

# THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE



**Ben Albritton**  
*President of the Senate*



**Daniel Perez**  
*Speaker of the House of  
Representatives*

May 26, 2026

The Honorable Daniel Perez  
Speaker, House of Representatives

The Honorable Ben Albritton  
President of the Senate

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

Your Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes of the two houses on HB 5601E, same being:

An act relating to higher education.

having met, and after full and free conference, do recommend to their respective houses as follows:

1. That the Senate recede from its Amendment 926488.
2. That the Senate and House of Representatives adopt the Conference Committee Amendment attached hereto, and by reference made a part of this report.

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*Representative Lawrence McClure, Chair*

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*Representative Wallace Aristide*

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*Representative Erika Booth*

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*Representative James Buchanan, At Large*

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*Representative Jennifer Canady, At Large*

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*Representative Fentrice Driskell, At Large*

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*Representative Anna V. Eskamani, At Large*

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*Representative Sam Garrison, At Large*

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*Representative Peggy Gossett-Seidman*

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*Representative Jeff Holcomb*

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*Representative Berny Jacques*

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*Representative Traci Koster, At Large*

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*Representative James Vernon Mooney, At Large*

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*Representative Michele K. Rayner, At Large*

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*Representative Felicia Simone Robinson, At Large*

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*Representative Michelle Salzman, At Large*

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*Representative Tyler I. Sirois, At Large*

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*Representative Allison Tant, At Large*

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*Representative Susan L. Valdés, At Large*

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*Representative RaShon Young*

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*Representative Demi Busatta, Chair*

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*Representative Omar Blanco*

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*Representative Robert Charles Brannan, At Large*

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*Representative Daryl Campbell*

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*Representative Kevin D. Chambliss, At Large*

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*Representative Wyman Duggan, At Large*

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*Representative Gallop Franklin, At Large*

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*Representative Mike Giallombardo*

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*Representative Emily Gregory*

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*Representative Christine Hunschofsky, At Large*

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*Representative Kim Kendall*

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*Representative Lauren Melo, At Large*

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*Representative Tobin Rogers Overdorf, At Large*

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*Representative Alex Rizo*

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*Representative William Cloud Robinson, At Large*

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*Representative Judson Sapp*

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*Representative David Smith*

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*Representative Kaylee Tuck, At Large*

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*Representative Marie Paule Woodson, At Large*

**Managers on the part of the House of Representatives**

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*Senator Ed Hooper, Chair*

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*Senator Bryan Avila*

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*Senator Mack Bernard*

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*Senator LaVon Bracy Davis*

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*Senator Jason Brodeur, At-Large*

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*Senator Colleen Burton*

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*Senator Tracie Davis*

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*Senator Don Gaetz*

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*Senator Erin Grall*

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*Senator Gayle Harrell*

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*Senator Thomas J. Leek*

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*Senator Ralph E. Massullo*

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*Senator Stan McClain*

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*Senator Rosalind Osgood*

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*Senator Jason W. B. Pizzo*

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*Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez*

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*Senator Barbara Sharief*

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*Senator Carlos Guillermo Smith*

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*Senator Jay Trumbull*

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*Senator Clay Yarborough*

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*Senator Kristen Aston Arrington*

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*Senator Lori Berman, At-Large*

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*Senator Jim Boyd, At-Large*

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*Senator Jennifer Bradley*

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*Senator Danny Burgess*

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*Senator Alexis Calatayud*

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*Senator Nick DiCeglie*

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*Senator Ileana Garcia*

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*Senator Joe Gruters, At-Large*

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*Senator Shevrin D. Jones*

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*Senator Jonathan Martin*

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*Senator Debbie Mayfield*

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*Senator Brian Nathan*

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*Senator Kathleen Passidomo, At-Large*

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*Senator Tina Scott Polsky*

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*Senator Darryl Ervin Rouson, At-Large*

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*Senator Corey Simon*

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*Senator Keith L. Truenow*

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*Senator Tom A. Wright*

**Conferees on the part of the Senate**

The Conference Committee Amendment for HB 5601E, relating to higher education, conforms law to the proposed General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. Specifically, the proposed amendment:

- Revises the State University System Performance-Based Incentive 4-year graduation rate metric for first-time-in-college students to include an adjusted cohort graduation rate for approved co-op programs, and to define “co-op” programs.
- Transfers the University of South Florida (USF) Sarasota/Manatee campus to New College of Florida (New College), provided certain conditions are met.
- Removes the requirement that the Florida Center for the Partnerships for Arts Integrated Teaching at USF be physically headquartered at USF Sarasota/Manatee to conform to the transfer from USF to New College.
- Establishes the Disaster Preparedness Center at Florida International University as a statewide center of excellence for disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and resilience training, in partnership with the Division of Emergency Management.
- Removes the requirements for the Institute for Freedom in the Americas to partner with the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom and for Miami Dade College to establish a direct-support organization for the institute.
- Permits the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors (BOG) to amend submitted lists of general education courses for each Florida College System institution and state university.
- Authorizes university boards of trustees, subject to approval by the BOG, to establish tuition for graduate and professional programs and out-of-state fees for nonresident students. The approval by the BOG as it relates to out-of-state fees for nonresidents is ministerial only.
- Removes the limitation that annual adjustments to out-of-state fees and tuition for graduate and professional programs may not exceed 15 percent, but requires the BOG to adopt regulations.
- Revises the Programs of Strategic Emphasis tuition and fee waiver to cover remaining out-of-pocket tuition and fee costs after other federal, state, and institutional gift aid is applied, and to remove associated requirements related to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.
- Requires universities to commit 12 percent of the prior fiscal year’s carry-forward balances toward public education capital outlay (PECO) completion of previously funded projects or for deferred maintenance.
- Revises the definition of the term “educational facilities” to include “research” use areas in requirements to establish and maintain educational plants.