

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to postsecondary education; amending s.
 3 1000.21, F.S.; redesignating the names of certain
 4 community colleges as colleges; creating s. 1001.60, F.S.,
 5 relating to the Florida College System; providing system
 6 purposes; defining the system; providing limitations;
 7 authorizing a name change under certain conditions;
 8 providing for local boards of trustees; providing
 9 membership for the boards; creating s. 1004.87, F.S.;
 10 creating the Florida College System Task Force for the
 11 purpose of developing recommendations for the migration of
 12 community colleges to baccalaureate-degree-granting
 13 colleges; providing for membership and appointments;
 14 providing duties of the task force and reporting
 15 requirements; providing for the task force to be dissolved
 16 unless extended by general law; creating s. 1004.875,
 17 F.S.; creating the State College Pilot Project;
 18 designating certain institutions to participate in the
 19 project; providing duties and reporting requirements for
 20 the institutions; providing an effective date.

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

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 24 Section 1. Paragraphs (b), (e), and (k) of subsection (3)
 25 of section 1000.21, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 26 1000.21 Systemwide definitions.--As used in the Florida K-
 27 20 Education Code:

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

- 31 (b) Broward ~~Community~~ College.
- 32 (e) Daytona Beach ~~Community~~ College.
- 33 (k) Indian River ~~Community~~ College.

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

36 1001.60 Florida College System.--

37 (1) PURPOSES.--In order to maximize open access for
 38 students, respond to community needs for postsecondary academic
 39 education and career degree education, and provide associate and
 40 baccalaureate degrees that will best meet the state's employment
 41 needs, the Legislature establishes a system of governance for
 42 the Florida College System.

43 (2) FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM.--There shall be a single
 44 Florida College System comprised of the public postsecondary
 45 educational institutions identified in s. 1000.21 (3) that grant
 46 2-year and 4-year academic degrees as provided by law. An
 47 institution within the Florida College System may not offer
 48 graduate degree programs.

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

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

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

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

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

75 c. Continue to provide outreach to underserved
 76 populations.

77 d. Continue to provide remedial education.

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

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

86 Section 3. Section 1004.87, Florida Statutes, is created
 87 to read:

88 1004.87 Florida College System Task Force.--

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

95 (2) (a) All members of the task force must be appointed on
 96 or before August 30, 2008, and the task force shall hold its
 97 first meeting on or before September 15, 2008.

98 (b) The task force shall be comprised of 11 members
 99 appointed by the Commissioner of Education. The appointees shall
 100 include eight community college presidents, one state university
 101 president, the president of an institution that is eligible to
 102 participate in the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access
 103 Grant Program, and one member at large. The community college
 104 presidents appointed to the task force may not include the
 105 presidents of the institutions named to participate in the State
 106 College Pilot Project. The community college presidents
 107 appointed to the Task Force must reflect the diversity of
 108 program offerings and service areas of the 28 community colleges

109 and include representatives of community colleges that are
110 authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees, community colleges
111 that are not authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees,
112 community colleges that have urban service areas, community
113 colleges that have rural service areas, community colleges the
114 service areas of which have populations of 500,000 or more, and
115 community colleges the service areas of which have populations
116 of fewer than 500,000. The Commissioner of Education shall be a
117 voting member of the task force and the chair of the task force.

118 (3) The task force shall:

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

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

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

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

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

144 (4) Any recommendation from the Task Force to the
 145 Legislature requires approval by two-thirds of the membership
 146 of the Task Force.

147 (5) The task force shall exist within the Division of
 148 Community Colleges of the Department of Education and shall be
 149 staffed by existing employees of that office.

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

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

158 (7) The task force shall submit a report and
 159 recommendations to the Governor, the State Board of Education,
 160 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
 161 Representatives by March 2, 2009. The report must include any

162 comments from the task force regarding the final report
 163 resulting from the State College Pilot Project and any specific
 164 recommendations of the task force for legislative action during
 165 the 2009 Regular Session of the Legislature.

166 (7) The task force shall be dissolved effective June 30,
 167 2010, prior to which time it shall issue its final report with
 168 recommended detailed criteria for establishing the state college
 169 system as a permanent part of the state system of higher
 170 education.

171 Section 4. Section 1004.875, Florida Statutes, is created
 172 to read:

173 1004.875 State College Pilot Project.—

174 (1) The Legislature finds it is in the best interest of
 175 the state to provide the residents of the state affordable
 176 access to baccalaureate degree programs that are designed to
 177 meet regional and statewide employment needs.

178 (2)(a) Beginning with the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the State
 179 College Pilot Project is created which shall be conducted as a
 180 pilot project by St. Petersburg College, Okaloosa-Walton
 181 College, and Indian River College in collaboration with the
 182 Florida College System Task Force. The purpose of the project is
 183 to recommend to the Legislature an approval process for the
 184 transition of baccalaureate-degree-granting community colleges
 185 to state colleges in order to meet the employment needs of
 186 Florida, criteria for the migration of institutions in the
 187 Florida College System to state colleges, and a funding model
 188 for the Florida College System.

189 (b) With the approval of the community college's board of
 190 trustees and continued compliance with the provisions of
 191 subsection (3), a community college identified in paragraph (a)
 192 as a participant in the State College Pilot Project may change
 193 the institution's name and use the designation "state college."

194 (3) The institutions participating in the pilot project
 195 shall:

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

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

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

208 (d) Continue to provide outreach to underserved
 209 populations.

210 (e) Continue to provide remedial education.

211 (f) Comply with all provisions of the statewide
 212 articulation agreement which relate to 2-year and 4-year public
 213 degree-granting institutions as adopted by the State Board of
 214 Education pursuant to s. 1007.23, Florida Statutes.

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

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

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

224 (4) (a) The institutions participating in the pilot project
225 shall collaborate with the Florida College System Task Force to
226 make recommendations to the State Board of Education and the
227 Legislature on specific issues that should be addressed in the
228 transition of a community college to a state college. Any
229 recommendations of the institutions participating in the pilot
230 project require approval by two-thirds of the participating
231 institutions. At a minimum, the following areas should be
232 addressed during the course of the pilot project:

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

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

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

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

248 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.