

CHAPTER 2023-14

Senate Bill No. 44

An act relating to the Florida Statutes; amending ss. 381.915, 402.7305, 1001.60, 1003.491, 1007.33, and 1008.45, F.S., to conform to section 7 of chapter 2022-70, Laws of Florida, which directs the Division of Law Revision to prepare a reviser's bill to replace references to the phrases "the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools," "the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools," and "the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges," wherever they occur in the Florida Statutes, with the phrase "an accrediting agency or association recognized by the database created and maintained by the United States Department of Education"; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) and paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section 381.915, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

381.915 Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program.—

(3) On or before September 15 of each year, the department shall calculate an allocation fraction to be used for distributing funds to participating cancer centers. On or before the final business day of each quarter of the state fiscal year, the department shall distribute to each participating cancer center one-fourth of that cancer center's annual allocation calculated under subsection (6). The allocation fraction for each participating cancer center is based on the cancer center's tier-designated weight under subsection (4) multiplied by each of the following allocation factors: number of reportable cases, peer-review costs, and biomedical education and training. As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Biomedical education and training" means instruction that is offered to a student who is enrolled in a biomedical research program at an affiliated university as a medical student or a student in a master's or doctoral degree program, or who is a resident physician trainee or postdoctoral trainee in such program. An affiliated university biomedical research program must be accredited or approved by a nationally recognized agency and offered through an institution accredited by an accrediting agency or association recognized by the database created and maintained by the United States Department of Education ~~the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools~~. Full-time equivalency for trainees shall be prorated for training received in oncologic sciences and oncologic medicine.

(4) Tier designations and corresponding weights within the Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program are as follows:

(c) Tier 3: Florida-based cancer centers seeking designation as either a NCI-designated cancer center or NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center, which shall be weighted at 1.0.

1. A cancer center shall meet the following minimum criteria to be considered eligible for Tier 3 designation in any given fiscal year:

a. Conducting cancer-related basic scientific research and cancer-related population scientific research;

b. Offering and providing the full range of diagnostic and treatment services on site, as determined by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons;

c. Hosting or conducting cancer-related interventional clinical trials that are registered with the NCI's Clinical Trials Reporting Program;

d. Offering degree-granting programs or affiliating with universities through degree-granting programs accredited or approved by a nationally recognized agency and offered through the center or through the center in conjunction with another institution accredited by an accrediting agency or association recognized by the database created and maintained by the United States Department of Education ~~the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;~~

e. Providing training to clinical trainees, medical trainees accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association, and postdoctoral fellows recently awarded a doctorate degree; and

f. Having more than \$5 million in annual direct costs associated with their total NCI peer-reviewed grant funding.

2. The General Appropriations Act or accompanying legislation may limit the number of cancer centers which shall receive Tier 3 designations or provide additional criteria for such designation.

3. A cancer center's participation in Tier 3 may not extend beyond June 30, 2024.

4. A cancer center that qualifies as a designated Tier 3 center under the criteria provided in subparagraph 1. by July 1, 2014, is authorized to pursue NCI designation as a cancer center or a comprehensive cancer center until June 30, 2024.

Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 402.7305, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

402.7305 Department of Children and Families; procurement of contractual services; contract management.—

(2) PROCUREMENT OF COMMODITIES AND CONTRACTUAL SERVICES.—

(a) Notwithstanding s. 287.057(3)(e)12., if the department intends to contract with a public postsecondary institution to provide a service, the department must allow all public postsecondary institutions in this state that are accredited by an accrediting agency or association recognized by the database created and maintained by the United States Department of Education ~~the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools~~ to bid on the contract. Thereafter, notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a public postsecondary institution intends to subcontract for any service awarded in the contract, the subcontracted service must be procured by competitive procedures.

Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 1001.60, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.60 Florida College System.—

(2) FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM.—There shall be a single Florida College System comprised of the Florida College System institutions identified in s. 1000.21(3). A Florida College System institution may not offer graduate degree programs.

(b)1. With the approval of its district board of trustees, a Florida College System institution may change the institution's name set forth in s. 1000.21(3) and use the designation "college" or "state college" if it has been authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees pursuant to s. 1007.33 and has been accredited as a baccalaureate-degree-granting institution by an accrediting agency or association recognized by the database created and maintained by the United States Department of Education ~~the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools~~.

