

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Florida College System;  
3           amending s. 1004.65, F.S.; revising the primary  
4           mission of Florida College System institutions;  
5           amending s. 1007.23, F.S.; providing for an associate  
6           degree to be awarded to certain students by Florida  
7           College System institutions; requiring each Florida  
8           College System institution to execute at least one  
9           "2+2" targeted pathway articulation agreement by a  
10          specified time; providing requirements and student  
11          eligibility for the agreements; requiring the State  
12          Board of Education and the Board of Governors to  
13          collaborate to eliminate barriers for the agreements;  
14          amending s. 1007.33, F.S.; revising duties of Florida  
15          College System institutions offering specified degree  
16          programs; revising requirements for baccalaureate  
17          degree programs offered by specified institutions;  
18          prohibiting Florida College System institutions from  
19          offering bachelor of arts degree programs; deleting  
20          provisions relating to an authorization for the Board  
21          of Trustees of St. Petersburg College to establish  
22          certain baccalaureate degree programs; revising the  
23          approval process for baccalaureate degree programs  
24          proposed by Florida College System institutions;  
25          restricting total upper-level, undergraduate full-time

26 equivalent enrollment in the Florida College System;  
27 deleting a reporting requirement for Florida College  
28 System institutions; requiring certain Florida College  
29 System institutions to annually report certain  
30 information to the Chancellor of the Florida College  
31 System; requiring the Chancellor of the Florida  
32 College System to annually report certain information  
33 to the State Board of Education, the Chancellor of the  
34 State University System, and the Legislature; revising  
35 the circumstances under which a baccalaureate degree  
36 program may be required to be modified or terminated;  
37 requiring the Board of Governors and the State Board  
38 of Education to submit a report to the Governor and  
39 the Legislature by a specified date; creating the  
40 Governance Study Committee; providing for the  
41 membership of the committee; providing duties of the  
42 committee; providing administrative support for the  
43 committee; requiring the committee to submit a report  
44 to the State Board of Education and Legislature;  
45 providing an effective date.

46  
47 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

48  
49 Section 1. Paragraph (f) of subsection (5) of section  
50 1004.65, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

51 1004.65 Florida College System institutions; governance,  
 52 mission, and responsibilities.—

53 (5) The primary mission and responsibility of Florida  
 54 College System institutions is responding to community needs for  
 55 postsecondary academic education and career degree education.

56 This mission and responsibility includes being responsible for:

57 (f) Providing, in accordance with s. 1007.33, upper level  
 58 instruction and awarding baccalaureate degrees designed to meet  
 59 the workforce needs of the institution's service area and the  
 60 educational needs of place-bound, nontraditional students ~~as~~  
 61 ~~specifically authorized by law.~~

62 Section 2. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (2) of  
 63 section 1007.23, Florida Statutes, and subsection (7) is added  
 64 to that section, to read:

65 1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.—

66 (2)

67 (c) The articulation agreement must specifically provide  
 68 for a reverse transfer agreement for Florida College System  
 69 students seeking an associate in arts degree who transfer to a  
 70 state university before earning an associate in arts degree.  
 71 Students must be awarded an associate in arts degree by the  
 72 Florida College System institution upon completion of degree  
 73 requirements at the state university if the student earned the  
 74 majority of the credit hours from the Florida College System  
 75 institution. State universities must identify students who have

76 completed requirements for the associate in arts degree and  
77 transfer credits earned at the state university back to the  
78 Florida College System institution so that the associate in arts  
79 degree may be awarded by the Florida College System institution.

80 (7) To strengthen Florida's "2+2" system of articulation  
81 and improve student retention and on-time graduation, by the  
82 2018-2019 academic year, each Florida College System institution  
83 shall execute at least one "2+2" targeted pathway articulation  
84 agreement with one or more state universities to establish "2+2"  
85 targeted pathway programs. The agreement must provide students  
86 who graduate with an associate in arts degree and who meet  
87 specified requirements guaranteed access to the state university  
88 and a degree program at that university, in accordance with the  
89 terms of the "2+2" targeted pathway articulation agreement.

