

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 524

INTRODUCER: Senator Gaetz

SUBJECT: State University System Performance-based Incentives

DATE: November 16, 2015 REVISED: _____

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

I. Summary:

SB 524 codifies performance-based funding accountability of the state universities and modifies the State University System (SUS) Performance-Based Incentive to:

- Require the performance-based metrics to include wage thresholds that reflect the added value of a baccalaureate degree.
- Require the Florida Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida (BOG) to establish minimum performance funding eligibility thresholds for the state's investment and the institutional investment.
- Prohibit a state university that fails to meet the state's investment performance funding threshold from eligibility to receive a share of the state's investment performance funding.

Additionally, the bill requires the BOG to adopt a regulation to implement the SUS Performance-Based Incentive statutory provisions.

During the 2015A Special Session, the Legislature adopted the substance of SB 524 in the 2015-2016 General Appropriations Act (GAA) implementing bill for only the 2015-2016 fiscal year; therefore, the policy will expire on July 1, 2016, unless the Legislature acts to codify policy provisions beyond the 2015-2016 fiscal year. SB 524 saves the SUS Performance-Based Incentive from repeal by reenacting modified provisions and providing an effective date of July 1, 2016.

II. Present Situation:

The Legislature has established performance-based funding models in the recent years to evaluate the performance of Florida's public educational institutions such as the state universities based on identified performance metrics.

In 2012, the Legislature established performance funding for the state universities that are the most successful in educating students who earn degrees and industry certifications in, and become employed in, technology fields.¹ The 2012 Legislature appropriated \$15 million for that purpose.² Subsequently, in 2013, the Legislature appropriated \$20 million for the State University System (SUS) Performance-Based Incentive and entrusted the Florida Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida (BOG or board) to allocate the funding to state universities based on the percentage of graduates employed or enrolled in further education, the average wages of employed graduates, and the average cost per graduates.³

In 2014, the Legislature required that performance funding be allocated based on the BOG's Performance Funding Model approved on January 16, 2014.⁴ The BOG's Performance Funding Model contained 10 performance metrics that evaluate the state universities on the following:⁵

- Percent of bachelor's degree graduates employed and/or continuing their education;
- Average wages of employed baccalaureate graduates;
- Cost per undergraduate degree;
- Six-year graduation rate (full-time and part-time first time in college (FTIC));
- Academic Progress Rate (second year retention with grade point average above 2.0);
- Bachelor's degrees awarded in areas of strategic emphasis (including Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education);
- University access rate (percent of undergraduates with a Pell Grant);
- Graduate degrees awarded in areas of strategic emphasis (including STEM);
- Two additional metrics, one chosen by each of the following:
 - Board of Governors and
 - University Board of Trustees

The performance of state universities are evaluated based on the benchmarks adopted by the BOG for achievement of excellence or improvement in these specified metrics. The 2014-2015 General Appropriations Act (GAA) appropriated \$200 million for State University Performance Based Incentives, which included \$100 million in new funding and \$100 million redistributed from a proportionate share of each state university's base funds.⁶ A state university that qualifies for the new funding, also receives its full base funding.⁷ A state university that fails to meet the minimum performance threshold established by the BOG has a portion of its base funding withheld and must submit a performance improvement plan (plan) to the BOG.⁸ The board must approve the plan and monitor the university's progress on implementing the performance

¹ Section 1011.905, F.S., *as created by* s. 14, ch. 2012-195, L.O.F.

² Specific Appropriation 129, ch. 2012-118, L.O.F.

³ Specific Appropriation 142, ch. 2013-40, L.O.F.

⁴ Specific Appropriation 143, ch. 2014-51, L.O.F.

⁵ Florida Board of Governors, *Meeting Minutes* (January 16, 2014), *available at* http://www.flbog.edu/documents_meetings/0187_0790_5874_10.2.2%20BOG%202014_01_16_Board_of_Governors_minutes.pdf; *see also* Florida Board of Governors, *Performance Funding Model Overview*, *available at* http://www.flbog.edu/about/budget/docs/performance_funding/Overview-Doc-Performance-Funding-10-Metric-Model-Condensed-Version-April2015.pdf.

⁶ Specific Appropriation 143, ch. 2014-51, L.O.F.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

measures specified in the plan.⁹ Full base funding for a state university is restored upon the board's approval of the plan and progress monitoring reports.¹⁰ Full base funding is not restored for a state university that fails to make satisfactory progress on meeting its performance improvement plan expectations.¹¹

During the 2015 Legislative Special Session A, the Legislature codified the SUS Performance Based Incentive, which is based on indicators of institutional attainment of performance metrics adopted by the BOG.¹² These performance metrics include graduation rates, retention rates, postgraduation education rates, degree production, affordability, postgraduation employment and salaries, access, and other metrics approved by the board in a noticed meeting.¹³ The Legislature entrusted the BOG to adopt benchmarks to evaluate each state university's performance on the metrics to determine a state university's achievement of institutional excellence or need for improvement.¹⁴ Because the SUS Performance-Based Incentive was created in the implementing bill during the 2015 Legislative Special Session A, the SUS Performance-Based Incentive is effective for the 2015-2016 fiscal year only.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 524 codifies performance-based funding accountability of the state universities and modifies the State University System (SUS) Performance-Based Incentive to:

- Require the performance-based metrics to include wage thresholds that reflect the added value of a baccalaureate degree.
- Require the Florida Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida (BOG or board) to establish minimum performance funding eligibility thresholds for the state's investment and the institutional investment.
- Prohibit a state university that fails to meet the state's investment performance funding threshold from eligibility to receive a share of the state's investment performance funding.

The incorporation of wage thresholds into the postgraduation employment and salaries performance metric that reflects the added value of a baccalaureate degree would require the board to establish a wage threshold that is appropriate for students who graduate from state universities with a baccalaureate degree.

According to the board, the performance-based funding metrics complement the performance metrics for the preeminent state research universities program toward the goal of improving the quality of the state's public universities.¹⁵

Additionally, the bill requires the BOG to adopt a regulation to implement the SUS Performance-Based Incentive statutory provisions.

⁹ Specific Appropriation 143, ch. 2014-51, L.O.F.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² Section 1001.92, F.S., as created by s. 14, ch. 2015-222, L.O.F.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ Florida Board of Governors. *Letter to Senator Don Gaetz* (Sep. 30, 2015), on file with the Committee on Higher Education staff.

During the 2015A Special Session, the Legislature adopted the substance of SB 524 in the 2015-2016 General Appropriations Act (GAA) implementing bill for only the 2015-2016 fiscal year; therefore, the policy will expire on July 1, 2016, unless the Legislature acts to codify policy provisions beyond the 2015-2016 fiscal year. SB 524 saves the SUS Performance-Based Incentive from repeal by reenacting modified provisions and providing an effective date of July 1, 2016.

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:

According to the Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida (BOG), “There is no discernable fiscal impact on local governments. At this time, Board staff are unable to discern the impact of raising the wage threshold for the post-graduation metric on universities and the effect of scoring for performance based funding.”¹⁶

The BOG is conducting an analysis to establish an appropriate threshold for the postgraduation metric that would reflect the added value of a baccalaureate degree.¹⁷

¹⁶ Email, Florida Board of Governors, *2016 Agency Legislative Bill Analysis for SB 524* (Oct. 29, 2015), at 1, on file with the Committee on Education staff.

¹⁷ Email, Florida Board of Governors, *2016 Agency Legislative Bill Analysis for SB 524* (Oct. 29, 2015), at 2, on file with the Committee on Education staff.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 1001.92 of the Florida Statutes.

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.