

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 836

INTRODUCER: Senator Gaetz

SUBJECT: Rapid Response Education and Training Program

DATE: January 22, 2016

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Scott</u>	<u>Klebacha</u>	<u>HE</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>AED</u>	<u> </u>
3.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>AP</u>	<u> </u>

I. Summary:

SB 836 establishes a Rapid Response Education and Training Program within the Complete Florida Plus Program at the University of West Florida to award competitive grants to public or private education and training providers for the purpose of enhancing business and industry recruitment and retention efforts.

Specifically, the bill requires that the Rapid Response Education and Training Program:

- Award matching grants to public or private education and training providers.
- Ensure transparency through periodic reports from an independent forensic accountant or auditor.
- Keep administrative costs to a minimum through the use of existing organizational structures.
- Work directly with businesses to recruit individuals for education and training.
- Give a participating education and training program 30-days' notice before termination.
- Survey businesses regarding the effectiveness of the education and training programs.

Additionally, the bill requires the Division of Career and Adult Education within the Department of Education to analyze and assess the effectiveness of the programs offered through the Rapid Response Education and Training Program in addressing labor market and occupational trends and needs.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2016.

II. Present Situation:

The Florida Legislature has established mechanisms to facilitate coordination between public and private postsecondary education institutions and employment agencies to assist students in completing degree programs to meet the state's workforce needs.

In 2012, the Florida Legislature created the Complete Florida Plus Program¹ at the University of West Florida (UWF) for the purpose of:²

- Facilitating degree completion for the state’s adult learners through the Complete Florida Degree Initiative.
- Providing information relating to and access to distance learning courses and degree programs offered by public postsecondary education institutions.
- Coordinating with the Florida College System (FCS) and the State University System (SUS) to identify and provide online academic support services and resources when the multi-institutional provision of such services and resources is more cost effective or operationally effective.
- Administering the Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative³ (Cooperative) and consulting with the chancellors of the FCS and the SUS regarding the Cooperative.

The UWF must submit annual reports to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives relating to the implementation and operation of the components of the Complete Florida Plus Program and the Cooperative.⁴

In 2014, the Florida Legislature established the Complete Florida Degree Initiative (Initiative) within the Complete Florida Plus Program for the purpose of recruiting, recovering, and retaining the state’s adult learners⁵ and assisting them in completing an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree aligned to the state’s high-wage, high-skill workforce needs.⁶ The Initiative coordinates with FCS institutions, state universities, and private postsecondary institutions and partners with public and private job recruitment and placement agencies to identify associate, applied baccalaureate, and baccalaureate degree programs that meet the state’s workforce needs.⁷

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 836 establishes a Rapid Response Education and Training Program within the Complete Florida Plus Program at the University of West Florida to award competitive grants to public or private education and training providers for the purpose of enhancing business and industry recruitment and retention efforts.

The Complete Florida Plus Program currently assists in recruiting, recovering, and retaining individuals to meet the state’s high-wage, high-skill workforce needs. The bill requires the Complete Florida Plus Program to work directly with Enterprise Florida, Inc., in project-specific industry recruitment and retention efforts to offer credible education and training commitments to businesses. In effect, the bill expands and further serves the purpose of the Complete Florida

¹ The program was formerly established as the Degree Completion Pilot Project pursuant to s. 15, ch. 2012-34, L.O.F.

² Section 1006.735(1), F.S.

³ Section 1006.73, F.S. The Cooperative provides a single library automation system and associated resources and services for public postsecondary institutions to use to support learning, teaching, and research needs. *Id.* at (1).

⁴ Sections 1006.73(4) and 1006.735(5), F.S.

⁵ Section 1006.735(2), F.S. Adult learners who are veterans or active duty members of the United States Armed Forces are given priority. *Id.* An “adult learner” is defined as “a student who has successfully completed college-level coursework in multiple semesters but has left an institution in good standing before completing his or her degree.” *Id.*

⁶ *Id.* See also, s. 16, ch. 2014-56, L.O.F.

⁷ Section 1006.735(2)(a), F.S.

Plus Program to include targeted education and training programs to meet the workforce needs of industries and businesses in the state.

Specifically, the bill requires that the Rapid Response Education and Training Program:

- Award matching grants to public or private education and training providers.
- Ensure transparency by submitting to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives periodic reports from an independent forensic accountant or auditor.
- Keep administrative costs to a minimum through the use of existing organizational structures.
- Work directly with businesses to recruit individuals for education and training.
- Give a participating education and training program 30-days' notice before termination.
- Survey businesses regarding the effectiveness of the programs after their completion.

Additionally, the bill requires the Division of Career and Adult Education (Division) within the Department of Education to analyze and assess the effectiveness of the programs offered through the Rapid Response Education and Training Program in addressing labor market and occupational trends and needs. The Division's analysis may enhance and ensure the effectiveness of the Rapid Response Education and Training Program in delivering its objectives to meet the state's workforce needs.

The award of matching grants to public and private education and training providers and partnerships with businesses may assist individuals in securing and retaining employment.

The bill provides 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:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 1006.735 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.