

CHAPTER 2021-85

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 847

An act relating to the Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network; amending ss. 257.02 and 295.22, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 1004.013, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the awareness of certain postsecondary education programs and initiatives; amending s. 1006.73, F.S.; deleting provisions relating to the Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative; providing responsibilities for the Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network; providing that the Board of Governors and the Department of Education will oversee a host entity chosen to deliver certain services; providing the services to be provided by the host entity; transferring responsibility for the statewide Internet-based catalog of distance learning courses to the host entity; providing requirements for such catalog; transferring responsibility for certain statewide online student advising services to the host entity; providing requirements for such services; requiring the host entity to submit a certain report by a specified date, annually; providing requirements for such report; requiring the Chancellors of the State University System and the Florida College System to provide a certain report; providing that specified entities have responsibility for the governance and administration of the provided services; requiring specified entities to issue a recommendation and report on expanding organizations who may access the provided services; repealing s. 1006.735, F.S., relating to the Complete Florida Plus Program; amending 1007.01, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending 1007.27, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made by the act; amending ss. 1009.23 and 1009.24, F.S.; revising a requirement to include a certain graphic on specified websites; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 257.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

257.02 State Library Council.—

(1) There shall be a State Library Council to advise and assist the division with planning, policy, and priorities related to the development of statewide information services. The council shall consist of nine members who shall be appointed by the Secretary of State. Of the nine members, three members must represent Florida public libraries, two members must represent the Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network Services Cooperative, one member must represent a multitype library cooperative, one member must represent a school library media center, one member must represent the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida, and one member must represent a Florida library professional association. Members shall be appointed for 4-year terms. A vacancy on the council shall be filled

for the period of the unexpired term. A person may not be appointed to serve more than two consecutive terms as a member of the council. The secretary may remove from office any council member for malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect of duty, incompetence, permanent inability to perform official duties, or pleading guilty or nolo contendere to, or being found guilty of, a felony.

Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 295.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

295.22 Veterans Employment and Training Services Program.—

(3) ADMINISTRATION.—Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., shall administer the Veterans Employment and Training Services Program and perform all of the following functions:

(b) Assist veterans who reside in or relocate to this state and who are seeking employment. The corporation shall offer skills assessments to veterans and assist them in establishing employment goals and applying for and achieving gainful employment.

1. Assessment may include skill match information, skill gap analysis, resume creation, translation of military skills into civilian workforce skills, and translation of military achievements and experience into generally understood civilian workforce skills.

2. Assistance may include providing the veteran with information on current workforce demand by industry or geographic region, creating employment goals, and aiding or teaching general knowledge related to completing applications. The corporation may provide information related to industry certifications approved by the Department of Education under s. 1008.44 as well as information related to earning academic college credit at public postsecondary educational institutions for college-level training and education acquired in the military under s. 1004.096.

3. The corporation shall encourage veterans to register with the state's job bank system and may refer veterans to local one-stop career centers for further services. The corporation shall provide each veteran with information about state workforce programs and shall consolidate information about all available resources on one website that, if possible, includes a hyperlink to each resource's website and contact information, if available. ~~If appropriate, a veteran shall be encouraged to participate in the Complete Florida Degree Program established under s. 1006.735.~~

4. Assessment and assistance may be in person or by electronic means, as determined by the corporation to be most efficient and best meet the needs of veterans.

Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 1004.013, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1004.013 SAIL to 60 Initiative.—

(2) The State Board of Education and the Board of Governors shall work collaboratively to, at a minimum:

(a) Increase the awareness and use of:

1. The student advising system established under s. 1006.73 s. 1006.735(4)(b).

~~2. The Complete Florida Degree Initiative established under s. 1006.735(2) that facilitates degree completion for the state’s adult learners. The Chancellor of the State University System and the Chancellor of the Florida College System shall consult with the Complete Florida Degree Initiative to identify barriers to program expansion and develop recommendations to increase the number of participating institutions and students served by the program. The recommendations must consider, at a minimum, methods for increasing outreach efforts to help students complete the “last mile” by providing financial assistance to students who are within 12 credit hours of completing their first associate or baccalaureate degree, but have separated from their institution of enrollment for more than one semester. Recommendations must be submitted to the Board of Governors, the State Board of Education, and the Governor no later than October 1, 2019.~~

~~2.3. Summer bridge programs at state universities and Florida College System institutions that help students transition to postsecondary education.~~

Section 4. Section 1006.73, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

(Substantial rewording of section. See s. 1006.73, F.S., for present text.)

