

By the Committee on Higher Education; and Senators Oelrich and Lynn

589-03550A-12

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to state universities of academic and  
3           research excellence and national preeminence; creating  
4           s. 1001.7065, F.S.; providing a short title;  
5           establishing a partnership initiative between the  
6           Board of Governors of the State University System and  
7           the Legislature to lift the academic and research  
8           excellence and national preeminence of the highest-  
9           performing state research universities; authorizing a  
10          state research university that meets specified  
11          criteria, and receives approval, to establish resident  
12          and nonresident student tuition or fees at  
13          differentiated and market rates; providing conditions  
14          for increasing such tuition or fees; authorizing the  
15          Board of Governors to exercise its governing  
16          authority; providing an exemption from the payment of  
17          increased tuition or fees for certain students;  
18          authorizing a state research university that meets  
19          specified criteria, and receives approval, to  
20          establish a set of courses having specified credit  
21          hours to provide a jointly shared educational  
22          experience for all first-time-in-college students;  
23          requiring implementation by the Board of Governors;  
24          authorizing the Board of Governors to make  
25          recommendations to the Legislature; providing an  
26          effective date.

27  
28   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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30 Section 1. Section 1001.7065, Florida Statutes, is created  
31 to read:

32 1001.7065 State universities of academic and research  
33 excellence and national preeminence.-

34 (1) This section may be cited as the "State Universities of  
35 Academic and Research Excellence and National Preeminence Act."

36 (2) A partnership initiative is established between the  
37 Board of Governors and the Legislature to lift the academic and  
38 research excellence and national preeminence of the highest-  
39 performing state research universities in accordance with this  
40 section. The initiative derives from the State University System  
41 Governance Agreement executed on March 24, 2010, wherein the  
42 Board of Governors and leaders of the Legislature agreed to a  
43 framework for the collaborative exercise of their joint  
44 authority and shared responsibility for the State University  
45 System. Specifically, the governance agreement confirmed the  
46 commitment of the Board of Governors and the Legislature to  
47 continue collaboration on accountability measures, the use of  
48 data, and recommendations derived from such data.

49 (3) Beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year, a state  
50 research university that the Board of Governors finds has  
51 substantially met at least 11 of the following academic and  
52 research excellence standards may establish resident and  
53 nonresident student tuition and fees for undergraduate and  
54 graduate courses and programs at differentiated and market  
55 rates, notwithstanding ss. 1009.01 and 1009.24, as approved by  
56 the university's board of trustees and the Board of Governors:

57 (a) An average weighted grade point average of 3.8 or  
58 higher on a 4.0 scale and an average SAT score of 1800 or higher

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59 for incoming freshman during the fall term, as reported  
60 annually.

61 (b) A top 50 ranking on at least two well-known and highly  
62 respected national public university rankings reflecting  
63 national preeminence while using the most recent data.

64 (c) A freshman retention rate of 90 percent or higher for  
65 full-time, first-time-in-college students, as reported annually  
66 to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

67 (d) Six or more faculty members at the state university who  
68 are members of a national academy, as reported annually by the  
69 Center for Measuring University Performance for the Top American  
70 Research Universities.

71 (e) Total annual research expenditures, including federal  
72 research expenditures, of \$200 million or more, as reported  
73 annually, while using the most recent data.

74 (f) Total annual research expenditures in diversified  
75 health sciences of \$100 million or more, as reported annually by  
76 the National Science Foundation (NSF).

77 (g) A top 100 public university national ranking for  
78 research expenditures in five or more science, technology,  
79 engineering, or mathematics fields of study, as reported  
80 annually by the NSF.

81 (h) One hundred or more total patents awarded for the most  
82 recent 3-year period, as reported annually to the IPEDS.

83 (i) Two hundred fifty or more doctoral degrees awarded, as  
84 reported annually to the IPEDS.

85 (j) Two hundred or more post-doctoral appointees, as  
86 reported annually.

87 (k) A national ranking in quality better than predicted by

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88 available financial resources, as reported annually by U.S. News  
89 and World Report.

90 (l) An endowment of \$400 million or more, as reported  
91 annually, while using the most recent data.

92 (m) Annual giving of \$45 million or more, as reported  
93 annually, while using the most recent data.

94 (n) Unallocated funds as a percentage of total budget of  
95 12.5 percent or more, as reported annually to the Board of  
96 Governors.

97  
98 An increase to tuition or fees may occur no more than once each  
99 academic year and must be implemented beginning with the fall  
100 term. In addition, the Board of Governors may exercise its  
101 governing authority to identify and grant additional authority  
102 and flexibilities within its constitutional powers and  
103 responsibilities as may be appropriate to achieve the goals of  
104 this section. However, a qualified beneficiary having a prepaid  
105 advance payment contract pursuant to s. 1009.98(2)(b) which was  
106 in effect prior to the first year a state university receives  
107 tuition and fee authority under this subsection, and that  
108 remains in effect, is exempt from the payment of any increase to  
109 tuition and fees assessed pursuant to the tuition and fee  
110 authority. A qualified beneficiary having a prepaid advance  
111 payment contract pursuant to s. 1009.98(2)(b) which is entered  
112 into the first year a state university receives tuition and fee  
113 authority under this subsection, or thereafter, is liable for  
114 the difference between the highest rate of tuition and fees  
115 covered by the advance payment contract and the tuition and fees  
116 assessed by the state university of national preeminence which

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117 the student attends.

118 (4) In order to provide a jointly shared educational  
119 experience, and notwithstanding the provisions of part II of  
120 chapter 1007 or any other law, rule, or regulation, a state  
121 university that the Board of Governors finds has substantially  
122 met at least 11 of the academic and research excellence  
123 standards set forth in subsection (3) may require its incoming  
124 first-time-in college students to take a 9-credit to 12-credit  
125 set of courses specifically determined by the state university.  
126 The state university may require that they be taken at the  
127 specific state university involved and that credit for any such  
128 required courses cannot be fulfilled through any acceleration,  
129 transfer, or other similar mechanism.

130 (5) The Board of Governors shall oversee the implementation  
131 of this section and may recommend to the Legislature for future  
132 consideration additional state university programs of academic  
133 and research excellence, or academic programs of national or  
134 international preeminence, together with recommended  
135 flexibilities designed to move those state universities or  
136 programs to a higher preeminence in appropriate nationally  
137 recognized rankings.

138 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.