liaison Committee on Medical Education approved preliminary accreditation for these medical schools in February 2008.

Florida Atlantic University (FAU), through an agreement with the University of Miami, provides a 2+2 program for medical education where students start their medical education at FAU and receive their degree from the University of Miami.

Prior to the 2007 Legislative Session, the University of Florida and the University of South Florida requested equity in per-student funding among the state's public medical education programs. In the 2007-2008 General Appropriation Act, proviso language for specific appropriations 167 through 170A required the Board of Governors to assist the Office of Program Policy and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) with a review of funding for public medical education programs leading to the Doctor of Medicine degree. The Legislature required the review to:

- Evaluate the current Florida funding models and other national models for equivalent public medical education programs; and
- Consider data on funding programs from all sources.

The proviso required the established Florida public medical schools to participate in the review.

The report will be published in April 2008.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

This bill requires the state to fund medical student education using a formula that provides equal state support per full-time-equivalent student at state university colleges of medicine. The formula must be based on actual costs of education per student, including direct, indirect, and total costs. While the bill does not address reporting practices across universities, they would have to be comparable in order for direct, indirect, and total costs to be determined.

The bill would require a college of medicine to maintain its accreditation in order to receive the medical student education funding required by the bill.

The bill authorizes a college of medicine at a state university to seek non-state funds to augment the medical student education funds. This revised formula would potentially benefit medical colleges that receive income from university practice plans in which the colleges provide patient care.

### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

#### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

#### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

In 2007-2008 appropriations of general revenue and Education Enhancement Trust Fund (lottery) funds for medical education, adjusted for reductions during the year, are as follows:

Institution	General Revenue	Education Enhancement Trust Fund
University of South Florida Medical Center <sup>1</sup>	\$62,084,406	\$2,590,770
University of Florida Health Center <sup>2</sup>	\$92,112,418	\$4,311,167
Florida State University	\$43,044,691	\$ 3,132
University of Central Florida	\$ 4,528,645	
Florida International University	\$ 5,263,963	

The different accounting methods of the universities do not readily yield comparable expenditure data to enable the state to determine what portion of the state appropriation supports the medical education of doctors.

The new funding formula required by this bill would require new funds and/or a reallocation of existing funds.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

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<sup>1</sup> University of South Florida Health is comprised of three colleges: Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health. Within the College of Medicine are the School of Basic Biomedical Sciences, and the School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences. This appropriation funds all of those programs.

<sup>2</sup> The University of Florida Health Science Center is comprised of six colleges: Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health and Health Professions, and Veterinary Medicine. This appropriation funds three of those programs: Dentistry, Medicine, and Veterinary Medicine.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Additional Information:**

**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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