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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
04/11/2025	.	
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The Appropriations Committee on Higher Education (Calatayud) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Section 20.701, Florida Statutes, is created to  
read:

20.701 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



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11 either a resident of this state or a graduate of the university,  
12 the administration of which is overseen by the board. The office  
13 of any member who does not meet the requirements of this  
14 subsection is automatically deemed vacant.

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

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

23 112.3144 Full and public disclosure of financial  
24 interests.-

25 (1)

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

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

32 1001.01 State Board of Education; generally.-

33 (1) The State Board of Education is established as a body  
34 corporate. The state board shall be a citizen board consisting  
35 of seven members who are residents of the state appointed by the  
36 Governor to staggered 4-year terms, subject to confirmation by  
37 the Senate. Members of the state board shall serve without  
38 compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement of travel  
39 and per diem expenses in accordance with s. 112.061. Members may



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40 only serve two ~~be reappointed by the Governor for additional~~  
41 ~~terms not to exceed 8 years of consecutive service.~~

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

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

48 1001.61 Florida College System institution boards of  
49 trustees; membership.—

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

56 (4) At its first regular meeting after July 1 of each year,  
57 each Florida College System institution board of trustees shall  
58 organize by electing a chair, whose duty as such is to preside  
59 at all meetings of the board, to call special meetings thereof,  
60 and to attest to actions of the board, and a vice chair, whose  
61 duty as such is to act as chair during the absence or disability  
62 of the elected chair. It is the further duty of the chair of  
63 each board of trustees to notify the Governor, in writing,  
64 whenever a board member fails to attend three consecutive  
65 regular board meetings in any one fiscal year, which absences  
66 may be grounds for removal. The chair shall serve a single 2-  
67 year term.

68 Section 5. Subsection (19) of section 1001.64, Florida



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69 Statutes, is amended to read:

70 1001.64 Florida College System institution boards of  
71 trustees; powers and duties.—

72 (19) Each board of trustees shall appoint, suspend, or  
73 remove the president of the Florida College System institution.  
74 Such appointments, reappointments, suspensions, and extensions  
75 of a president, including associated contracts, are not subject  
76 to approval or confirmation by the State Board of Education. In  
77 appointing a permanent president, the chair of the institution's  
78 board of trustees shall appoint a presidential search committee.  
79 The presidential search committee shall be composed of at least  
80 two members of the board of trustees and may include persons  
81 from the institution's faculty, student body, foundation board,  
82 financing corporation board, if applicable, alumni, donors, and  
83 members from the community the institution serves. However, none  
84 of the persons appointed to serve on the presidential search  
85 committee may hold positions that report directly to the  
86 president. The Commissioner of Education or a member of the  
87 State Board of Education may not serve on a presidential search  
88 committee. The permanent president appointed by the  
89 institution's board of trustees must be recommended by the  
90 presidential search committee ~~The board of trustees may appoint~~  
91 ~~a search committee.~~ The board of trustees shall conduct annual  
92 evaluations of the president in accordance with rules of the  
93 State Board of Education and submit such evaluations to the  
94 State Board of Education for review. The evaluation must address  
95 the achievement of the performance goals established by the  
96 accountability process implemented pursuant to s. 1008.45. A  
97 presidential contract may be renewed for a term exceeding 1



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98 year, but not exceeding the term of the original contract.

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

101 1001.70 Board of Governors of the State University System.-

102 (1) Pursuant to s. 7(d), Art. IX of the State Constitution,  
103 the Board of Governors is established as a body corporate  
104 composed ~~comprised~~ of 17 members as follows: 14 citizen members  
105 appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation by the Senate;  
106 the Commissioner of Education; the chair of the advisory council  
107 of faculty senates or the equivalent; and the president of the  
108 Florida student association or the equivalent. The appointed  
109 members may only shall ~~serve a single staggered~~ 7-year term  
110 ~~terms. In order to achieve staggered terms, beginning July 1,~~  
111 ~~2003, of the initial appointments, 4 members shall serve 2-year~~  
112 ~~terms, 5 members shall serve 3-year terms, and 5 members shall~~  
113 ~~serve 7-year terms.~~

114 Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5), paragraph (a)  
115 of subsection (6), and paragraph (c) of subsection (12) of  
116 section 1001.706, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph  
117 (k) is added to subsection (3) of that section, to read:

118 1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.-

119 (3) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO ORGANIZATION AND  
120 OPERATION OF STATE UNIVERSITIES.-

121 (k) The Board of Governors shall adopt regulations  
122 prohibiting universities that conduct public opinion survey  
123 research from polling activities related to candidates for any  
124 federal, state, or local office. A university may conduct survey  
125 research to measure opinions and inform the public about social,  
126 political, and economic issues unrelated to candidate



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127 preference.

