

Bill No. CS/CS/HB 1115, 1st Eng. (2025)

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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Representative Busatta offered the following:

**Amendment to Amendment (151760) (with title amendment)**

Remove lines 5-3447 of the amendment and insert:

**Section 1. Section 20.70, Florida Statutes, is created to read:**

20.70 Residency requirements.—Notwithstanding any other law:

(1) Effective January 6, 2027, each member of a state university board of trustees must be a United States citizen and either a resident of this state or a graduate of the state university, the administration of which is overseen by such board of trustees. If any member of a board of trustees does not

824395

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Amendment No.

14 meet the requirements of this subsection, such person's office  
15 is automatically deemed vacant.

16 (2) Effective January 6, 2027, each member of the Board of  
17 Governors must be a United States citizen and either a resident  
18 of this state or a graduate of a state university, as defined in  
19 s. 1000.21. If any member of the Board of Governors does not  
20 meet the requirements of this subsection, such person's office  
21 is automatically deemed vacant.

22 **Section 2. Paragraph (f) is added to subsection (1) of**  
23 **section 112.3144, Florida Statutes, to read:**

24 112.3144 Full and public disclosure of financial  
25 interests.—

26 (1)

27 (f) Beginning January 1, 2026, each citizen member of the  
28 Board of Governors of the State University System must comply  
29 with the financial disclosure requirements of s. 8, Art. II of  
30 the State Constitution and this section.

31 **Section 3. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 1001.01,**  
32 **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

33 1001.01 State Board of Education; generally.—

34 (1) The State Board of Education is established as a body  
35 corporate. The state board shall be a citizen board consisting  
36 of seven members who are residents of the state appointed by the  
37 Governor to staggered 4-year terms, subject to confirmation by  
38 the Senate. Members of the state board shall serve without

824395

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Amendment No.

39 compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement of travel  
40 and per diem expenses in accordance with s. 112.061. Members may  
41 only serve two ~~be reappointed by the Governor for additional~~  
42 ~~terms not to exceed 8 years of consecutive service.~~

43 (2) The State Board of Education shall select a chair and  
44 a vice chair from its appointed members. The chair shall serve a  
45 single 2-year term ~~and may be reselected for one additional~~  
46 ~~consecutive term.~~

47 **Section 4. Subsections (2) and (4) of section 1001.61,**  
48 **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

49 1001.61 Florida College System institution boards of  
50 trustees; membership.—

51 (2) Trustees shall be appointed by the Governor to  
52 staggered 4-year terms, subject to confirmation by the Senate in  
53 regular session. A trustee may continue to serve until a  
54 successor is appointed. Trustees may be reappointed by the  
55 Governor for one additional term, not to exceed 8 consecutive  
56 years of service.

57 (4) At its first regular meeting after July 1 of each  
58 year, each Florida College System institution board of trustees  
59 shall organize by electing a chair, whose duty as such is to  
60 preside at all meetings of the board, to call special meetings  
61 thereof, and to attest to actions of the board, and a vice  
62 chair, whose duty as such is to act as chair during the absence  
63 or disability of the elected chair. It is the further duty of

824395

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Amendment No.

the chair of each board of trustees to notify the Governor, in writing, whenever a board member fails to attend three consecutive regular board meetings in any one fiscal year, which absences may be grounds for removal. The chair shall serve a single 2-year term.

**Section 5. Subsection (19) of section 1001.64, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

1001.64 Florida College System institution boards of trustees; powers and duties.—

(19) Each board of trustees shall appoint, suspend, or remove the president of the Florida College System institution. Such appointments, reappointments, suspensions, and extensions of a president, including associated contracts, are not subject to approval or confirmation by the State Board of Education. In appointing a permanent president, the chair of the institution board of trustees shall appoint a presidential search committee. The presidential search committee shall consist of at least two members of the board of trustees and may include persons from the institution's faculty, the student body, the institution's foundation board, the institution's financing corporation board, if applicable, alumni, donors, and members from the community the institution serves. However, none of the persons appointed to serve on the presidential search committee may hold positions that report directly to the president. The Commissioner of Education or a member of the State Board of Education may not

