

HB 7071

2008

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), and (k) of subsection (3)
 30 of section 1000.21, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

31 1000.21 Systemwide definitions.--As used in the Florida K-
 32 20 Education Code:

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

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

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

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

39 Section 2. Section 1001.60, Florida Statutes, is created
 40 to read:

41 1001.60 Florida College System.--

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

80 c. Continue to provide outreach to underserved
81 populations.

82 d. Continue to provide remedial education.

83 e. Comply with all provisions of the statewide
84 articulation agreement that relate to 2-year and 4-year public

85 degree-granting institutions as adopted by the State Board of
 86 Education pursuant to s. 1007.23.

87 (3) LOCAL BOARDS OF TRUSTEES.--Each institution within the
 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 1004.35, Florida Statutes, is amended
 92 to read:

93 1004.35 Broward County campuses of Florida Atlantic
 94 University; coordination with other institutions.--The State
 95 Board of Education, the Board of Governors, and Florida Atlantic
 96 University shall consult with Broward ~~Community~~ College and
 97 Florida International University in coordinating course
 98 offerings at the postsecondary level in Broward County. Florida
 99 Atlantic University may contract with the Board of Trustees of
 100 Broward ~~Community~~ College and with Florida International
 101 University to provide instruction in courses offered at the
 102 Southeast Campus. Florida Atlantic University shall increase
 103 course offerings at the Southeast Campus as facilities become
 104 available.

105 Section 4. Section 1004.87, Florida Statutes, is created
 106 to read:

107 1004.87 Florida College System Task Force.--

108 (1) The Florida College System Task Force is established
 109 within the Division of Community Colleges of the Department of
 110 Education for the purpose of developing findings and issuing
 111 recommendations regarding the transition of community colleges

HB 7071

2008

112 to baccalaureate-degree-granting colleges and the criteria for
113 establishing and funding state colleges.

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

117 (b) The task force shall be comprised of 11 members
118 appointed by the Commissioner of Education. The appointees shall
119 include eight community college presidents, one state university
120 president, the president of an institution that is eligible to
121 participate in the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access
122 Grant Program, and one member at large. The community college
123 presidents appointed to the task force may not include the
124 presidents of the institutions named to participate in the State
125 College Pilot Project. The community college presidents
126 appointed to the task force must reflect the diversity of
127 program offerings and service areas of the 28 community colleges
128 and include representatives of community colleges that are
129 authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees, community colleges
130 that are not authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees,
131 community colleges that have urban service areas, community
132 colleges that have rural service areas, community colleges the
133 service areas of which have populations of 500,000 or more, and
134 community colleges the service areas of which have populations
135 of fewer than 500,000. The Commissioner of Education shall be a
136 voting member of the task force and the chair of the task force.

137 (3) The task force shall:

138 (a) Recommend a program approval process for new
139 baccalaureate degree programs that are designed to meet the

HB 7071

2008

140 employment needs of Florida, including approval as a
141 baccalaureate-degree-granting community college and as a state
142 college.

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

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

158 (d) Monitor implementation of the State College Pilot
159 Project.

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

163 (4) Any recommendation from the task force to the
164 Legislature requires approval by two-thirds of the membership of
165 the task force.

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

168 (6) (a) Community colleges, state universities, the
 169 Commission for Independent Education, and the Agency for
 170 Workforce Innovation shall provide information and assistance to
 171 the task force.

172 (b) Independent postsecondary educational institutions,
 173 representatives of the business community, and other
 174 stakeholders are encouraged to provide the task force with
 175 information to assist the task force in its deliberations.

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

184 (8) The task force shall be dissolved effective June 30,
 185 2010, prior to which time it shall issue its final report with
 186 recommended detailed criteria for implementing the Florida
 187 College System as a permanent part of the state system of higher
 188 education.

189 Section 5. Section 1004.875, Florida Statutes, is created
 190 to read:

191 1004.875 State College Pilot Project.--

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

196 (2) (a) Beginning with the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the State
 197 College Pilot Project is created, which shall be conducted by
 198 St. Petersburg College, Okaloosa-Walton College, and Indian
 199 River College in collaboration with the Florida College System
 200 Task Force. The purpose of the pilot project is to recommend to
 201 the Legislature an approval process for the transition of
 202 baccalaureate-degree-granting community colleges to state
 203 colleges in order to meet the employment needs of Florida,
 204 criteria for the transition of institutions in the Florida
 205 College System to state colleges, and a funding model for the
 206 Florida College System.

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

212 (3) The institutions participating in the pilot project
 213 shall:

214 (a) Maintain, as the institution's primary mission,
 215 responsibility for responding to community needs for
 216 postsecondary academic education and career degree education as
 217 prescribed in s. 1004.65(6).

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

220 (c) Require, as a condition of admission to upper-division
 221 programs, successful completion of the college-level
 222 communication and mathematics skills examination established

HB 7071

2008

223 pursuant to s. 1008.29 unless the student has been awarded an
224 associate degree from a community college or state university.

225 (d) Continue to provide outreach to underserved
226 populations.

227 (e) Continue to provide remedial education.

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

232 (g) Be prohibited from awarding graduate credit or
233 graduate degrees.

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

236 (i) Deliver the programs and services in providing
237 associate and baccalaureate degrees in a cost-effective manner
238 that demonstrates substantial savings to the student and to the
239 state over the cost of providing the degree at a state
240 university.

241 (4) (a) The institutions participating in the pilot project
242 shall collaborate with the Florida College System Task Force to
243 make recommendations to the State Board of Education, the
244 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
245 Representatives on specific issues that should be addressed in
246 the transition of a community college to a state college. Any
247 recommendations of the institutions participating in the pilot
248 project require approval by two-thirds of the participating
249 institutions. At a minimum, the following areas should be
250 addressed during the course of the pilot project:

HB 7071

2008

251 1. The development of a program approval process to be
252 followed by the State Board of Education when considering
253 proposals for new baccalaureate degree programs that are
254 designed to meet the employment needs of Florida. Proposals for
255 new baccalaureate degree programs are not limited to proposals
256 designed to meet regional workforce needs.

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

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

260 (b) A final report, including a status report on the
261 transition of the institutions participating in the pilot
262 project and recommendations on the issues outlined in paragraph
263 (a), shall be submitted to the State Board of Education, the
264 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
265 Representatives, and the Florida College System Task Force by
266 January 1, 2009.

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