

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: SJR 1508

INTRODUCER: Senator Montford

SUBJECT: Board of Governors/Membership

DATE: February 8, 2012 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Harkey	deMarsh-Mathues	HE	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	JU	_____
3.	_____	_____	EE	_____
4.	_____	_____	RC	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

The Senate Joint Resolution proposes an amendment to Section 7, Article IX of the Florida Constitution to change the designation of the board’s student member. The resolution would require the Governor to appoint the student body president of a state university, rather than the president of the Florida Student Association, as a member of the Board of Governors.

This joint resolution proposes an amendment to Art. IX, s. 7, of the Florida Constitution.

II. Present Situation:

The State Constitution establishes the Board of Governors (BOG) as a 17-member body corporate to manage the state university system.¹ The Governor must appoint 14 citizen members who are confirmed by the Florida Senate and serve staggered terms of seven years. In addition, the Commissioner of Education, the chair of the advisory council of faculty senates, and the president of the Florida Student Association (FSA) serve as members.

According to the BOG, elections for the student government president at each state university are held during the spring semester.² Student government presidents serve a one-year term. The FSA consists of state university student government presidents whose membership in this organization is voluntary. In 2010, the Florida State University Student Government President withdrew from membership in the FSA. The other ten university student bodies are represented currently through their student government presidents. The student member of the BOG,

¹ Fla. Const., art. IX, s.7.

² Board of Governors legislative bill analysis, February 6, 2012, on file with the committee.

currently the President of the FSA, advises the Board on all system-wide student issues that come before the BOG. Additionally, the FSA membership works closely with the Chancellor on issues of importance to the students of the State University System (SUS).³

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This joint resolution proposes to amend the State Constitution to increase the number of BOG members appointed by the Governor from 14 to 15, and to require one of the Governor's appointees to be a state university student body president. The student body president must be appointed to a one-year term and not be subject to Senate confirmation. The joint resolution deletes the requirement that the president of the Florida Student Association be a member of the BOG and provides that a student body president cannot be appointed to the BOG from the same state university for two consecutive years.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. Other Constitutional Issues:

An amendment to the State Constitution may be proposed by the Legislature by a joint resolution agreed to by three-fifths of the membership of each house.⁴ A proposed amendment placed on the ballot must be approved by at least 60 percent of the electors voting on the measure in order to become an amendment to the constitution.⁵

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

³ *Id.*

⁴ Fla. Const., Art. XI, s. 1.

⁵ Fla. Const., Art. XI, s. 5(e).

C. Government Sector Impact:

According to the BOG, the provisions of the bill will not create a fiscal impact to the SUS.

Each proposed constitutional amendment is required to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in each county, once in the sixth week and once in the tenth week preceding the general election.⁶ Costs for advertising vary depending upon the length of the amendment. The Department of State estimates an average cost of \$106.14 per word for advertising an amendment.⁷

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.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

⁶ Fla. Const., art. XI, s. 5(d).

⁷ Communication with Department of State staff, February 8, 2012.