

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to higher education; providing a short  
3           title; amending s. 1001.706, F.S.; requiring state  
4           universities to identify internship opportunities in  
5           high-demand fields; revising requirements for state  
6           university accountability plans; requiring state  
7           university boards of trustees to submit a proposal to  
8           improve graduation rates by a specified date;  
9           providing requirements for such proposals; amending s.  
10          1001.7065, F.S.; revising the preeminent state  
11          research universities program graduation rate  
12          requirements and funding distributions; specifying  
13          funding as provided by the Legislature; deleting the  
14          authority for such universities to stipulate a special  
15          course requirement for incoming students; requiring  
16          the Board of Governors to establish certain standards  
17          and make recommendations by a specified date; amending  
18          s. 1001.71, F.S.; revising the membership of  
19          university boards of trustees; amending s. 1001.92,  
20          F.S.; requiring certain performance-based metrics to  
21          include specified graduation rates and access  
22          benchmarks; specifying funding as provided by the  
23          Legislature; creating s. 1004.097, F.S.; providing a  
24          short title; providing definitions; specifying  
25          protected expressive activities; authorizing a person

26 | to engage in expressive activities under certain  
27 | circumstances; authorizing a public institution of  
28 | higher education to create and enforce certain  
29 | restrictions relating to expressive activities on  
30 | campus; prohibiting certain actions relating to  
31 | expressive activities on campus; providing a cause of  
32 | action for violations; amending s. 1004.28, F.S.;  
33 | requiring a state university board of trustees to  
34 | prescribe certain regulations to limit the services,  
35 | activities, and expenses of its direct-support  
36 | organizations; providing requirements for transfer of  
37 | state appropriations; prohibiting transfer of funds to  
38 | certain university direct-support organizations;  
39 | requiring the chair of the board of trustees to  
40 | appoint at least one representative to the board of  
41 | directors and executive committee of a university  
42 | direct-support organization; requiring the board of  
43 | trustees to approve certain appointments; deleting an  
44 | exception to the prohibition against direct-support  
45 | organizations donating gifts to a political committee;  
46 | requiring the disclosure of certain financial  
47 | documents; providing for the future repeal of ss.  
48 | 1004.33 and 1004.34, F.S., relating to the University  
49 | of South Florida St. Petersburg and Sarasota/Manatee,  
50 | respectively; creating s. 1004.335, F.S.; creating the

51 University of South Florida Consolidation Planning  
52 Study and Implementation Task Force for certain  
53 purposes; providing for membership and staffing;  
54 requiring a report to the University of South Florida  
55 Board of Trustees; requiring the University of South  
56 Florida Board of Trustees to adopt and submit a plan  
57 to phase out the separate accreditations of the  
58 University of South Florida St. Petersburg and the  
59 University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee by a  
60 specified date; providing requirements for such plan;  
61 providing that certain students may not be included in  
62 specified graduation and retention rate calculations;  
63 creating s. 1004.341, F.S.; establishing the St.  
64 Petersburg and Sarasota/Manatee campuses of the  
65 University of South Florida; requiring campus boards  
66 and regional chancellors; establishing membership  
67 requirements and powers and duties of campus boards;  
68 providing budget and reporting requirements for the  
69 University of South Florida Board of Trustees;  
70 requiring faculty and student representation from each  
71 campus in the academic and student governance  
72 structures of the University of South Florida;  
73 amending s. 1004.344; requiring the Florida Center for  
74 the Partnerships for Arts Integrated Teaching to be  
75 located at a certain branch campus; creating s.

76 | 1004.6497, F.S.; establishing the World Class Faculty  
 77 | and Scholar Program; providing purpose and intent;  
 78 | specifying authorized investments and activities;  
 79 | specifying funding requirements; requiring an annual  
 80 | report to the Governor and Legislature; creating s.  
 81 | 1004.6498, F.S.; establishing the State University  
 82 | Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program;  
 83 | providing purpose; specifying authorized investments;  
 84 | specifying funding requirements; requiring an annual  
 85 | report to the Governor and Legislature; amending s.  
 86 | 1008.30, F.S.; authorizing certain state universities  
 87 | to continue to provide developmental education  
 88 | instruction; amending ss. 1009.22 and 1009.23, F.S.;  
 89 | removing the prohibition on the inclusion of certain  
 90 | technology fees in the funds for the Florida Bright  
 91 | Futures Scholarship Program award; amending s.  
 92 | 1009.24, F.S.; removing the prohibition on the  
 93 | inclusion of a technology fee and a tuition  
 94 | differential fee in the funds for the Florida Bright  
 95 | Futures Scholarship Program award; specifying  
 96 | transportation access fees authorized for inclusion in  
 97 | state financial assistance awards; requiring specified  
 98 | notification of tuition or fee changes; amending s.  
 99 | 1009.53, F.S.; authorizing students to use certain  
 100 | Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program awards for

101 summer term enrollment beginning in specified years  
102 under certain circumstances; amending s. 1009.534,  
103 F.S.; authorizing Florida Academic Scholars award  
104 amounts to cover tuition, fees, textbooks, and other  
105 educational expenses; amending s. 1009.535, F.S.;  
106 authorizing Florida Medallion Scholars award amounts  
107 to cover specified tuition and fees; amending s.  
108 1009.701, F.S.; revising the state-to-private match  
109 requirement for contributions to the First Generation  
110 Matching Grant Program beginning in a specified fiscal  
111 year; extending the program to include Florida College  
112 System institution students; amending s. 1009.893,  
113 F.S.; extending coverage of the Benacquisto  
114 Scholarship Program to include tuition and fees for  
115 qualified nonresident students; creating s. 1009.894,  
116 F.S.; creating the Florida Farmworker Student  
117 Scholarship Program; providing purpose; requiring the  
118 Department of Education to administer the scholarship  
119 program; providing student eligibility criteria;  
120 specifying award amounts and distributions; amending  
121 s. 1009.98, F.S.; providing that certain payments from  
122 the Florida Prepaid College Board to a state  
123 university on behalf of a qualified beneficiary may  
124 not exceed a specified amount; providing a directive  
125 to the Division of Law Revision and Information;

126 requiring the Board of Governors, in consultation with  
127 the state universities, to submit recommendations for  
128 a process to achieve a complete performance-based  
129 continuous improvement funding model; requiring the  
130 Legislature to review recommendations from an  
131 independent entity; requiring such entity to consult  
132 with the Board of Governors; requiring legislative  
133 action before implementation of any recommendations;  
134 providing appropriations; providing effective dates.  
135

136 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
137

138 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Florida  
139 Excellence in Higher Education Act of 2018."

140 Section 2. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (5) of  
141 section 1001.706, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph  
142 (h) is added to that subsection, to read:

143 1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—

144 (5) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO ACCOUNTABILITY.—

145 (b) The Board of Governors shall develop a strategic plan  
146 specifying goals and objectives for the State University System  
147 and each constituent university, including each university's  
148 contribution to overall system goals and objectives. The  
149 strategic plan must:

150 1. Include performance metrics and standards common for

151 all institutions and metrics and standards unique to  
152 institutions depending on institutional core missions,  
153 including, but not limited to, student admission requirements,  
154 retention, graduation, percentage of graduates who have attained  
155 employment, percentage of graduates enrolled in continued  
156 education, licensure passage, average wages of employed  
157 graduates, average cost per graduate, excess hours, student loan  
158 burden and default rates, faculty awards, total annual research  
159 expenditures, patents, licenses and royalties, intellectual  
160 property, startup companies, annual giving, endowments, and  
161 well-known, highly respected national rankings for institutional  
162 and program achievements.

163 2. Consider reports and recommendations of the Higher  
164 Education Coordinating Council pursuant to s. 1004.015 and the  
165 Articulation Coordinating Committee pursuant to s. 1007.01.

166 3. Include student enrollment and performance data  
167 delineated by method of instruction, including, but not limited  
168 to, traditional, online, and distance learning instruction.

169 4. Include criteria for designating baccalaureate degree  
170 and master's degree programs at specified universities as high-  
171 demand programs of emphasis. Fifty percent of the criteria for  
172 designation as high-demand programs of emphasis must be based on  
173 achievement of performance outcome thresholds determined by the  
174 Board of Governors, and 50 percent of the criteria must be based  
175 on achievement of performance outcome thresholds specifically

176 | linked to:

177 |       a. Job placement in employment of 36 hours or more per  
 178 | week and average full-time wages of graduates of the degree  
 179 | programs 1 year and 5 years after graduation, based in part on  
 180 | data provided in the economic security report of employment and  
 181 | earning outcomes produced annually pursuant to s. 445.07.

182 |       b. Data-driven gap analyses, conducted by the Board of  
 183 | Governors, of the state's job market demands and the outlook for  
 184 | jobs that require a baccalaureate or higher degree. Each state  
 185 | university must use the gap analyses to identify internship  
 186 | opportunities for students to benefit from mentorship by  
 187 | industry experts, earn industry certifications, and become  
 188 | employed in high-demand fields.

189 |       (c) The Board of Governors shall develop an accountability  
 190 | plan for the State University System and each constituent  
 191 | university. The accountability plan must address institutional  
 192 | and system achievement of goals and objectives specified in the  
 193 | strategic plan adopted pursuant to paragraph (b) and must be  
 194 | submitted as part of its legislative budget request. Each  
 195 | university shall submit, as a component of the university's  
 196 | annual accountability plan, information on the effectiveness of  
 197 | its plan for improving 4-year graduation rates and the level of  
 198 | financial assistance provided to students pursuant to paragraph

199 | (h) .

200 |       (h) By June 1, 2018, each university board of trustees



201 shall submit a comprehensive proposal to improve undergraduate  
202 4-year graduation rates to the Board of Governors for  
203 implementation beginning in the fall 2018 academic semester.

204 The proposal must:

205 1. Identify academic, financial, policy, and curricular  
206 incentives and disincentives for timely graduation.

207 2. Outline the implementation of a proactive financial aid  
208 program to enable full-time students with financial need to take  
209 at least 15 credit hours in the fall and spring semesters.

210 3. Include assurances that there will be no increased cost  
211 to students.

212 Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2), paragraph (c)  
213 of subsection (5), and subsections (6), (7), and (8) of section  
214 1001.7065, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

215 1001.7065 Preeminent state research universities program.—

216 (2) ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE STANDARDS.—The  
217 following academic and research excellence standards are  
218 established for the preeminent state research universities  
219 program:

220 (d) A 4-year graduation rate of 60 percent or higher for  
221 full-time, first-time-in-college students, as reported annually  
222 to the IPEDS. However, for the 2018 determination of a state  
223 university's preeminence designation and the related  
224 distribution of the 2018-2019 fiscal year appropriation  
225 associated with preeminence and emerging preeminence, a

226 university is considered to have satisfied this graduation rate  
227 measure by attaining a 6-year graduation rate of 70 percent or  
228 higher by October 1, 2017, for full-time, first-time-in-college  
229 students, as reported ~~annually~~ to the IPEDS and confirmed by the  
230 Board of Governors.

231 (5) PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES PROGRAM  
232 SUPPORT.—

233 (c) The award of funds under this subsection is contingent  
234 upon funding provided by the Legislature ~~in the General~~  
235 ~~Appropriations Act~~ to support the preeminent state research  
236 universities program created under this section. Funding  
237 increases appropriated beyond the amounts funded in the previous  
238 fiscal year shall be distributed as follows:

239 1. Each designated preeminent state research university  
240 that meets the criteria in paragraph (a) shall receive an equal  
241 amount of funding.

242 2. Each designated emerging preeminent state research  
243 university that meets the criteria in paragraph (b) shall,  
244 beginning in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, receive an amount of  
245 funding that is equal to one-fourth ~~one-half~~ of the total  
246 increased amount awarded to each designated preeminent state  
247 research university.

248 ~~(6) PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COURSE~~  
249 ~~REQUIREMENT AUTHORITY.—In order to provide a jointly shared~~  
250 ~~educational experience, a university that is designated a~~

251 ~~preeminent state research university may require its incoming~~  
252 ~~first time in college students to take a six credit set of~~  
253 ~~unique courses specifically determined by the university and~~  
254 ~~published on the university's website. The university may~~  
255 ~~stipulate that credit for such courses may not be earned through~~  
256 ~~any acceleration mechanism pursuant to s. 1007.27 or s. 1007.271~~  
257 ~~or any other transfer credit. All accelerated credits earned up~~  
258 ~~to the limits specified in ss. 1007.27 and 1007.271 shall be~~  
259 ~~applied toward graduation at the student's request.~~

260 (6)~~(7)~~ PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY FLEXIBILITY  
261 AUTHORITY.—The Board of Governors is encouraged to identify and  
262 grant all reasonable, feasible authority and flexibility to  
263 ensure that each designated preeminent state research university  
264 and each designated emerging preeminent state research  
265 university is free from unnecessary restrictions.

266 (7)~~(8)~~ PROGRAMS OF EXCELLENCE THROUGHOUT THE STATE  
267 UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.—The Board of Governors shall ~~is encouraged to~~  
268 establish standards and measures whereby individual  
269 undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree programs in  
270 state universities which ~~that~~ objectively reflect national  
271 excellence can be identified and make recommendations to the  
272 Legislature by September 1, 2018, as to how any such programs  
273 could be enhanced and promoted.

274 Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 1001.71, Florida  
275 Statutes, is amended to read:

276 1001.71 University boards of trustees; membership.—  
277 (1) Pursuant to s. 7(c), Art. IX of the State  
278 Constitution, each local constituent university shall be  
279 administered by a university board of trustees comprised of 13  
280 members as follows: 6 citizen members appointed by the Governor  
281 subject to confirmation by the Senate; 5 citizen members  
282 appointed by the Board of Governors subject to confirmation by  
283 the Senate; the chair of the faculty senate or the equivalent;  
284 and the president of the student body of the university. The  
285 appointed members shall serve staggered 5-year terms. In order  
286 to achieve staggered terms, beginning July 1, 2003, of the  
287 initial appointments by the Governor, 2 members shall serve 2-  
288 year terms, 3 members shall serve 3-year terms, and 1 member  
289 shall serve a 5-year term and of the initial appointments by the  
290 Board of Governors, 2 members shall serve 2-year terms, 2  
291 members shall serve 3-year terms, and 1 member shall serve a 5-  
292 year term. There shall be no state residency requirement for  
293 university board members, but the Governor and the Board of  
294 Governors shall consider diversity and regional representation.  
295 Beginning July 2, 2020, for purposes of this subsection,  
296 regional representation shall include the chair of a campus  
297 board established pursuant to s. 1004.341.

298 Section 5. Subsections (1), (2), and (4) of section  
299 1001.92, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

300 1001.92 State University System Performance-Based

301 Incentive.—

302 (1) A State University System Performance-Based Incentive  
303 shall be awarded to state universities using performance-based  
304 metrics adopted by the Board of Governors of the State  
305 University System. Beginning with the Board of Governors'  
306 determination of each university's performance improvement and  
307 achievement ratings for 2018, and the related distribution of  
308 the 2018-2019 fiscal year appropriation, the performance-based  
309 metrics must include 4-year graduation rates; retention rates;  
310 postgraduation education rates; degree production;  
311 affordability; postgraduation employment and salaries, including  
312 wage thresholds that reflect the added value of a baccalaureate  
313 degree; access rate, based on the percentage of undergraduate  
314 students enrolled during the fall term who received a Pell Grant  
315 during the fall term; and other metrics approved by the board in  
316 a formally noticed meeting. The board shall adopt benchmarks to  
317 evaluate each state university's performance on the metrics to  
318 measure the state university's achievement of institutional  
319 excellence or need for improvement and minimum requirements for  
320 eligibility to receive performance funding. Access rate  
321 benchmarks must be differentiated and scored to reflect the  
322 varying access rate levels among the state universities;  
323 however, the scoring system may not include bonus points.

324 (2) Each fiscal year, the amount of funds available for  
325 allocation to the state universities based on the performance-

326 based funding model shall consist of the state's investment in  
327 performance funding plus institutional investments consisting of  
328 funds deducted from the base funding of each state university in  
329 the State University System in an amount provided by the  
330 Legislature ~~in the General Appropriations Act~~. The Board of  
331 Governors shall establish minimum performance funding  
332 eligibility thresholds for the state's investment and the  
333 institutional investments. A state university that meets the  
334 minimum institutional investment eligibility threshold, but  
335 fails to meet the minimum state investment eligibility  
336 threshold, shall have its institutional investment restored but  
337 is ineligible for a share of the state's investment in  
338 performance funding. The institutional investment shall be  
339 restored for each institution eligible for the state's  
340 investment under the performance-based funding model.

341 (4) Distributions of performance funding, as provided in  
342 this section, shall be made by the Legislature to each of the  
343 state universities ~~listed in the Education and General~~  
344 ~~Activities category in the General Appropriations Act~~.

345 Section 6. Section 1004.097, Florida Statutes, is created  
346 to read:

347 1004.097 Free expression on campus.-

348 (1) SHORT TITLE.-This section may be cited as the "Campus  
349 Free Expression Act."

350 (2) DEFINITIONS.-As used in this section, the term:

351 (a) "Commercial speech" means speech in which the  
352 individual is engaged in commerce, the intended audience is  
353 commercial or actual or potential consumers, and the content of  
354 the message is commercial.

355 (b) "Free-speech zone" means an area on a campus of a  
356 public institution of higher education which is designated for  
357 the purpose of engaging in expressive activities.

358 (c) "Material and substantial disruption" means any  
359 conduct that intentionally and significantly hinders another  
360 person's or group's expressive rights. The term does not include  
361 conduct that is protected under the First Amendment to the  
362 United States Constitution and Art. I of the State Constitution,  
363 including, but not limited to, lawful protests and counter-  
364 protests in the outdoor areas of campus or minor, brief, or  
365 fleeting nonviolent disruptions that are isolated or brief in  
366 duration.

367 (d) "Outdoor areas of campus" means generally accessible  
368 areas of a campus of a public institution of higher education in  
369 which members of the campus community are commonly allowed,  
370 including grassy areas, walkways, or other similar common areas.  
371 The term does not include outdoor areas of campus to which  
372 access is restricted.

373 (e) "Public institution of higher education" means any  
374 public technical center, state college, state university, law  
375 school, medical school, dental school, or other Florida College

376 System institution as defined in s. 1000.21.

377 (3) RIGHT TO FREE-SPEECH ACTIVITIES.—

378 (a) Expressive activities protected under the First  
379 Amendment to the United States Constitution and Art. I of the  
380 State Constitution include, but are not limited to, any lawful  
381 oral or written communication of ideas, including all forms of  
382 peaceful assembly, protests, and speeches; distributing  
383 literature; carrying signs; circulating petitions; and the  
384 recording and publication, including the Internet publication,  
385 of video or audio recorded in outdoor areas of campus.  
386 Expressive activities protected by this section do not include  
387 commercial speech.

388 (b) A person who wishes to engage in an expressive  
389 activity in outdoor areas of campus may do so freely,  
390 spontaneously, and contemporaneously as long as the person's  
391 conduct is lawful and does not materially and substantially  
392 disrupt the functioning of the public institution of higher  
393 education or infringe upon the rights of other individuals or  
394 organizations to engage in expressive activities.

395 (c) Outdoor areas of campus are considered traditional  
396 public forums for individuals, organizations, and guest  
397 speakers. A public institution of higher education may create  
398 and enforce restrictions that are reasonable and content-neutral  
399 on time, place, and manner of expression and that are narrowly  
400 tailored to a significant institutional interest. Restrictions



401 must be clear and published and must and provide for ample  
402 alternative means of expression.

403 (d) A public institution of higher education may not  
404 designate any area of campus as a free-speech zone or otherwise  
405 create policies restricting expressive activities to a  
406 particular outdoor area of campus, except as provided in  
407 paragraph (c).

408 (e) Students, faculty, or staff of a public institution of  
409 higher education may not materially disrupt previously scheduled  
410 or reserved activities on campus occurring at the same time.

411 (4) CAUSE OF ACTION.—A person whose expressive rights are  
412 violated by an action prohibited under this section may bring an  
413 action against a public institution of higher education in a  
414 court of competent jurisdiction to obtain declaratory and  
415 injunctive relief, reasonable court costs, and attorney fees.

416 Section 7. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) and paragraph (b)  
417 of subsection (5) of section 1004.28, Florida Statutes, are  
418 amended to read:

419 1004.28 Direct-support organizations; use of property;  
420 board of directors; activities; audit; facilities.—

421 (2) USE OF PROPERTY.—

422 (a) Each state university board of trustees is authorized  
423 to permit the use of property, facilities, and personal services  
424 at any state university by any university direct-support  
425 organization, and, subject to the provisions of this section,

426 direct-support organizations may establish accounts with the  
427 State Board of Administration for investment of funds pursuant  
428 to part IV of chapter 218.

429 (b) The board of trustees, in accordance with regulations  
430 ~~rules~~ and guidelines of the Board of Governors, shall prescribe  
431 by regulation ~~rule~~ conditions with which a university direct-  
432 support organization must comply in order to use property,  
433 facilities, or personal services at any state university,  
434 including that personal services must comply with s. 1012.976.  
435 Such regulations ~~rules~~ shall provide for budget and audit review  
436 and oversight by the board of trustees, including thresholds for  
437 approval of purchases, acquisitions, projects, and issuance of  
438 debt. No later than July 1, 2019, the transfer of a state  
439 appropriation by the board of trustees to any direct-support  
440 organization may only include funds pledged for capital  
441 projects. Beginning July 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, each  
442 university board of trustees shall report to the Legislature the  
443 amount of state appropriations transferred to any direct-support  
444 organization during the previous fiscal year, the purpose for  
445 which the funds were transferred, and the remaining balance of  
446 any funds transferred.

447 (c) The board of trustees may not transfer any funds to  
448 and shall not permit the use of property, facilities, or  
449 personal services at any state university by any university  
450 direct-support organization that does not provide equal

451 employment opportunities to all persons regardless of race,  
452 color, religion, gender, age, or national origin.

453 (d) The board of trustees may not permit the use of state  
454 funds for travel expenses by any university direct-support  
455 organization.

456 (3) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—The chair of the university board  
457 of trustees shall ~~may~~ appoint at least one ~~a~~ representative to  
458 the board of directors and the executive committee of any  
459 direct-support organization established under this section. The  
460 president of the university for which the direct-support  
461 organization is established, or his or her designee, shall also  
462 serve on the board of directors and the executive committee of  
463 any direct-support organization established to benefit that  
464 university. The university board of trustees shall approve all  
465 appointments to any direct-support organization not authorized  
466 by this subsection.

467 (4) ACTIVITIES; RESTRICTION.—A university direct-support  
468 organization is prohibited from giving, either directly or  
469 indirectly, any gift to a political committee as defined in s.  
470 106.011 for any purpose ~~other than those certified by a majority~~  
471 ~~roll call vote of the governing board of the direct-support~~  
472 ~~organization at a regularly scheduled meeting as being directly~~  
473 ~~related to the educational mission of the university.~~

474 (5) ANNUAL AUDIT; PUBLIC RECORDS EXEMPTION; PUBLIC  
475 MEETINGS EXEMPTION.—

476           (b) ~~All records of the organization~~ Other than the  
 477 auditor's report, management letter, any records related to the  
 478 expenditure of state funds, and any records related to the  
 479 expenditure of private funds for travel, all records of the  
 480 organization and any supplemental data requested by the Board of  
 481 Governors, the university board of trustees, the Auditor  
 482 General, and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
 483 Government Accountability shall be confidential and exempt from  
 484 s. 119.07(1).

485           Section 8. Effective July 1, 2020, sections 1004.33 and  
 486 1004.34, Florida Statutes, are repealed.

487           Section 9. Section 1004.335, Florida Statutes, is created  
 488 to read:

489           1004.335 Accreditation consolidation of University of  
 490 South Florida branch campuses.—

491           (1) The University of South Florida Consolidation Planning  
 492 Study and Implementation Task Force is established to develop  
 493 recommendations to improve service to students by phasing out  
 494 the separate accreditation of the University of South Florida  
 495 St. Petersburg and the University of South Florida  
 496 Sarasota/Manatee, which were conferred by the Southern  
 497 Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges  
 498 (SACSCOC) pursuant to ss. 1004.33 and 1004.34, respectively.

499           (2) The task force shall consist of the following members:

500           (a) One member appointed by the chair of the Board of

501 Governors who will serve as chair;  
502 (b) Two members appointed by the President of the Senate;  
503 (c) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
504 Representatives;  
505 (d) Two members appointed by the chair of the University  
506 of South Florida board of trustees;  
507 (e) One member appointed by the chair of the campus board  
508 of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg;  
509 (f) One member appointed by the chair of the campus board  
510 of the University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee;  
511 (g) The regional chancellor of the University of South  
512 Florida St. Petersburg;  
513 (h) The regional chancellor of the University of South  
514 Florida Sarasota/Manatee;  
515 (i) The president of the University of South Florida or  
516 his or her designee; and  
517 (j) One student member appointed by the University of  
518 South Florida Alumni Association.  
519 (3) The Board of Trustees shall assign personnel from each  
520 campus to staff the task force. The chair of the task force may  
521 consult experts in university mergers and consolidations to  
522 assist the task force in developing recommendations.  
523 (4) No later than February 15, 2019, the task force must  
524 submit a report to the University of South Florida Board of  
525 Trustees which includes, at a minimum, recommendations on the

526 following:

527 (a) Identification of specific degrees in programs of  
528 strategic significance, including health care, science,  
529 technology, engineering, mathematics, and other program  
530 priorities to be offered at the University of South Florida St.  
531 Petersburg and the University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee  
532 and the timeline for the development and delivery of programs on  
533 each campus;

534 (b) Maintaining the unique identity of each campus and an  
535 assessment of whether a separate educational mission is  
536 beneficial to the future of each campus;

537 (c) Maintaining faculty input from all campuses during the  
538 review and development of general education requirements to  
539 reflect the distinctive identity of each campus;

540 (d) Developing the research capacity at each campus;

541 (e) Equitable distribution of programs and resources to  
542 establish pathways to admission for all students who require  
543 bridge programming and financial aid; and

544 (f) Establishing budget transparency and accountability  
545 regarding the review and approval of student fees among  
546 campuses, including fee differentials and athletic fees, to  
547 enable the identification of the equitable distribution of  
548 resources to each campus, including the University of South  
549 Florida Health.

550 (g) Developing and delivering integrated academic

551 programs, student and faculty governance, and administrative  
552 services to better serve the students, faculty, and staff at the  
553 University of South Florida College of Marine Science, the  
554 University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee, and the University  
555 of South Florida St. Petersburg.

556 (5) No later than March 15, 2019, the Board of Trustees of  
557 the University of South Florida, after considering the  
558 recommendations of the task force, must adopt and submit to the  
559 Board of Governors an implementation plan that:

560 (a) Establishes a timeline for each step that is necessary  
561 to terminate the separate accreditation for each campus no later  
562 than June 30, 2020, so that there is no lapse in institutional  
563 accreditation for any campus during the phasing-out process.

564 (b) Minimizes disruption to students attending any  
565 University of South Florida campus so that the consolidation of  
566 SACSCOC accreditation does not impede a student's ability to  
567 graduate within 4 years after initial first-time-in-college  
568 enrollment.

569 (c) Requires that, on or before July 1, 2020, the entirety  
570 of the University of South Florida, including all campuses and  
571 other component units of the university, operate under a single  
572 institutional accreditation from the SACSCOC.

573 (d) Requires that, on each regularly scheduled submission  
574 date subsequent to July 1, 2020, the University of South Florida  
575 report consolidated data for all of the university's campuses

576 and students to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data  
577 System and to the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors  
578 shall use the consolidated data for purposes of determining  
579 eligibility for funding pursuant to ss. 1001.7065 and 1001.92.

580 (6) Notwithstanding ss. 1001.7065 and 1001.92 or any Board  
581 of Governors regulation to the contrary relating to the  
582 calculation of graduation rates and retention rates, a student  
583 who meets all of the following criteria may not be counted by  
584 the Board of Governors when calculating or confirming the  
585 graduation rate or the retention rate of the University of South  
586 Florida under those sections:

587 (a) The student was admitted to and initially enrolled  
588 before the spring 2020 semester as a first-time-in-college  
589 student at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg or the  
590 University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee.

591 (b) The student voluntarily disenrolled from all  
592 University of South Florida campuses without graduating before  
593 the date of termination of the separate SACSCOC accreditation of  
594 his or her admitting campus.

595 (7) This section expires July 1, 2020.

596 Section 10. Effective July 2, 2020, section 1004.341,  
597 Florida Statutes, is created to read:

598 1004.341 University of South Florida campuses.-

599 (1) The St. Petersburg and Sarasota/Manatee campuses of  
600 the University of South Florida are hereby established.



601        (a) The St. Petersburg campus of the University of South  
602 Florida shall be known as the "University of South Florida St.  
603 Petersburg" and shall include any college of the University of  
604 South Florida which is headquartered or primarily located in  
605 Pinellas County.

606        (b) The Sarasota/Manatee campus of the University of South  
607 Florida shall be known as the "University of South Florida  
608 Sarasota/Manatee" and shall include any college of the  
609 University of South Florida which is headquartered or primarily  
610 located in Sarasota County or Manatee County.

611        (2) The University of South Florida St. Petersburg and the  
612 University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee shall each have a  
613 campus board and a regional chancellor. The Chair of the Board  
614 of Trustees of the University of South Florida, based upon  
615 recommendations of the President of the University of South  
616 Florida, shall appoint:

617        (a) Seven residents of Pinellas County to serve 4-year  
618 staggered terms on the Campus Board of the University of South  
619 Florida St. Petersburg. A member of the Board of Trustees of the  
620 University of South Florida who resides in Pinellas County shall  
621 jointly serve as a member of the Board of Trustees and as chair  
622 of the campus board. The chair of the faculty senate or the  
623 equivalent and the president of the student body of the campus  
624 shall serve as ex officio members.

625        (b) Four residents of Manatee County and three residents

626 of Sarasota County to serve 4-year staggered terms on the Campus  
627 Board of the University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee. A  
628 member of the Board of Trustees of the University of South  
629 Florida who resides in Manatee County or Sarasota County shall  
630 be selected by the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the  
631 University of South Florida to serve jointly as a member of the  
632 Board of Trustees and as chair of the campus board. The chair of  
633 the faculty senate or the equivalent and the president of the  
634 student body of the campus shall serve as ex officio members.

635  
636 The Board of Trustees may reappoint a member to the campus  
637 board, other than the chair, for one additional term.

638 (3) Each campus board has the powers and duties provided  
639 by law, which include the authority to approve and submit an  
640 annual operating plan, budget, and legislative budget request to  
641 the Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida.

642 (4) The Board of Trustees shall publish and approve an  
643 annual operating budget for each campus and a report on the  
644 distribution of funds, including student tuition and fees,  
645 preeminence funding, and performance-based funding, provided to  
646 each campus.

647 (5) The Board of Trustees must publish on its website a  
648 biennial regional impact report, beginning July 1, 2021, which  
649 details the specific increased investments in university  
650 programs located in Pinellas, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties.

651 The report shall include, at a minimum, trend information  
652 related to access to new degree programs for students in those  
653 counties, any changes in student enrollment and outcomes at each  
654 campus located in those counties, increased research conducted  
655 and research infrastructure added in those counties, and any  
656 fixed capital outlay projects or property acquisitions planned  
657 or completed in those counties.

658 (6) The faculty and students at each campus shall be  
659 represented in the academic and student governance structures of  
660 the University of South Florida as determined by the Board of  
661 Trustees.

662 Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 1004.344, Florida  
663 Statutes, is amended to read:

664 1004.344 The Florida Center for the Partnerships for Arts  
665 Integrated Teaching.—

666 (1) The Florida Center for the Partnerships for Arts  
667 Integrated Teaching is created within the University of South  
668 Florida and shall be physically headquartered at the University  
669 of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee.

670 Section 12. Section 1004.6497, Florida Statutes, is  
671 created to read:

672 1004.6497 World Class Faculty and Scholar Program.—

673 (1) PURPOSE AND LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—The World Class  
674 Faculty and Scholar Program is established to fund and support  
675 the efforts of state universities to recruit and retain

676 exemplary faculty and research scholars. It is the intent of the  
677 Legislature to elevate the national competitiveness of Florida's  
678 state universities through faculty and scholar recruitment and  
679 retention.

680 (2) INVESTMENTS.—Retention, recruitment, and recognition  
681 efforts, activities, and investments may include, but are not  
682 limited to, investments in research-centric cluster hires,  
683 faculty research and research commercialization efforts,  
684 instructional and research infrastructure, undergraduate student  
685 participation in research, professional development, awards for  
686 outstanding performance, and postdoctoral fellowships.

687 (3) FUNDING AND USE.—Funding for the program shall be as  
688 provided by the Legislature. Each state university shall use the  
689 funds only for the purpose and investments authorized under this  
690 section. These funds may not be used to construct buildings.

691 (4) ACCOUNTABILITY.—By March 15 of each year, the Board of  
692 Governors shall provide to the Governor, the President of the  
693 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report  
694 summarizing information from the universities in the State  
695 University System, including, but not limited to:

696 (a) Specific expenditure information as it relates to the  
697 investments identified in subsection (2).

698 (b) The impact of those investments in elevating the  
699 national competitiveness of the universities, specifically  
700 relating to:

701 1. The success in recruiting research faculty and the  
702 resulting research funding;

703 2. The 4-year graduation rate for undergraduate students;

704 3. The number of undergraduate courses offered with fewer  
705 than 50 students; and

706 4. The increase in national academic standing of targeted  
707 programs, specifically advancement in ranking of the targeted  
708 programs among top 50 universities in well-known and highly  
709 respected national public university rankings, including, but  
710 not limited to, the U.S. News and World Report rankings, which  
711 reflect national preeminence, using the most recent rankings.

712 Section 13. Section 1004.6498, Florida Statutes, is  
713 created to read:

714 1004.6498 State University Professional and Graduate  
715 Degree Excellence Program.—

716 (1) PURPOSE.—The State University Professional and  
717 Graduate Degree Excellence Program is established to fund and  
718 support the efforts of state universities to enhance the quality  
719 and excellence of professional and graduate schools and degree  
720 programs in medicine, law, and business and expand the economic  
721 impact of state universities.

722 (2) INVESTMENTS.—Quality improvement efforts may include,  
723 but are not limited to, targeted investments in faculty,  
724 students, research, infrastructure, and other strategic  
725 endeavors to elevate the national and global prominence of state

726 university medicine, law, and graduate-level business programs.

727 (3) FUNDING AND USE.—Funding for the program shall be as  
 728 provided by the Legislature. Each state university shall use the  
 729 funds only for the purpose and investments authorized under this  
 730 section. These funds may not be used to construct buildings.

731 (4) ACCOUNTABILITY.—By March 15 of each year, the Board of  
 732 Governors shall provide to the Governor, the President of the  
 733 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report  
 734 summarizing information from the universities in the State  
 735 University System, including, but not limited to:

736 (a) Specific expenditure information as it relates to the  
 737 investments identified in subsection (2).

738 (b) The impact of those investments in elevating the  
 739 national and global prominence of the state university medicine,  
 740 law, and graduate-level business programs, specifically relating  
 741 to:

742 1. The first-time pass rate on the United States Medical  
 743 Licensing Examination;

744 2. The first-time pass rate on The Florida Bar  
 745 Examination;

746 3. The percentage of graduates enrolled or employed at a  
 747 wage threshold that reflects the added value of a graduate-level  
 748 business degree;

749 4. The advancement in the rankings of the state university  
 750 medicine, law, and graduate-level programs in well-known and

751 highly respected national graduate-level university rankings,  
752 including, but not limited to, the U.S. News and World Report  
753 rankings, which reflect national preeminence, using the most  
754 recent rankings; and

755 5. The added economic benefit of the universities to the  
756 state.

757 Section 14. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of section  
758 1008.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

759 1008.30 Common placement testing for public postsecondary  
760 education.—

761 (5)

762 (c) A university board of trustees may contract with a  
763 Florida College System institution board of trustees for the  
764 Florida College System institution to provide developmental  
765 education on the state university campus. Any state university  
766 in which the percentage of incoming students requiring  
767 developmental education equals or exceeds the average percentage  
768 of such students for the Florida College System may offer  
769 developmental education without contracting with a Florida  
770 College System institution; however, any state university  
771 offering college-preparatory instruction as of January 1, 1996,  
772 may continue to provide developmental education instruction as  
773 defined in s. 1008.02(1) ~~such services.~~

774 Section 15. Subsection (7) of section 1009.22, Florida  
775 Statutes, is amended to read:

776 1009.22 Workforce education postsecondary student fees.—

777 (7) Each district school board and Florida College System  
778 institution board of trustees is authorized to establish a  
779 separate fee for technology, not to exceed 5 percent of tuition  
780 per credit hour or credit-hour equivalent for resident students  
781 and not to exceed 5 percent of tuition and the out-of-state fee  
782 per credit hour or credit-hour equivalent for nonresident  
783 students. Revenues generated from the technology fee shall be  
784 used to enhance instructional technology resources for students  
785 and faculty ~~and shall not be included in any award under the~~  
786 ~~Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program~~. Fifty percent of  
787 technology fee revenues may be pledged by a Florida College  
788 System institution board of trustees as a dedicated revenue  
789 source for the repayment of debt, including lease-purchase  
790 agreements, not to exceed the useful life of the asset being  
791 financed. Revenues generated from the technology fee may not be  
792 bonded.

