

1                               A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to postsecondary educational  
3       institutions; amending s. 1001.706, F.S.; revising  
4       legislative intent; revising powers and duties of the  
5       Board of Governors; amending s. 1001.7065, F.S.;  
6       revising the academic and research excellence  
7       standards for preeminent state research universities;  
8       creating s. 1001.725, F.S.; providing requirements for  
9       hiring state university faculty; providing  
10       requirements for the employment, promotion, and  
11       evaluation processes for certain state university  
12       employees; authorizing state university boards of  
13       trustees to review the tenure status of faculty  
14       members; requiring such boards to confirm the  
15       selection and reappointment of specified personnel;  
16       providing requirements for certain employment  
17       contracts and responsibilities; requiring state  
18       university presidents to annually present specified  
19       information to such boards; amending s. 1004.06, F.S.;  
20       prohibiting certain entities from expending specified  
21       funds for certain purposes; providing exceptions;  
22       authorizing the State Board of Education and the Board  
23       of Governors to adopt certain rules and regulations,  
24       respectively; creating s. 1004.3841, F.S.; creating  
25       the Institute for Risk Management and Insurance

26 Education within the College of Business at the  
27 University of Central Florida; requiring the institute  
28 to be located in a specified county; providing goals  
29 of the institute; amending s. 1004.6496, F.S.;  
30 conforming a provision to changes made by the act;  
31 amending s. 1004.6499, F.S.; renaming the "Florida  
32 Institute of Politics" as the "Florida Institute for  
33 Governance and Civics"; revising the goals of the  
34 institute; amending s. 1004.64991, F.S.; authorizing  
35 the Adam Smith Center for the Study of Economic  
36 Freedom within Florida International University to  
37 take specified actions; amending s. 1007.25, F.S.;  
38 revising the duties and responsibilities of specified  
39 faculty committees relating to general education core  
40 courses; deleting a provision authorizing certain  
41 course maximums to be exceeded; revising requirements  
42 for general education core courses; providing  
43 definitions; requiring public postsecondary  
44 educational institutions to offer and accept certain  
45 credits for certain general education core courses;  
46 creating s. 1007.55, F.S.; providing legislative  
47 findings; requiring the Articulation Coordinating  
48 Committee to submit certain courses to the State Board  
49 of Education and the Board of Governors; providing  
50 requirements for general education courses; providing

51 requirements for public postsecondary educational  
52 institutions and their presidents and boards of  
53 trustees relating to general education courses;  
54 amending s. 1009.26, F.S.; providing that certain  
55 postsecondary fee waivers continue until specified  
56 criteria are met; providing effective dates.

57  
58 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

59  
60 Section 1. Paragraphs (a) through (d) of subsection (5)  
61 and paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of section 1001.706, Florida  
62 Statutes, are amended to read:

63 1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—

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

65 (a) The Legislature intends that the Board of Governors  
66 shall align the missions of each constituent university with the  
67 academic success of its students; curriculum that promotes  
68 citizenship in a constitutional republic; the state's existing  
69 and emerging workforce needs; the national reputation of its  
70 faculty and its academic and research programs; the quantity of  
71 externally generated research, patents, and licenses; and the  
72 strategic and accountability plans required in paragraphs (b)  
73 and (c). The board shall periodically review the mission of each  
74 constituent university and provide updates or revisions to such  
75 mission, as appropriate; upon completion of such review, examine

76 existing academic programs at each constituent university for  
77 alignment with the university's mission; and provide direction  
78 to each constituent university to remove from its programs any  
79 major or minor that is based on or otherwise utilizes  
80 pedagogical methodology associated with Critical Theory,  
81 including, but not limited to, Critical Race Theory, Critical  
82 Race Studies, Critical Ethnic Studies, Radical Feminist Theory,  
83 Radical Gender Theory, Queer Theory, Critical Social Justice, or  
84 Intersectionality, as defined in Board of Governors regulation,  
85 or any major or minor that includes a curriculum that promotes  
86 the concepts listed in s. 1000.05(4)(a). The mission alignment  
87 and strategic plan shall consider peer institutions at the  
88 constituent universities. The mission alignment and strategic  
89 plan shall acknowledge that universities that have a national  
90 and international impact have the greatest capacity to promote  
91 the state's economic development through: new discoveries,  
92 patents, licenses, and technologies that generate state  
93 businesses of global importance; research achievements through  
94 external grants and contracts that are comparable to nationally  
95 recognized and ranked universities; the creation of a resource  
96 rich academic environment that attracts high-technology business  
97 and venture capital to the state; and this generation's finest  
98 minds focusing on solving the state's economic, social,  
99 environmental, and legal problems in the areas of life sciences,  
100 water, sustainability, energy, and health care. A nationally

