

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 1581

Florida Atlantic University

SPONSOR(S): Hasner

TIED BILLS:

IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 2460

	REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1)	State Universities & Private Colleges Policy Committee		Valenstein	Tilton
2)	State Universities & Private Colleges Appropriations Committee			
3)	Education Policy Council			
4)				
5)				

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 1581 authorizes a doctor of medicine degree program (M.D. Program) at Florida Atlantic University (FAU), subject to the approval of the Board of Governors.

The M.D. Program proposed by FAU will be limited to 64 students per class and will include an option for a dual M.D./biomedical sciences Ph.D. offered through a partnership with The Scripps Institute Kellogg School of Science and Technology.

FAU currently provides a regional medical education program (UM-FAU Program) through an agreement with the University of Miami (UM). FAU and UM will ensure that all students currently attending the UM-FAU Program will have an orderly transition into the UM Miami campus program or, if necessary, will be able to continue studies at the UM-FAU Program through the 2010-2011 academic year. A committee will be created to oversee the transition period to minimize the disruption to current students.

FAU will commit to operate the program with no additional state general revenue appropriations above the current appropriation for the UM-FAU Program. (See FISCAL COMMENTS.)

Provides an effective date of July 1, 2010.

HOUSE PRINCIPLES

Members are encouraged to evaluate proposed legislation in light of the following guiding principles of the House of Representatives

- Balance the state budget.
- Create a legal and regulatory environment that fosters economic growth and job creation.
- Lower the tax burden on families and businesses.
- Reverse or restrain the growth of government.
- Promote public safety.
- Promote educational accountability, excellence, and choice.
- Foster respect for the family and for innocent human life.
- Protect Florida's natural beauty.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background

Florida has significantly expanded enrollment in public medical schools over the last decade; however, the demand for access to public medical education in Florida remains strong. In 2008, there were 22 applicants competing for every available medical school seat.¹ Additionally, multiple studies of the United States physician workforce have predicted that the United States will face a physician shortage of between 124,000 and 159,000 physicians by 2025 unless the production of new physicians increases sharply.²

In 2006, the Board of Governors (BOG) approved the establishment of two new medical schools, the University of Central Florida (UCF) and the Florida International University (FIU), bringing the total number of public medical schools in Florida to five. Both UCF and FIU admitted their inaugural classes in the fall of 2009 with 41 and 43 students respectively.³

In 2002, the State Board of Education approved a request to establish a University of Miami (UM) regional medical campus at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). The regional medical education program (UM-FAU Program) underwent a comprehensive review by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) during the February 2009 accreditation review of the University of Miami School of Medicine. In the LCME accreditation team site visitors' report released in October 2009, the LCME found the UM-FAU Program campus to be "well-conceived and implemented" and cited the UM-FAU Program as one of the five strengths of the University of Miami medical school.⁴

The UM-FAU Program is located in the Schmidt Biomedical Science Center, a facility built with private donations and state matching funds specifically for the UM-FAU Program and related biomedical science education and research infrastructure. The UM-FAU Program has 128 students in years 1-3 and 45 full-time faculty members, including 20 FAU basic science professors, 11 FAU clinical professors, and 14 UM clinical professors. The UM-FAU Program has affiliation agreements with JFK

¹ Florida Atlantic University's Request to Establish a New Medical School, p. 11, Florida Board of Governors.

² Michael Dill & Edward Salsberg, *The Complexities of Physician Supply and Demand: Projections Through 2025*, Center for Workforce Studies, Association of American Medical Colleges, p. 6 (November 2008).

³ See *Recent Studies and Reports on Physician Shortages in the U.S.*, Center for Workforce Studies, Association of American Medical Colleges, p. 4 (November 2009).

⁴ Board of Governors State University System of Florida New Professional Degree Proposal Staff Analysis, p. 7 (February 1, 2010).

