

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2     An act relating to higher education; creating s.  
3     20.70, F.S.; providing residency requirements for  
4     members of certain public postsecondary boards;  
5     amending s. 112.3144, F.S.; requiring certain members  
6     of the Board of Governors to comply with specified  
7     financial disclosure requirements beginning on a date  
8     certain; amending s. 1001.01, F.S.; revising term  
9     limits for members and the chair of the State Board of  
10    Education; amending s. 1001.61, F.S.; providing term  
11    limits for members and the chairs of the Florida  
12    College System institution boards of trustees;  
13    authorizing trustees to serve until the appointment of  
14    a successor; amending s. 1001.64, F.S.; providing that  
15    certain actions related to the president of a Florida  
16    College System institution are not subject to approval  
17    by the State Board of Education; requiring  
18    presidential search committees for the appointment of  
19    such president; providing requirements for the  
20    committees; requiring such president be recommended by  
21    the committee; authorizing a presidential contract to  
22    be renewed for a specified period; amending s.  
23    1001.70, F.S.; providing term limits for appointed  
24    members of the Board of Governors; amending s.  
25    1001.706, F.S.; requiring the Board of Governors to

26 review the admission criteria of state universities;  
27 requiring state university program admission criteria  
28 to be posted on state university websites; providing  
29 that the president of a state university is appointed  
30 by the university board of trustees; requiring  
31 presidential search committees for the appointment of  
32 such president; providing requirements for the  
33 committees; requiring such president be recommended by  
34 the committee; deleting a requirement that the Board  
35 of Governors confirm the selection and reappointment  
36 of such president; authorizing a presidential contract  
37 to be renewed for a specified period; revising the  
38 requirements for certain state university capital  
39 outlay projects to be included on a specified list;  
40 amending s. 1001.71, F.S.; providing term limits for  
41 appointed members of university boards of trustees;  
42 deleting obsolete language and a certain consideration  
43 for appointed members; authorizing appointed members  
44 to serve until a successor is appointed; amending s.  
45 1004.085, F.S.; providing definitions; revising  
46 requirements for information included in specified  
47 lists relating to textbooks and instructional  
48 materials; requiring the current syllabi for specified  
49 courses to be posted as a hyperlink in a specified  
50 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; deleting a public records and meeting exemption relating to applicants for president of a state university or Florida College System institution; amending s. 1004.89, F.S.; revising the duties of the Institute for Freedom in the Americas; deleting provisions relating to a direct-support organization for the institute; amending s. 1007.25, F.S.; prohibiting a Florida College System institution or state university from imposing certain graduation requirements; amending s. 1011.47, F.S.; authorizing a university board of trustees to approve the transfer of unreserved cash from one auxiliary enterprise to support another auxiliary enterprise under certain conditions; providing effective dates.

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

76  
77       **Section 1. Section 20.70, Florida Statutes, is created to**  
78 **read:**

79       20.70 Residency requirements.—Notwithstanding any other  
80 law:

81       (1) (a) Effective January 6, 2027, an appointed member of  
82 the Board of Governors of the State University System shall be:

83       1. A United States citizen; and

84       2. A state resident or a graduate of a state university.

85       (b) A position on the Board of Governors which is held by  
86 a person who does not meet the requirements of paragraph (a) on  
87 or after January 6, 2027, shall be deemed vacant.

88       (2) (a) Effective January 6, 2027, an appointed member of a  
89 state university board of trustees shall be:

90       1. A United States citizen; and

91       2. A state resident or a graduate of the state university.

92       (b) A position on a university board of trustees which is  
93 held by a person who does not meet the requirements of paragraph  
94 (a) on or after January 6, 2027, shall be deemed vacant.

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

97       112.3144 Full and public disclosure of financial  
98 interests.—

99       (1)

100       (f) Beginning January 1, 2026, each citizen member of the

Board of Governors of the State University System must comply with the financial disclosure requirements of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution and this section.

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

1001.01 State Board of Education; generally.—

(1) The State Board of Education is established as a body corporate. The state board shall be a citizen board consisting of seven members who are residents of the state appointed by the Governor to staggered 4-year terms, subject to confirmation by the Senate. Members of the state board shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement of travel and per diem expenses in accordance with s. 112.061. Members may only serve two ~~be reappointed by the Governor for additional~~ terms ~~not to exceed 8 years of consecutive service.~~

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

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

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

(2) Trustees shall be appointed by the Governor to staggered 4-year terms, subject to confirmation by the Senate in

regular session. A trustee may continue to serve until a successor is appointed. Trustees may be reappointed by the Governor for one additional term, not to exceed 8 consecutive years of service.