793 Section 16. Subsection (10) of section 1009.23, Florida  
794 Statutes, is amended to read:

795 1009.23 Florida College System institution student fees.—

796 (10) Each Florida College System institution board of  
797 trustees is authorized to establish a separate fee for  
798 technology, which may not exceed 5 percent of tuition per credit  
799 hour or credit-hour equivalent for resident students and may not  
800 exceed 5 percent of tuition and the out-of-state fee per credit



801 hour or credit-hour equivalent for nonresident students.  
802 Revenues generated from the technology fee shall be used to  
803 enhance instructional technology resources for students and  
804 faculty. The technology fee may apply to both college credit and  
805 developmental education ~~and shall not be included in any award~~  
806 ~~under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program~~. Fifty  
807 percent of technology fee revenues may be pledged by a Florida  
808 College System institution board of trustees as a dedicated  
809 revenue source for the repayment of debt, including lease-  
810 purchase agreements, not to exceed the useful life of the asset  
811 being financed. Revenues generated from the technology fee may  
812 not be bonded.

813 Section 17. Subsection (13), paragraph (r) of subsection  
814 (14), paragraphs (a), (b), and (e) of subsection (16), and  
815 subsection (20) of section 1009.24, Florida Statutes, are  
816 amended to read:

817 1009.24 State university student fees.—

818 (13) Each university board of trustees may establish a  
819 technology fee of up to 5 percent of the tuition per credit  
820 hour. The revenue from this fee shall be used to enhance  
821 instructional technology resources for students and faculty. ~~The~~  
822 ~~technology fee may not be included in any award under the~~  
823 ~~Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program established pursuant~~  
824 ~~to ss. 1009.53-1009.538.~~

825 (14) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (15), each

826 university board of trustees is authorized to establish the  
 827 following fees:

828 (r) Traffic and parking fines, charges for parking decals,  
 829 and transportation access fees. Only universitywide  
 830 transportation access fees may be included in any state  
 831 financial assistance award authorized under part III of this  
 832 chapter, as specifically authorized by law or the General  
 833 Appropriations Act.

834  
 835 With the exception of housing rental rates and except as  
 836 otherwise provided, fees assessed pursuant to paragraphs (h)-(s)  
 837 shall be based on reasonable costs of services. The Board of  
 838 Governors shall adopt regulations and timetables necessary to  
 839 implement the fees and fines authorized under this subsection.  
 840 The fees assessed under this subsection may be used for debt  
 841 only as authorized under s. 1010.62.

842 (16) Each university board of trustees may establish a  
 843 tuition differential for undergraduate courses upon receipt of  
 844 approval from the Board of Governors. However, beginning July 1,  
 845 2014, the Board of Governors may only approve the establishment  
 846 of or an increase in tuition differential for a state research  
 847 university designated as a preeminent state research university  
 848 pursuant to s. 1001.7065(3). The tuition differential shall  
 849 promote improvements in the quality of undergraduate education  
 850 and shall provide financial aid to undergraduate students who

851 exhibit financial need.

852 (a) Seventy percent of the revenues from the tuition  
853 differential shall be expended for purposes of undergraduate  
854 education. Such expenditures may include, but are not limited  
855 to, increasing course offerings, improving graduation rates,  
856 increasing the percentage of undergraduate students who are  
857 taught by faculty, decreasing student-faculty ratios, providing  
858 salary increases for faculty who have a history of excellent  
859 teaching in undergraduate courses, improving the efficiency of  
860 the delivery of undergraduate education through academic  
861 advisement and counseling, and reducing the percentage of  
862 students who graduate with excess hours. This expenditure for  
863 undergraduate education may not be used to pay the salaries of  
864 graduate teaching assistants. Except as otherwise provided in  
865 this subsection, the remaining 30 percent of the revenues from  
866 the tuition differential, or the equivalent amount of revenue  
867 from private sources, shall be expended to provide financial aid  
868 to undergraduate students who exhibit financial need, including  
869 students who are scholarship recipients under s. 1009.984, to  
870 meet the cost of university attendance. This expenditure for  
871 need-based financial aid shall not supplant the amount of need-  
872 based aid provided to undergraduate students in the preceding  
873 fiscal year from financial aid fee revenues, the direct  
874 appropriation for financial assistance provided to state  
875 universities in the General Appropriations Act, or from private

876 sources. The total amount of tuition differential waived under  
877 subparagraph (b) 7. ~~(b) 8.~~ may be included in calculating the  
878 expenditures for need-based financial aid to undergraduate  
879 students required by this subsection. If the entire tuition and  
880 fee costs of resident students who have applied for and received  
881 Pell Grant funds have been met and the university has excess  
882 funds remaining from the 30 percent of the revenues from the  
883 tuition differential required to be used to assist students who  
884 exhibit financial need, the university may expend the excess  
885 portion in the same manner as required for the other 70 percent  
886 of the tuition differential revenues.

887 (b) Each tuition differential is subject to the following  
888 conditions:

889 1. The tuition differential may be assessed on one or more  
890 undergraduate courses or on all undergraduate courses at a state  
891 university.

892 2. The tuition differential may vary by course or courses,  
893 by campus or center location, and by institution. Each  
894 university board of trustees shall strive to maintain and  
895 increase enrollment in degree programs related to math, science,  
896 high technology, and other state or regional high-need fields  
897 when establishing tuition differentials by course.

898 3. For each state university that is designated as a  
899 preeminent state research university by the Board of Governors,  
900 pursuant to s. 1001.7065, the aggregate sum of tuition and the

901 tuition differential may be increased by no more than 6 percent  
902 of the total charged for the aggregate sum of these fees in the  
903 preceding fiscal year. The tuition differential may be increased  
904 if the university meets or exceeds performance standard targets  
905 for that university established annually by the Board of  
906 Governors for the following performance standards, amounting to  
907 no more than a 2-percent increase in the tuition differential  
908 for each performance standard:

909 a. An increase in the 4-year ~~6-year~~ graduation rate for  
910 full-time, first-time-in-college students, as reported annually  
911 to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

912 b. An increase in the total annual research expenditures.

913 c. An increase in the total patents awarded by the United  
914 States Patent and Trademark Office for the most recent years.

915 4. The aggregate sum of undergraduate tuition and fees per  
916 credit hour, including the tuition differential, may not exceed  
917 the national average of undergraduate tuition and fees at 4-year  
918 degree-granting public postsecondary educational institutions.

919 ~~5. The tuition differential shall not be included in any  
920 award under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program  
921 established pursuant to ss. 1009.53-1009.538.~~

922 ~~5.6.~~ Beneficiaries having prepaid tuition contracts  
923 pursuant to s. 1009.98(2)(b) which were in effect on July 1,  
924 2007, and which remain in effect, are exempt from the payment of  
925 the tuition differential.

926        ~~6.7.~~ The tuition differential may not be charged to any  
927 student who was in attendance at the university before July 1,  
928 2007, and who maintains continuous enrollment.

929        ~~7.8.~~ The tuition differential may be waived by the  
930 university for students who meet the eligibility requirements  
931 for the Florida public student assistance grant established in  
932 s. 1009.50.

933        ~~8.9.~~ Subject to approval by the Board of Governors, the  
934 tuition differential authorized pursuant to this subsection may  
935 take effect with the 2009 fall term.

936        (e) The Board of Governors shall submit a report to the  
937 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
938 Representatives, and the Governor describing the implementation  
939 of the provisions of this subsection no later than February 1 of  
940 each year. The report shall summarize proposals received by the  
941 board during the preceding fiscal year and actions taken by the  
942 board in response to such proposals. In addition, the report  
943 shall provide the following information for each university that  
944 has been approved by the board to assess a tuition differential:

945            1. The course or courses for which the tuition  
946 differential was assessed and the amount assessed.

947            2. The total revenues generated by the tuition  
948 differential.

949            3. With respect to waivers authorized under subparagraph  
950 (b)7. ~~(b)8.~~, the number of students eligible for a waiver, the

951 number of students receiving a waiver, and the value of waivers  
952 provided.

953 4. Detailed expenditures of the revenues generated by the  
954 tuition differential.