Medical Center, Boca Raton Community Hospital, and Bethesda Memorial Hospital to provide third year clerkships.⁵

FAU believes that it is in the best interests of the University and of prospective Florida medical students for the program to seek independent status. At the January 2010 board meeting, the FAU Board of Trustees elected to not reaffirm the UM-FAU affiliation which will expire on June 30, 2010. Instead, the FAU Board of Trustees decided to pursue approval from the Board of Governors for an independent medical education program. In February 2010, the FAU Board of Trustees formally approved the proposal.⁶

FAU hired Dr. Michael Whitcomb, the former Senior Vice President for Medical Education, Association of American Medical Colleges, and a national expert on US regional medical campuses, to evaluate the feasibility of transitioning the UM-FAU regional campus program into an independent FAU medical education program.⁷ Dr. Whitcomb concluded that FAU is following the typical pattern for four year regional medical campuses in the United States, which naturally evolve into independent medical education programs as the regional medical campuses develop their own curricula, governance structures, research initiatives, etc. that progressively create a unique identity for the regional campus that is distinct from the parent medical school. Dr. Whitcomb also concluded an independent FAU medical education program will have a far greater positive impact on the evolution of FAU as a comprehensive, research-intensive university than will the continued existence of the current UM-FAU regional medical campus relationship.⁸

Additionally, the BOG staff conducted an extensive site visit of the FAU Charles E. Schmidt College of Biomedical Science and the Scripps Institute Kellogg School of Science and Technology in November 2009. It was determined that all components were in place for the FAU to offer an M.D. program.⁹ The proposed M.D. program is currently working through the BOG approval process and was approved by the Academic Programs Team at the March 10, 2010 meeting. The entire board plans to vote on the proposal during the second week of April.¹⁰

The Scripps Research Institute

The Scripps Research Institute is the world's largest, private non-profit biomedical research facility, located in La Jolla, California. Scripps Florida is a division of The Scripps Research Institute located in Jupiter, Florida. Scripps Florida is a state-of-the-art biomedical research facility located next to the FAU campus in Jupiter. Scripps Florida employs nearly 300 faculty members, scientific, technical and administrative staff. Scripps Florida is a biomedical research institute with six departments: Cancer Biology, Chemistry, Infectology, Metabolism and Aging, Neurosciences, and Molecular Therapeutics. Scripps Florida also includes the Translational Research Institute which includes the Advanced Technologies and Drug Discovery divisions.

The Scripps Florida graduate program is part of The Scripps Research Institute's Kellogg School of Science and Technology. The graduate program offers a doctoral program with an emphasis on chemistry, chemical biology, biophysics and the biological sciences. The graduate program was established in 1989 and is conducted at The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California and Jupiter, Florida. There have been four Ph.D. graduates from the Scripps Florida campus, which has been in operation for four years. There are currently 18 students enrolled in the graduate program which generally takes from five to six years to complete.¹¹

⁵ FAU Board of Trustees Meeting Packet, p. 4 (January 20, 2010).

⁶ Board of Governors Analysis of HB 1581, March 8, 2010.

⁷ Board of Governors State University System of Florida New Professional Degree Proposal Staff Analysis, p. 7 (February 1, 2010).

⁸ *Id.* See also Michael E. Whitcomb, M.D., *Regional Academic Medical Center Agreement among Boca Raton Community Hospital, Inc., Florida Atlantic University, University of Miami*, Status Report, p. 12, (June 12, 2008).

⁹ Board of Governors Analysis of HB 1581, March 8, 2010.

¹⁰ Samantha Frank, FAU Medical School One Step Closer to Reality, March 17, 2010, available at

<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/fau-medical-school-one-step-closer-to-reality-380150.html> (last visited March 19, 2010).

¹¹ Available at <http://www.scripps.edu/florida/intro/facts.html> (last visited March 19, 2010).

Residency Programs

Prior to the expansion of the UM-FAU Program to a full four year medical education program, there were no allopathic residency training opportunities in any county north of Dade County, up through the Treasure Coast area and across the state to the Southwest Coast. FAU committed to use the regional program as a catalyst for creating allopathic residency programs in the FAU service area and adjoining counties. FAU has focused on the core medical primary care specialties of general internal medicine, general surgery, pediatrics and obstetrics/gynecology.¹²

The first allopathic residency program in the FAU service area began a year after enrolling the charter class in the four year UM-FAU Program. The goal is to ultimately create a total of approximately 250-300 residency and fellowship positions in the FAU region that are affiliated with FAU.¹³

Effect of Proposed Changes

HB 1581 authorizes a Florida Atlantic University Doctor of Medicine Degree Program (M.D. Program), subject to the approval of the Board of Governors.