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

89 serve on a presidential search committee. The permanent  
90 president appointed by the institution board of trustees must be  
91 recommended by the presidential search committee ~~The board of~~  
92 ~~trustees may appoint a search committee.~~ The board of trustees  
93 shall conduct annual evaluations of the president in accordance  
94 with rules of the State Board of Education and submit such  
95 evaluations to the State Board of Education for review. The  
96 evaluation must address the achievement of the performance goals  
97 established by the accountability process implemented pursuant  
98 to s. 1008.45. A presidential contract may be renewed for a term  
99 exceeding 1 year, but not exceeding the term of the original  
100 contract.

101 **Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 1001.70, Florida**  
102 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

103 1001.70 Board of Governors of the State University  
104 System.—

105 (1) Pursuant to s. 7(d), Art. IX of the State  
106 Constitution, the Board of Governors is established as a body  
107 corporate comprised of 17 members as follows: 14 citizen members  
108 appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation by the Senate;  
109 the Commissioner of Education; the chair of the advisory council  
110 of faculty senates or the equivalent; and the president of the  
111 Florida student association or the equivalent. The appointed  
112 members may only ~~shall~~ serve a single staggered 7-year term  
113 ~~terms. In order to achieve staggered terms, beginning July 1,~~

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

2003, ~~of the initial appointments, 4 members shall serve 2-year terms, 5 members shall serve 3-year terms, and 5 members shall serve 7-year terms.~~

**Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5), paragraph (a) of subsection (6), and paragraph (c) of subsection (12) of section 1001.706, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—

(5) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO ACCOUNTABILITY.—

(a)1. The Legislature intends that the Board of Governors shall align the missions of each constituent university with the academic success of its students; the existing and emerging economic development needs of the state; the national reputation of its faculty and its academic and research programs; the quantity of externally generated research, patents, and licenses; and the strategic and accountability plans required in paragraphs (b) and (c). The Board of Governors shall periodically review the mission of each constituent university and make updates or revisions as needed. Upon completion of a review of the mission, the board shall review existing academic programs, including admission criteria, for alignment with the mission. The board shall include in its review a directive to each constituent university regarding its programs for any curriculum or admission criteria that violates s. 1000.05 or that is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities. The mission alignment and strategic plan must consider peer institutions at the constituent universities. The mission alignment and strategic plan must acknowledge that universities that have a national and international impact have the greatest capacity to promote the state's economic development through: new discoveries, patents, licenses, and technologies that generate state businesses of global importance; research achievements through external grants and contracts that are comparable to nationally recognized and ranked universities; the creation of a resource rich academic environment that attracts high-technology business and venture capital to the state; and this generation's finest minds focusing on solving the state's economic, social, environmental, and legal problems in the areas of life sciences, water, sustainability, energy, and health care. A nationally recognized and ranked university that has a global perspective and impact must be afforded the opportunity to enable and protect the university's competitiveness on the global stage in fair competition with other institutions of other states in the highest Carnegie Classification.

2. To assist the Board of Governors in its review of admission criteria, each constituent university shall post program admission criteria on its website.

(6) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO PERSONNEL.—

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

(a) The Board of Governors, or the board's designee, shall establish the personnel program for all employees of a state university. The board of trustees of a state university shall select and reappoint the university president. In appointing a permanent president, the chair of the university board of trustees shall appoint a presidential search committee. The presidential search committee shall consist of 15 members consisting of at least three members of the board of trustees and may include persons from the university's faculty, the student body, the university's foundation board, the university's financing corporation board, if applicable, alumni, donors, and members from the community in which the university serves. However, none of the persons appointed to serve on the presidential search committee may hold positions that report directly to the president. The Chancellor of the State University System or a member of the Board of Governors may not serve on the presidential search committee. The permanent president selected by the board of trustees must have been recommended by the presidential search committee. A presidential contract may be renewed for a term exceeding 1 year, but not exceeding the term of the original contract. The Board of Governors shall confirm the presidential selection and reappointment by a university board of trustees as a means of acknowledging that system cooperation is expected.

824395

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Amendment No.

(12) PUBLIC EDUCATION CAPITAL OUTLAY.—The Board of Governors shall submit the prioritized list as required by s. 1013.64(4). Projects considered for prioritization shall be chosen from a preliminary selection group which shall include the list of projects maintained pursuant to paragraph (d) and the top two priorities of each state university.

(c) A new construction, remodeling, or renovation project that has not received an appropriation in a previous year shall not be considered for inclusion on the prioritized list required by s. 1013.64(4), unless:

1. A plan is provided to reserve funds in an escrow account, ~~specific to the project,~~ into which shall be deposited each year an amount of funds equal to 1 percent of the total value of the building for future maintenance;

2. There exists sufficient capacity within the cash and bonding estimate of funds by the Revenue Estimating Conference to accommodate the project within the 3-year Public Education Capital Outlay funding cycle; and

3. The project has been recommended pursuant to s. 1013.31.

**Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 1001.71, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

1001.71 University boards of trustees; membership.—

(1) Pursuant to s. 7(c), Art. IX of the State Constitution, each local constituent university shall be

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

administered by a university board of trustees comprised of 13 members as follows: 6 citizen members appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation by the Senate; 5 citizen members appointed by the Board of Governors subject to confirmation by the Senate; the chair of the faculty senate or the equivalent; and the president of the student body of the university. The appointed members shall serve staggered 5-year terms. Appointed members may be reappointed for one additional term, not to exceed 10 years of consecutive service. ~~In order to achieve staggered terms, beginning July 1, 2003, of the initial appointments by the Governor, 2 members shall serve 2-year terms, 3 members shall serve 3-year terms, and 1 member shall serve a 5-year term and of the initial appointments by the Board of Governors, 2 members shall serve 2-year terms, 2 members shall serve 3-year terms, and 1 member shall serve a 5-year term. There shall be no state residency requirement for university board members, but~~ The Governor and the Board of Governors shall consider ~~diversity and~~ regional representation when appointing members. An appointed board member may continue to serve until a successor is appointed. ~~Beginning July 2, 2020,~~ For purposes of this subsection, regional representation shall include the chair of a campus board established pursuant to s. 1004.341.

**Section 9. Effective January 1, 2026, subsections (1) and (5) of section 1004.085, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

1004.085 Textbook and instructional materials  
affordability and transparency.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) ~~The term~~ "Instructional materials" means educational materials for use within a course which may be available in printed or digital format.

(b) "Syllabus" or "syllabi" means the course syllabus or syllabi developed by the instructor assigned to the course.

(c) "Term" includes the fall, spring, and summer terms.

(5)(a) Each Florida College System institution and state university shall post prominently in the course registration system and on its website a hyperlink to lists of required and recommended textbooks and instructional materials, including those that are open access or an open educational resource or for which there is no cost, for at least 95 percent of all courses and course sections offered at the institution during the upcoming term. The lists must include the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) or a unique identifier for each required and recommended textbook and instructional material and ~~or~~ other identifying information, which must include, at a minimum, all of the following: the title, all authors listed, publishers, edition number, copyright date, published date, and other relevant information necessary to identify the specific textbooks or instructional materials required and recommended for each course. The State Board of Education and the Board of

824395

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Amendment No.

Governors shall include in the policies, procedures, and guidelines adopted under subsection (6) certain limited exceptions to this notification requirement for classes added after the notification deadline.

(b) The lists of required and recommended textbooks and instructional materials required in paragraph (a) must be based on a list submitted by the instructor and:

1. Be posted as early as is feasible but at least 45 days before the first day of class for each term.

2. Remain posted for at least 5 academic years.

3. Be searchable by the general education status, the course subject, the course section, the course number, the course title, the name of the instructor of the course, the title of each assigned textbook or instructional material, and each author of an assigned textbook or instructional material.

4. Include the duration of any license allowing access to the textbook or instructional material.

5. Display corresponding retail costs, when applicable, to students to help determine the value of any bulk pricing program.

~~6.4.~~ Be easily downloadable by current and prospective students.

(c) To maximize informed student choice, the current syllabus for each ~~If a~~ course subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) shall be posted prominently as a hyperlink in the course

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

288 registration system. Each syllabus must contain ~~is a general~~  
289 ~~education core course option identified pursuant to s. 1007.25,~~  
290 ~~course syllabi information containing~~ sufficient detail to  
291 inform students of all of the following ~~must be included:~~

292 1. The course curriculum, including the required,  
293 recommended, and supplemental textbooks and instructional  
294 materials, regardless of cost or whether the materials are open  
295 access or an open educational resource.

296 2. Specific ~~The~~ goals, objectives, and student  
297 expectations of the course.

298 3. How student performance will be evaluated, including  
299 the grading scale and methodology ~~measured.~~

300 **Section 10. Section 1004.098, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
301 **to read:**

302 1004.098 Applicants for president of a state university or  
303 Florida College System institution; ~~public records exemption;~~  
304 ~~public meetings exemption.~~—

305 (1) (a) Each state university and Florida College System  
306 institution board of trustees must adopt a presidential  
307 succession plan specifying lines of authority should the  
308 president not fulfill his or her full term as president. To  
309 promote continuity and efficiency in government, each successor  
310 identified in the plan must be a current employee of the state  
311 university or Florida College System institution.

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

(b) A state university or Florida College System institution may not appoint or select an interim president unless the appointment or selection conforms to its succession plan or the university or institution conducts a search pursuant to s. 1001.706(6)(a) or s. 1001.64(19), as applicable.

(2) Upon the vacancy or anticipated vacancy of the position of president, a public officer, including the Governor, or an employee of an executive branch agency, may not discuss the vacancy, an anticipated vacancy, or the process for filling such vacancy or promote or advocate for a person to be appointed as president, with a member or employee of the following:

(a) The Board of Governors.

(b) The State Board of Education.

(c) A state university board of trustees.

(d) A Florida College System institution board of trustees.

~~(1)(a) Any personal identifying information of an applicant for president of a state university or a Florida College System institution held by a state university or a Florida College System institution is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.~~

~~(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the age, race, and gender of all applicants who met the minimum qualifications established for the position by a state university or Florida~~

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

~~College System institution who were considered and the personal identifying information of an applicant included in the final group of applicants for president of a state university or a Florida College System institution are no longer confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution beginning at the earlier of the date the final group of applicants to be considered for president is established or 21 days before the date of a meeting at which an interview of an applicant will be conducted or at which final action or a vote is to be taken on the offer of the employment of an applicant as president.~~

~~(2)(a) Any portion of a meeting held for the purpose of identifying or vetting applicants for president of a state university or a Florida College System institution, including any portion of a meeting which would disclose personal identifying information of such applicants which is otherwise confidential and exempt under subsection (1), is exempt from s. 286.011 and s. 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution.~~

~~(b) A complete recording must be made of any portion of a meeting which is closed pursuant to paragraph (a), and any closed portion of such meeting may not be held off the record. The recording of the closed portion of a meeting is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.~~

~~(c) The exemption provided in paragraph (a) does not apply to:~~

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

~~1. Any portion of a meeting held for the purpose of establishing qualifications for the position or establishing any compensation framework to be offered to an applicant for president of a state university or a Florida College System institution.~~

~~2. Any meeting that is held after a final group of applicants for president of a state university or a Florida College System institution has been established.~~

~~(3) This section is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2027, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.~~

**Section 11. Section 1004.89, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

1004.89 Institute for Freedom in the Americas.—

~~(1)~~ The Institute for Freedom in the Americas is hereby created at Miami Dade College to preserve the ideals of a free society and promote democracy in the Americas. The institute shall be located at the Freedom Tower and shall:

(1)(a) ~~Partner with the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom to~~ Hold workshops, symposiums, and conferences that provide networking opportunities for leaders throughout the region to gain new insights and ideas for promoting democracy, including knowledge of and insight into the intellectual,

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM



Amendment No.

political, and economic freedoms that are foundational to a democratic society.

(2)(b) Enter into an agreement with the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom to provide participants with academic coursework and programs that advance democratic practices and economic and legal reforms.

(3)(e) Provide educational and experiential opportunities for regional leaders committed to careers in democracy and governance.

~~(2) Miami Dade College, in accordance with s. 1004.70, shall approve a direct-support organization to support the institute in its mission to develop partnerships throughout the Americas. Notwithstanding s. 1004.70(2), the board of the direct-support organization shall be composed of five members, as follows: one member appointed by the President of the Senate, one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and three members appointed by the Governor, including a representative from Miami Dade College and a representative from the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom.~~

**Section 12. Subsection (15) is added to section 1007.25, Florida Statutes, to read:**

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

(15) A Florida College System institution or state university may not impose an institutionwide or universitywide

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

411 graduation requirement that includes a course in conflict with  
412 paragraph (3)(c).

413 **Section 13. Subsection (6) of section 1001.292, Florida**  
414 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

415 1001.292 Schools of Hope Revolving Loan Program.—

416 (6) All repayments of principal and interest shall be  
417 returned to the loan fund and made available for loans to other  
418 applicants. Beginning July 1, 2027, when the Schools of Hope  
419 Program established in s. 1002.333 falls below \$25 million, the  
420 third-party administrator shall transfer from the loan fund to  
421 the program an amount which provides for maintaining a balance  
422 of \$25 million in the program.

423 **Section 14. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (1),**  
424 **subsection (4), paragraphs (d), (k), (l), and (m) of subsection**  
425 **(5), paragraphs (a) and (h) of subsection (6), paragraphs (a)**  
426 **and (d) of subsection (7), paragraph (b) of subsection (10), and**  
427 **paragraph (c) of subsection (11) of section 1002.333, Florida**  
428 **Statutes, are amended to read:**

429 1002.333 Persistently low-performing schools.—

430 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

431 (c) "Persistently low-performing school" means a school  
432 that meets at least one of the following criteria:

433 1. A school that has earned three grades lower than a "C,"  
434 pursuant to s. 1008.34, in at least 3 of the previous 5 years

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

that the school received a grade and has not earned a grade of "B" or higher in the most recent 2 school years;~~—and~~

2. A school that was closed pursuant to s. 1008.33(4) within 2 years after the submission of a notice of intent; or

3. A school in the bottom 10 percent in at least 2 of the previous 3 years for student performance on the end-of-year administration of the coordinated screening and progress monitoring system for grade 3 English Language Arts or grade 4 mathematics as prescribed in s. 1008.25(9)(b)3.

(d) "School of hope" means:

1. A charter school operated by a hope operator which:

a. Serves students from one or more persistently low-performing schools or ~~and~~ students who reside in a Florida Opportunity Zone;

b. Is located in a Florida Opportunity Zone or in the attendance zone of a persistently low-performing school or within a 5-mile radius of such school, whichever is greater. A school of hope may be located outside of a Florida Opportunity Zone or persistently low-performing school attendance zone if the district in which the school of hope would otherwise be located has underused, vacant, or surplus property available for the hope operator to utilize; and

c. Is a Title I eligible school; or

2. A school operated by a hope operator pursuant to s. 1008.33(4)(b)3.

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

(4) ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOLS OF HOPE.—A hope operator seeking to open a school of hope must submit an application to a state university or a Florida College System institution or a notice of intent to a school district to establish a school of hope. If a hope operator seeks to open a school of hope through an agreement with a state university or a Florida College System institution, a notice of intent must be provided to the school district in which a persistently low-performing school has been identified by the State Board of Education pursuant to subsection (10) or in which a Florida Opportunity Zone is located.