101 recognized and ranked university that has a global perspective  
 102 and impact shall be afforded the opportunity to enable and  
 103 protect the university's competitiveness on the global stage in  
 104 fair competition with other institutions of other states in the  
 105 highest Carnegie Classification.

106 (b) The Board of Governors shall develop a strategic plan  
 107 specifying goals and objectives for the State University System  
 108 and each constituent university, including each university's  
 109 contribution to overall system goals and objectives. The  
 110 strategic plan must:

111 1. Include performance metrics and standards common for  
 112 all institutions and metrics and standards unique to  
 113 institutions depending on institutional core missions,  
 114 including, but not limited to, student admission requirements,  
 115 curriculum that promotes citizenship in a constitutional  
 116 republic, retention, graduation, percentage of graduates who  
 117 have attained employment, percentage of graduates enrolled in  
 118 continued education, licensure passage, average wages of  
 119 employed graduates, average cost per graduate, excess hours,  
 120 student loan burden and default rates, faculty awards, total  
 121 annual research expenditures, patents, licenses and royalties,  
 122 intellectual property, startup companies, annual giving,  
 123 endowments, and well-known, highly respected national rankings  
 124 for institutional and program achievements.

125 2. Consider reports and recommendations of the Florida

126 Talent Development Council under s. 1004.015 and the  
127 Articulation Coordinating Committee under s. 1007.01.

128 3. Include student enrollment and performance data  
129 delineated by method of instruction, including, but not limited  
130 to, traditional, online, and distance learning instruction.

131 4. Include criteria for designating baccalaureate degree  
132 and master's degree programs at specified universities as high-  
133 demand programs of emphasis. The programs of emphasis list  
134 adopted by the Board of Governors before July 1, 2021, shall be  
135 used for the 2021-2022 academic year. Beginning in the 2022-2023  
136 academic year, the Board of Governors shall adopt the criteria  
137 to determine value for and prioritization of degree credentials  
138 and degree programs established by the Credentials Review  
139 Committee under s. 445.004 for designating high-demand programs  
140 of emphasis. The Board of Governors must review designated  
141 programs of emphasis, at a minimum, every 3 years to ensure  
142 alignment with the prioritization of degree credentials and  
143 degree programs identified by the Credentials Review Committee.

144 5. Include criteria for nondegree credentials.

145 (c) The Board of Governors shall develop an accountability  
146 plan for the State University System and each constituent  
147 university. The accountability plan must address institutional  
148 and system achievement of goals and objectives specified in the  
149 strategic plan adopted pursuant to paragraph (b) and must be  
150 submitted as part of its legislative budget request. Each

151 university shall submit, as a component of the university's  
152 annual accountability plan:<sup>r</sup>

153 1. Information on the effectiveness of its plan for  
154 improving 4-year graduation rates. ~~and~~

155 2. Information on the level of financial assistance  
156 provided to students pursuant to paragraph (h).

157 ~~(d) Beginning in the 2014-2015 academic year and annually~~  
158 ~~thereafter,~~ The Board of Governors shall annually require a  
159 state university before ~~prior to~~ registration to provide each  
160 enrolled student electronic access to the economic security  
161 report of employment and earning outcomes prepared by the  
162 Department of Economic Opportunity pursuant to s. 445.07. In  
163 addition, the Board of Governors shall require a state  
164 university to provide each student electronic access to the  
165 following information each year before ~~prior to~~ registration  
166 using the data described in s. 1008.39:

167 1. The top 25 percent of degrees reported by the  
168 university in terms of highest full-time job placement and  
169 highest average annualized earnings in the year after earning  
170 the degree.