90 (a) To participate in a "2+2" targeted pathway program, a  
91 student must:

92 1. Enroll in the program before completing 30 credit  
93 hours, including, but not limited to, college credits earned  
94 through articulated acceleration mechanisms pursuant to s.  
95 1007.27;

96 2. Complete an associate in arts degree; and

97 3. Meet the university's transfer requirements.

98 (b) A state university that executes a "2+2" targeted  
99 pathway articulation agreement must meet the following  
100 requirements in order to implement a "2+2" targeted pathway

101 program in collaboration with its partner Florida College System  
102 institution:

103 1. Establish a 4-year, on-time graduation plan for a  
104 baccalaureate degree program, including, but not limited to, a  
105 plan for students to complete an associate in arts degree  
106 program, general education courses, common prerequisite courses,  
107 and elective courses;

108 2. Advise students enrolled in the program about the  
109 university's transfer and degree program requirements; and

110 3. Provide students who meet the requirements under this  
111 paragraph with access to academic advisors and campus events and  
112 with guaranteed admittance to the state university and a degree  
113 program at the state university, in accordance with the terms of  
114 the agreement.

115 (c) To assist the state universities and Florida College  
116 System institutions with implementing the "2+2" targeted pathway  
117 programs effectively, the State Board of Education and the Board  
118 of Governors shall collaborate to eliminate barriers in  
119 executing "2+2" targeted pathway articulation agreements.

120 Section 3. Section 1007.33, Florida Statutes, is amended  
121 to read:

122 1007.33 Site-determined baccalaureate degree access.—

123 (1) (a) The Legislature recognizes that public and private  
124 postsecondary educational institutions play an essential role in  
125 improving the quality of life and economic well-being of the

126 state and its residents. The Legislature also recognizes that  
127 economic development needs and the educational needs of place-  
128 bound, nontraditional students have increased the demand for  
129 local access to baccalaureate degree programs. It is therefore  
130 the intent of the Legislature to further expand access to  
131 baccalaureate degree programs through the use of Florida College  
132 System institutions.

133 (b) For purposes of this section, the term "district"  
134 refers to the county or counties served by a Florida College  
135 System institution pursuant to s. 1000.21(3).

136 (2) Any Florida College System institution that offers one  
137 or more baccalaureate degree programs must:

138 (a) Maintain as its primary mission:

139 1. Responsibility for responding to community needs for  
140 postsecondary academic education and career degree education as  
141 prescribed in s. 1004.65(5).

142 2. The provision of associate degrees that provide access  
143 to a university.

144 (b) Maintain an open-door admission policy for associate-  
145 level degree programs and workforce education programs.

146 (c) Continue to provide outreach to underserved  
147 populations.

148 (d) Continue to provide developmental ~~remedial~~ education  
149 pursuant to s. 1008.30.

150 (e) Comply with all provisions of the statewide

151 articulation agreement which relate to 2-year and 4-year public  
 152 degree-granting institutions as adopted by the State Board of  
 153 Education pursuant to s. 1007.23.

154 (f) Not award graduate credit.

155 (g) Not participate in intercollegiate athletics beyond  
 156 the 2-year level.

157 (3) A Florida College System institution may not terminate  
 158 its associate in arts or associate in science degree programs as  
 159 a result of being authorized to offer one or more baccalaureate  
 160 degree programs. The Legislature intends that the primary  
 161 responsibility of a Florida College System institution,  
 162 including a Florida College System institution that offers  
 163 baccalaureate degree programs, continues to be the provision of  
 164 associate degrees that provide access to a university.

165 (4) A Florida College System institution may:

166 (a) Offer specified baccalaureate degree programs through  
 167 formal agreements between the Florida College System institution  
 168 and other regionally accredited postsecondary educational  
 169 institutions pursuant to s. 1007.22.

