

HB 963

2014

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the use of state funds in support
3 of boycotts; providing findings and intent; defining
4 the terms "academic entity," "host country," and
5 "public postsecondary education institution";
6 prohibiting the use of state funds to fund academic
7 entities that promote discriminatory boycotts;
8 providing limitations; providing an effective date.
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10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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12 Section 1. Use of state funds in support of boycotts;
13 prohibition.-

14 (1) The Legislature finds that it is beneficial to
15 students in this state to have access to an education that is
16 not bound by borders and to have the opportunity to obtain a
17 global education. The Legislature further finds that it is
18 important that the state undertake efforts to ensure that its
19 students succeed in a world that is continually becoming more
20 interdependent and that students have access to international
21 postsecondary education institutions. A global education allows
22 students to connect, compete, and cooperate with their peers
23 around the world. Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature
24 to prohibit the state's public postsecondary education
25 institutions from using state funds to support academic entities
26 that have passed resolutions or taken official actions to

27 promote discriminatory boycotts and thus limit academic
28 opportunities.

29 (2) For purposes of this section, the term:

30 (a) "Academic entity" means an organization that promotes
31 or supports academia in the United States or abroad.

32 (b) "Host country" means a country that hosts an
33 international program in which a public postsecondary education
34 institution participates.

35 (c) "Public postsecondary education institution" means a
36 Florida College System institution or a state university.

37 (3) (a) A public postsecondary education institution may
38 not use state funds provided directly to the institution to fund
39 an academic entity, provide funds for membership in an academic
40 entity, or fund travel or lodging for an institution employee to
41 attend a meeting of an academic entity if the entity has issued
42 a resolution or other official statement, or undertaken an
43 official action, boycotting a host country or a postsecondary
44 education institution located in a host country.

45 (b) A public postsecondary education institution is not
46 eligible to receive state funds during the academic year in
47 which the institution is in violation of paragraph (a).

48 (c) This section may not limit the attendance by an
49 employee of a public postsecondary education institution at an
50 event of an academic entity that boycotts a host country or a
51 postsecondary education institution located in a host country.
52 Attendance at a meeting of such entity may not be used by the

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53 | public postsecondary education institution with regard to
54 | employment decisions.

55 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.