171 2. The bottom 10 percent of degrees reported by the  
172 university in terms of lowest full-time job placement and lowest  
173 average annualized earnings in the year after earning the  
174 degree.

175 (6) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO PERSONNEL.—

176 (b) The Board of Governors may adopt a regulation  
 177 requiring each tenured state university faculty member to  
 178 undergo a comprehensive post-tenure review every 5 years and a  
 179 post-tenure review at any time for cause. The board may include  
 180 other considerations in the regulation, but the regulation must  
 181 address all of the following:

- 182 1. Accomplishments and productivity.~~;~~
- 183 2. Assigned duties in research, teaching, and service.;
- 184 3. Performance metrics, evaluations, and ratings.~~;~~ ~~and~~
- 185 4. Recognition and compensation considerations, as well as  
 186 improvement plans and consequences for underperformance.

187 5. Conditions that constitute cause for a post-tenure  
 188 review under this paragraph, including, but not limited to, poor  
 189 performance, negligence, inefficiency or inability to perform  
 190 assigned duties, insubordination, violation of any applicable  
 191 law or rule, conduct unbecoming a public employee, misconduct,  
 192 drug abuse, or conviction of any crime.

193 Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 1001.7065, Florida  
 194 Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (m) is added to subsection  
 195 (2) of that section, to read:

196 1001.7065 Preeminent state research universities program.—

197 (2) ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE STANDARDS.—The  
 198 following academic and research excellence standards are  
 199 established for the preeminent state research universities  
 200 program and shall be reported annually in the Board of Governors



201 Accountability Plan:

202 (m) Total annual research expenditures of \$50 million or  
 203 more in STEM-related expenditures, funded from business and  
 204 nonprofit partners.

205 (3) PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY DESIGNATION.—

206 (a) The Board of Governors shall designate each state  
 207 university that annually meets at least 12 ~~11~~ of the 13 ~~12~~  
 208 academic and research excellence standards identified in  
 209 subsection (2) as a "preeminent state research university."

210 (b) The Board of Governors shall designate each state  
 211 university that annually meets at least 7 ~~6~~ of the 13 ~~12~~  
 212 academic and research excellence standards identified in  
 213 subsection (2) as an "emerging preeminent state research  
 214 university."

215 Section 3. Section 1001.725, Florida Statutes, is created  
 216 to read:

217 1001.725 State university boards of trustees; personnel.—

218 (1) Each state university board of trustees is responsible  
 219 for hiring full-time faculty for the university. The president  
 220 of the university may provide hiring recommendations to the  
 221 board. The president and the board are not required to consider  
 222 recommendations or opinions of faculty of the university or  
 223 other individuals or groups.

224 (a) The board of trustees may delegate its hiring  
 225 authority to the president; however, the president may not

226 delegate such hiring authority to anyone outside of the  
227 executive management team of the president's office.

228 (b) A state university may not solicit pledges, except  
229 pledges to uphold general and federal law, the United States  
230 Constitution, and the State Constitution, or statements or  
231 commitments for or against certain viewpoints about diversity,  
232 equity, and inclusion, Critical Race Theory rhetoric, or  
233 political identity or ideology, as part of any hiring,  
234 promotion, disciplinary, or evaluation process, including as  
235 part of applications for employment, promotion and tenure  
236 applications, conditions of employment, job qualifications, job  
237 descriptions, or performance evaluations, or as part of any  
238 admissions or student disciplinary process, including as part of  
239 any admissions applications or orientations. This paragraph  
240 applies to all students and employees at the university,  
241 including the president of the university.

242 (2) Each state university board of trustees may, at the  
243 request of its chair, review any faculty member's tenure status  
244 based on the considerations adopted in Board of Governors  
245 regulation pursuant to s. 1001.706(6)(b).

