

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

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 1004.35, Florida Statutes, is amended
 94 to read:

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

107 Section 4. Section 1004.87, Florida Statutes, is created
 108 to 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
114 to 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
117 or before August 31, 2008, and the task force shall hold its
118 first meeting on or before September 15, 2008.

119 (b) The task force shall be comprised of 12 members
120 appointed by the Commissioner of Education. The appointees shall
121 include eight community college presidents, one state university
122 president, the president of an institution that is eligible to
123 participate in the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access
124 Grant Program, the president of an institution that is licensed
125 by the Commission for Independent Education and grants
126 baccalaureate degrees, and one member at large. The community
127 college presidents appointed to the task force may not include
128 the presidents of the institutions named to participate in the
129 State College Pilot Project. The community college presidents
130 appointed to the task force must reflect the diversity of
131 program offerings and service areas of the 28 community colleges
132 and include representatives of community colleges that are
133 authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees, community colleges
134 that are not authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees,
135 community colleges that have urban service areas, community
136 colleges that have rural service areas, community colleges the
137 service areas of which have populations of 500,000 or more, and
138 community colleges the service areas of which have populations
139 of fewer than 500,000. The Commissioner of Education shall be a
140 voting member of the task force and the chair of the task force.

141 (3) The task force shall:

142 (a) Recommend a program approval process for new
143 baccalaureate degree programs that are designed to meet the
144 employment needs of Florida, including approval as a
145 baccalaureate-degree-granting community college and as a state
146 college.

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

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

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

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

167 (4) Any recommendation from the task force to the
168 Legislature requires approval by at least nine members of the

169 task force.

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

172 (6) (a) Community colleges, state universities, the
 173 Commission for Independent Education, and the Agency for
 174 Workforce Innovation shall provide information and assistance to
 175 the task force.

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

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

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

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

195 1004.875 State College Pilot Project.--

196 (1) The Legislature finds that it is in the best interest

197 of the state to provide the residents of the state affordable
198 access to baccalaureate degree programs that are designed to
199 meet regional and statewide employment needs.

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

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

218 (3) The institutions participating in the pilot project
219 shall:

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

224 (b) Maintain an open-door admissions policy for associate-

225 level degree programs and workforce education programs.

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

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

245 (d) Continue to provide outreach to underserved
246 populations.

247 (e) Continue to provide remedial education.

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

252 (g) Be prohibited from awarding graduate credit or

253 graduate degrees.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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