



26 | determine accrediting agencies or associations best  
27 | suited for state universities and Florida College  
28 | System institutions, respectively, by a date certain;  
29 | providing requirements for such accrediting agencies  
30 | or associations; prohibiting state universities and  
31 | Florida College System institutions from being  
32 | accredited by the same agency or association for  
33 | consecutive accreditation cycles; requiring state  
34 | universities and Florida College System institutions  
35 | to obtain accreditation from accrediting agencies or  
36 | associations identified by the Board of Governors or  
37 | State Board of Education, respectively; providing that  
38 | specified academic programs are exempt from such  
39 | requirements; creating a cause of action for  
40 | postsecondary education institutions; authorizing the  
41 | award of specified damages, court costs, and attorney  
42 | fees; providing for the future expiration of the  
43 | section; amending ss. 1009.23 and 1009.24, F.S.;  
44 | requiring Florida College System institutions and  
45 | state universities, respectively, to post specified  
46 | information relating to tuition and fee rates on their  
47 | websites; revising the information that must be  
48 | included in a required notice to students; requiring a  
49 | specific press release to be e-mailed to enrolled  
50 | students; providing requirements for a Florida College

51 System institution or state university, respectively,  
52 to raise, impose, or authorize certain fees; providing  
53 a directive to the Division of Law Revision; providing  
54 effective dates.

55

56 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

57

58 Section 1. Subsections (5) and (7) of section 1004.085,  
59 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

60 1004.085 Textbook and instructional materials  
61 affordability and transparency.-

62 (5) (a) Each Florida College System institution and state  
63 university shall post prominently in the course registration  
64 system and on its website, ~~as early as is feasible, but at least~~  
65 ~~45 days before the first day of class for each term,~~ a hyperlink  
66 to lists of required and recommended textbooks and instructional  
67 materials ~~for at least 95 percent of all courses and course~~  
68 ~~sections~~ offered at the institution during the upcoming term.  
69 The lists must include the International Standard Book Number  
70 (ISBN) for each required and recommended textbook and  
71 instructional material or other identifying information, which  
72 must include, at a minimum, all of the following: the title, all  
73 authors listed, publishers, edition number, copyright date,  
74 published date, and other relevant information necessary to  
75 identify the specific textbooks or instructional materials

76 required and recommended for each course. The State Board of  
77 Education and the Board of Governors shall include in the  
78 policies, procedures, and guidelines adopted under subsection  
79 (6) certain limited exceptions to this notification requirement  
80 for classes added after the notification deadline.

81 (b) The lists of required and recommended textbooks and  
82 instructional materials required in paragraph (a) must:

83 1. Be posted as early as is feasible, but at least 45 days  
84 before the first day of class for each term, for at least 95  
85 percent of all courses and course sections offered at the  
86 institution during the upcoming term.

87 2. Remain posted for at least 4 academic years.

88 3. Be searchable by academic term, department, course  
89 number, course section, the name of the instructor of the  
90 course, and International Standard Book Number (ISBN).

91 4. Be easily printed or downloadable by current and  
92 prospective students for their registered courses or search  
93 results.

94 (c) Beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year for general  
95 education core course options identified pursuant to s. 1007.25,  
96 and by the 2024-2025 academic year for all upper-level courses  
97 required as part of a degree program, course syllabi containing  
98 sufficient detail to inform students of all of the following  
99 must be included in the course registration system and remain  
100 posted for at least 4 academic years:

101           1. The course curriculum.  
 102           2. The goals, objectives, and student expectations of the  
 103 course.  
 104           3. How student performance will be measured.  
 105           (7) The board of trustees of each Florida College System  
 106 institution and state university shall report, by September 30  
 107 of each year, to the Chancellor of the Florida College System or  
 108 the Chancellor of the State University System, as applicable,  
 109 the textbook and instructional materials selection process for  
 110 high-enrollment courses; specific initiatives of the institution  
 111 designed to reduce the costs of textbooks and instructional  
 112 materials; policies implemented in accordance with subsection  
 113 (5); the number of courses and course sections that were not  
 114 able to meet the textbook and instructional materials and course  
 115 syllabi posting deadline for the previous academic year; and any  
 116 additional information determined by the chancellors. By  
 117 November 1 of each year, each chancellor shall provide a summary  
 118 of the information provided by institutions to the State Board  
 119 of Education and the Board of Governors, as applicable.  
 120           Section 2. Subsection (8) of section 1007.24, Florida  
 121 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (9), subsections (4), (5),  
 122 and present subsection (8) are amended, and a new subsection (8)  
 123 is added to that section, to read:  
 124           1007.24 Statewide course numbering system.—

