

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Higher Education Committee

BILL: SB 2460

INTRODUCER: Senator Negron

SUBJECT: Florida Atlantic Univ./Doctor of Medicine Program

DATE: March 24, 2010

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Harkey	Matthews	HE	Favorable
2.			HI	
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

This bill authorizes a doctor of medicine program at Florida Atlantic University subject to the approval of the Board of Governors (BOG).

This bill creates one unnumbered section of law.

II. Present Situation:

Legislative Approval of Degree Programs

The Legislature must approve the establishment of new colleges, schools, or functional equivalents of any program leading to a degree:

- That is offered as a credential for a specific license granted under the Florida Statutes or the State Constitution, and
- That will receive support from tuition and fees or from funds appropriated by the Legislature.¹

Thus, a public institution wishing to establish a doctoral program for a licensed profession such as medicine would have to receive authorization from the Legislature before offering the program.

BOG Program Approval Criteria

The BOG must establish criteria for the approval of new programs at state universities. New programs may not be approved if the objectives could be achieved by educational technology;

¹ s. 1004.03(3), F.S.

duplication of programs must be avoided; cooperative programs should be encouraged and a new program must be consistent with the BOG's strategic plan.² A new professional program may be approved if the university has taken into account the offerings of other postsecondary institutions in the region, the program will not alter the emphasis on undergraduate education, and the regional need for the program has been addressed.³

Florida Atlantic University Medical Education Program

Until January 2010, Florida Atlantic University (FAU) provided a program for medical education through an agreement with the University of Miami (UM). The FAU program started as a 2+2 program, where students started their medical education at FAU and transferred to UM. In 2005, the BOG approved a 4-year regional medical campus of the University of Miami's School of Medicine at FAU, and the first students were admitted to this 4-year program in 2007. The program underwent a Liaison Committee on Medical Education accreditation visit in 2009, and the FAU regional campus program was cited as one of the UM strengths. In January 2010, the FAU Board of Trustees elected to not reaffirm the FAU-UM affiliation agreement and, rather, voted to pursue BOG approval of an independent medical education program. At its meeting on February 10, 2010, the FAU Board of Trustees formally approved such a proposal. The BOG considered the proposal at its March 16, 2010 meeting and requested more information from the university regarding its plan for residencies for medical students and for addressing further budget reductions. The next opportunity for the BOG to review the proposal will be at its April 7, 2010 meeting.

The proposed FAU M.D. program employs a Continuity Medicine Curriculum that is characterized by (1) a smaller, more interactive learning environment; (2) interdisciplinary and community collaboration; (3) patient-centered, self-directed learning; (4) learning communities of eight students each; (5) continuity of care, patient safety, and comprehensive, chronic disease management; (6) early introduction of clinical training in multiple community-based hospital and outpatient settings; and (7) a state-of-the-art Medical Simulation Center. In addition to offering the M.D. degree, FAU proposes to offer a dual M.D./biomedical sciences Ph.D. option in partnership with the Scripps Institute Kellogg School of Science and Technology, which would confer the doctorate. The university estimates that one fourth of its M.D. students will take advantage of this option.

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 2009.⁴ All components were deemed to be in place for FAU to offer an independent program.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill authorizes a doctor of medicine program at Florida Atlantic University subject to the approval of the Board of Governors.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴

If the M.D. program is approved for FAU by the Board of Governors and this bill is passed, the program currently being offered on the FAU campus would continue to be offered as an independent program.

There is currently no agreement associated with the FAU medical education program, formerly affiliated with the University of Miami. The BOG states that it is well aware of FAU's intentions, and expects to act on the FAU request in the near future.⁵

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

FAU regional medical campus students who are Florida residents currently pay UM tuition, which for FY 2009-10 is approximately \$8,000 higher than the average in-state tuition charged by Florida public medical schools.⁶ Thus FAU M.D. students would pay a lower tuition.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Legislature has already funded the FAU regional medical campus for its planned enrollment of 246 students. Currently, the program receives \$12.6M in recurring state funds, and according to FAU, no additional state funds are required to operate an independent FAU M.D. program.

Like other universities and medical schools under the State University System, FAU's medical school would be granted a certain amount of tuition authority by the Legislature.

⁵ Board of Governors' analysis of SB 2460, on file with the Higher Education Committee.

⁶ FAU proposal to establish a new medical school, readable at http://www.flbog.org/documents_meetings/0103_0364_3366_604a%20SPASOC%202010_01_29%20FAU%20PROPOSAL%20clean%20version.pdf

It is expected that FAU will charge around \$24,000 in tuition per in-state student, well below the tuition that was charged by the University of Miami with the affiliated program.

According to the BOG, FAU's partnership with the Scripps Institute Kellogg School of Science and Technology which would confer the doctorate is revenue-neutral to the state. Students in the FAU medical program would become wholly FAU students at a date-certain. Tuition charged would become considerably less once FAU receives tuition authority for an independent program.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.