

Committee Substitute for
Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1716

An act relating to postsecondary education; amending s. 1000.21, F.S.; redesignating the names of certain community colleges as colleges; creating s. 1001.60, F.S.; establishing the Florida College System to be comprised of public postsecondary educational institutions meeting certain criteria; providing system purposes; providing limitations; authorizing the name change of an institution under certain conditions; providing for local boards of trustees and membership thereof; amending s. 1004.35, F.S.; conforming provisions; creating s. 1004.87, F.S.; establishing the Florida College System Task Force for the purpose of developing recommendations for the transition of community colleges to baccalaureate-degree-granting colleges and for establishing and funding state colleges; providing for membership and appointments; providing duties of the task force; requiring reporting; providing for dissolution of the task force; creating s. 1004.875, F.S.; creating the State College Pilot Project for the purpose of developing recommendations for the transition of community colleges to state colleges and for developing a funding model for the Florida College System; designating certain institutions to participate in the pilot project; providing duties of the institutions; requiring reporting; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraphs (b), (e), (k), (u), and (x) of subsection (3) of section 1000.21, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1000.21 Systemwide definitions.—As used in the Florida K-20 Education Code:

(3) “Community college,” except as otherwise specifically provided, includes the following institutions and any branch campuses, centers, or other affiliates of the institution:

- (b) Broward ~~Community~~ College.
- (e) Daytona Beach ~~Community~~ College.
- (k) Indian River ~~Community~~ College.
- (u) Polk ~~Community~~ College.
- (x) Santa Fe ~~Community~~ College.

Section 2. Section 1001.60, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1001.60 Florida College System.—

(1) PURPOSES.—In order to maximize open access for students, respond to community needs for postsecondary academic education and career de-

gree education, and provide associate and baccalaureate degrees that will best meet the state's employment needs, the Legislature establishes a system of governance for the Florida College System.

(2) FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM.—There shall be a single Florida College System comprised of the public postsecondary educational institutions identified in s. 1000.21(3) that grant 2-year and 4-year academic degrees as provided by law. An institution within the Florida College System may not offer graduate degree programs.

(a) The programs and services offered by institutions in the Florida College System in providing associate and baccalaureate degrees shall be delivered in a cost-effective manner that demonstrates substantial savings to the student and to the state over the cost of providing the degree at a state university.

(b)1. With the approval of the institution's local board of trustees, an institution in the Florida College System may change the institution's name and use the designation "college" if it has been authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees pursuant to s. 1004.73 or s. 1007.33 or if it has received approval from the State Board of Education pursuant to this paragraph.

2. With the approval of an institution's local board of trustees, any institution in the Florida College System may request approval from the State Board of Education to change the institution's name and use the designation "college." The State Board of Education may approve the request if the institution enters into an agreement with the State Board of Education to do the following:

a. Maintain as the institution's primary mission responsibility for responding to community needs for postsecondary academic education and career degree education as prescribed in s. 1004.65(6).

b. Maintain an open-door admissions policy for associate-level degree programs and workforce education programs.

c. Continue to provide outreach to underserved populations.

d. Continue to provide remedial education.

e. Comply with all provisions of the statewide articulation agreement that relate to 2-year and 4-year public degree-granting institutions as adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to s. 1007.23.

3. An institution in the Florida College System shall not use the designation "university."

(3) LOCAL BOARDS OF TRUSTEES.—Each institution within the Florida College System shall be governed by a local board of trustees as provided in s. 1001.64. The membership of each local board of trustees shall be as provided in s. 1001.61.

Section 3. Section 1004.35, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1004.35 Broward County campuses of Florida Atlantic University; coordination with other institutions.—The State Board of Education, the Board of Governors, and Florida Atlantic University shall consult with Broward Community College and Florida International University in coordinating course offerings at the postsecondary level in Broward County. Florida Atlantic University may contract with the Board of Trustees of Broward Community College and with Florida International University to provide instruction in courses offered at the Southeast Campus. Florida Atlantic University shall increase course offerings at the Southeast Campus as facilities become available.

Section 4. Section 1004.87, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1004.87 Florida College System Task Force.—

(1) The Florida College System Task Force is established within the Division of Community Colleges of the Department of Education for the purpose of developing findings and issuing recommendations regarding the transition of community colleges to baccalaureate-degree-granting colleges and the criteria for establishing and funding state colleges.

(2)(a) All members of the task force must be appointed on or before August 31, 2008, and the task force shall hold its first meeting on or before September 15, 2008.

(b)1. The task force shall be comprised of the Commissioner of Education and 11 members appointed by the Commissioner.

2. The Commissioner of Education shall be the chair and a voting member of the task force.

3. The appointees shall include seven community college presidents, one state university president, the president of an institution that is eligible to participate in the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program, the president of an institution that is licensed by the Commission for Independent Education and grants baccalaureate degrees, and one member at large. The community college presidents appointed to the task force may not include the presidents of the institutions named to participate in the State College Pilot Project. The community college presidents appointed to the task force must reflect the diversity of program offerings and service areas of the 28 community colleges and include representatives of community colleges that are authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees, community colleges that are not authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees, community colleges that have urban service areas, community colleges that have rural service areas, community colleges the service areas of which have populations of 500,000 or more, and community colleges the service areas of which have populations of fewer than 500,000.