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

129 (a)1. The Legislature intends that the Board of Governors  
130 shall align the missions of each constituent university with the  
131 academic success of its students; the existing and emerging  
132 economic development needs of the state; the national reputation  
133 of its faculty and its academic and research programs; the  
134 quantity of externally generated research, patents, and  
135 licenses; and the strategic and accountability plans required in  
136 paragraphs (b) and (c). The Board of Governors shall  
137 periodically review the mission of each constituent university  
138 and make updates or revisions as needed. Upon completion of a  
139 review of the mission, the board shall review existing academic  
140 programs, including admission criteria, for alignment with the  
141 mission. The board shall include in its review a directive to  
142 each constituent university regarding its programs for any  
143 curriculum or admission criteria that violates s. 1000.05 or  
144 that is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism,  
145 oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of  
146 the United States and were created to maintain social,  
147 political, and economic inequities. The mission alignment and  
148 strategic plan must consider peer institutions at the  
149 constituent universities. The mission alignment and strategic  
150 plan must acknowledge that universities that have a national and  
151 international impact have the greatest capacity to promote the  
152 state's economic development through: new discoveries, patents,  
153 licenses, and technologies that generate state businesses of  
154 global importance; research achievements through external grants  
155 and contracts that are comparable to nationally recognized and



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156 ranked universities; the creation of a resource rich academic  
157 environment that attracts high-technology business and venture  
158 capital to the state; and this generation's finest minds  
159 focusing on solving the state's economic, social, environmental,  
160 and legal problems in the areas of life sciences, water,  
161 sustainability, energy, and health care. A nationally recognized  
162 and ranked university that has a global perspective and impact  
163 must be afforded the opportunity to enable and protect the  
164 university's competitiveness on the global stage in fair  
165 competition with other institutions of other states in the  
166 highest Carnegie Classification.

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

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

171 (a) The Board of Governors, or the board's designee, shall  
172 establish the personnel program for all employees of a state  
173 university, except the president. The board of trustees of a  
174 state university shall select and reappoint the university  
175 president. In appointing a permanent president, the chair of the  
176 university board of trustees shall appoint a presidential search  
177 committee. The presidential search committee shall be composed  
178 of 15 members, of whom at least three must be members of the  
179 board of trustees, and may include persons from the university's  
180 faculty, the student body, the university's foundation board,  
181 the university's financing corporation board, if applicable,  
182 alumni, donors, and members from the community in which the  
183 university serves. However, none of the persons appointed to  
184 serve on the presidential search committee may hold positions



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185 that report directly to the president. The Chancellor of the  
186 State University System or a member of the Board of Governors  
187 may not serve on the presidential search committee. The  
188 permanent president selected by the board of trustees must have  
189 been recommended by the presidential search committee.

190 Selections, reappointments, and extensions of a president,  
191 including associated contracts, are not subject to approval or  
192 confirmation by the Board of Governors. A presidential contract  
193 may be renewed for a term exceeding 1 year, but not exceeding  
194 the term of the original contract. ~~The Board of Governors shall~~  
195 ~~confirm the presidential selection and reappointment by a~~  
196 ~~university board of trustees as a means of acknowledging that~~  
197 ~~system cooperation is expected.~~

198 (12) PUBLIC EDUCATION CAPITAL OUTLAY.—The Board of  
199 Governors shall submit the prioritized list as required by s.  
200 1013.64(4). Projects considered for prioritization shall be  
201 chosen from a preliminary selection group which shall include  
202 the list of projects maintained pursuant to paragraph (d) and  
203 the top two priorities of each state university.

