

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 5601 PCB HEA 21-01 Higher Education
SPONSOR(S): Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee, Plasencia
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
Orig. Comm.: Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee	11 Y, 2 N	Crowley	Smith
1) Appropriations Committee	20 Y, 5 N	Crowley	Pridgeon

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill conforms applicable statutes to the appropriations provided in the House proposed General Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2021-22. The bill:

- Specifies that all funds appropriated for Preeminent State Research Universities must be distributed equally;
- Eliminates the State University Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program;
- Provides minimum performance standards for institutions to be eligible to participate in the Effective Access to Student Education tuition assistance program;
- Eliminates the Access to Better Learning and Education tuition assistance program;
- Expands the existing faculty salary cap from state university administrative employees to include all university faculty, excluding those in specified high-demand fields; and
- Creates the Florida Integrated Library System to provide funding for critical library services, a distance learning catalog, and transient student applications.

The bill provides for an effective date of July 1, 2021.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Current Situation

Preeminent and Emerging Preeminent State Research Universities

The Preeminent State Research University program is a collaborative partnership between the Board of Governors (BOG) and the Legislature to elevate the academic and research preeminence of Florida's highest performing state research universities.¹ A state research university that meets at least 11 of the 12 academic and research excellence standards specified in law is designated as a preeminent state research university.²

The academic and research excellence standards are:³

- An average weighted grade point average of 4.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale and an average SAT score of 1800 or higher for fall semester incoming freshmen, as reported annually.
- A top-50 ranking on at least two well-known and highly respected national public university rankings, reflecting national preeminence, using most recent rankings.
- A freshman retention rate of 90 percent or higher for full-time, first-time-in-college students, as reported annually to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).
- A 6-year graduation rate of 70 percent or higher for full-time, first-time-in-college students, as reported annually to the IPEDS.
- Six or more faculty members at the state university who are members of a national academy, as reported by the Center for Measuring University Performance in the Top American Research Universities (TARU) annual report.
- Total annual research expenditures, including federal research expenditures, of \$200 million or more, as reported annually by the National Science Foundation (NSF).
- Total annual research expenditures in diversified nonmedical sciences of \$150 million or more, based on data reported annually by the NSF.
- A top-100 university national ranking for research expenditures in five or more science, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields of study, as reported annually by the NSF.
- One hundred or more total patents awarded by the United States Patent and Trademark Office for the most recent 3-year period.
- Four hundred or more doctoral degrees awarded annually, as reported in the BOG Annual Accountability Report.
- Two hundred or more postdoctoral appointees annually, as reported in the TARU annual report.
- An endowment of \$500 million or more, as reported in the BOG Annual Accountability Report.

During the 2016 Legislative Session, the Legislature expanded the program to include the designation of Emerging Preeminent State Research University for institutions that meet at least 6 of the 12 standards.⁴ Previously, funds appropriated for the program were allocated such that every preeminent institution received an equal amount, and that every emerging preeminent institution received one-quarter of the amount allocated to preeminent institutions. During the 2020 Legislative Session, the Legislature eliminated funding requirements for emerging preeminent institutions.⁵

The University of Florida and Florida State University have held the preeminent designation since the founding of the program. The University of South Florida was designated as emerging preeminent in

¹ Section 1001.7065(1), F.S.

² *Id.* at (3).

³ *Id.* at (2).

⁴ Ch. 2016-237, L.O.F.

⁵ Ch. 2020-117, L.O.F.

fiscal year 2016-17⁶ and as preeminent in fiscal year 2018-19.⁷ The University of Central Florida was designated emerging preeminent in fiscal year 2016-17,⁸ and Florida International University was designated emerging preeminent in fiscal year 2019-20.⁹

Preeminent/Emerging Preeminent Institutions

Fiscal Year	UF	FSU	USF	UCF	Total
2013-14	\$ 15,000,000	\$ 15,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000,000
2014-15	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000
2015-16	\$ 1,550,000	\$ 1,550,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,100,000
2016-17	\$ 13,450,000	\$ 13,450,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 36,900,000
2017-18	\$ 17,333,333	\$ 17,333,333	\$ 8,666,667	\$ 8,666,667	\$ 52,000,000
2018-19	\$ 6,153,846	\$ 6,153,846	\$ 6,153,846	\$ 1,538,462	\$ 20,000,000
2019-20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2020-21	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 58,487,179	\$ 58,487,179	\$ 19,820,513	\$ 15,205,129	\$ 152,000,000

Funding for the Preeminent State Research Universities Program is subject to appropriations provided in the General Appropriations Act.¹⁰ To date, University of Florida and Florida State University have received \$58.5 million each, the University of South Florida has received \$19.8 million, and the University of Central Florida has received \$15.2 million in recurring funds through the program, totaling \$152 million. Florida International University has never received funding as they were designated after funding for emerging preeminent institutions was eliminated.