1006.73 Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network.—

(1) PURPOSE.—The Board of Governors and the Department of Education will jointly oversee the host entity in accordance with subsection (5) that will deliver the following services to public postsecondary education institutions in this state, which, for the purposes of this section, means all Florida College System and State University System institutions:

(a) Provide information regarding and access to distance learning courses and degree programs offered by public postsecondary education institutions within the state.

(b) Coordinate with the Florida College System and the State University System to identify and provide online academic support services and resources when the multi-institutional provision of such services and resources is more cost effective or operationally effective.

(c) Administer a single library automation system and associated resources and services that all public postsecondary institutions shall use

to support learning, teaching, and research needs and develop automated library management tools that shall include, but are not limited to, the following services and functions:

1. A shared Internet-based catalog and discovery tool that allows a user to search and, if authorized, access the aggregate library holdings of the state's public postsecondary education institutions. The catalog and discovery tool shall allow a user to search the library holdings of one institution, selected institutions, or all institutions and, to the extent feasible, shall include an interlibrary loan function that ensures an authorized user can access the required library holding.

2. An Internet-based searchable collection of electronic resources which shall include, but not be limited to, full-text journals, articles, databases, and electronic books licensed pursuant to paragraph (d).

3. An integrated library management system and its associated services that all public postsecondary education institution academic libraries shall use for purposes of acquiring, cataloging, circulating, and tracking library material.

4. A statewide searchable database that includes an inventory of digital archives and collections held by public postsecondary education institutions.

(d) In collaboration with library staff from Florida College System institutions and state universities, coordinate the negotiation of statewide licensing of electronic library resources and preferred pricing agreements, issue purchase orders, and enter into contracts for the acquisition of library support services, electronic resources, and other goods and services necessary to carry out its duties under this section.

(e) Promote and provide recommendations concerning the use and distribution of low cost, no cost, or open-access textbooks and education resources and innovative pricing techniques that comply with all applicable laws, in regards to copyrighted material and statewide accessibility measures, as a method for reducing costs.

(f) Provide appropriate help desk support, training, and consultation services to institutions and students.

(2) STATEWIDE INTERNET-BASED CATALOG OF DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES.—There is established a statewide Internet-based catalog of distance learning courses, degree programs, and resources offered by public postsecondary education institutions which is intended to assist in the coordination and collaboration of articulation and access pursuant to parts II and III of chapter 1007. The host entity is responsible for developing and disseminating operational procedures and technical guidelines for the catalog, to be followed by all participating institutions. Operating procedures and technical guidelines will address the following:

(a) Specific information concerning the distance learning course or degree program, including, but not limited to, course number, classification of instructional programs number, and information on the availability of the course or degree program; any prerequisite course or technology competency or skill; the availability of academic support services and financial aid resources; and course costs, fees, and payment policies.

(b) Define and describe the catalog's search and retrieval options that, at a minimum, will allow users to search by academic term or course start date; institution, multiple institutions, or all institutions; and course or program delivery methods, course type, course availability, subject or discipline, and course number or classification of instructional programs number.

(c) An Internet-based analytic tool that allows for the collection and analysis of data as to usage of resources accessed or interaction with constituent institutions whose courses and programs are listed in the catalog.

(d) Frequent review and updates to institution catalogs to ensure that distance learning courses and degree programs comply with operational procedures.

