

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 Committee on Higher Education

BILL: SB 1252

INTRODUCER: Senator Stargel

SUBJECT: Higher Education

DATE: March 20, 2015

REVISED: _____

| | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION |
|----|---------|----------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1. | Graf | Klebacha | HE | Pre-meeting |
| 2. | | | AED | |
| 3. | | | AP | |

I. Summary:

SB 1252 eliminates the one-year moratorium on the State Board of Education’s approval of new baccalaureate degree program offerings by Florida College System (FCS) institutions and aligns the baccalaureate degree approval process for St. Petersburg College with the approval process for other FCS institutions. Additionally, the bill modifies requirements for career education by:

- Adding the Chancellor of Career and Adult Education as a member of the Higher Education Coordinating Council, and
- Modifying the purpose and responsibilities of career education to require that the career education program standards and benchmarks developed by the Florida Department of Education reflect the quality components of career and technical education, and requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

II. Present Situation:

The Legislature has established several mechanisms to educate and train individuals in Florida to promote economic development and meet workforce needs.

Florida College System Institution Baccalaureate Degree Programs

The Legislature created the site-determined baccalaureate degree access program in 1999 to authorize community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees to meet the economic development and educational needs of place-bound, nontraditional students in areas of the state that are underserved by 4-year institutions.¹

¹ Section 1, ch. 99-290, L.O.F.

In 2001, the Legislature redesignated St. Petersburg Junior College as St. Petersburg College and authorized community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees in populous counties that are underserved by public baccalaureate degree granting institutions.² The legislative intent to provide access to baccalaureate degrees was to “address the state’s workforce needs, especially the need for teachers, nurses, and business managers in agencies and firms that require expertise in technology.”³ St. Petersburg College was the first college that the Legislature authorized to offer baccalaureate degrees.⁴ The Legislature specified the purpose for authorizing St. Petersburg College to offer high quality undergraduate education at affordable prices is to “promote economic development by preparing people for occupations that require a bachelor’s degree and are in demand by existing or emerging public and private employers in this state.”⁵

Currently, 24 Florida College System (FCS) institutions offer 175 baccalaureate degree programs.⁶ In 2014, the Legislature placed a one-year moratorium on the State Board of Education’s approval of new baccalaureate degree program offerings by FCS institutions.⁷

Higher Education Coordinating Council

The Legislature created the Higher Education Coordinating Council (HECC or council) in 2010⁸ to identify unmet needs; facilitate solutions to disputes regarding the creation of new degree programs and the establishment of new institutes, campuses, or centers; and facilitate solutions to data issues identified by the Articulation Coordination Committee (ACC) to improve the K-20 education performance accountability system.⁹ HECC includes the following members:¹⁰

- One member of the Board of Governors, appointed by the chair of the Board of Governors.
- The Chancellor of the State University System.
- The Chancellor of the Florida College System.
- One member of the State Board of Education (SBE), appointed by the chair of the SBE.
- The Executive Director of the Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges.
- The president of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida.
- The president of Workforce Florida, Inc., or his or her designee.

² Section 40, ch. 2001-170, L.O.F.

³ *Id.*

⁴ Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, Presentation to the Florida Senate Committee on Higher Education (March 10, 2015), available at http://www.flsenate.gov/PublishedContent/Committees/2014-2016/HE/MeetingRecords/MeetingPacket_2894.pdf, at 48-49 of 97.

⁵ Section 40, ch. 2001-170, L.O.F.

⁶ The 24 colleges that are authorized to offer baccalaureate degree programs include St. Petersburg College, Chipola College, Miami Dade College, Northwest Florida State College, Daytona State College, Florida SouthWestern State College, Florida State College at Jacksonville, Indian River State College, Broward College, Palm Beach State College, Polk State College, Santa Fe College, Seminole College, State College of Florida-Manatee, College of Central Florida, Gulf Coast State College, Pensacola College, St. Johns River State College, Valencia College, Florida Gateway College, South Florida State College, Lake-Sumter State College, Eastern Florida State College, and Pasco-Hernando State College. Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, Presentation to the Florida Senate Committee on Higher Education (March 10, 2015), available at http://www.flsenate.gov/PublishedContent/Committees/2014-2016/HE/MeetingRecords/MeetingPacket_2894.pdf, at 49 of 97; Email, Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (Feb. 13, 2015).

⁷ Sections 3 and 22, ch. 2014-56, LO.F.

⁸ Section 12, ch. 2010-78, L.O.F.

⁹ Section 1004.015(1), F.S.

¹⁰ Section 1004.015(2), F.S.

- The president of Enterprise Florida, Inc., or a designated member of the Stakeholders Council appointed by the president.
- Three representatives of the business community, one appointed by the President of the Senate, one appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one appointed by the Governor, who are committed to developing and enhancing world class workforce infrastructure necessary for Florida's citizens to compete and prosper in the ever-changing economy of the 21st century.

The appointed members serve 2-year terms and the chair of the HECC is elected annually by a majority of the council members.¹¹

Career Education

The purpose of career education is to help individuals attain and sustain employment and realize economic self-sufficiency.¹² The Legislature intends that the standards that are provided in law¹³ be considered in the development of accountability standards for public schools and for FCS institutions.¹⁴

- School board, superintendent, and career center, and FCS institution board of trustees and president, accountability for career education programs includes, but is not limited to:
 - Student demonstration of the academic skills necessary to enter an occupation.
 - Student preparation to enter an occupation in an entry-level position or continue postsecondary study.
 - Career program articulation with other corresponding postsecondary programs and job training experiences.
 - Employer satisfaction with the performance of students who complete career education or reach occupational completion points.
 - Student completion, placement, and retention rates pursuant to career program reporting requirements.¹⁵
- Florida Department of Education (DOE) accountability for career education includes, but is not limited to:
 - The provision of timely, accurate technical assistance to school districts and FCS institutions.
 - The provision of timely, accurate information to the SBE, the Legislature, and the public.
 - The development of policies, rules, and procedures that facilitate institutional attainment of the accountability standards and coordinate the efforts of all divisions within the department.
 - The development of program standards and industry-driven benchmarks for career, adult, and community education programs, which must be updated every 3 years. The standards must include career, academic, and workplace skills; viability of distance learning for instruction; and work/learn cycles that are responsive to business and industry.
 - Overseeing school district and FCS institution compliance with the provisions of public postsecondary education.

¹¹ Section 1004.015(2), F.S.

¹² Section 1004.92(1), F.S.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ Section 1008.43, F.S.

- Ensuring that the educational outcomes for the technical component of career programs are uniform and designed to provide a graduate who is capable of entering the workforce on an equally competitive basis regardless of the institution of choice.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 1252 eliminates the one-year moratorium on the State Board of Education's approval of new baccalaureate degree program offerings by Florida College System (FCS) institutions and aligns the baccalaureate degree approval process for St. Petersburg College with the approval process for other FCS institutions. In effect, St. Petersburg College must seek approval from the State Board of Education to offer new baccalaureate degree programs.

Additionally, the bill modifies requirements for career education by:

- Adding the Chancellor of Career and Adult Education as a member of the Higher Education Coordinating Council (HECC), and
- Modifying the purpose and responsibilities of career education to require that the career education program standards and benchmarks developed by the Florida Department of Education reflect the quality components of career and technical education, and requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules.

Career and Adult Education representation on the HECC may assist with advancing career education issues in higher education and promote collaboration between state universities, FCS institutions, technical centers, independent colleges and universities, and business and workforce entities regarding career education issues to meet the state's workforce needs.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

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:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 1001.03, 1004.015, 1004.92, and 1007.33.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.