Professional & Graduate Degree Excellence

The State University Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program funds and supports the efforts of state universities to enhance the quality and excellence of professional schools and graduate degree programs in medicine, law, and business, and expands the economic impact of state universities.¹¹ Specifically, this program authorizes quality improvement efforts of the state universities, and specifies that such efforts may include, but not be limited to, targeted investments in faculty, students, research, infrastructure, and other strategic endeavors to elevate the national and global prominence of state university medicine, law, and graduate-level business degree programs.

The BOG must annually, by March 15, provide to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives, an accountability report which includes specific expenditure information on program funds and the impact of those expenditures in elevating the national and global prominence of the university medicine, law, and graduate level business programs, specifically relating to the:

- First-time pass rate on the United States Medical Licensing Examination;
- First-time pass rate on the Florida Bar Examination;
- Percentage of graduates enrolled or employed at a wage threshold that reflects the added value of a graduate-level business degree;
- Advancement in rankings of the state university medicine, law, and graduate-level business degree programs; and

⁶ Florida Board of Governors, System Summary of University Work Plans (2017), available at https://www.flbog.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017_SYSTEM_WORK_PLAN_FINAL.pdf, at 10.

⁷ Florida Board of Governors, 2018 Accountability Plan System Summary (2018), available at https://www.flbog.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018_System_Accountability_Plan_FINAL_2018-06-28.pdf, a 9.

⁸ Florida Board of Governors, System Summary of University Work Plans (2017), available at https://www.flbog.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017_SYSTEM_WORK_PLAN_FINAL.pdf, at 10.

⁹ Florida Board of Governors, 2019 Accountability Plan System Summary (2019), available at https://www.flbog.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019_System_Accountability_Plan_FINAL_2019-10-30.pdf, a 10.

¹⁰ Section 1001.7065, F.S.

¹¹ Section 1004.6498, F.S.

- Added economic benefit of the universities to the state.

The program features a funding mechanism to boost the excellence of state university professional schools and graduate degree programs in specified areas. The program bolsters the state universities' efforts to recruit and retain talented students and faculty, helping to raise the national and international prominence of the state universities and the programs within such universities. The program also assists in improving the national rankings of the state universities in medicine, law, and business.

Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) Tuition Assistance Program

EASE (formerly known as the Florida Resident Access Grant, or FRAG) is a grant program administered by the Department of Education (DOE) with the following parameters:¹²

- Student eligibility requirements:
 - Must be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student at an eligible college or university.
 - Must not be enrolled in a program of study leading to a degree in theology or divinity.
 - Must be making satisfactory academic progress as defined by the college or university in which they are enrolled
- Institutional eligibility requirements:
 - Must be an independent nonprofit college or university.
 - Must be located in and chartered by the state of Florida.
 - Must be accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
 - Must grant baccalaureate degrees.
 - Must not be a state university or Florida College System institution.
 - Must have a secular purpose, so long as the receipt of state aid by students at the institution would not have the primary effect of advancing or impeding religion or result in an excessive entanglement between the state and any religious group.

As specified in the FY 2020-21 GAA, the Legislature provided funds to support 41,063 eligible students with an average award of \$2,841. The total appropriation for FY 2020-21 was \$116.7 million, which is a slight decrease of 1.2% since FY 2016-17.