955 5. Changes in retention rates, graduation rates, the  
956 percentage of students graduating with more than 110 percent of  
957 the hours required for graduation, pass rates on licensure  
958 examinations, the number of undergraduate course offerings, the  
959 percentage of undergraduate students who are taught by faculty,  
960 student-faculty ratios, and the average salaries of faculty who  
961 teach undergraduate courses.

962 (20) Each state university shall publicly notice and  
963 notify all enrolled students of any proposal to change ~~increase~~  
964 tuition or fees at least 28 days before its consideration at a  
965 board of trustees meeting. The notice must:

966 (a) Include the date and time of the meeting at which the  
967 proposal will be considered.

968 (b) Specifically outline the details of existing tuition  
969 and fees, the rationale for the proposed change ~~increase~~, and  
970 how the funds from the proposed change ~~increase~~ will be used.

971 (c) Be posted on the university's website and issued in a  
972 press release.

973 Section 18. Subsection (9) of section 1009.53, Florida  
974 Statutes, is amended to read:

975 1009.53 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.—

976 (9) A student may use a Florida Academic Scholars ~~an~~ award  
 977 for summer term enrollment beginning in the 2018 summer term, as  
 978 funded by the Legislature. A student may use a Florida Medallion  
 979 Scholars award for summer term enrollment beginning in the 2019  
 980 summer term, as funded by the Legislature. A student may use  
 981 other Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program awards for  
 982 summer term enrollment, if funded by the Legislature ~~if funds~~  
 983 ~~are available.~~

984 Section 19. Subsection (2) of section 1009.534, Florida  
 985 Statutes, is amended to read:

986 1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.—

987 (2) A Florida Academic Scholar who is enrolled in a  
 988 certificate, diploma, associate, or baccalaureate degree program  
 989 at a public or nonpublic postsecondary education institution is  
 990 eligible, beginning in the 2017-2018 academic year, for an award  
 991 equal to the amount necessary to pay 100 percent of tuition and  
 992 fees established under ss. 1009.22(3), (5), (6), and (7);  
 993 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11); and 1009.24(4), (7)-  
 994 (13), (14)(r), and (16), as applicable, and is eligible for an  
 995 additional \$300 each fall and spring academic semester or the  
 996 equivalent for textbooks, ~~specified in the General~~  
 997 ~~Appropriations Act~~ to assist with the payment of educational  
 998 expenses.

999 Section 20. Subsection (2) of section 1009.535, Florida  
 1000 Statutes, is amended to read:



1001           1009.535 Florida Medallion Scholars award.—

1002           (2) A Florida Medallion Scholar who is enrolled in a

1003 certificate, diploma, associate, or baccalaureate degree program

1004 at a public or nonpublic postsecondary education institution is

1005 eligible, beginning in the fall 2018 semester, for an award

1006 equal to the amount necessary to pay 75 percent of tuition and

1007 fees established under ss. 1009.22(3), (5), (6), and (7);

1008 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11); and 1009.24(4), (7)-

1009 (13), (14)(r), and (16), as applicable, ~~specified in the General~~

1010 ~~Appropriations Act~~ to assist with the payment of educational

1011 expenses.

1012           Section 21. Subsections (1), (2), and (4) and paragraph

1013 (c) of subsection (5) of section 1009.701, Florida Statutes, are

1014 amended to read:

1015           1009.701 First Generation Matching Grant Program.—

1016           (1) The First Generation Matching Grant Program is created

1017 to enable each state university and Florida College System

1018 institution to provide donors with a matching grant incentive

1019 for contributions that will create grant-based student financial

1020 aid for undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need

1021 and whose parents, as defined in s. 1009.21(1), have not earned

1022 a baccalaureate degree. In the case of any individual who

1023 regularly resided with and received support from only one

1024 parent, an individual whose only such parent did not complete a

1025 baccalaureate degree would also be eligible.

1026 (2) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the program  
1027 shall be allocated by the Office of Student Financial Assistance  
1028 to match private contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis;  
1029 however, beginning in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, such funds  
1030 shall be allocated at a ratio of \$2 of state funds to \$1 of  
1031 private contributions. Contributions made to a state university  
1032 or a Florida College System institution and pledged for the  
1033 purposes of this section are eligible for state matching funds  
1034 appropriated for this program and are not eligible for any other  
1035 state matching grant program. Pledged contributions are not  
1036 eligible for matching prior to the actual collection of the  
1037 total funds. The Office of Student Financial Assistance shall  
1038 reserve a proportionate allocation of the total appropriated  
1039 funds for each state university and Florida College System  
1040 institution on the basis of full-time equivalent enrollment.  
1041 Funds that remain unmatched as of December 1 shall be  
1042 reallocated to state universities and colleges that have  
1043 remaining unmatched private contributions for the program on the  
1044 basis of full-time equivalent enrollment.

1045 (4) Each participating state university and Florida  
1046 College System institution shall establish an application  
1047 process, determine student eligibility for initial and renewal  
1048 awards in conformance with subsection (5), identify the amount  
1049 awarded to each recipient, and notify recipients of the amount  
1050 of their awards.

1051 (5) In order to be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to  
 1052 this section, an applicant must:

1053 (c) Be accepted at a state university or Florida College  
 1054 System institution.

1055 Section 22. Subsections (2), (4), and (5) of section  
 1056 1009.893, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1057 1009.893 Benacquisto Scholarship Program.—

1058 (2) The Benacquisto Scholarship Program is created to  
 1059 reward a ~~any Florida~~ high school graduate who receives  
 1060 recognition as a National Merit Scholar or National Achievement  
 1061 Scholar and who initially enrolls in the 2014-2015 academic year  
 1062 or, later, in a baccalaureate degree program at an eligible  
 1063 Florida public or independent postsecondary educational  
 1064 institution.

1065 (4) In order to be eligible for an award under the  
 1066 scholarship program, a student must meet the requirements of  
 1067 paragraph (a) or paragraph (b).÷

1068 (a) A student who is a resident of this state, ~~Be a state~~  
 1069 ~~resident~~ as determined in s. 1009.40 and rules of the State  
 1070 Board of Education, must:÷

1071 1. ~~(b)~~ Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its  
 1072 equivalent pursuant to s. 1002.3105, s. 1003.4281, s. 1003.4282,  
 1073 or s. 1003.435 unless:

1074 a.1. The student completes a home education program  
 1075 according to s. 1002.41; or

1076 ~~b.2.~~ The student earns a high school diploma from a non-  
1077 Florida school while living with a parent who is on military or  
1078 public service assignment out of this state;

1079 ~~2.(e)~~ Be accepted by and enroll in a Florida public or  
1080 independent postsecondary educational institution that is  
1081 regionally accredited; and

1082 ~~3.(d)~~ Be enrolled full-time in a baccalaureate degree  
1083 program at an eligible regionally accredited Florida public or  
1084 independent postsecondary educational institution during the  
1085 fall academic term following high school graduation.

1086 (b) A student who initially enrolls in a baccalaureate  
1087 degree program in the 2018-2019 academic year or later and who  
1088 is not a resident of this state, as determined in s. 1009.40 and  
1089 rules of the State Board of Education, must:

1090 1. Physically reside in this state on or near the campus  
1091 of the postsecondary educational institution in which the  
1092 student is enrolled;

1093 2. Earn a high school diploma from a school outside  
1094 Florida which is comparable to a standard Florida high school  
1095 diploma or its equivalent pursuant to s. 1002.3105, s.  
1096 1003.4281, s. 1003.4282, or s. 1003.435 or must complete a home  
1097 education program in another state; and

1098 3. Be accepted by and enrolled full-time in a  
1099 baccalaureate degree program at an eligible regionally  
1100 accredited Florida public or independent postsecondary

1101 educational institution during the fall academic term following  
1102 high school graduation.