125           (4) The statewide course numbering system must be ~~shall~~  
 126 maintained electronically and regularly updated by the  
 127 department, and include the courses at the recommended levels,  
 128 course numbers, course titles, credits awarded, and other  
 129 identifiable information by institution and academic year, as  
 130 required by state board rule.

131           (5) The registration process at each state university and  
 132 Florida College System institution shall include the courses at  
 133 their designated levels, ~~and~~ statewide course numbers, course  
 134 titles, credits awarded, and other identifiable information, as  
 135 required by state board rule.

136           (8) Participating postsecondary institutions receiving  
 137 transfer course credit must accept and apply general education  
 138 courses and credit in accordance with this section, s. 1007.25,  
 139 and other provisions of law, including credit earned through  
 140 dual enrollment, course equivalencies, and other acceleration  
 141 mechanisms, as first satisfying general education core course  
 142 credit requirements and other general education subject area  
 143 course credit requirements before applying the course credit as  
 144 elective credit.

145           (9)~~(8)~~ The State Board of Education shall adopt rules that  
 146 provide for the collection of course information from  
 147 participating institutions, identifiable information required  
 148 for each course, and the conduct of regularly scheduled faculty

149 committee reviews and recommendations. At a minimum, rules must  
150 address all of the following:

151 (a) Required institutional reporting formats, timelines,  
152 and procedures for the timely and uniform collection and  
153 publication of course data information.

154 (b) Regularly scheduled faculty committee reviews and  
155 recommendations to the commissioner for the alignment or  
156 realignment of courses, course numbers, course titles,  
157 designated levels, credits awarded, and other identifiable  
158 information for the purpose of facilitating credit transfer and  
159 acceptance for substantially similar courses at receiving  
160 institutions.

161 (c) Regularly scheduled faculty committee reviews and  
162 recommendations to the commissioner for the classification or  
163 reclassification of courses as satisfying general education,  
164 general education core, prerequisite, substitution, equivalency,  
165 civic literacy, or other course types, pursuant to s. 1007.25,  
166 consistent with subject area, course content, programmatic, and  
167 other requirements outlined in rule.

168 (d) Purges of courses that are listed in the statewide  
169 course numbering system but have not been taught at an  
170 institution for the preceding 5 years. These rules must include  
171 waiver provisions that allow course continuation if an  
172 institution has reasonable cause for having not offered a course

173 within the 5-year limit and an expectation that the course will  
 174 be offered again within the following 5 years.

175 Section 3. Effective upon becoming a law, section 1008.47,  
 176 Florida Statutes, is created to read:

177 1008.47 Postsecondary education institution  
 178 accreditation.—

179 (1) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term  
 180 "postsecondary education institution" means a Florida College  
 181 System institution, state university, or nonpublic postsecondary  
 182 education institution that receives state funds.

183 (2) ACCREDITATION.—By July 1, 2022, the Board of  
 184 Governors, for state universities, and the State Board of  
 185 Education, for Florida College System institutions, shall  
 186 identify and make a determination of the accrediting agencies or  
 187 associations that are best suited to, respectively, serve as an  
 188 accreditor for state universities and Florida College System  
 189 institutions. Such accrediting agencies or associations must be  
 190 recognized by the database created and maintained by the United  
 191 States Department of Education. A state university or Florida  
 192 College System institution may not be accredited by the same  
 193 accrediting agency or association for consecutive accreditation  
 194 cycles. In the year following reaffirmation or fifth-year review  
 195 by their accrediting agencies or associations, each state  
 196 university or Florida College System institution must seek and  
 197 obtain accreditation from an accrediting agency or association

198 identified by the Board of Governors or State Board of  
 199 Education, respectively, before its next reaffirmation date. The  
 200 requirements of this subsection do not apply to those  
 201 professional, graduate, departmental, or certificate programs at  
 202 state universities or Florida College System institutions that  
 203 have specific accreditation requirements or best practices,  
 204 including, but not limited to, law, pharmacy, engineering, or  
 205 other similarly situated educational programs.