246 (3) Each state university board of trustees must confirm  
247 the president's selection and reappointment of each member of  
248 the university's executive management team, and his or her  
249 respective contract and annual salary, before such contracts and  
250 salaries become effective, in accordance with the personnel

251 program established by the Board of Governors. Contracts and  
252 responsibilities of the president and executive management team  
253 members, including, but not limited to, the provost, must  
254 explicitly delineate that the responsibilities of such  
255 positions, other than the president, are limited to  
256 administrative oversight and operational supervision of  
257 curricular, instructional, and research affairs, as applicable  
258 to the position.

259 (4) Each state university president shall annually present  
260 to the state university board of trustees for review the results  
261 of performance evaluations and associated annual salaries for  
262 all evaluated academic and administrative personnel earning an  
263 annual salary of \$100,000 or more, regardless of the funding  
264 source for such salaries. The results may be presented in a  
265 summary or written format.

266 Section 4. Section 1004.06, Florida Statutes, is amended  
267 to read:

268 1004.06 Prohibited expenditures.—

269 (1) A ~~No~~ Florida College System institution, state  
270 university, Florida College System institution direct-support  
271 organization, or state university direct-support organization  
272 may not ~~shall~~ expend any funds, regardless of source, to  
273 purchase membership in, or goods and services from, any  
274 organization that discriminates on the basis of race, color,  
275 national origin, sex, disability ~~gender~~, or religion.

276        (2) A Florida College System institution, state  
 277 university, Florida College System institution direct-support  
 278 organization, or state university direct-support organization  
 279 may not expend any state or federal funds to promote, support,  
 280 or maintain any programs or campus activities that:

281            (a) Promote the concepts listed in s. 1000.05(4)(a);  
 282            (b) Advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion;  
 283            (c) Promote or engage in political or social activism; or  
 284            (d) Include or espouse, as government speech or expressive  
 285 activity of the Florida College System institution or state  
 286 university or its direct-support organization speaking or acting  
 287 on the Florida College System institution's or state  
 288 university's behalf, preferential treatment or special benefits  
 289 to individuals on the basis of race, color, national origin,  
 290 sex, disability, or religion.

291

292 Student fees to support student-led organizations are permitted  
 293 notwithstanding any speech or expressive activity by such  
 294 organizations that would otherwise violate this subsection,  
 295 provided that the public funds must be allocated to student-led  
 296 organizations pursuant to written policies or regulations of  
 297 each Florida College System institution or state university, as  
 298 applicable.

299            (3) Programs or campus activities required for compliance  
 300 with federal laws or regulations, or access programs for

301 military veterans, Pell Grant recipients, first generation  
302 college students, nontraditional students, "2+2" transfer  
303 students from the Florida College System, students from low-  
304 income families, or students with unique abilities, are not  
305 prohibited by this section.

306 (4) The State Board of Education and the Board of  
307 Governors may adopt rules and regulations, respectively, to  
308 implement this section.

309 Section 5. Section 1004.3841, Florida Statutes, is created  
310 to read:

311 1004.3841 The Institute for Risk Management and Insurance  
312 Education.—The Institute for Risk Management and Insurance  
313 Education is established within the College of Business at the  
314 University of Central Florida. Since insurance and risk  
315 management is a major industry in the state, with a  
316 concentration of such industry in Volusia County, the institute  
317 shall be located in Volusia County. Like many other industries  
318 in the state, the insurance and risk management industry is  
319 being revolutionized by, among other things, the integration of  
320 technology, predictive analytics, and data science, and is  
321 becoming more complex given its exposure to transformative  
322 trends in the economy and environment. The purpose of the  
323 institute is to respond to the ever-evolving insurance and risk  
324 management industry and the present and emerging needs of the  
325 state and its residents. The goals of the institute are to:

326       (1) Pursue technological innovations that advance risk  
327 valuation models and operational efficiencies in the insurance  
328 industry.

329       (2) Drive the development of workforce competencies in  
330 data analytics, system-level thinking, technology integration,  
331 entrepreneurship, and actuarial science.

332       (3) Leverage the University of Central Florida's world  
333 class assets in data science, artificial intelligence, computer  
334 science, engineering, finance, economics, and sales.

335       (4) Take advantage of the University of Central Florida's  
336 robust portfolio of academic program offerings and draw on  
337 faculty and industry experts in diverse fields, including  
338 actuarial science, computer science, economics, engineering,  
339 environmental science, finance, forensics, law, management,  
340 marketing, and psychology.