(a) The notice of intent must include:

1. An academic focus and plan.
2. A financial plan.
3. Goals and objectives for increasing student achievement for the students from low-income families.
4. A completed or planned community outreach plan.
5. The organizational history of success in working with students with similar demographics.
6. The grade levels to be served and enrollment projections.
7. The proposed location or geographic area proposed for the school consistent with the requirements of sub-subparagraphs (1) (d) 1.a. and b.
8. A staffing plan.

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

(b) Notwithstanding the requirements of s. 1002.33, a school district, state university, or Florida College System institution, as applicable, shall enter into a performance-based agreement with a hope operator to open schools to serve students from persistently low-performing schools and students residing in a Florida Opportunity Zone.

(5) PERFORMANCE-BASED AGREEMENT.—The following shall comprise the entirety of the performance-based agreement:

(d) A plan of action and specific milestones for student recruitment and the enrollment of students from persistently low-performing schools and students residing in a Florida Opportunity Zone, including enrollment preferences and procedures for conducting transparent admissions lotteries that are open to the public. For the entire validity period of the performance agreement, students from persistently low-performing schools and students residing in a Florida Opportunity Zone must receive an enrollment preference and shall be exempt from any enrollment lottery to the extent permitted by federal grant requirements.

(k) A requirement that any arrangement entered into to borrow or otherwise secure funds for the school of hope from a source other than the state, a state university, a Florida College System institution, or a school district shall indemnify the state, state university, Florida College System institution, and ~~the~~ school district from any and all liability, including,

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

but not limited to, financial responsibility for the payment of the principal or interest.

(l) A provision that any loans, bonds, or other financial agreements are not obligations of the state, state university, Florida College System institution, or ~~the~~ school district but are obligations of the school of hope and are payable solely from the sources of funds pledged by such agreement.

(m) A prohibition on the pledge of credit or taxing power of the state, state university, Florida College System institution, or ~~the~~ school district.

(6) STATUTORY AUTHORITY.—

(a) A school of hope or a nonprofit entity that operates more than one school of hope through a performance-based agreement with a school district, state university, or Florida College System institution, as applicable, may be designated as a local education agency by the department, if requested, for the purposes of receiving federal funds and, in doing so, accepts the full responsibility for all local education agency requirements and the schools for which it will perform local education agency responsibilities.

1. A nonprofit entity designated as a local education agency may directly report its students to the department in accordance with the definitions in s. 1011.61 and pursuant to the department's procedures and timelines.

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

534           2. Students enrolled in a school established by a hope  
535 operator designated as a local educational agency are not  
536 eligible students for purposes of calculating the district grade  
537 pursuant to s. 1008.34(5).

538           (h)1. A school of hope shall provide the school district,  
539 state university, or Florida College System institution, as  
540 applicable, with a concise, uniform, quarterly financial  
541 statement summary sheet that contains a balance sheet and a  
542 statement of revenue, expenditures, and changes in fund balance.  
543 The balance sheet and the statement of revenue, expenditures,  
544 and changes in fund balance shall be in the governmental fund  
545 format prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards  
546 Board. Additionally, a school of hope shall comply with the  
547 annual audit requirement for charter schools in s. 218.39.

548           2. A school of hope is in compliance with subparagraph 1.  
549 if it is operated by a nonprofit entity designated as a local  
550 education agency and if the nonprofit submits to each school  
551 district, state university, or Florida College System  
552 institution, as applicable, in which it operates a school of  
553 hope:

554           a. A concise, uniform, quarterly financial statement  
555 summary sheet that contains a balance sheet summarizing the  
556 revenue, expenditures, and changes in fund balance for the  
557 entity and for its schools of hope within the school district.

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

b. An annual financial audit of the nonprofit which includes all schools of hope it operates within this state and which complies with s. 218.39 regarding audits of a school board.