1103 (5) (a) 1. An eligible student who meets the requirements of  
1104 paragraph (4) (a), who is a National Merit Scholar or National  
1105 Achievement Scholar, and who attends a Florida public  
1106 postsecondary educational institution shall receive a  
1107 scholarship award equal to the institutional cost of attendance  
1108 minus the sum of the student's Florida Bright Futures  
1109 Scholarship and National Merit Scholarship or National  
1110 Achievement Scholarship.

1111 2. An eligible student who meets the requirements of  
1112 paragraph (4) (b), who is a National Merit Scholar, and who  
1113 attends a Florida public postsecondary educational institution  
1114 shall receive a scholarship award equal to the institutional  
1115 cost of attendance for a resident of this state minus the  
1116 student's National Merit Scholarship. Such student is exempt  
1117 from the payment of out-of-state fees.

1118 (b) An eligible student who is a National Merit Scholar or  
1119 National Achievement Scholar and who attends a Florida  
1120 independent postsecondary educational institution shall receive  
1121 a scholarship award equal to the highest cost of attendance for  
1122 a resident of this state enrolled at a Florida public  
1123 university, as reported by the Board of Governors of the State  
1124 University System, minus the sum of the student's Florida Bright  
1125 Futures Scholarship and National Merit Scholarship or National

1126 Achievement Scholarship.

1127 Section 23. Section 1009.894, Florida Statutes, is created  
1128 to read:

1129 1009.894 Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship Program.—  
1130 The Legislature recognizes the vital contribution of farmworkers  
1131 to the economy of this state. The Florida Farmworker Student  
1132 Scholarship Program is created to provide scholarships for  
1133 farmworkers, as defined in s. 420.503, and the children of such  
1134 farmworkers.

1135 (1) The Department of Education shall administer the  
1136 Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship Program according to  
1137 rules and procedures established by the State Board of  
1138 Education. Up to 50 scholarships shall be awarded annually  
1139 according to the criteria established in subsection (2) and  
1140 contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature.

1141 (2) (a) To be eligible for an initial scholarship, a  
1142 student must, at a minimum:

1143 1. Have a resident status as required by s. 1009.40 and  
1144 rules of the State Board of Education;

1145 2. Earn a minimum cumulative weighted grade point average  
1146 of 3.5 for all high school courses creditable toward a diploma;

1147 3. Complete a minimum of 30 hours of community service;  
1148 and

1149 4. Have at least a 90-percent attendance rate and not have  
1150 had any disciplinary action brought against him or her, as

1151 documented on the student's high school transcript.

1152  
1153 For purposes of this section, students who are undocumented for  
1154 federal immigration purposes are not eligible for an award.

1155 (b) The department shall rank eligible initial applicants  
1156 for the purposes of awarding scholarships based on need, as  
1157 determined by the department.

1158 (c) To renew a scholarship awarded pursuant to this  
1159 section, a student must maintain at least a cumulative grade  
1160 point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale for college  
1161 coursework.

1162 (3) A scholarship recipient must enroll in a minimum of 12  
1163 credit hours per term, or the equivalent, at a public  
1164 postsecondary educational institution in this state to receive  
1165 funding.

1166 (4) A scholarship recipient may receive an award for a  
1167 maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours required to  
1168 complete an associate or baccalaureate degree program or receive  
1169 an award for a maximum of 100 percent of the credit hours or  
1170 clock hours required to complete up to 90 credit hours of a  
1171 program that terminates in a career certificate. The scholarship  
1172 recipient is eligible for an award equal to the amount required  
1173 to pay the tuition and fees established under ss. 1009.22(3),  
1174 (5), (6), and (7); 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11);  
1175 and 1009.24(4), (7)-(13), (14)(r), and (16), as applicable, at a

1176 public postsecondary educational institution in this state.  
1177 Renewal scholarship awards must take precedence over new  
1178 scholarship awards in a year in which funds are not sufficient  
1179 to accommodate both initial and renewal awards. The scholarship  
1180 must be prorated for any such year.

1181 (5) Subject to appropriation by the Legislature, the  
1182 department shall annually issue awards from the scholarship  
1183 program. Before the registration period each semester, the  
1184 department shall transmit payment for each award to the  
1185 president or director of the postsecondary educational  
1186 institution, or his or her representative. However, the  
1187 department may withhold payment if the receiving institution  
1188 fails to submit the following reports or make the following  
1189 refunds to the department:

1190 (a) Each institution shall certify to the department the  
1191 eligibility status of each student to receive a disbursement  
1192 within 30 days before the end of its regular registration  
1193 period, inclusive of a drop and add period. An institution is  
1194 not required to reevaluate the student eligibility after the end  
1195 of the drop and add period.

1196 (b) An institution that receives funds from the  
1197 scholarship program must certify to the department the amount of  
1198 funds disbursed to each student and remit to the department any  
1199 undisbursed advance within 60 days after the end of the regular  
1200 registration period.



1201 (6) The department shall allocate funds to the appropriate  
 1202 institutions and collect and maintain data regarding the  
 1203 scholarship program within the student financial assistance  
 1204 database as specified in s. 1009.94.

1205 Section 24. Paragraphs (e) and (f) of subsection (10) of  
 1206 section 1009.98, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
 1207 paragraphs (f) and (g), respectively, and a new paragraph (e) is  
 1208 added to that subsection to read:

1209 1009.98 Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program.—

1210 (10) PAYMENTS ON BEHALF OF QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES.—

1211 (e) Notwithstanding the number of credit hours used by a  
 1212 state university to assess the amount for registration fees,  
 1213 tuition, tuition differential, or local fees, the amount paid by  
 1214 the board to any state university on behalf of a qualified  
 1215 beneficiary of an advance payment contract purchased before July  
 1216 1, 2024, may not exceed the number of credit hours taken by that  
 1217 qualified beneficiary at the state university.

1218 Section 25. The Division of Law Revision and Information  
 1219 is directed to substitute the term "Effective Access to Student  
 1220 Education Grant Program" for "Florida Resident Access Grant  
 1221 Program" and the term "Effective Access to Student Education  
 1222 grant" for "Florida resident access grant" wherever those terms  
 1223 appear in the Florida Statutes.

1224 Section 26. By October 1, 2019, the Board of Governors, in  
 1225 consultation with the state universities, shall submit to the

1226 Legislature recommendations for future consideration on the most  
1227 efficient process to achieve a complete performance-based  
1228 continuous improvement model focused on outcomes that provides  
1229 for the equitable distribution of performance funds. In addition  
1230 to recommendations submitted by the Board of Governors, the  
1231 Legislature shall review recommendations from an independent  
1232 entity that consults with the Board of Governors for the purpose  
1233 of receiving input on behalf of the state university system.  
1234 Implementation of any recommendations shall not occur unless  
1235 affirmatively enacted by the Legislature.

1236       Section 27. For the 2018-2019 fiscal year, \$121,776,631 in  
1237 recurring funds from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund and  
1238 \$1,736,404 in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund are  
1239 appropriated to the Department of Education to implement this  
1240 act. Of these funds, \$1,737,223 from the Educational Enhancement  
1241 Trust Fund shall be used for 2019 summer term awards for Florida  
1242 Bright Futures Academic Scholars, \$28,416,515 from the  
1243 Educational Enhancement Trust Fund shall be used for 2019 summer  
1244 term awards for Florida Bright Futures Medallion Scholars,  
1245 \$91,622,893 from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund shall be  
1246 used for Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program awards,  
1247 \$1,236,404 from the General Revenue Fund shall be used for the  
1248 Benacquisto Scholarship Program, and \$500,000 from the General  
1249 Revenue Fund shall be used for the Florida Farmworker Student  
1250 Scholarship Program.

1251           Section 28. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
1252 act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.