(3) STATEWIDE ONLINE STUDENT ADVISING SERVICES AND SUPPORT.—The following online services and support shall be made available on a statewide basis:

(a) A streamlined online admissions application process, which shall be used by all public postsecondary institutions, for undergraduate transient students currently enrolled and pursuing a degree at a public postsecondary education institution who enroll in a course offered by a public postsecondary education institution that is not the student's degree-granting institution, which shall:

1. Use the transient student admissions application available through the statewide computer-assisted student advising system established pursuant to paragraph (b). This admissions application is the only application required for enrollment of a transient student as described in this paragraph.

2. Implement the financial aid procedures required by the transient student admissions application process.

3. Transfer credit awarded by the institution offering the course to the transient student's degree-granting institution.

4. Provide an interface between the institutional advising system and the statewide computer-assisted student advising system established pursuant to paragraph (b) in order to electronically send, receive, and process the transient student admissions application.

(b) A statewide computer-assisted student advising system which shall support the process of advising, registering, and capturing student progression toward a degree and career and which shall include a degree audit and an articulation component. Florida College System institutions and state universities shall interface institutional advising systems with the statewide computer-assisted student advising system. At a minimum, the statewide computer-assisted student advising system shall:

1. Allow a student to access the system at any time.
2. Allow a student to search public postsecondary education institutions and identify course options that will meet the requirements of a selected path toward a degree.
3. Audit transcripts of students enrolled in a public postsecondary education institution to assess current academic standing, the requirements for a student to transfer to another institution, and all requirements necessary for graduation.
4. Serve as the official statewide repository for the common prerequisite manual, admissions information for transferring programs, foreign language requirements, residency requirements, and statewide articulation agreements.
5. Provide information relating to career descriptions and corresponding educational requirements, admissions requirements, and available sources of student financial assistance.
6. Provide the admissions application for transient students pursuant to paragraph (a) which must include the electronic transfer and receipt of information and records for:
 - a. Admissions and readmissions.
 - b. Financial aid.
 - c. Transfer of credit awarded by the institution offering the course to the transient student's degree-granting institution using the Florida Automated System for Transferring Educational Records (the "FASTER System").

(c) A method for identifying and evaluating new technologies and instructional methods for improving distance learning instruction and development for faculty, student learning outcomes, student access, the efficient delivery of student support services, and the overall quality of postsecondary distance learning courses and degree programs.

(d) Negotiation of statewide licensing resources and preferred pricing agreements, issuing purchase orders, and entering into contracts for the acquisition of distance learning resources, student and support services, electronic resources, and other goods and services necessary to carry out duties under this section.

(4) REPORTING.—Beginning December 31, 2021, and each year thereafter, the host entity shall submit a report to the Chancellors of the State University System and the Florida College System regarding the implementation and operation of all components described in this section, including, but not limited to, usage information collected under paragraph (2)(c), information and associated costs relating to the services and functions of the program, and the implementation and operation of the automated library services. The Chancellors will provide an annual report on the performance of the host entity in delivering the services and any recommendations for changes needed to this section to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Board of Governors, and the State Board of Education.

(5) GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION.—The Office of the Board of Governors and the Department of Education shall have joint responsibility for determining the host entity for the services described in this section and shall share in the receipt and administration of an associated appropriation as described in the General Appropriations Act. The Chancellors of the Florida College System and the Board of Governors shall provide oversight for successful delivery by the host entity of the services described in this section.

(6) RECOMMENDATION ON OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO BE INCLUDED WITHIN THE FLORIDA POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC LIBRARY NETWORK.—By June 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Education and the Chancellor of the Board of Governors shall provide a joint recommendation for a process by which school district career centers operated under s. 1001.44 and charter technical career centers under s. 1002.34 would access appropriate postsecondary distance learning, student support services and library assets described in this section. The recommendation must include an analysis of the resources necessary to expand access and assets to centers and their students.

Section 5. Section 1006.735, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 6. Paragraph (h) of subsection (3) of section 1007.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1007.01 Articulation; legislative intent; purpose; role of the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors; Articulation Coordinating Committee.—

(3) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Chancellor of the State University System, shall establish the Articulation Coordinating Committee, which shall make recommendations related to statewide articulation policies and issues regarding access, quality, and reporting of data maintained by the K-20 data warehouse, established pursuant to ss. 1001.10 and 1008.31, to the Higher Education Coordination Council, the State Board of Education, and the Board of Governors. The committee shall consist of two members each representing the State University System, the

Florida College System, public career and technical education, K-12 education, and nonpublic postsecondary education and one member representing students. The chair shall be elected from the membership. The Office of K-20 Articulation shall provide administrative support for the committee. The committee shall:

(h) Recommend roles and responsibilities of public education entities in interfacing with the single, statewide computer-assisted student advising system established pursuant to s. 1006.73 ~~s. 1006.735~~.

Section 7. Subsection (1) of section 1007.27, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1007.27 Articulated acceleration mechanisms.—

(1) It is the intent of the Legislature that a variety of articulated acceleration mechanisms be available for secondary and postsecondary students attending public educational institutions. It is intended that articulated acceleration serve to shorten the time necessary for a student to complete the requirements associated with the conference of a high school diploma and a postsecondary degree, broaden the scope of curricular options available to students, or increase the depth of study available for a particular subject. Articulated acceleration mechanisms shall include, but are not limited to, dual enrollment and early admission as provided for in s. 1007.271, advanced placement, credit by examination, the International Baccalaureate Program, and the Advanced International Certificate of Education Program. Credit earned through the Florida Virtual School shall provide additional opportunities for early graduation and acceleration. Students of Florida public secondary schools enrolled pursuant to this subsection shall be deemed authorized users of the state-funded electronic library resources that are licensed for Florida College System institutions and state universities by the Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network Services Cooperative. Verification of eligibility shall be in accordance with rules established by the State Board of Education and regulations established by the Board of Governors and processes implemented by Florida College System institutions and state universities.

Section 8. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (16) and subsection (17) of section 1009.23, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1009.23 Florida College System institution student fees.—

(16)(a) Each Florida College System institution may assess a student who enrolls in a course listed in the distance learning catalog, established pursuant to s. 1006.73 ~~s. 1006.735~~, a per-credit-hour distance learning course user fee. For purposes of assessing this fee, a distance learning course is a course in which at least 80 percent of the direct instruction of the course is delivered using some form of technology when the student and instructor are separated by time or space, or both.

(c) If an institution assesses the distance learning fee, the institution must provide a link to the catalog within the advising and distance learning sections of the institution’s website, ~~using a graphic and description provided by the Complete Florida Plus Program, to inform students of the catalog.~~

(17) Each Florida College System institution that accepts transient students, pursuant to s. 1006.73 ~~s. 1006.735~~, may establish a transient student fee not to exceed \$5 per course for processing the transient student admissions application.

Section 9. Paragraph (t) of subsection (14) and paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (17) of section 1009.24, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1009.24 State university student fees.—

(14) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (15), each university board of trustees is authorized to establish the following fees:

(t) A transient student fee that may not exceed \$5 per course for accepting a transient student and processing the transient student admissions application pursuant to s. 1006.73 ~~s. 1006.735~~.

With the exception of housing rental rates and except as otherwise provided, fees assessed pursuant to paragraphs (h)-(s) shall be based on reasonable costs of services. The Board of Governors shall adopt regulations and timetables necessary to implement the fees and fines authorized under this subsection. The fees assessed under this subsection may be used for debt only as authorized under s. 1010.62.

(17)(a) A state university may assess a student who enrolls in a course listed in the distance learning catalog, established pursuant to s. 1006.73 ~~s. 1006.735~~, a per-credit-hour distance learning course fee. For purposes of assessing this fee, a distance learning course is a course in which at least 80 percent of the direct instruction of the course is delivered using some form of technology when the student and instructor are separated by time or space, or both.

(c) If an institution assesses the distance learning fee, the institution must provide a link to the catalog within the advising and distance learning sections of the institution’s website, ~~using a graphic and description provided by the Complete Florida Plus Program, informing students of the catalog.~~

Section 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

Approved by the Governor June 11, 2021.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 11, 2021.