341       (5) Develop and offer risk management and insurance  
342 education, including education that recognizes risks in areas  
343 such as the environment, pandemic disease, and digital security.

344       (6) Offer programs, workshops, case studies, and applied  
345 research studies that integrate technology and artificial  
346 intelligence with soft skills while preparing students and  
347 professionals for the technology-enabled insurance industry of  
348 the future.

349       Section 6. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section  
350 1004.6496, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

351 1004.6496 Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic  
 352 Education.—

353 (2) The goals of the center are to:

354 (e) Coordinate with the Florida Institute for Governance  
 355 and Civics ~~of Politics~~ created pursuant to s. 1004.6499 and the  
 356 Adam Smith Center for the Study of Economic Freedom created  
 357 pursuant to s. 1004.64991 and assist in the curation and  
 358 implementation of Portraits in Patriotism created pursuant to s.  
 359 1003.44.

360 Section 7. Section 1004.6499, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 361 to read:

362 1004.6499 Florida Institute for Governance and Civics ~~of~~  
 363 ~~Politics~~.—

364 (1) The Florida Institute for Governance and Civics ~~of~~  
 365 ~~Politics~~ is established at the Florida State University ~~within~~  
 366 ~~the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy. The purpose of~~  
 367 ~~the institute is to provide the southeastern region of the~~  
 368 ~~United States with a world class, bipartisan, nationally~~  
 369 ~~renowned institute of politics.~~

370 (2) The goals of the institute are to:

371 (a) Provide students with access to an interdisciplinary  
 372 hub that will develop academically rigorous scholarship and  
 373 coursework on the origins of the American system of government,  
 374 its foundational documents, its subsequent political traditions  
 375 and evolutions, and its impact on comparative political systems

376 ~~Motivate students throughout the Florida State University to~~  
377 ~~become aware of the significance of government and civic~~  
378 ~~engagement at all levels and politics in general.~~

379       (b) Encourage civic literacy in the state through the  
380 development of educational tools and resources for K-12 and  
381 postsecondary students that foster an understanding of how  
382 individual rights, constitutionalism, separation of powers, and  
383 federalism function within the American system of government  
384 ~~Provide students with an opportunity to be politically active~~  
385 ~~and civically engaged.~~

386       (c) Model civic discourse that recognizes the importance  
387 of viewpoint diversity, intellectual rigor, and an evidence-  
388 based approach to history ~~Nurture a greater awareness of and~~  
389 ~~passion for public service and politics.~~

390       (d) Plan and host forums to allow students and guests to  
391 hear from exceptional individuals who have excelled in  
392 government, industry, or civic engagement to highlight the  
393 possibilities created by individual achievement, philanthropic  
394 ideals, and entrepreneurial vision ~~and interact with experts~~  
395 ~~from government, politics, policy, and journalism on a frequent~~  
396 ~~basis.~~

397       (e) Become a national and state resource on polling  
398 instruments and other assessments to measure civic literacy and  
399 make recommendations for improving civic education ~~information~~  
400 ~~and survey methodology.~~



401 (f) Provide fellowships and internship opportunities to  
402 students in government, ~~nonprofit organizations, and community~~  
403 ~~organizations.~~

404 (g) Create through scholarship, original research,  
405 publications, symposia, testimonials, and other means a body of  
406 resources that can be accessed by students, scholars, and  
407 government officials to understand the innovations in public  
408 policy in the state over a rolling 30-year time period Provide  
409 ~~training sessions for newly elected state and local public~~  
410 ~~officials.~~

411 ~~(h) Organize and sponsor conferences, symposia, and~~  
412 ~~workshops throughout this state to educate and inform citizens,~~  
413 ~~elected officials, and appointed policymakers regarding~~  
414 ~~effective policymaking techniques and processes.~~

415 ~~(i) Create and promote research and awareness regarding~~  
416 ~~politics, citizen involvement, and public service.~~

417 ~~(j) Collaborate with related policy institutes and~~  
418 ~~research activities at the Florida State University and other~~  
419 ~~institutions of higher education to motivate, increase, and~~  
420 ~~sustain citizen involvement in public affairs.~~