(4) At its first regular meeting after July 1 of each year, each Florida College System institution board of trustees shall organize by electing a chair, whose duty as such is to preside at all meetings of the board, to call special meetings thereof, and to attest to actions of the board, and a vice chair, whose duty as such is to act as chair during the absence or disability of the elected chair. It is the further duty of 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  
serve on a presidential search committee. The permanent  
president appointed by the institution board of trustees must be  
recommended by the presidential search committee ~~The board of~~  
~~trustees may appoint a search committee.~~ The board of trustees  
shall conduct annual evaluations of the president in accordance  
with rules of the State Board of Education and submit such  
evaluations to the State Board of Education for review. The  
evaluation must address the achievement of the performance goals  
established by the accountability process implemented pursuant  
to s. 1008.45. A presidential contract may be renewed for a term  
exceeding 1 year, but not exceeding the term of the original  
contract.

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

1001.70 Board of Governors of the State University  
System.—

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



201 licenses; and the strategic and accountability plans required in  
202 paragraphs (b) and (c). The Board of Governors shall  
203 periodically review the mission of each constituent university  
204 and make updates or revisions as needed. Upon completion of a  
205 review of the mission, the board shall review existing academic  
206 programs, including admission criteria, for alignment with the  
207 mission. The board shall include in its review a directive to  
208 each constituent university regarding its programs for any  
209 curriculum or admission criteria that violates s. 1000.05 or  
210 that is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism,  
211 oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of  
212 the United States and were created to maintain social,  
213 political, and economic inequities. The mission alignment and  
214 strategic plan must consider peer institutions at the  
215 constituent universities. The mission alignment and strategic  
216 plan must acknowledge that universities that have a national and  
217 international impact have the greatest capacity to promote the  
218 state's economic development through: new discoveries, patents,  
219 licenses, and technologies that generate state businesses of  
220 global importance; research achievements through external grants  
221 and contracts that are comparable to nationally recognized and  
222 ranked universities; the creation of a resource rich academic  
223 environment that attracts high-technology business and venture  
224 capital to the state; and this generation's finest minds  
225 focusing on solving the state's economic, social, environmental,

226 and legal problems in the areas of life sciences, water,  
227 sustainability, energy, and health care. A nationally recognized  
228 and ranked university that has a global perspective and impact  
229 must be afforded the opportunity to enable and protect the  
230 university's competitiveness on the global stage in fair  
231 competition with other institutions of other states in the  
232 highest Carnegie Classification.

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

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

237 (a) The Board of Governors, or the board's designee, shall  
238 establish the personnel program for all employees of a state  
239 university, except the president. The board of trustees of a  
240 state university shall select and reappoint the university  
241 president. In appointing a permanent president, the chair of the  
242 university board of trustees shall appoint a presidential search  
243 committee. The presidential search committee shall consist of 15  
244 members consisting of at least three members of the board of  
245 trustees and may include persons from the university's faculty,  
246 the student body, the university's foundation board, the  
247 university's financing corporation board, if applicable, alumni,  
248 donors, and members from the community in which the university  
249 serves. However, none of the persons appointed to serve on the  
250 presidential search committee may hold positions that report

251 directly to the president. The Chancellor of the State  
252 University System or a member of the Board of Governors may not  
253 serve on the presidential search committee. The permanent  
254 president selected by the board of trustees must have been  
255 recommended by the presidential search committee. Selections,  
256 reappointments, and extensions of a president, including  
257 associated contracts, are not subject to approval or  
258 confirmation by the Board of Governors. A presidential contract  
259 may be renewed for a term exceeding 1 year, but not exceeding  
260 the term of the original contract. The Board of Governors shall  
261 ~~confirm the presidential selection and reappointment by a~~  
262 ~~university board of trustees as a means of acknowledging that~~  
263 ~~system cooperation is expected.~~

264 (12) PUBLIC EDUCATION CAPITAL OUTLAY.—The Board of  
265 Governors shall submit the prioritized list as required by s.  
266 1013.64(4). Projects considered for prioritization shall be  
267 chosen from a preliminary selection group which shall include  
268 the list of projects maintained pursuant to paragraph (d) and  
269 the top two priorities of each state university.

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

274 1. A plan is provided to reserve funds in an escrow  
275 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 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~~

301 ~~serve a 5-year term and of the initial appointments by the Board~~  
302 ~~of Governors, 2 members shall serve 2-year terms, 2 members~~  
303 ~~shall serve 3-year terms, and 1 member shall serve a 5-year~~  
304 ~~term. There shall be no state residency requirement for~~  
305 ~~university board members, but~~ The Governor and the Board of  
306 Governors shall consider ~~diversity and~~ regional representation  
307 when appointing members. An appointed board member may continue  
308 to serve until a successor is appointed. Beginning July 2, 2020,  
309 For purposes of this subsection, regional representation shall  
310 include the chair of a campus board established pursuant to s.  
311 1004.341.

