1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to single-sex student organizations; 3 creating s. 1006.7511, F.S.; providing legislative 4 intent; providing definitions; providing the rights of 5 members of single-sex student organizations and 6 single-sex student organizations; providing 7 construction; providing penalties; requiring the State 8 Board of Education and the Board of Governors to adopt 9 rules and regulations, respectively; providing an effective date. 10 11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 12 13 Section 1. Section 1006.7511, Florida Statutes, is created 14 15 to read: 16 1006.7511 Single-sex Student Organizations' Bill of 17 Rights.-18 (1)LEGISLATIVE INTENT.-It is the intent of the 19 Legislature to protect students who are members and prospective 20 members of a single-sex student organization and single-sex 21 student organizations from adverse action by an institution of 22 higher education based solely on the student's membership in the 23 organization or the organization's practice of limiting 24 membership to only individuals of one sex. It is further the 25 intent of the Legislature to ensure that students who are

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members of a single-sex student organization and single-sex student organizations are treated without bias in comparison to students at an institution of higher education who are not members of single-sex student organizations, or other social organizations at an institution of higher education that do not limit membership to only individuals of one sex, and also protect the rights of students to freely associate with and participate in social organizations, including single-sex student organizations.

- (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Adverse action" means any of the following actions by an institution of higher education, an administrative unit of such institution, or an official of such institution acting in his or her official capacity taken against a single-sex student organization or a member or prospective member of a single-sex student organization:
- 1. Expulsion, suspension, probation, censure, condemnation, formal reprimand, or any other disciplinary action, coercive action, or sanction.
- 2. Issuing an oral or written warning regarding an action described in subparagraph 1.
- 3. Denying participation in any education program or activity, including withholding any rights, privileges, or opportunities.
 - 4. Withholding, in whole or part, any financial assistance

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or denying the opportunity to apply for financial assistance, including scholarships, graduate fellowships, or on-campus employment.

- 5. Denying or restricting access to on-campus housing.
- 6. Denying any certification, endorsement, or letter of recommendation required by an employer, a government agency, a licensing board, an institution of higher education, a scholarship program, or a graduate fellowship.
- 7. Denying participation or a leadership position in any other student organization.
 - 8. Withdrawing official recognition of such organization.
- 9. Interjecting criteria into the membership practices of such organization in any manner that conflicts with the protections afforded under title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.
- (b) "Institution of higher education" means a state university, a Florida College System institution, or a private college or university receiving aide under chapter 1009.
- (c) "Single-sex student organization" means a social fraternity or sorority as described in s. 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that is exempt from taxation under s. 501(a) of such code or an organization whose membership has been historically single sex and whose active membership consists primarily of students or alumni of an institution of higher education.

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(3) RIGHTS OF SINGLE-SEX ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR MEMBERS
AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—

- (a) A student may form, join, and, if selected for membership, participate in a student organization, including a single-sex student organization, regardless of whether such organization is officially recognized by an institution of higher education.
- (b) An institution of higher education may not take adverse action against a student or single-sex organization based solely on that organization's status as a single-sex student organization or that student's membership in such organization.
- (c) An institution of higher education may not impose a restriction on forming or joining a single-sex student organization unless the restriction is equally applied to all students and student organizations or mutually agreed to in writing between such organization and institution.
- (d) An institution of higher education shall grant a single-sex student organization the same procedural protections afforded to any other student organization under such institution's code of conduct or other relevant regulations.
- (e) An institution of higher education may not impose reporting requirements on a single-sex student organization unless the requirement is also required of all student organizations or unless mutually agreed to in writing between

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the single-sex student organization and the institution.

(4) CONSTRUCTION.—This section does not:

- (a) Require an institution of higher education to officially recognize a student organization, including a single-sex student organization.
- (b) Prohibit an institution of higher education from taking adverse action against a student, so long as that adverse action is not based solely on the student's membership in a single-sex student organization or the membership practices of such organization.
- (c) Prevent any single-sex student organization from regulating its own membership.
- (d) Inhibit or prohibit the ability of the faculty of an institution of higher education to express an opinion, either individually or collectively, about membership in a single-sex student organization, or otherwise inhibit the academic freedom of such faculty to research, write, or publish material about membership in such organization.
- (e) Create enforceable rights against a single-sex student organization or an institution of higher education due to the decision of such organization to deny membership to an individual student.
- (5) PENALTIES.—An institution of higher education that violates this section shall:
 - (a) For a first offense, post on its website notice of the

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126	violation.
127	(b) For a second offense, pay a fine of \$10,000 to the
128	governing council or councils of the single-sex student
129	organization or organizations which such offense is against.
130	(c) For a third or subsequent offense, pay a fine of
131	\$25,000 to the governing council or councils of the single-sex
132	student organization or organizations which such offense is
133	against.
134	(6) RULES AND REGULATIONS.—The State Board of Education
135	and the Board of Governors shall adopt rules and regulations,
136	respectively, to administer this section.
137	Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.