

HB 91

2009

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

HB 91

2009

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

30        (a) Study and make visitations to some of the nation's  
31 top-ranked research universities, such as the Georgia Institute  
32 of Technology, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and  
33 the 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  
43 and 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.

HB 91

2009

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.

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