(7) FACILITIES.—

(a) A school of hope shall use facilities that comply with the Florida Building Code, except for the State Requirements for Educational Facilities. A school of hope that uses school district facilities must comply with the State Requirements for Educational Facilities only if the school district and the hope operator have entered into a mutual management plan for the reasonable maintenance of such facilities. The mutual management plan shall contain a provision by which the district school board agrees to maintain the school facilities in the same manner as its other public schools within the district. A school of hope may co-locate with another school in a public school facility. The school district must permit any school of hope to utilize all or part of underused, vacant, or surplus school district facilities, and receive facility-related services, pursuant to State Board of Education rule. Students enrolled in the school of hope shall be included in the district's total capital outlay full-time equivalent membership for the purpose of s. 1013.62 and for calculating the Public Education Capital Outlay maintenance funds or any other maintenance funds for the facility. The local governing authority shall not adopt or

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM



Amendment No.

impose any local building requirements or site-development restrictions, such as parking and site-size criteria, student enrollment, and occupant load, that are addressed by and more stringent than those found in the State Requirements for Educational Facilities of the Florida Building Code. A local governing authority must treat schools of hope equitably in comparison to similar requirements, restrictions, and site planning processes imposed upon public schools. The agency having jurisdiction for inspection of a facility and issuance of a certificate of occupancy or use shall be the local municipality or, if in an unincorporated area, the county governing authority. If an official or employee of the local governing authority refuses to comply with this paragraph, the aggrieved school or entity has an immediate right to bring an action in circuit court to enforce its rights by injunction. An aggrieved party that receives injunctive relief may be awarded reasonable attorney fees and court costs.

(d) No later than January 1, the department shall annually provide to school districts a list of all underused, vacant, or surplus facilities owned or operated by the school district as reported in the Florida Inventory of School Houses. A school district may provide evidence to the department that a facility includes prekindergarten students who are not reported for funding in the Florida Education Finance Program or that the list contains errors or omissions within 30 days after receipt

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

of the list. By each April 1, the department shall update and publish a final list of all underused, vacant, or surplus facilities owned or operated by each school district, based upon updated information provided by each school district. A hope operator establishing a school of hope may use an educational facility identified in this paragraph at no cost or at a mutually agreeable cost not to exceed \$600 per student. A hope operator using a facility pursuant to this paragraph may not sell or dispose of such facility without the written permission of the school district. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "underused, vacant, or surplus facility" means an entire facility or portion thereof which is not fully used or is used irregularly or intermittently by the school district for instructional or program use.

(10) SCHOOLS OF HOPE PROGRAM.—The Schools of Hope Program is created within the Department of Education.

(b) A school of hope may only receive funds after its first 5 years of operation if the school of hope is in the top 6 percent of Title I eligible schools statewide by school type based solely upon statewide assessments in at least one of the most recent 2 school years. Funds received based upon performance may be used for any operational expenditures.

(c) Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, funds allocated for the purpose of this subsection which are not disbursed by June 30 of the fiscal year in which the funds are

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

allocated may be carried forward for up to 5 years after the effective date of the original appropriation.

(11) STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AUTHORITY AND OBLIGATIONS.— Pursuant to Art. IX of the State Constitution, which prescribes the duty of the State Board of Education to supervise the public school system, the State Board of Education shall:

(c) Resolve disputes between a hope operator and a school district, state university, or Florida College System institution, as applicable, arising from a performance-based agreement or a contract between a charter operator and a school district under the requirements of s. 1008.33. The Commissioner of Education shall appoint a special magistrate who is a member of The Florida Bar in good standing and who has at least 5 years' experience in administrative law. The special magistrate shall hold hearings to determine facts relating to the dispute and to render a recommended decision for resolution to the State Board of Education. The recommendation may not alter in any way the provisions of the performance-based agreement under subsection (5). The special magistrate may administer oaths and issue subpoenas on behalf of the parties to the dispute or on his or her own behalf. Within 15 calendar days after the close of the final hearing, the special magistrate shall transmit a recommended decision to the State Board of Education and to the representatives of both parties by registered mail, return receipt requested. The State Board of Education must approve or

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

reject the recommended decision at its next regularly scheduled meeting that is more than 7 calendar days and no more than 30 days after the date the recommended decision is transmitted. The decision by the State Board of Education is a final agency action that may be appealed to the District Court of Appeal, First District in accordance with s. 120.68. A charter school may recover attorney fees and costs if the State Board of Education determines that the school district unlawfully implemented or otherwise impeded implementation of the performance-based agreement pursuant to this paragraph.