421 Section 8. Subsection (3) is added to section 1004.64991,  
422 Florida Statutes, to read:

423 1004.64991 The Adam Smith Center for the Study of Economic  
424 Freedom.—

425 (3) In order to carry out the goals outlined in subsection

- 426 (2), the center is authorized to:
- 427 (a) Hire the necessary faculty and staff.
- 428 (b) Enroll students.
- 429 (c) Develop curriculum and offer new courses, including  
 430 honors courses, certificates, and major and minor programs.
- 431 (d) Award degrees.
- 432 (e) Hold events, including fundraisers.
- 433 (f) Fulfill other actions approved by the president of the  
 434 university.
- 435 (g) Generate resources based on student credit hour  
 436 enrollment in the same manner as a college within the  
 437 university.

438 Section 9. Subsection (3) of section 1007.25, Florida  
 439 Statutes, is amended to read:

440 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;  
 441 other degree requirements.—

442 (3) The chair of the State Board of Education and the  
 443 chair of the Board of Governors, or their designees, shall  
 444 jointly appoint faculty committees to review and recommend to  
 445 the Articulation Coordinating Committee for approval by the  
 446 Commissioner of Education and the Chancellor of the State  
 447 University System ~~identify~~ statewide general education core  
 448 course options for inclusion in the statewide course numbering  
 449 system established in s. 1007.24. Faculty committees shall, by  
 450 July 1, 2024, and by July 1 every 3 years thereafter, review and

451 submit recommendations to the Articulation Coordinating  
452 Committee, the commissioner, and the Chancellor of the State  
453 University System for the removal, alignment, realignment, or  
454 addition of general education core courses that satisfy the  
455 requirements of this subsection.

456 (a) General education core course options shall consist of  
457 a maximum of five courses within each of the subject areas of  
458 communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and  
459 natural sciences. The core courses may be revised, ~~or the five-~~  
460 ~~course maximum within each subject area may be exceeded,~~ if  
461 approved by the State Board of Education and the Board of  
462 Governors, as recommended by the subject area faculty committee  
463 and approved by the Articulation Coordinating Committee as  
464 necessary for a subject area.

465 (b) Each general education core course ~~option~~ must contain  
466 high-level academic and critical thinking skills and common  
467 competencies that students must demonstrate to successfully  
468 complete the course.

469 (c) General education core courses may not distort  
470 significant historical events with misleading or incorrect  
471 presentations of fact and must not include curriculum that is  
472 based on or otherwise utilizes pedagogical methodology  
473 associated with Critical Theory, including, but not limited to,  
474 Critical Race Theory, Critical Race Studies, Critical Ethnic  
475 Studies, Radical Feminist Theory, Radical Gender Theory, Queer

476 Theory, Critical Social Justice, or Intersectionality, as  
477 defined in rules and regulations of the State Board of Education  
478 and the Board of Governors, respectively.

479 (d) General education core courses must meet all of the  
480 following standards:

481 1. Communication courses must afford students the ability  
482 to communicate effectively, including the ability to write  
483 clearly and engage in public speaking.

484 2. Humanities courses must afford students the ability to  
485 think critically through the mastering of subjects concerned  
486 with human culture, especially literature, history, art, music,  
487 and philosophy, and must include selections from the Western  
488 Canon.

489 3. Social science courses must afford students an  
490 understanding of the basic social and behavioral science  
491 concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavior and  
492 social, political, and economic issues, including issues from  
493 the past and present.

494 4. Natural science courses must afford students the  
495 ability to critically examine and evaluate the principles of the  
496 scientific method, model construction, and use the scientific  
497 method to explain natural experiences and phenomena.

498 5. Mathematics courses must afford students a mastery of  
499 foundational mathematical and computation models and methods by  
500 applying such models and methods in problem solving.