170 (b) Offer baccalaureate degree programs that are ~~were~~  
 171 authorized by law ~~prior to July 1, 2009.~~

172 ~~(c) Beginning July 1, 2009, establish a first or~~  
 173 ~~subsequent baccalaureate degree program~~ for purposes of meeting  
 174 district, regional, or statewide workforce needs if approved by  
 175 the State Board of Education under this section. However, a

176 Florida College System institution may not offer a bachelor of  
177 arts degree program.

178  
179 ~~Beginning July 1, 2009, the Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg~~  
180 ~~College is authorized to establish one or more bachelor of~~  
181 ~~applied science degree programs based on an analysis of~~  
182 ~~workforce needs in Pinellas, Pasco, and Hernando Counties and~~  
183 ~~other counties approved by the Department of Education. For each~~  
184 ~~program selected, St. Petersburg College must offer a related~~  
185 ~~associate in science or associate in applied science degree~~  
186 ~~program, and the baccalaureate degree level program must be~~  
187 ~~designed to articulate fully with at least one associate in~~  
188 ~~science degree program. The college is encouraged to develop~~  
189 ~~articulation agreements for enrollment of graduates of related~~  
190 ~~associate in applied science degree programs. The Board of~~  
191 ~~Trustees of St. Petersburg College is authorized to establish~~  
192 ~~additional baccalaureate degree programs if it determines a~~  
193 ~~program is warranted and feasible based on each of the factors~~  
194 ~~in paragraph (5) (d). However, the Board of Trustees of St.~~  
195 ~~Petersburg College may not establish any new baccalaureate~~  
196 ~~degree programs from March 31, 2014, through May 31, 2015. Prior~~  
197 ~~to developing or proposing a new baccalaureate degree program,~~  
198 ~~St. Petersburg College shall engage in need, demand, and impact~~  
199 ~~discussions with the state university in its service district~~  
200 ~~and other local and regional, accredited postsecondary providers~~



201 ~~in its region. Documentation, data, and other information from~~  
202 ~~inter-institutional discussions regarding program need, demand,~~  
203 ~~and impact shall be provided to the college's board of trustees~~  
204 ~~to inform the program approval process. Employment at St.~~  
205 ~~Petersburg College is governed by the same laws that govern~~  
206 ~~Florida College System institutions, except that upper-division~~  
207 ~~faculty are eligible for continuing contracts upon the~~  
208 ~~completion of the fifth year of teaching. Employee records for~~  
209 ~~all personnel shall be maintained as required by s. 1012.81.~~

210 (5) The approval process for baccalaureate degree programs  
211 must ~~shall~~ require:

212 (a) Each Florida College System institution to submit a  
213 notice of interest at least 180 days before submitting a notice  
214 of its intent to propose a baccalaureate degree program to the  
215 Division of Florida Colleges at least 100 days before the  
216 submission of its proposal under paragraph (d). The notice of  
217 interest must be submitted into a shared postsecondary education  
218 database that allows other postsecondary institutions to preview  
219 and provide feedback on the notice of interest. A written notice  
220 of intent must be submitted to the Chancellor of the Florida  
221 College System at least 100 days before the submission of a  
222 baccalaureate degree program proposal under paragraph (d). The  
223 notice of intent must include a brief description of the  
224 program, the workforce demand and unmet need for graduates of  
225 the program to include evidence from entities independent of the

226 institution, the geographic region to be served, and an  
227 estimated timeframe for implementation. Notices of interest and  
228 intent may be submitted by a Florida College System institution  
229 at any time throughout the year. The notice of intent must also  
230 include evidence that the Florida College System institution  
231 engaged in need, demand, and impact discussions with the state  
232 university and other regionally accredited postsecondary  
233 education providers in its service district.

234 (b) The Chancellor of the Florida College System ~~Division~~  
235 ~~of Florida Colleges~~ to forward the notice of intent submitted  
236 pursuant to paragraph (a) and the justification for the proposed  
237 baccalaureate degree program required under paragraph (d) within  
238 10 business days after receiving such notice and justification  
239 to the Chancellor of the State University System, the president  
240 of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida, and the  
241 Executive Director of the Commission for Independent Education.  
242 State universities ~~shall~~ have 60 days following receipt of the  
243 notice of intent and justification by the Chancellor of the  
244 State University System to submit an objection and a reason for  
245 the objection to the proposed baccalaureate degree program  
246 ~~objections to the proposed new program~~ or to submit an  
247 alternative proposal to offer the baccalaureate degree program.  
248 ~~If a proposal from a state university is not received within the~~  
249 ~~60-day period,~~ The Chancellor of the Florida College System  
250 ~~State Board of Education~~ shall also provide regionally

