

By Senator Ring

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public postsecondary education;
3 creating a study committee to investigate the
4 feasibility of, and the process for, establishing a
5 research university; providing for the appointment of
6 study committee members; specifying responsibilities
7 and requiring presentation of findings and
8 recommendations; providing for termination; providing
9 an appropriation; providing an effective date.

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11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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13 Section 1. (1) There is created a study committee to
14 investigate the feasibility of, and the process for,
15 establishing a new university in the State University System
16 with a strong emphasis on advanced scientific and technological
17 research. Initially, the university shall offer postgraduate
18 studies and attract only the most academically gifted students.

19 (2) The study committee shall be composed of the following
20 members:

21 (a) Four members of the Board of Governors of the State
22 University System appointed by the Governor.

23 (b) Two individuals with expertise in scientific and
24 technological research appointed by the Governor.

25 (c) Two individuals with expertise in educational finance,
26 one each appointed by the President of the Senate and the
27 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

28 (3) The responsibilities of the study committee include,
29 but are not limited to, the responsibility to:

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30 (a) Study and make visitations to some of the nation's top-
31 ranked research universities, such as the Georgia Institute of
32 Technology, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the
33 California Institute of Technology, to determine how the
34 missions of such institutions are accomplished.

35 (b) Develop a plan and process for establishing a new
36 university in the State University System that:

37 1. Is committed to educating future leaders in science and
38 technology, initially at the postgraduate level.

39 2. Integrates research with education with a focus on
40 producing innovation that will benefit society, help drive
41 economic growth, and improve human life on a global scale.

42 3. Investigates and addresses the challenges in science and
43 technology in an interdisciplinary approach.

44 4. Attracts students with high academic qualifications and
45 capabilities.

46 (c) Develop a cost analysis and financial strategy for
47 establishing a leading research university.

48 (d) Establish criteria for naming opportunities for the
49 solicitation of private donors.

50 (4) The study committee shall present findings and
51 recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate,
52 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Board of
53 Governors of the State University System by January 31, 2010,
54 and shall terminate after such presentation.

55 Section 2. The sum of \$100,000 is appropriated from the
56 General Revenue Fund to the Board of Governors of the State
57 University System for fiscal year 2009-2010 to implement the
58 provisions of this act.

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Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.