501        (e) Beginning with students initially entering a Florida  
 502 College System institution or state university in 2015-2016 and  
 503 thereafter, each student must complete at least one identified  
 504 core course in each subject area as part of the general  
 505 education course requirements. Beginning in the 2022-2023  
 506 academic year and thereafter, students entering a technical  
 507 degree education program as defined in s. 1004.02(13) must  
 508 complete at least one identified core course in each subject  
 509 area as part of the general education course requirements before  
 510 a degree is awarded.

511        (f) All public postsecondary educational institutions  
 512 shall offer at least one general education core course in each  
 513 of the identified subject areas and accept these courses as  
 514 meeting general education core course requirements upon the  
 515 transfer of credit for such course regardless of whether the  
 516 receiving institution offers the identical general education  
 517 core course. The remaining general education course requirements  
 518 shall be identified by each institution as approved in  
 519 accordance with s. 1007.55 and listed in the ~~and reported to the~~  
 520 ~~department by their~~ statewide course numbering system number.

521        (g) The general education core course options shall be  
 522 adopted in rule by the State Board of Education and in  
 523 regulation by the Board of Governors.

524        Section 10. Section 1007.55, Florida Statutes, is created  
 525 to read:

526 1007.55 General education course principles, standards,  
527 and content.—

528 (1) The Legislature finds it necessary that every  
529 undergraduate student of a public postsecondary educational  
530 institution in the state graduates as an informed citizen  
531 through participation in rigorous general education courses that  
532 study and articulate the values and knowledge necessary to  
533 preserve the constitutional republic and the economic ingenuity  
534 of its citizens through proven, historically accurate, and high-  
535 quality coursework. Courses with a curriculum based on unproven,  
536 disproven, speculative, or exploratory content are best suited  
537 to fulfill elective or specific program prerequisite credit  
538 requirements, rather than general education credit requirements.

539 (2) In performing its duties under ss. 1007.24 and  
540 1007.25, by December 1, 2024, and each December 1 thereafter,  
541 the Articulation Coordinating Committee shall submit to the  
542 State of Board of Education and the Board of Governors courses  
543 that have been approved to be used by public postsecondary  
544 educational institutions as meeting general education  
545 requirements.

546 (3) General education courses must meet all of the  
547 following:

548 (a) Be in the general education core subject areas and  
549 meet the course standards as provided in s. 1007.25.

550 (b) Be offered by at least half of all public

551 postsecondary educational institutions per system.

552 (c) Be identified as lower level in the statewide course  
553 numbering system.

554 (d) Whenever applicable, as defined by regulations or  
555 rules of the Board of Governors or the State Board of Education,  
556 respectively, provide instruction on the historical background  
557 and philosophical foundation of Western civilization and this  
558 nation's founding documents, including the Declaration of  
559 Independence, the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights  
560 and subsequent amendments thereto, and the Federalist Papers.

561 (4) If a course is approved as a general education course,  
562 that course must be accepted as a general education course in  
563 the same subject area by all public postsecondary educational  
564 institutions regardless of whether it is offered by the  
565 institution.

566 (5) Each public postsecondary educational institution's  
567 board of trustees and president are responsible for annually  
568 reviewing and approving, at a public meeting, general education  
569 course requirements, as authorized and approved in accordance  
570 with s. 1007.24, s. 1007.25, and this section, at their  
571 institution. A public postsecondary educational institution that  
572 fails to comply with the requirements of this section may not be  
573 eligible to receive performance-based funding.

574 (6) Each public postsecondary educational institution must  
575 report courses meeting general education requirements to the

576 department by their statewide course number.

577       Section 11. Effective upon this act becoming a law,  
578 paragraph (b) of subsection (18) of section 1009.26, Florida  
579 Statutes, is amended to read:

580       1009.26 Fee waivers.—

581       (18)

582       (b) A waiver granted under this subsection is applicable  
583 only for upper-level courses and up to 110 percent of the number  
584 of required credit hours of the baccalaureate degree program for  
585 which the student is enrolled. A student granted a waiver under  
586 this subsection shall continue receiving the waiver until the  
587 student graduates, exceeds the number of allowable credit hours,  
588 or withdraws from an eligible program, regardless of whether the  
589 program is removed from the approved list of eligible programs  
590 subsequent to the student's enrollment.

591       Section 12. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
592 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon  
593 this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1,  
594 2023.