251 accredited private colleges and universities 60 ~~30~~ days to  
252 submit an objection and a reason for the objection to the  
253 proposed baccalaureate degree program ~~objections to the proposed~~  
254 ~~new program~~ or to submit an alternative proposal. A regionally  
255 accredited private college or university's objections or  
256 alternative proposals shall be submitted to the Chancellor of  
257 the Florida College System ~~Division of Florida Colleges~~ and must  
258 be considered by the State Board of Education in making its  
259 decision to approve or deny a Florida College System  
260 institution's proposal submitted pursuant to paragraph (d).

261 (c) An alternative proposal submitted by a state  
262 university or private college or university to adequately  
263 address:

264 1. The extent to which the workforce demand and unmet need  
265 described in the notice of intent will be met.

266 2. The extent to which students will be able to complete  
267 the degree in the geographic region proposed to be served by the  
268 Florida College System institution.

269 3. The level of financial commitment of the college or  
270 university to the development, implementation, and maintenance  
271 of the specified degree program, including timelines.

272 4. The extent to which faculty at both the Florida College  
273 System institution and the college or university will  
274 collaborate in the development and offering of the curriculum.

275 5. The ability of the Florida College System institution

276 and the college or university to develop and approve the  
277 curriculum for the specified degree program within 6 months  
278 after an agreement between the Florida College System  
279 institution and the college or university is signed.

280 6. The extent to which the student may incur additional  
281 costs above what the student would expect to incur if the  
282 program were offered by the Florida College System institution.

283 (d) Each Florida College System institution to submit a  
284 baccalaureate degree program proposal at least 100 days after  
285 submitting the notice of intent. Each proposal ~~must~~ ~~submitted by~~  
286 a Florida College System institution to, at a minimum, include:

287 1. A description of the planning process and timeline for  
288 implementation.

289 2. A justification for the proposed baccalaureate degree  
290 program, including, at a minimum, a data-driven ~~An~~ analysis of  
291 workforce demand and unmet need for graduates of the program on  
292 a district, regional, or statewide basis, as appropriate, and  
293 the extent to which the proposed program will meet the workforce  
294 demand and unmet need. The analysis must include workforce and  
295 employment data for the most recent years and projections by the  
296 Department of Economic Opportunity for future years. The  
297 analysis must also include a summary of degree programs similar  
298 to the proposed degree program which are currently offered by  
299 state universities or by independent nonprofit colleges or  
300 universities that are eligible to participate in the William L.

301 Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program pursuant to s.  
302 1009.89 and which are located in the Florida College System  
303 institution's regional service area. The analysis and evidence  
304 must be verified by the Chancellor of the Florida College System  
305 ~~including evidence from entities independent of the institution.~~

306 3. Identification of the facilities, equipment, and  
307 library and academic resources that will be used to deliver the  
308 program.

309 4. The program cost analysis of creating a new  
310 baccalaureate degree when compared to ~~alternative proposals and~~  
311 other program delivery options.

312 5. The program's admission requirements, academic content,  
313 curriculum, faculty credentials, student-to-teacher ratios, and  
314 accreditation plan.

315 6. The program's student enrollment ~~projections~~ and  
316 funding requirements, including:

317 a. The impact of the program's enrollment projections on  
318 compliance with the upper-level enrollment provisions under  
319 subsection (6); and

320 b. The Florida College System institution's efforts to  
321 sustain the program at the cost of tuition and fees for students  
322 who are classified as residents for tuition purposes under s.  
323 1009.21, not to exceed \$10,000 for the entire degree program,  
324 including flexible tuition and fee rates and the use of waivers  
325 pursuant to s. 1009.26(11).

326 7. A plan of action if the program is terminated.