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

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

212 2. There exists sufficient capacity within the cash and  
213 bonding estimate of funds by the Revenue Estimating Conference





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214 to accommodate the project within the 3-year Public Education  
215 Capital Outlay funding cycle; and

216 3. The project has been recommended pursuant to s. 1013.31.  
217 Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 1001.71, Florida  
218 Statutes, is amended to read:

219 1001.71 University boards of trustees; membership.—

220 (1) Pursuant to s. 7(c), Art. IX of the State Constitution,  
221 each local constituent university shall be administered by a  
222 university board of trustees composed ~~comprised~~ of 13 members as  
223 follows: 6 citizen members appointed by the Governor subject to  
224 confirmation by the Senate; 5 citizen members appointed by the  
225 Board of Governors subject to confirmation by the Senate; the  
226 chair of the faculty senate or the equivalent; and the president  
227 of the student body of the university. The appointed members  
228 shall serve staggered 5-year terms. Appointed members may be  
229 reappointed for one additional term, not to exceed 10 years of  
230 consecutive service. ~~In order to achieve staggered terms,~~  
231 ~~beginning July 1, 2003, of the initial appointments by the~~  
232 ~~Governor, 2 members shall serve 2-year terms, 3 members shall~~  
233 ~~serve 3-year terms, and 1 member shall serve a 5-year term and~~  
234 ~~of the initial appointments by the Board of Governors, 2 members~~  
235 ~~shall serve 2-year terms, 2 members shall serve 3-year terms,~~  
236 ~~and 1 member shall serve a 5-year term. There shall be no state~~  
237 ~~residency requirement for university board members, but The~~  
238 Governor and the Board of Governors shall consider ~~diversity and~~  
239 regional representation when appointing members. An appointed  
240 board member may continue to serve until a successor is  
241 appointed. ~~Beginning July 2, 2020,~~ For purposes of this  
242 subsection, regional representation includes ~~shall include~~ the



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243 chair of a campus board established pursuant to s. 1004.341.  
244 Section 9. Subsections (1) and (5) of section 1004.085,  
245 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:  
246 1004.085 Textbook and instructional materials affordability  
247 and transparency.—  
248 (1) As used in this section, the term:  
249 (a) ~~The term~~ "Instructional materials" means educational  
250 materials for use within a course which may be available in  
251 printed or digital format.  
252 (b) "Syllabus" or "syllabi" means the course syllabus or  
253 syllabi developed by the instructor assigned to the course.  
254 (c) "Term" includes the fall, spring, and summer terms.  
255 (5) (a) Each Florida College System institution and state  
256 university shall post prominently in the course registration  
257 system and on its website a hyperlink to lists of required and  
258 recommended textbooks and instructional materials for at least  
259 95 percent of all courses and course sections offered at the  
260 institution during the upcoming term. The lists must include the  
261 International Standard Book Number (ISBN) for each required and  
262 recommended textbook and instructional material or other  
263 identifying information, which must include, at a minimum, all  
264 of the following: the title, all authors listed, publishers,  
265 edition number, copyright date, published date, and other  
266 relevant information necessary to identify the specific  
267 textbooks or instructional materials required and recommended  
268 for each course. The lists must include those materials that are  
269 open access or an open educational resource for which there is  
270 no cost, must include a unique identifier, if available, and  
271 must include any relevant information necessary to identify the



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272 specific resource. The State Board of Education and the Board of  
273 Governors shall include in the policies, procedures, and  
274 guidelines adopted under subsection (6) certain limited  
275 exceptions to this notification requirement for classes added  
276 after the notification deadline.

277 (b) The lists of required and recommended textbooks and  
278 instructional materials required in paragraph (a) must be, to  
279 the maximum extent possible, based on a list submitted by the  
280 instructor and must:

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

283 2. Remain posted for at least 5 academic years.

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

289 4. Include the duration of any license allowing access to  
290 the textbook or instructional material for which students must  
291 purchase or pay for access.

292 ~~5.4.~~ Be easily downloadable by current and prospective  
293 students.

294 (c) To maximize informed student choice, courses ~~If a~~  
295 ~~course~~ subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) must include the  
296 current is a general education core course option identified  
297 pursuant to s. 1007.25, course syllabi posted in the same  
298 location as the postings of required and recommended textbooks  
299 and instructional materials at least 10 business days before the  
300 start of the term. Individualized courses, such as directed



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301 individual studies, thesis, dissertation defense, and  
302 performance, are exempt from this requirement. Each syllabus  
303 must contain syllabi information containing sufficient detail to  
304 inform students of all of the following ~~must be included:~~

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

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

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

313 Section 10. Subsection (15) is added to section 1007.25,  
314 Florida Statutes, to read:

315 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;  
316 other degree requirements.—

317 (15) A Florida College System institution or state  
318 university may not impose an institution-wide or university-wide  
319 graduation requirement that includes a course in conflict with  
320 paragraph (3) (c).