2. With the approval of its district board of trustees, a Florida College System institution that does not meet the criteria in subparagraph 1. may request approval from the State Board of Education to change the institution's name set forth in s. 1000.21(3) and use the designation "college." The State Board of Education may approve the request if the Florida College System institution enters into an agreement with the State Board of Education to do the following:

a. Maintain as its primary mission responsibility for responding to community needs for postsecondary academic education and career degree education as prescribed in s. 1004.65(5).

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.

Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 1003.491, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.491 Florida Career and Professional Education Act.—The Florida Career and Professional Education Act is created to provide a statewide planning partnership between the business and education communities in order to attract, expand, and retain targeted, high-value industry and to sustain a strong, knowledge-based economy.

(4) The State Board of Education shall establish a process for the continual and uninterrupted review of newly proposed core secondary courses and existing courses requested to be considered as core courses to ensure that sufficient rigor and relevance is provided for workforce skills and postsecondary education and aligned to state curriculum standards.

(a) The review of newly proposed core secondary courses shall be the responsibility of a curriculum review committee whose membership is approved by CareerSource Florida, Inc. The membership of the committee shall include:

1. Three certified high school counselors recommended by the Florida Association of Student Services Administrators.

2. Three assistant superintendents for curriculum and instruction, recommended by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents, who serve in districts that operate successful career and professional academies pursuant to s. 1003.492 or a successful series of courses that lead to industry certification. Committee members in this category shall employ the expertise of appropriate subject area specialists in the review of proposed courses.

3. Three workforce representatives recommended by the Department of Economic Opportunity.

4. Three admissions directors of postsecondary institutions accredited by an accrediting agency or association recognized by the database created and maintained by the United States Department of Education ~~the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools~~, representing both public and private institutions.

5. The Commissioner of Education, or his or her designee, who is responsible for K-12 curriculum and instruction and shall employ the expertise of appropriate subject area specialists in the review of proposed courses.

Section 5. Paragraphs (f), (g), and (h) of subsection (5) of section 1007.33, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1007.33 Site-determined baccalaureate degree access.—

(5) The approval process for baccalaureate degree programs shall require:

(f) The Florida College System institution to obtain from an accrediting agency or association recognized by the database created and maintained by the United States Department of Education ~~the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools~~ accreditation as a baccalaureate-degree-granting institution if approved by the State Board of Education to offer its first baccalaureate degree program.

(g) The Florida College System institution to notify an accrediting agency or association recognized by the database created and maintained by the United States Department of Education ~~the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools~~ of subsequent degree programs that are approved by the State Board of Education and to comply with the association's required substantive change protocols for accreditation purposes.

(h) The Florida College System institution to annually, and upon request of the State Board of Education, the Commissioner of Education, the Chancellor of the Florida College System, or the Legislature, report its status using the following performance and compliance indicators:

1. Obtaining and maintaining appropriate Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation from an accrediting agency or association recognized by the database created and maintained by the United States Department of Education;

2. Maintaining qualified faculty and institutional resources;

3. Maintaining enrollment in previously approved programs;

4. Managing fiscal resources appropriately;

5. Complying with the primary mission and responsibility requirements in subsections (2) and (3); and

6. Other indicators of success, including program completions, placements, and surveys of graduates and employers.

The State Board of Education, upon review of the performance and compliance indicators, may require a Florida College System institution's board of trustees to modify or terminate a baccalaureate degree program authorized under this section.

Section 6. Paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of section 1008.45, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.45 Florida College System institution accountability process.—

(1) It is the intent of the Legislature that a management and accountability process be implemented which provides for the systematic, ongoing improvement and assessment of the improvement of the quality and efficiency of the Florida College System institutions. Accordingly, the State Board of Education and the Florida College System institution boards of trustees shall develop and implement an accountability plan to improve and evaluate the instructional and administrative efficiency and effectiveness of the Florida College System. This plan shall be designed in consultation with staff of the Governor and the Legislature and must address the following issues:

(g) Institutional assessment efforts related to the requirements of an accrediting agency or association recognized by the database created and maintained by the United States Department of Education s. III in the Criteria for Accreditation of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Reviser's note.—Amended pursuant to the directive of the Legislature in s. 7, ch. 2022-70, Laws of Florida, to the Division of Law Revision to prepare a reviser's bill for the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature to replace references to the phrases "the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools," "the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools," and "the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges," wherever they occur in the Florida Statutes, with the phrase "an accrediting agency or association recognized by the database created and maintained by the United States Department of Education."

Section 7. This act shall take effect on the 60th day after adjournment sine die of the session of the Legislature in which enacted.

Approved by the Governor March 24, 2023.

Filed in Office Secretary of State March 24, 2023.