(3) The task force shall:

(a) Recommend a program approval process for new baccalaureate degree programs that are designed to meet the employment needs of Florida, including approval as a baccalaureate-degree-granting community college and as a state college.

(b) Recommend a funding model that considers projected enrollment, adjustments for actual enrollment, program mix, and comparable support for similar programs across all institutions, including state colleges and community colleges authorized by the State Board of Education to award baccalaureate degrees pursuant to s. 1007.33. The funding model must ensure that the programs and services offered by institutions in the Florida College System in providing associate and baccalaureate degrees are delivered in a cost-effective manner that demonstrates substantial savings to the student and to the state over the cost of providing the degree at a state university.

(c) Identify the areas, both geographic and academic, in which an increased number of graduates who have baccalaureate degrees are necessary in order to meet regional and statewide workforce needs.

(d) Monitor implementation of the State College Pilot Project.

(e) Recommend priorities and criteria for baccalaureate programs that may be offered without specific approval by the State Board of Education.

(4) Any recommendation from the task force to the Legislature requires approval by at least three-fourths of the membership of the task force.

(5) The task force shall be staffed by existing employees of the Division of Community Colleges.

(6)(a) Community colleges, state universities, the Commission for Independent Education, and the Agency for Workforce Innovation shall provide information and assistance to the task force.

(b) Independent postsecondary educational institutions, representatives of the business community, and other stakeholders are encouraged to provide the task force with information to assist the task force in its deliberations.

(7) The task force shall submit a report and recommendations to the Governor, the State Board of Education, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by March 2, 2009. The report must include any comments from the task force regarding the final report resulting from the State College Pilot Project and any specific recommendations of the task force for legislative action during the 2009 Regular Session of the Legislature.

(8) The task force shall be dissolved effective June 30, 2010, prior to which time it shall issue its final report with recommended detailed criteria for implementing the Florida College System as a permanent part of the state system of higher education.

Section 5. Section 1004.875, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1004.875 State College Pilot Project.—

(1) The Legislature finds that it is in the best interest of the state to provide the residents of the state affordable access to baccalaureate degree

programs that are designed to meet regional and statewide employment needs.

(2)(a) Beginning with the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the State College Pilot Project is created, which shall be conducted by Chipola College, Daytona Beach College, Edison College, Indian River College, Miami Dade College, Okaloosa-Walton College, Polk College, Santa Fe College, and St. Petersburg College in collaboration with the Florida College System Task Force. The purpose of the pilot project is to recommend to the Legislature an approval process for the transition of baccalaureate-degree-granting community colleges to state colleges in order to meet the employment needs of Florida, criteria for the transition of institutions in the Florida College System to state colleges, and a funding model for the Florida College System.

(b) With the approval of the community college's board of trustees and continued compliance with the provisions of subsection (3), a community college identified in paragraph (a) as a participant in the State College Pilot Project may change the institution's name and use the designation "state college." An institution participating in the State College Pilot Project shall not use the designation "university."

(3) Each institution identified in subsection (2) as a participant in the pilot project shall:

(a) Maintain, as the institution's primary mission, responsibility for responding to community needs for postsecondary academic education and career degree education as prescribed in s. 1004.65(6).

(b) Maintain an open-door admissions policy for associate-level degree programs and workforce education programs.

(c)1. Require, as a condition of admission to upper-division programs, successful completion of the college-level communication and mathematics skills examination (CLAST), established pursuant to s. 1008.29, unless the student has been awarded an associate degree from a community college or a state university.

2. For purposes of a longitudinal analysis of the CLAST, and notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, administer the CLAST to each student admitted to an upper-division program unless the student has previously achieved the minimum scores that constitute successful completion of the examination as established pursuant to s. 1008.29(4). The institution shall report annually the test scores of each student tested pursuant to the provisions of this subparagraph and any exemption the student has been provided pursuant to s. 1008.29(9) to the Florida College System Task Force until its dissolution, to the State Board of Education once the task force is dissolved, and to the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability.

(d) Continue to provide outreach to underserved populations.

(e) Continue to provide remedial education.

(f) Comply with all provisions of the statewide articulation agreement that relate to 2-year and 4-year public degree-granting institutions as adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to s. 1007.23.

(g) Be prohibited from awarding graduate credit or graduate degrees.

(h) Be prohibited from participating in intercollegiate athletics beyond the 2-year level.

(i) Deliver the programs and services in providing associate and baccalaureate degrees in a cost-effective manner that demonstrates substantial savings to the student and to the state over the cost of providing the degree at a state university.

(4)(a) The institutions participating in the pilot project shall collaborate with the Florida College System Task Force to make recommendations to the State Board of Education, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on specific issues that should be addressed in the transition of a community college to a state college. Any recommendations of the institutions participating in the pilot project require approval by two-thirds of the participating institutions. At a minimum, the following areas should be addressed during the course of the pilot project:

1. The development of a program approval process to be followed by the State Board of Education when considering proposals for new baccalaureate degree programs that are designed to meet the employment needs of Florida. Proposals for new baccalaureate degree programs are not limited to proposals designed to meet regional workforce needs.

2. The formulation of criteria for the transition of an institution from a community college to a state college.

3. The development of a funding model for state colleges.

(b) A final report, including a status report on the transition of the institutions participating in the pilot project and recommendations on the issues outlined in paragraph (a), shall be submitted to the State Board of Education, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Florida College System Task Force by January 1, 2009.

Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.

Approved by the Governor May 28, 2008.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 28, 2008.