

By Senator Galvano

21-00774A-17

20171468\_\_

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to education; amending s. 11.45, F.S.;  
3           requiring the Auditor General to conduct annual audits  
4           of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind;  
5           amending s. 1001.10, F.S.; authorizing the  
6           Commissioner of Education to coordinate with specified  
7           entities to assess needs for resources and assistance  
8           in an emergency situation; amending s. 1004.345, F.S.;  
9           extending the timeframe by which the Florida  
10          Polytechnic University must meet specified criteria  
11          established by the Board of Governors of the State  
12          University System; providing an effective date.

13  
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15  
16           Section 1. Upon the expiration and reversion of the  
17           amendment to section 11.45, Florida Statutes, pursuant to  
18           section 36 of chapter 2016-62, Laws of Florida, paragraph (d) of  
19           subsection (2) of section 11.45, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
20           read:

21           11.45 Definitions; duties; authorities; reports; rules.—

22           (2) DUTIES.—The Auditor General shall:

23           (d) Annually conduct financial audits of the accounts and  
24           records of all district school boards in counties with  
25           populations of fewer than 150,000, according to the most recent  
26           federal decennial statewide census, and the Florida School for  
27           the Deaf and the Blind.

28  
29           The Auditor General shall perform his or her duties

21-00774A-17

20171468\_\_

30 independently but under the general policies established by the  
31 Legislative Auditing Committee. This subsection does not limit  
32 the Auditor General's discretionary authority to conduct other  
33 audits or engagements of governmental entities as authorized in  
34 subsection (3).

35 Section 2. Subsection (8) is added to section 1001.10,  
36 Florida Statutes, to read:

37 1001.10 Commissioner of Education; general powers and  
38 duties.—

39 (8) In the event of an emergency, the commissioner may  
40 coordinate through the most appropriate means of communication  
41 with local school districts, Florida College System  
42 institutions, and satellite offices of the Division of Blind  
43 Services and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to assess  
44 the need for resources and assistance to enable each school,  
45 institution, or satellite office the ability to reopen as soon  
46 as possible after considering the health, safety, and welfare of  
47 students and clients.

48 Section 3. Upon the expiration and reversion of the  
49 amendment to section 1004.345, Florida Statutes, pursuant to  
50 section 36 of chapter 2016-62, Laws of Florida, subsection (1)  
51 of section 1004.345, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

52 1004.345 The Florida Polytechnic University.—

53 (1) By December 31, 2017 ~~2016~~, the Florida Polytechnic  
54 University shall meet the following criteria as established by  
55 the Board of Governors:

56 (a) Achieve accreditation from the Commission on Colleges  
57 of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;

58 (b) Initiate the development of the new programs in the

21-00774A-17

20171468\_\_

59 fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics;

60 (c) Seek discipline-specific accreditation for programs;

61 (d) Attain a minimum FTE of 1,244, with a minimum 50  
62 percent of that FTE in the fields of science, technology,  
63 engineering, and mathematics and 20 percent in programs related  
64 to those fields;

65 (e) Complete facilities and infrastructure, including the  
66 Science and Technology Building, Phase I of the Wellness Center,  
67 and a residence hall or halls containing no fewer than 190 beds;  
68 and

69 (f) Have the ability to provide, either directly or where  
70 feasible through a shared services model, administration of  
71 financial aid, admissions, student support, information  
72 technology, and finance and accounting with an internal audit  
73 function.

74 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.