Access to Better Learning and Education (ABLE) Tuition Assistance Program

ABLE is a grant program administered by DOE with the following parameters:¹³

- Student eligibility requirements:
 - Must be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student at an eligible college or university.
 - Must not be enrolled in a program of study leading to a degree in theology or divinity.
 - Must be making satisfactory academic progress as defined by the college or university in which they are enrolled
- Institutional eligibility requirements:
 - For-profit college or university
 - Must be located in and chartered by the state of Florida
 - Must be accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
 - Nonprofit college or university
 - Must be chartered out of the state
 - Must have been located in the state for 10 years or more
 - Must be accredited by one of the following:
 - Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
 - Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
 - North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
 - New England Association of Colleges and Schools

¹² Section 1009.89, F.S.

¹³ Section 1009.891, F.S.

- Must grant baccalaureate degrees.
- Must not be a state university or Florida College System institution.
- Must have a secular purpose, so long as the receipt of state aid by students at the institution would not have the primary effect of advancing or impeding religion or result in an excessive entanglement between the state and any religious group.

As specified in the FY 2020-21 GAA, the Legislature provided funds to support 1,769 eligible students with an average award of \$2,841. The total appropriation for FY 2020-21 is \$5 million. Historically, ABLE award amounts were substantially lower than those of EASE awards. The 89.4% five-year increase in ABLE award amounts reflect the purposeful efforts of the Legislature, beginning in FY 2017-18, to achieve parity between the two tuition assistance programs.

State University Faculty Salary Cap

State university administrative employees may not receive compensation of more than \$200,000 from appropriated state funds, including those from the General Revenue Fund and funds appropriated from state trust funds.¹⁴ However, this section does not apply to university teaching faculty or medical school teaching faculty or staff.

According to salary data provided by the BOG, eleven of the twelve institutions currently compensate faculty from 29 different disciplines in excess of \$200,000 from state funds. The total state funds used for compensation in excess of \$200,000 amounts to about \$25 million.¹⁵ The University of Florida is the largest contributor, accounting for more than 33% of the total salary in excess of \$200,000 from state funds, while Florida Gulf Coast University accounts for only 0.02%. Business and Management is the largest discipline with respect to excess faculty salary at 27%, while the smallest, Philosophy and Religious Studies, accounts for only 0.1%.

Florida Integrated Library System

In 2014, the Legislature amended the Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC) to be the Complete Florida Plus Program (Complete Florida Plus) and in 2015 moved management of the FLVC to the University of West Florida's (UWF's) Division of Research and Strategic Innovation, where its mission and purpose remained the same. The units under FLVC included the Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative (FALSC) and the Distance Learning and Student Services (DLSS).¹⁶

The Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative (FALSC) provides a single library automation system and associated resources and services for all public postsecondary institutions to use to support learning, teaching, and research needs.¹⁷ The FALSC develops and manages a library information portal and automated library management tools for use by FCS institutions and state universities.¹⁸

The FALSC is a unit of the FLVC which operates the integrated library system used by public colleges and university libraries statewide. The FALSC also provides more than 150,000 unique, digital archive and collection items and a statewide collection of over 400,000 online journals, ebooks, and e-resources, available to assist nearly 1.3 million students, faculty, and staff throughout Florida.¹⁹

¹⁴ Section 1012.976, F.S.

¹⁵ Email from Dale Bradley, Budget Director, Board of Governors, Dated February 26, 2021

¹⁶ Florida Virtual Campus, Organization Profile, <https://www.flvc.org/organization-profile> (last visited Mar. 9, 2021). The Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC) was created in 2012 by the Florida Legislature through the consolidation of four statewide organizations: the College Center for Library Automation, the Florida Center for Library Automation, the Florida Center for Advising and Academic Support, and the Florida Distance Learning Consortium.

¹⁷ Section 1006.73(1), F.S.

¹⁸ Section 1006.73(2), F.S.

¹⁹ Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative, About FALSC, <https://libraries.flvc.org/about-falsc> (last visited Mar. 9, 2021).

Distance Learning and Student Services (DLSS) provides an array of innovative educational services for students, educators, and administrators in Florida. The DLSS operates several statewide services that impact the success of the state's students.²⁰

In June 2020, the Governor vetoed the \$29.4 million appropriation in the fiscal year 2020-21 GAA for the Complete Florida Plus Program.²¹ The program provided support services for distance learning, libraries, and student services. These services were provided to all 40 Florida College System (FCS) and State University System (SUS) institutions.

Effect of Proposed Changes

Preeminent and Emerging Preeminent State Research Universities

The bill specifies that future appropriations will be distributed equally between eligible institutions rather than the current model.

Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence

This bill repeals the statutory framework for the program. The GAA for fiscal year 2020-21 contained \$60 million in recurring funds for this program.

Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) Program

This bill creates a statutory requirement for recipient institutions to report prior year academic statistics for ten metrics:

- Entrance requirements for the year;
- Percentage of students receiving Pell Grants, Bright Futures, and other academic aid;
- Graduation rates;
- Retention rates;
- Job placement rates;
- Job placement rates in-field up to 120 days past graduation;
- Total federal loan amounts disbursed; and
- Total number of students who received federal loans.

The bill also specifies that institutions whose metrics fall below the average three or more of the following metrics are ineligible to receive EASE grants:

- A student placement rate, defined as the rate of bachelor's degree graduates found that were working full-time more than 120 days after their graduation;
- An on-time graduation rate, defined as the rate of full-time FTIC students graduating in six years;
- An academic retention rate, defined as the percentage of students enrolled who have not graduated who return for the following fall semester;
- A student access rate, defined as the rate of full-time FTIC students who are eligible for Pell grants; and
- A student affordability level, defined as total disbursed federal loans per undergraduate recipient.

Because the bill applies these standards to current year reports, 16 of the 34 previously eligible institutions will lose eligibility to participate. The resulting reduction of about \$36.4 million in tuition assistance grants impacting 12,826 students amounts to about 31.5% of the FY 2021-2022 estimates.

In addition to institutional eligibility, the bill amends student eligibility requirements, specifying that recipient students must be enrolled in a program of study leading to a baccalaureate degree, and must

²⁰ Florida Virtual Campus, Organization Profile, <https://www.flvc.org/organization-profile> (last visited Mar. 9, 2021).

²¹ Governor Ron DeSantis, 2020 Veto List (2020), available at <https://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-Veto-List.pdf>, at 5.

not have completed more than 110 percent of their program credit-hours. Additionally, the bill changes the institution responsible for defining satisfactory academic progress from the recipient institution to the State Board of Education.

The bill also requires participating institutions to report the number of eligible students for each academic term along with their demographic and eligibility data.

Access to Better Learning and Education (ABLE) Tuition Assistance

This bill repeals the statutory framework for the program. The GAA for fiscal year 2020-21 included \$4.6 million in recurring funds for the program.

State University Faculty Salary Cap

This bill expands the salary cap for administration salaries to include teaching faculty. The bill, however, specifies that the salary cap does not apply to faculty in the following high-demand disciplines:

- Computer Information Sciences and Support Services;
- Engineering;
- Engineering Technologies and Engineering-Related Fields;
- Florida Mental Health Institute;
- Health Professions and Related Programs;
- Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting and Related Fields;
- Mathematics;
- Nursing; and
- Physical Sciences.

This expansion of the salary cap to include certain faculty reduces state spending on salaries by approximately \$18.5 million. This change would not necessarily result in net pay losses for faculty because it does not prohibit institutions from using funds from nonstate sources, similar to how university presidents are currently compensated.

Florida Integrated Library System

The bill establishes the Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network (Network) under the joint oversight of the Office of the BOG and the DOE in place of the Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative, and repeals the Complete Florida Plus Program.

The bill declares the purpose of the Network is to deliver specified services to public postsecondary education institutions in Florida, namely all FCS and SUS institutions. The bill retains the general purpose of Complete Florida Plus, which includes the following services:

- Provision of information regarding and access to distance learning courses and degree programs offered by public postsecondary education institutions within the state;
- Coordination with the FCS and SUS to identify and provide online academic support services and resources when the multi-institutional provision of such services and resources is more cost effective or operationally effective; and
- Administration of a single library automation system and associated resources and services that all public postsecondary institutions use to support learning, teaching, and research needs, and development of automated library management tools.

The bill also adds to the Network the following services and functions:

- To the single library automation system:
 - A shared Internet-based catalog and discovery tool that allows a user to search and, if authorized, access the aggregate library holdings of the state's public postsecondary education institutions. The catalog and discovery tool must allow a user to search the library holdings of one institution, selected institutions, or all institutions and, to the extent feasible,

- must include an interlibrary loan function that ensures an authorized user can access the required library holding.
- An Internet-based searchable collection of electronic resources which must include, but not be limited to, full-text journals, articles, databases, and electronic books licensed as specified.
- An integrated library management system and its associated services that all public postsecondary education institution academic libraries must use for purposes of acquiring, cataloging, circulating, and tracking library material.
- A statewide searchable database that includes an inventory of digital archives and collections held by public postsecondary education institutions.
- Coordination, with FCS institutions' and state universities' library staff, of the negotiation of statewide licensing of electronic library resources and preferred pricing agreements, issue purchase orders, and entering into contracts for the acquisition of library support services, electronic resources, and other goods and services necessary to carry out its authorized duties.
- Promotion and provision of recommendations concerning the use and distribution of open-access textbooks and education resources as a method for reducing costs.
- Provision of appropriate help desk support and training and consultation services to institutions and students.

The bill maintains, from Complete Florida Plus, a statewide Internet-based catalog of distance learning courses, degree programs, and resources offered by public postsecondary education institutions, intended to assist in the coordination and collaboration of articulation and access specified in law.²²

In addition, the bill expands on functions in the Complete Florida Plus catalog of distance learning courses, to specify that the host entity is responsible for developing and disseminating operational procedures and technical guidelines for the catalog, to be followed by all participating institutions, which guidelines must address the following:

- Specific information concerning the distance learning course or degree program, including but not limited to course number, classification of instructional programs number, and information on the availability of the course or degree program; any prerequisite course or technology competency or skill; the availability of academic support services and financial aid resources; and course costs, fees, and payment policies;
- Definitions and descriptions of the catalog's search and retrieval options that will at a minimum allow users to search by academic term or course start date; institution, multiple institutions, or all institutions; and course or program delivery methods, course type, course availability, subject or discipline, and course number or classification of instructional programs number;
- An Internet-based analytic tool that allows for the collection and analysis of data as to usage of resources accessed or interaction with constituent institutions whose courses and programs are listed in the catalog; and
- Frequent review and updates to institution catalogs to ensure that distance learning courses and degree programs comply with operational procedures.

The bill retains Complete Florida Plus student advising and support, with some modifications. Specifically, the bill requires the student advising services to provide:

- A streamlined online admissions application process, to be used by all public postsecondary institutions, for undergraduate transient students currently enrolled and pursuing a degree at a public postsecondary education institution who enroll in a course offered by a public postsecondary education institution that is not the student's degree-granting institution, which must:
 - Use the transient student admissions application available through the statewide computer-assisted student advising system as specified. This admissions application is the only application required for enrollment of a transient student as described.
 - Implement the financial aid procedures required by the transient student admissions application process.

- Transfer credit awarded by the institution offering the course to the transient student's degree-granting institution.
- Provide an interface between the institutional advising system and the statewide computer-assisted student advising system established, in order to electronically send, receive, and process the transient student admissions application.
- A statewide computer-assisted student advising system to support the process of advising, registering, and capturing student progression toward a degree and career and which must include a degree audit and an articulation component. The bill removes from the Complete Florida Plus student advising system a requirement for K-12 support. FCS institutions and state universities are required to interface institutional advising systems with the statewide computer-assisted student advising system, which must, at a minimum:
 - Allow a student to access the system at any time;
 - Allow a student to search public postsecondary education institutions and identify course options that will meet the requirements of a selected path toward a degree;
 - Audit transcripts of students enrolled in a public postsecondary education institution to assess current academic standing, the requirements for a student to transfer to another institution, and all requirements necessary for graduation;
 - Serve as the official statewide repository for the common prerequisite manual, admissions information for transferring programs, foreign language requirements, residency requirements, and statewide articulation agreements;
 - Provide information relating to career descriptions and corresponding educational requirements, admissions requirements, and available student financial assistance sources; and
 - Provide the admissions application for transient students as specified, which must include the electronic transfer and receipt of information and records for admissions and readmissions, financial aid, and transfer of credit awarded by the institution offering the course to the transient student's degree-granting institution using the Florida Automated System for Transferring Educational Records (the "FASTER System").
- A method for identifying and evaluating new technologies and instructional methods for improving distance learning instruction and development for faculty, student learning outcomes, student access, the efficient delivery of student support services, and the overall quality of postsecondary distance learning courses and degree programs.
- Negotiation of statewide licensing resources and preferred pricing agreements, issuing purchase orders, and entering into contracts for the acquisition of distance learning resources, student and support services, electronic resources, and other goods and services necessary.

The bill changes the host from the University of West Florida but retains a reporting requirement similar to Complete Florida Plus. The bill requires the host entity, beginning December 31, 2021 and each year thereafter, to submit a report to the Chancellors of the SUS and FCS regarding the implementation and operation of all components described, including but not limited to usage information collected, information and associated costs relating to the services and functions of the program, and the implementation and operation of the automated library services. The chancellors are required to provide an annual report on the performance of the host entity in delivering the services and any recommendations for changes needed to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the BOG, and the State Board of Education.

The bill assigns the Office of the BOG and the DOE joint responsibility for determining the host entity for the services described and sharing in the receipt and administration of an associated appropriation as described in the General Appropriations Act. The Chancellors of the FCS and BOG are required to provide oversight for successful delivery by the host entity of the services described. The bill also removes the requirement under Complete Florida Plus that the Northwest Regional Data Center support the Network.

The bill adds a new requirement that the Commissioner of Education and the Chancellor of the SUS must, by June 1, 2022, provide a joint recommendation for a process by which school district career centers operated pursuant to state law and charter technical career centers operated pursuant to state law would access appropriate postsecondary distance learning, student support services, and library

assets described. The recommendation must include an analysis of the resources necessary to expand access and assets to centers and their students.

Where applicable, the bill updates statutory references to specified services provided by the Network to read Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network.

In accordance with the repeal of Complete Florida Plus, the bill removes statutory references to Complete Florida Plus and to the Complete Florida Degree Initiative, removes statutory requirements to use a graphic and description provided by Complete Florida Plus to inform students of the catalog, and removes a directive in law that encouraged veterans, if appropriate, to participate in the Complete Florida Degree Program.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Amends s. 257.02, F.S., conforming provisions to changes made by the act.

Section 2: Amends s. 295.22, F.S., conforming provisions to changes made by the act.

Section 3: Amends s. 320.08056, F.S., conforming provisions to changes made by the act.

Section 4: Amends s. 1001.7065, F.S., relating to the distribution of funds for preeminent state universities.

Section 5: Amends s. 1004.013, F.S., revising provisions relating to the awareness of certain postsecondary education programs and initiatives.

Section 6: Repeals s. 1004.6498, F.S., relating to the State University Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program.

Section 7: Amends s. 1006.73, F.S., deleting provisions relating to the Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative; providing responsibilities for the Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network.

Section 8: Repeals s. 1006.735, F.S., relating to the Complete Florida Plus Program.

Section 9: Amends s. 1007.01, F.S., conforming a cross-reference.

Section 10: Amends s. 1007.27, F.S., conforming a provision to changes made by the act.

Section 11: Amends s. 1009.23, F.S., conforming a cross-reference and a provision to changes made by the act.

Section 12: Amends s. 1009.24, F.S., conforming cross-references and a provision to changes made by the act.

Section 13: Amends s. 1009.40, F.S., conforming provisions to changes made by the act.

Section 14: Amends s. 1009.89, F.S., relating to the EASE grant program.

Section 15: Repeals s. 1009.891, F.S., relating to the ABLE Program.

Section 16: Amends s. 1009.94, F.S., conforming provisions to changes made by the act.

Section 17: Amends s. 1012.976, F.S., relating to state university compensation limits.

Section 18: Provides an effective date of July 1, 2021.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

The bill conforms applicable statutes to the appropriations provided in the House proposed GAA for fiscal year 2021-22. Specifically, these include a reduction of approximately \$18.5 million to state universities due to capping state funds used for select state university faculty salaries at \$200k, and an increase of \$20.9 million in recurring funds for the administration of a single library automation system, a statewide computer-assisted student advising system, and for electronic resources and open access textbooks for both colleges and universities.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

2.

None.

3. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The bill repeals the statutory framework for certain funding programs, including the State University Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program, for which \$60 million in recurring funds was provided in the fiscal year 2020-21 GAA, and the ABLE tuition assistance grant program, for which \$4.6 million was provided in the fiscal year 2020-21 GAA.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable. This bill does not appear to impact county or municipal governments.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

None.