206 (3) CAUSE OF ACTION.—A postsecondary education institution  
 207 negatively impacted by retaliatory action taken against the  
 208 postsecondary education institution by an accrediting agency or  
 209 association may bring an action against the accrediting agency  
 210 or association in a court of competent jurisdiction and may  
 211 obtain liquidated damages up to the amount of federal financial  
 212 aid received by the postsecondary education institution, court  
 213 costs, and reasonable attorney fees.

214 (4) This section expires December 31, 2032.

215 Section 4. Subsection (20) of section 1009.23, Florida  
 216 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (21) is added to that  
 217 section, to read:

218 1009.23 Florida College System institution student fees.—

219 (20) All tuition and fees described in this section, and  
 220 any proposed changes to such tuition and fees, must be  
 221 prominently posted on the Florida College System institution's  
 222 website in an area that is transparent and easily accessible.

223 Each Florida College System institution shall publicly notice  
224 and notify all enrolled students of any proposal to increase  
225 tuition or fees at least 28 days before its consideration for a  
226 vote taken at a board of trustees meeting. The notice must:

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

229 (b) Specifically outline the details of existing tuition  
230 and fees, including how such tuition and fees are expended, the  
231 rationale and necessity for the proposed increase, and how the  
232 funds from the proposed increase will be used.

233 (c) Be posted on the institution's website and issued in a  
234 press release, which must also be enclosed in an email sent to  
235 all enrolled students.

236 (21) Any proposal or action of a Florida College System  
237 institution to raise, impose, or authorize any fee, as  
238 authorized by law, except for tuition, must be approved by a  
239 supermajority vote of the members of the board of trustees of  
240 the institution, if approval by the board of trustees is  
241 required by general law, and at least a supermajority vote of  
242 the members of the State Board of Education, if approval by the  
243 State Board of Education is required by general law, in order to  
244 take effect.

245 Section 5. Subsection (20) of section 1009.24, Florida  
246 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (21) is added to that  
247 section, to read:

248 1009.24 State university student fees.—  
 249 (20) All tuition and fees described in this section, and  
 250 any proposed changes to such tuition and fees, must be  
 251 prominently posted on the state university's website in an area  
 252 that is transparent and easily accessible. Each state university  
 253 shall publicly notice and notify all enrolled students of any  
 254 proposal to change tuition or fees at least 28 days before its  
 255 consideration for a vote taken at a board of trustees meeting.  
 256 The notice must:  
 257 (a) Include the date and time of the meeting at which the  
 258 proposal will be considered.  
 259 (b) Specifically outline the details of existing tuition  
 260 and fees, including how such tuition and fees are expended, the  
 261 rationale and necessity for the proposed change, and how the  
 262 funds from the proposed change will be used.  
 263 (c) Be posted on the university's website and issued in a  
 264 press release, which must also be enclosed in an email sent to  
 265 all enrolled students.  
 266 (21) Pursuant to s. 7(e), Art. IX of the State  
 267 Constitution, any proposal or action of a constituent university  
 268 to raise, impose, or authorize any fee, as authorized by law,  
 269 except for tuition, must be approved by at least nine  
 270 affirmative votes of the members of the board of trustees of the  
 271 constituent university, if approval by the board of trustees is  
 272 required by general law, and at least twelve affirmative votes

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273 of the members of the Board of Governors, if approval by the  
274 Board of Governors is required by general law, in order to take  
275 effect.

276 Section 6. The Division of Law Revision shall prepare a  
277 reviser's bill for the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature  
278 to replace references to the phrases "the Southern Association  
279 of Colleges and Schools," "the Commission on Colleges of the  
280 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools," and "the Southern  
281 Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges"  
282 wherever they occur in Florida Statutes with the phrase "an  
283 accrediting agency or association recognized by the database  
284 created and maintained by the United States Department of  
285 Education."

286 Section 7. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
287 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon  
288 this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1,  
289 2022.