FAU plans to build on the strengths of the existing UM-FAU Program curriculum for the M.D. Program and also plans to partner with The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI) to create the FAU-Scripps Institute for Biomedical Science and Technology. Together, FAU and TSRI will offer an accelerated program integrating M.D. and Ph.D. curricula allowing students to complete the combined degree one year earlier than traditional M.D./Ph.D. programs. FAU will confer the M.D. and TSRI will confer the Ph.D. The joint degree program is anticipated to help Florida meet the critical shortage of physician-scientists required to grow the state's biomedical science research, business and industrial sectors and assure an adequate number of physician-scientist faculty for Florida's medical schools.

The proposed M.D. program would begin in 2011 with 64 students, the program's established class size limit. The proposed M.D. Program will include: a smaller more interactive learning environment; interdisciplinary and community collaboration; patient-centered, self-directed learning; learning communities of eight students each; continuity of care, patient safety, and comprehensive, chronic disease management; early introduction of clinical training in multiple community-based hospital and outpatient settings; and a state-of-the-art Medical Simulation Center.¹⁴

In addition, FAU has expressed its commitment to the students currently attending the UM-FAU Program. FAU will work with UM to ensure these students have an orderly transition into the UM Miami campus program. If necessary, students currently enrolled in the UM-FAU Program may continue their studies at the UM-FAU Program through the 2010-2011 academic year. A committee comprised of equal numbers of UM and FAU representatives is being created to oversee the transition period to minimize the disruption to current students.¹⁵

As stated above, FAU has committed to increase the number of allopathic residency programs in the FAU service area, to that end, FAU is currently planning to begin residency programs in internal medicine, surgery, pediatrics and obstetrics/gynecology within the next several years at Boca Raton Community Hospital, Holy Cross Hospital and Tenet system hospitals in the region. FAU has signed Memoranda of Understanding with these facilities indicating the facilities' intent to offer residency programs sponsored by FAU.¹⁶

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Authorizes the Florida Atlantic University Doctor of Medicine Degree Program subject to the approval of the Board of Governors.

¹² Florida Atlantic University's Request to Establish a New Medical School, p. 8, Florida Board of Governors.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ Board of Governors Analysis of HB 1581, March 8, 2010.

¹⁵ Florida Atlantic University's Request to Establish a New Medical School, p. 6, Florida Board of Governors; *See also* FAU Board of Trustees Meeting Packet, p. 18 (January 20, 2010).

¹⁶ *Id.* at 8.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2010.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

See FISCAL COMMENTS.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

See FISCAL COMMENTS.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Like other medical education programs, FAU will be granted a certain amount of tuition authority by the Legislature. It is anticipated that FAU will charge approximately \$24,000 in tuition for in-state students, well below the tuition that was charged by UM for the UM-FAU Program, which was \$29,668¹⁷ for the 2009-2010 academic year.¹⁸

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The Board of Governors stated the Legislature has already fully funded the UM-FAU regional medical education program with \$12 million. FAU leadership indicates no increase in current general revenue funding will be required or sought to operate the independent FAU medical education program. The proposal by FAU shows the state appropriation remaining level at \$12 million, while tuition collected grows from an initial \$1.5 million to \$6 million by year four, after which it, too, stabilizes. The program's state cost per M.D. student is consistent with the recommendation contained in the BOG's 2010 Medical Education Funding Report.¹⁹

FAU will commit to operate the program with no additional state general revenue appropriations.²⁰

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill does not appear to require a city or county to expend funds or to take any action requiring the expenditure of funds.

¹⁷ Tuition and Mandatory Fees Academic Year 2009-2010, Department of Medical Education Office of Financial Assistance, Miller School of Medicine, University of Miami, available at <http://www.mededu.miami.edu/OSFA/Tuition.htm> (last visited March 19, 2010).

¹⁸ Board of Governors Analysis of HB 1581, March 8, 2010.

¹⁹ Board of Governors State University System of Florida New Professional Degree Proposal Staff Analysis, p. 5 (February 1, 2010).

²⁰ FAU Board of Trustees Meeting Packet, p. 24 (January 10, 2010).

The bill does not appear to reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate.

This bill does not appear to reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES