

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FINAL BILL ANALYSIS**

BILL #:	CS/CS/HB 759	FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:	
SPONSOR(S):	Education Committee; Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee; Renner; Sprowls and others	112 Y's	1 N's
COMPANION BILLS:	SB 446	GOVERNOR'S ACTION:	Approved

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

CS/CS/HB 759 passed the House on April 22, 2015, as SB 446.

The bill requires that the board of trustees for St. Johns River State College be comprised of seven members from the three-county service area of Clay, Putnam and St. Johns Counties. The bill also clarifies that trustees shall be appointed by the Governor to staggered 4-year terms, subject to confirmation by the Senate.

The bill was approved by the Governor on May 14, 2015, ch. 2015-19, L.O.F., and became effective on that date.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

Present Situation

The Florida College System (FCS) was established in order to maximize open access for students, respond to community needs for postsecondary academic education and career education, and provide associate and baccalaureate degrees that best meet the state's employment needs.¹ The FCS is comprised of 28 institutions, each with specific service areas within the state.²

Each FCS institution is governed by a local board of trustees.³ These boards are charged with ensuring that the college is an integral part of the community by balancing and integrating the wide variety of interests and needs into policies that benefit the common good and future of the region the institution serves.⁴

Current law requires that the FCS institution boards be comprised of five members when an institution's district is confined to one school district, seven members when there is one district and the board of trustees elects to have additional members, and not more than nine when the district contains two or more school districts. The State Board of Education (SBE) is also authorized to adopt rules related to the membership of the board of trustees. Trustees are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.⁵

The State Board of Education (SBE) has adopted a rule regulating the composition of the boards of trustees of FCS institutions.⁶ For those FCS institutions that serve more than one county, the rule provides requirements for board composition as follows:

- Two (2) county district boards shall be composed of five (5) trustees from the county of location and four (4) from the cooperating county. However, if the county of location has more than five (5) times the population of the cooperating county as determined by the U.S. Census, there shall be three (3) trustees from the cooperating county.
- Three (3) and four (4) county district boards shall be composed of three (3) trustees from the county of location and two (2) from each cooperating county.
- Five (5) county district boards shall be composed of three (3) trustees from the county of location, two (2) from each of the two (2) more populous cooperating counties, and one (1) from each of the two (2) less populous cooperating counties.
- Six (6) county district boards shall be composed of three (3) trustees from the county of location, two (2) from the most populous cooperating county, and one (1) from each of the remaining counties.

However, the rule establishes the composition of the boards at South Florida Community College, Gulf Coast Community College, and Edison Community College.

The rule also prescribes the process the Governor must follow to stagger the length of terms for board members.

Effect of Proposed Changes

¹ Section 1001.60(1), F.S.

² Section 1000.21(3), F.S.

³ Section 1001.60(3), F.S.

⁴ Association of Florida Colleges, *Florida College System Trustee Manual*, (Sept. 2013), available at http://myafchome.org/assests/Publications/Trustees/2k12_trustee_manual.pdf.

⁵ Section 1001.61, F.S.

⁶ Rule 6A-4.024, F.A.C. This rule was last updated in July 2004, therefore it does not reflect the most current Florida College System institution names.

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The bill takes effect upon becoming law.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:
None

2. Expenditures:
None

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:
None

2. Expenditures:
None

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:
None

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:
None