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

314 1004.085 Textbook and instructional materials  
315 affordability and transparency.—

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

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

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

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

323 (5) (a) Each Florida College System institution and state  
324 university shall post prominently in the course registration  
325 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 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 registration system. Each syllabus must contain ~~is a general education core course option identified pursuant to s. 1007.25, course syllabi information containing~~ sufficient detail to inform students of all of the following ~~must be included:~~

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

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

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

376       **Section 10. Section 1004.098, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
377 **to read:**

378       1004.098 Applicants for president of a state university or  
379 Florida College System institution; ~~public records exemption;~~  
380 ~~public meetings exemption.~~—

381       (1) (a) Each state university and Florida College System  
382 institution board of trustees must adopt a presidential  
383 succession plan specifying lines of authority should the  
384 president not fulfill his or her full term as president. To  
385 promote continuity and efficiency in government, each successor  
386 identified in the plan must be a current employee of the state  
387 university or Florida College System institution.

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

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

399       (a) The Board of Governors.

400       (b) The State Board of Education.



401        (c) A state university board of trustees.

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

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

410        ~~(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the age, race, and~~  
411 ~~gender of all applicants who met the minimum qualifications~~  
412 ~~established for the position by a state university or Florida~~  
413 ~~College System institution who were considered and the personal~~  
414 ~~identifying information of an applicant included in the final~~  
415 ~~group of applicants for president of a state university or a~~  
416 ~~Florida College System institution are no longer confidential~~  
417 ~~and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State~~  
418 ~~Constitution beginning at the earlier of the date the final~~  
419 ~~group of applicants to be considered for president is~~  
420 ~~established or 21 days before the date of a meeting at which an~~  
421 ~~interview of an applicant will be conducted or at which final~~  
422 ~~action or a vote is to be taken on the offer of the employment~~  
423 ~~of an applicant as president.~~

424        ~~(2)(a) Any portion of a meeting held for the purpose of~~  
425 ~~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:~~

~~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**

451 **to read:**

452 1004.89 Institute for Freedom in the Americas.—

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

457 (1) ~~(a)~~ ~~Partner with the Adam Smith Center for Economic~~  
458 ~~Freedom to~~ Hold workshops, symposiums, and conferences that  
459 provide networking opportunities for leaders throughout the  
460 region to gain new insights and ideas for promoting democracy,  
461 including knowledge of and insight into the intellectual,  
462 political, and economic freedoms that are foundational to a  
463 democratic society.

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

468 (3) ~~(c)~~ Provide educational and experiential opportunities  
469 for regional leaders committed to careers in democracy and  
470 governance.

471 ~~(2) Miami Dade College, in accordance with s. 1004.70,~~  
472 ~~shall approve a direct-support organization to support the~~  
473 ~~institute in its mission to develop partnerships throughout the~~  
474 ~~Americas. Notwithstanding s. 1004.70(2), the board of the~~  
475 ~~direct-support organization shall be composed of five members,~~

476 ~~as follows: one member appointed by the President of the Senate,~~  
477 ~~one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of~~  
478 ~~Representatives; and three members appointed by the Governor,~~  
479 ~~including a representative from Miami Dade College and a~~  
480 ~~representative from the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom.~~

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

483 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;  
484 other degree requirements.—

485 (15) A Florida College System institution or state  
486 university may not impose an institutionwide or universitywide  
487 graduation requirement that includes a course in conflict with  
488 paragraph (3)(c).

489 **Section 13. Subsection (1) of section 1011.47, Florida**  
490 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

491 1011.47 Auxiliary enterprises; contracts, grants, and  
492 donations.—As used in s. 19(f)(3), Art. III of the State  
493 Constitution, the term:

494 (1)(a) "Auxiliary enterprises" includes activities that  
495 directly or indirectly provide a product or a service, or both,  
496 to a university or its students, faculty, or staff and for which  
497 a charge is made. These auxiliary enterprises are business  
498 activities of a university which require no support from the  
499 General Revenue Fund, and include activities such as housing,  
500 bookstores, student health services, continuing education

501 programs, food services, college stores, operation of vending  
502 machines, specialty shops, day care centers, golf courses,  
503 student activities programs, data center operations, and  
504 intercollegiate athletics programs.

505       (b) Each university board of trustees may determine  
506 whether its auxiliary services, including intercollegiate  
507 athletics programs, will be self-supporting on an individual or  
508 collective basis. A university board of trustees may approve the  
509 transfer of unreserved cash from one auxiliary enterprise to  
510 support another auxiliary enterprise as long as such transfer  
511 does not reduce revenues necessary to cover all expenditures of  
512 the auxiliary enterprise, violate any bond covenants, or impact  
513 debt service payments and required reserves. Transfers made  
514 under this paragraph shall be reported to the Board of Governors  
515 annually. This paragraph expires June 30, 2030.

516       **Section 14.** Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
517 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon  
518 becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 2025.