327 (e) The Division of Florida Colleges to review the  
328 proposal, notify the Florida College System institution of any  
329 deficiencies in writing within 30 days following receipt of the  
330 proposal, and provide the Florida College System institution  
331 with an opportunity to correct the deficiencies. Within 45 days  
332 following receipt of a completed proposal by the Division of  
333 Florida Colleges, the Chancellor of the Florida College System  
334 ~~Commissioner of Education~~ shall recommend approval or  
335 disapproval of the proposal to the State Board of Education. The  
336 State Board of Education shall consider such recommendation, the  
337 proposal, input from the Chancellor of the State University  
338 System and the president of the Independent Colleges and  
339 Universities of Florida, and any objections or alternative  
340 proposals at its next meeting. If the State Board of Education  
341 disapproves the Florida College System institution's proposal,  
342 it shall provide the Florida College System institution with  
343 written reasons for that determination.

344 (f) The Florida College System institution to obtain from  
345 the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of  
346 Colleges and Schools accreditation as a baccalaureate-degree-  
347 granting institution if approved by the State Board of Education  
348 to offer its first baccalaureate degree program.

349 (g) The Florida College System institution to notify the  
350 Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges

351 and Schools of subsequent degree programs that are approved by  
352 the State Board of Education and to comply with the  
353 association's required substantive change protocols for  
354 accreditation purposes.

355 ~~(h) The Florida College System institution to annually,~~  
356 ~~and upon request of the State Board of Education, the~~  
357 ~~Commissioner of Education, the Chancellor of the Florida College~~  
358 ~~System, or the Legislature, report its status using the~~  
359 ~~following performance and compliance indicators:~~

- 360 1. ~~Obtaining and maintaining appropriate Southern~~  
361 ~~Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation;~~  
362 2. ~~Maintaining qualified faculty and institutional~~  
363 ~~resources;~~  
364 3. ~~Maintaining enrollment in previously approved programs;~~  
365 4. ~~Managing fiscal resources appropriately;~~  
366 5. ~~Complying with the primary mission and responsibility~~  
367 ~~requirements in subsections (2) and (3); and~~  
368 6. ~~Other indicators of success, including program~~  
369 ~~completions, placements, and surveys of graduates and employers.~~

370  
371 ~~The State Board of Education, upon review of the performance and~~  
372 ~~compliance indicators, may require a Florida College System~~  
373 ~~institution's board of trustees to modify or terminate a~~  
374 ~~baccalaureate degree program authorized under this section.~~

375 (6) (a) Total upper-level, undergraduate full-time

376 equivalent enrollment in the Florida College System may not  
377 exceed 20 percent of the combined total lower-level and upper-  
378 level full-time equivalent enrollment.

379 (b) For any planned and purposeful expansion of existing  
380 baccalaureate degree programs or creation of a new baccalaureate  
381 degree program, a Florida College System institution must  
382 demonstrate satisfactory performance in fulfilling its primary  
383 mission pursuant to s. 1004.65 and execute at least one "2+2"  
384 targeted pathway articulation agreement pursuant to s. 1007.23.

385 (c) Each Florida College System institution that offers a  
386 baccalaureate degree must annually review each baccalaureate  
387 degree program and annually report to the Chancellor of the  
388 Florida College System, in a format prescribed by the State  
389 Board of Education, the status of each program using the  
390 following performance and compliance indicators:

391 1. Obtaining and maintaining appropriate Southern  
392 Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation.

393 2. Maintaining qualified faculty and institutional  
394 resources.

395 3. Maintaining student enrollment in previously approved  
396 programs.

397 4. Managing fiscal resources appropriately.

398 5. Complying with the primary mission and responsibility  
399 requirements in subsections (2) and (3).

400 6. Continuing to meet workforce demand, as provided in



401 subparagraph (5)(d)2., as demonstrated through a data-driven  
402 needs assessment by the Florida College System institution which  
403 must be verified by the Chancellor of the Florida College  
404 System.

405 7. Other indicators of success, including program  
406 completions, employment and earnings outcomes, student  
407 acceptance into and performance in graduate programs, and  
408 surveys of graduates and employers.

409 (d) By October 15 of each year, the Chancellor of the  
410 Florida College System shall compile institutional reports  
411 submitted pursuant to paragraph (c) and provide a summary of the  
412 information to the State Board of Education, the Chancellor of  
413 the State University System, and the Legislature. The summary  
414 report must also include the status of system-level compliance  
415 with the upper-level enrollment provisions under paragraph (a).

