

# FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL ANALYSIS

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**BILL #:** [CS/HB 731](#)

**TITLE:** Standardized Tests for Admission to Medical Institutions of Higher Education

**SPONSOR(S):** Melo

**COMPANION BILL:** [SB 1710](#) (DiCeglie)

**LINKED BILLS:** None

**RELATED BILLS:** None

## Committee References

[Government Operations](#)

14 Y, 4 N, As CS

[Health Professions & Programs](#)

[Education & Employment](#)

[State Affairs](#)

## SUMMARY

### **Effect of the Bill:**

The bill requires medical institutions of higher education within the State University System to implement a standardized admissions test as a condition for entry into a health care-related degree program, certification program, or training. The test must evaluate applicants' knowledge of, and critical thinking skills for, science and medical training.

### **Fiscal or Economic Impact:**

None.

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## ANALYSIS

### **EFFECT OF THE BILL:**

The bill defines "medical institutions of higher education" as state universities that offers bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees, receives state funds, and offer health care-related degrees, certification programs, or training. It requires such institutions to implement a standardized admission test that evaluates knowledge of, and critical thinking skills for, science and medical training as a condition for admission.

## RELEVANT INFORMATION

### **SUBJECT OVERVIEW:**

#### **Board of Governors**

The State University System of Florida consists of 12 public universities,<sup>1</sup> each governed by an individual board of trustees.<sup>2</sup> The Board of Governors (BOG) is responsible for overseeing, regulating, and managing the entire state university system.<sup>3</sup> Through its authority, the BOG ensures affordable access to higher education, promotes articulation with other educational institutions, and upholds fiscal responsibility and accountability across Florida's public universities.<sup>4</sup> The BOG consists of 17 members, 14 of which are "citizens" appointed by the

<sup>1</sup> S. [1000.21\(9\), F.S.](#); see also State University System, [Universities](#) (last visited Feb. 26, 2025).

<sup>2</sup> [Art. IX, s. 7\(b\), FLA. CONST.](#); s. [1001.71, F.S.](#)

<sup>3</sup> See [art. IX, s. 7\(d\), FLA. CONST.](#)

<sup>4</sup> S. [20.155\(4\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

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Governor, subject to Senate confirmation.<sup>5</sup> The commissioner of education, the chair of the advisory council of faculty senates, and the president of the Florida student association are also members.<sup>6</sup>

### Medical College Admissions Test

The Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) is a standardized, multiple-choice examination designed to assess problem-solving, critical thinking, and knowledge of natural, behavioral, and social science concepts and principles prerequisite to the study of medicine.<sup>7</sup> The exam is divided into four sections:

- Chemical and physical foundations of biological systems: Tests knowledge of basic chemistry, physics, and biochemistry concepts as they apply to biological systems.
- Critical analysis and reasoning skills: Assesses comprehension, analysis, and reasoning skills through passages from social sciences and humanities disciplines.
- Biological and biochemical foundations of living systems: Evaluates understanding of biological and biochemical concepts, processes, and mechanisms.
- Psychological, social, and biological foundations of behavior: Measures knowledge of behavioral and socio-cultural determinants of health and behavior.<sup>8</sup>

Each section is scored between 118 and 132, with a total score range of 472 to 528.<sup>9</sup> The MCAT is administered by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and is a requirement for admission to most medical schools in the United States and many in Canada.<sup>10</sup>

### State University System MCAT Requirements

The following State University System institutions in Florida require the MCAT for admission into their medical programs:<sup>11</sup>

- Florida State University.
- University of Florida.
- University of South Florida.
- University of Central Florida.
- Florida International University.
- Florida Atlantic University.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> [Art. IX, s. 7\(d\), FLA. CONST.](#); see also [s. 1001.70, F.S.](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Art. IX, s. 7\(d\), FLA. CONST.](#)

<sup>7</sup> See Association of American Medical Colleges, [What's on the MCAT Exam?](#) (last visited March 22, 2025).

<sup>8</sup> See Association of American Medical Colleges, [What's on the MCAT Exam? Content Outline](#) (last visited March 22, 2025).

<sup>9</sup> See Association of American Medical Colleges, [How is the MCAT Exam Scored?](#) (last visited March 22, 2025).

<sup>10</sup> Association of American Medical Colleges, [What's on the MCAT Exam?](#) (last visited March 22, 2025).

<sup>11</sup> See Shemmassian Academic Consulting, [Medical Schools in Florida: How to Get in \(2025\)](#) (last visited March 22, 2025). The other State University System institutions do not have medical schools and therefore do not have MCAT requirements. See Med School Insiders, [Florida Medical Schools—2025-2026 Guide to Acceptance](#) (last visited March 22, 2025).

<sup>12</sup> Florida State University College of Medicine, [Admission Requirements](#) (last visited March 22, 2025); University of Florida College of Medicine, [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (last visited March 22, 2025); University of South Florida, [Morsani College of Medicine Admissions](#) (last visited March 22, 2025); University of Central Florida, [M.D. Admission Requirements](#) (last visited March 22, 2025); Florida International University, [Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine](#) (last visited March 22, 2025); and Florida Atlantic University, [M.D. Program Admission FAQ](#) (last visited March 22, 2025).

## BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
<a href="#">Government Operations Subcommittee</a>	14 Y, 4 N, As CS	3/25/2025	Toliver	Villa
THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:	The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) removed provisions restricting the use of diversity, equity, and inclusion programs across various sectors of state government, including state agencies, health care providers, medical schools, professional licensing boards, and recipients of state contracts and grants. In addition, the PCS narrowed the standardized admission test requirement to apply only to state universities.			
<a href="#">Health Professions &amp; Programs Subcommittee</a>				
<a href="#">Education &amp; Employment Committee</a>				
<a href="#">State Affairs Committee</a>				

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**THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.**  
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