321 Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 1011.47, Florida  
322 Statutes, is amended to read:

323 1011.47 Auxiliary enterprises; contracts, grants, and  
324 donations.—As used in s. 19(f) (3), Art. III of the State  
325 Constitution, the term:

326 (1) (a) "Auxiliary enterprises" includes activities that  
327 directly or indirectly provide a product or a service, or both,  
328 to a university or its students, faculty, or staff and for which  
329 a charge is made. These auxiliary enterprises are business



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330 activities of a university which require no support from the  
331 General Revenue Fund, and include activities such as housing,  
332 bookstores, student health services, continuing education  
333 programs, food services, college stores, operation of vending  
334 machines, specialty shops, day care centers, golf courses,  
335 student activities programs, data center operations, and  
336 intercollegiate athletics programs.

337 (b) Each university board of trustees may determine whether  
338 its auxiliary enterprises, including intercollegiate athletics  
339 programs, will be self-supporting on an individual or collective  
340 basis. A university board of trustees may approve the transfer  
341 of unreserved cash from one auxiliary enterprise to support  
342 another auxiliary enterprise as long as such transfer does not  
343 reduce revenues necessary to cover all expenditures of the  
344 auxiliary enterprise, violate any bond covenants, or impact debt  
345 service payments and required reserves. Transfers made under  
346 this paragraph must be reported to the Board of Governors  
347 annually. This paragraph expires June 30, 2030.

348 Section 12. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
349 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon  
350 becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

351  
352 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

353 And the title is amended as follows:

354 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
355 and insert:

356 A bill to be entitled  
357 An act relating to higher education; creating s.  
358 20.701, F.S.; requiring members of a state university



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359 board of trustees and members of the Board of  
360 Governors to be United States citizens and either  
361 residents of this state or graduates of a state  
362 university beginning on a specified date; providing  
363 that specified offices are deemed vacant under certain  
364 circumstances; amending s. 112.3144, F.S.; requiring  
365 certain members of the Board of Governors to comply  
366 with specified financial disclosure requirements  
367 beginning on a specified date; amending s. 1001.01,  
368 F.S.; revising term limits for members and the chair  
369 of the State Board of Education; amending s. 1001.61,  
370 F.S.; providing term limits for members and the chairs  
371 of the Florida College System institution boards of  
372 trustees; authorizing trustees to serve until the  
373 appointment of a successor; amending s. 1001.64, F.S.;  
374 providing that certain actions related to the  
375 president of a Florida College System institution are  
376 not subject to approval by the State Board of  
377 Education; requiring that a presidential search  
378 committee be appointed to make the appointment of such  
379 president; providing requirements for such committee;  
380 requiring that such president be recommended by the  
381 committee; authorizing the renewal of a presidential  
382 contract for a specified period; amending s. 1001.70,  
383 F.S.; providing term limits for appointed members of  
384 the Board of Governors; amending s. 1001.706, F.S.;  
385 requiring the Board of Governors to adopt regulations  
386 regarding state university public opinion survey  
387 research; requiring the Board of Governors to review



388 the admission criteria of state universities;  
389 requiring that state university program admission  
390 criteria be posted on state university websites;  
391 providing that the president of a state university is  
392 appointed by the university board of trustees;  
393 requiring that a presidential search committee be  
394 appointed to make the appointment of such president;  
395 providing requirements for such committee; requiring  
396 that such president be recommended by the committee;  
397 authorizing the renewal of a presidential contract for  
398 a specified period; deleting a requirement that the  
399 Board of Governors confirm the selection and  
400 reappointment of such president; revising the  
401 requirements for certain state university capital  
402 outlay projects to be included on a specified list;  
403 amending s. 1001.71, F.S.; providing term limits for  
404 appointed members of university boards of trustees;  
405 deleting obsolete language and a certain consideration  
406 for appointed members; authorizing appointed members  
407 to serve until a successor is appointed; amending s.  
408 1004.085, F.S.; defining the terms "syllabus" or  
409 "syllabi" and "term"; adding certain materials to  
410 lists of textbooks and instructional materials;  
411 requiring that the current syllabi for specified  
412 courses be posted as a hyperlink in a specified system  
413 and include specified information; amending s.  
414 1007.25, F.S.; prohibiting a Florida College System  
415 institution or state university from imposing a  
416 certain graduation requirement; amending s. 1011.47,



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417 F.S.; authorizing a university board of trustees to  
418 approve the transfer of unreserved cash from one  
419 auxiliary enterprise to support another auxiliary  
420 enterprise under certain conditions; providing  
421 effective dates.