**Section 15.** Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

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**T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T**

Remove lines 3454-3752 of the amendment and insert:  
An act relating to education; creating s. 20.70, F.S.; providing residency requirements for members of certain public postsecondary boards and the Board of Governors; providing that specified offices are deemed vacant under certain circumstances; amending s. 112.3144, F.S.; requiring certain members of the Board of Governors to comply with specified financial disclosure requirements beginning on a date certain; amending s. 1001.01, F.S.; revising term limits for

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

members and the chair of the State Board of Education;  
amending s. 1001.61, F.S.; providing term limits for  
members and the chairs of the Florida College System  
institution boards of trustees; authorizing trustees  
to serve until the appointment of a successor;  
amending s. 1001.64, F.S.; providing that certain  
actions relating to the president of a Florida College  
System institution are not subject to approval by the  
State Board of Education; requiring presidential  
search committees for the appointment of such  
president; providing requirements for the committees;  
requiring such president be recommended by the  
committee; authorizing a presidential contract to be  
renewed for a specified period; amending s. 1001.70,  
F.S.; providing term limits for appointed members of  
the Board of Governors; amending s. 1001.706, F.S.;  
requiring the Board of Governors to review the  
admission criteria of state universities; requiring  
state university program admission criteria to be  
posted on state university websites; requiring that  
the president of a state university be appointed by  
the university board of trustees; requiring  
presidential search committees for the appointment of  
such president; providing requirements for the  
committees; requiring such president be recommended by

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

the committee; authorizing a presidential contract to be renewed for a specified period; revising the requirements for certain state university capital outlay projects to be included on a specified list; amending s. 1001.71, F.S.; providing term limits for appointed members of university boards of trustees; removing obsolete language and a certain consideration for appointed members; authorizing appointed members to serve until a successor is appointed; amending s. 1004.085, F.S.; providing definitions; revising requirements for information included in specified lists relating to textbooks and instructional materials; requiring the current syllabi for specified courses to be posted as a hyperlink in a specified system and include specified information; amending s. 1004.098, F.S.; requiring state university and Florida College System institution boards of trustees to adopt a presidential succession plan for specified purposes; providing requirements for the plan and persons included in such plan; providing requirements for the appointment or selection of an interim president; prohibiting specified persons from discussing with specified persons under certain circumstances certain information or persons relating to the appointment of a president; removing a public records and meetings

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

733 exemption relating to applicants for president of a  
734 state university or Florida College System  
735 institution; amending s. 1004.89, F.S.; revising the  
736 duties of the Institute for Freedom in the Americas;  
737 removing provisions relating to a direct-support  
738 organization for the institute; amending s. 1007.25,  
739 F.S.; prohibiting a Florida College System institution  
740 or state university from imposing certain graduation  
741 requirements; amending s. 1001.292, F.S.; requiring  
742 the third-party administrator for the Schools of Hope  
743 Revolving Loan Program to transfer a specified amount  
744 of funds to the Schools of Hope Program for specified  
745 purposes under certain circumstances; amending s.  
746 1002.333, F.S.; revising definitions; authorizing hope  
747 operators to apply to state universities and Florida  
748 College System institutions to open a school of hope;  
749 revising certain requirements relating to performance-  
750 based agreements for schools of hope; authorizing  
751 certain entities to directly report students to the  
752 department; authorizing a school of hope to co-locate  
753 with other schools in specified facilities; requiring  
754 school districts to permit schools of hope to use  
755 certain facilities and receive specified services;  
756 providing that certain school of hope students are  
757 included in certain calculations; revising the

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM

Amendment No.

758 | evidence school districts may offer to the department  
759 | relating to specified facilities; providing  
760 | requirements for schools of hope to receive specified  
761 | funds; providing effective dates.

824395

Approved For Filing: 5/2/2025 5:05:37 PM