416 (e) If, upon annual review of the baccalaureate degree  
417 program performance and compliance indicators outlined in  
418 paragraph (c), the State Board of Education finds that a  
419 baccalaureate degree program exhibits negative program  
420 performance, the state board must require the Florida College  
421 System institution's board of trustees to modify or terminate  
422 the baccalaureate degree program authorized under subsection  
423 (5).

424 (7)-(6) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
425 prescribe format and content requirements and submission

426 | procedures for notices of interest and intent, baccalaureate  
 427 | degree program proposals, objections, proposals, alternative  
 428 | ~~proposals,~~ and compliance reviews under subsection (5).

429 |       Section 4. The State Board of Education, in collaboration  
 430 | with the Board of Governors, shall evaluate and report on the  
 431 | status of Florida's "2+2" system of articulation using the  
 432 | accountability measures required under to s. 1008.38, Florida  
 433 | Statutes, and any other applicable state law. By December 31,  
 434 | 2017, the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors  
 435 | shall submit their report to the Governor, the President of the  
 436 | Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The  
 437 | report must include findings regarding the effectiveness of  
 438 | Florida's "2+2" system of articulation and recommendations for  
 439 | improvement.

440 |       Section 5. Governance Study Committee.-

441 |       (1) There is created a Governance Study Committee which  
 442 | shall be composed of 10 members designated and appointed as  
 443 | follows:

444 |       (a) The Chancellor of the Florida College System, or his  
 445 | or her designee, who shall serve as chair of the committee and  
 446 | shall be a nonvoting member of the committee.

447 |       (b) The Chancellor of the Division of Career and Adult  
 448 | Education, or his or her designee, who shall be a nonvoting  
 449 | member.

450 |       (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the

451 House of Representatives shall each appoint:

452 1. One member who is a president of a Florida College  
453 System institution whose service area includes a state  
454 university.

455 2. One member who is a president of a Florida College  
456 System institution whose service area does not include a state  
457 university.

458 3. One member who is a director of a career center  
459 operated by a district school board.

460 4. One member who is a representative of the business  
461 community.

462 (2) The committee shall conduct a study concerning the  
463 governance structure of undergraduate education programs offered  
464 by Florida College System institutions and postsecondary career  
465 education programs provided by district school boards and  
466 Florida College System institutions which must include:

467 (a) Reviewing national best practices of governance of  
468 undergraduate education and career postsecondary education,  
469 including any correlation between the type of governance  
470 structure and improved outcomes, and accountability and  
471 efficiency in public postsecondary education provided by  
472 district school boards and Florida College System institutions.

473 (b) Examining effective relationships between business and  
474 industry, colleges, and school districts and making  
475 recommendations to strengthen such relationships to meet

476 workforce demands and better prepare students for entry into the  
477 workforce.

478 (c) Reviewing the mission of each Florida College System  
479 institution, which must include a determination of whether, over  
480 the 10-year period immediately preceding the review, the primary  
481 mission of the institution has changed and whether changes to  
482 the academic programs of the institution have enhanced or  
483 undermined that primary mission.

484 (d) Determining whether it is advisable to transfer the  
485 administration of Florida College System institutions and career  
486 centers from the State Board of Education to another  
487 governmental entity, and:

488 1. If such a transfer is determined to be advisable,  
489 determining the best methods of accomplishing the transfer,  
490 including the short-term and long-term savings and the  
491 transition and legal costs of a major restructuring of the  
492 current governance structure.

493 2. If such a transfer is determined to not be advisable,  
494 determining whether there are other options available that would  
495 improve the governance structure of Florida College System  
496 institutions and career centers.

497 (3) Administrative support for the committee shall be  
498 jointly provided by the Division of Florida Colleges and the  
499 Division of Career and Adult Education.

500 (4) By October 31, 2017, the committee shall submit a

501 report of its findings, including any recommendations for  
502 legislation based upon any proposed changes to the governance  
503 structure of undergraduate education provided by Florida College  
504 System institutions and postsecondary career centers provided by  
505 school districts and Florida College System institutions, to the  
506 State Board of Education, the President of the Senate, and the  
507 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

508 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.