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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

The Committee on Education Pre-K - 12 (Yarborough) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause
and insert:

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
1001.741, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.741 State university personnel; recruitment of
faculty; performance assessment and reporting; employment
practices; requiring certain oaths or statements prohibited;
grievances.—



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(1) Except as delegated pursuant to paragraph (a), each state university president has the final authority for hiring the provost, the deans, and all full-time faculty for the university, and has an ongoing duty to assess the performance, productivity, and employment practices of the university's provost and deans. The president of the university is encouraged to engage in faculty recruiting as appropriate, and shall provide a regular report and recommendations on employment practices to the board at least twice annually.

(b) A state university may not require any statement, pledge, or oath other than the oath pursuant to s. 1012.802 and the oath to uphold general and federal law, the United States Constitution, and the State Constitution as a part of any admissions, hiring, employment, promotion, tenure, disciplinary, or evaluation process.

Section 2. Section 1012.591, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1012.591 Oath of school personnel.—

(1) Before entering upon the duties of a member of the instructional or administrative personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(2) and (3), respectively, or of a prekindergarten instructor at a public school, including charter schools, a person must subscribe to the following oath:

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and the Constitution and Government of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified for employment as a member of the school personnel in this



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state; that I will well and faithfully perform the
duties of a member of the school personnel in a
professional, independent, objective, and nonpartisan
manner; that I will uphold the highest standards of
academic integrity and professional ethics; that I
will foster a respectful learning environment for all
students which promotes critical thinking, civic
responsibility, and lifelong learning; and that I will
serve as a positive role model in both conduct and
character, so help me God.

(2) (a) An employee hired on or after July 1, 2026, as a
member of the instructional or administrative personnel, as
defined in s. 1012.01(2) and (3), respectively, or as a
prekindergarten instructor employed by a public school,
including a charter school, must subscribe to the oath before
entering upon the duties of the position.

(b) All members of the instructional or administrative
personnel, as defined in s. 1012.01(2) and (3), respectively,
and all prekindergarten instructors employed by a public school,
including a charter school, who are employed on or before June
30, 2026, must subscribe to the oath no later than July 1, 2027.

Section 3. Section 1012.802, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

1012.802 Oath of administrative and instructional
employees.—

(1) Before entering upon the duties of a person employed in
an administrative or instructional capacity of a Florida College
System institution or state university, a person employed in



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such capacity must subscribe to the following oath:

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and the Constitution and Government of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified as a person employed in an administrative or instructional capacity in this state; that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of a person employed in an administrative or instructional capacity in a professional, independent, objective, and nonpartisan manner; that I will uphold the highest standards of academic integrity and professional ethics; that I will foster a respectful learning environment for all students which promotes critical thinking, civic responsibility, and lifelong learning; and that I will serve as a positive role model in both conduct and character, so help me God.

(2) (a) An employee hired on or after July 1, 2026, as a member of the instructional or administrative personnel must subscribe to the oath before entering upon the duties of the position.

(b) A person employed on or before June 30, 2026, must subscribe to the oath under this section at the person's next tenure review, post-tenure review, or other periodic performance evaluation, including any 5-year post-tenure review, occurring on or after July 1, 2026.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.



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

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete everything before the enacting clause
and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to oaths of school personnel; amending
s. 1001.741, F.S.; providing an exception to a
prohibition on a state university requiring a
statement, pledge, or oath; creating s. 1012.591,
F.S.; requiring specified persons employed as members
of school personnel to subscribe to a specified oath
before entering upon the duties of a member of the
school personnel; creating s. 1012.802, F.S.;
requiring persons employed in an administrative or
instructional capacity at a Florida College System
institution or state university to subscribe to a
specified oath before entering upon the duties of a
person employed in an administrative or instructional
capacity; providing an effective date.