A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to postsecondary education; amending 3 s. 1001.02, F.S.; providing duties of the State Board 4 of Education relating to the 5-year plan for 5 postsecondary enrollment and the strategic plan that 6 specifies goals and objectives for public schools and 7 Florida College System institutions; providing powers 8 and duties of the state board relating to the 9 evaluation of Florida College System presidents, 10 institution service delivery areas, and credit hour 11 requirements; amending s. 1001.03, F.S.; requiring the state board to adopt a unified state plan for STEM and 12 STEM-related programs; amending s. 1001.64, F.S.; 13 14 conforming provisions; amending s. 1001.706, F.S.; 15 providing requirements for the strategic plan and the 16 accountability plan specifying goals and objectives for the State University System and its institutions 17 developed by the Board of Governors; authorizing the 18 Board of Governors to waive or modify certain fee 19 requirements; providing requirements relating to state 20 21 university presidential selection and reappointment; 22 authorizing the Board of Governors to revoke or modify 23 certain powers or duties; amending s. 1005.22, F.S.; 24 requiring the Commission for Independent Education to 25 collect certain student data; amending s. 1007.25, 26 F.S.; revising provisions relating to general 27 education course and associate and baccalaureate 28 degree requirements; amending s. 1007.33, F.S.;

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requiring a Florida College System institution offering a baccalaureate degree program to report its status using specified performance and compliance standards; deleting provisions relating to exemption from state board approval of certain baccalaureate degree programs; amending s. 1008.46, F.S.; conforming provisions; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (v) of subsection (2), paragraph (a) of subsection (3), paragraphs (b) and (d) of subsection (4), and paragraph (d) of subsection (6) of section 1001.02, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1001.02 General powers of State Board of Education.-

- (2) The State Board of Education has the following duties:
- (v) To develop, in conjunction with the Board of Governors, and periodically review for adjustment, a coordinated 5-year plan for postsecondary enrollment, identifying enrollment and graduation expectations by baccalaureate degree program, and annually submit the plan to the Legislature as part of its legislative budget request.
- (3)(a) The State Board of Education shall adopt a strategic plan that specifies goals and objectives for the state's public schools and Florida College System institutions. The plan shall be formulated in conjunction with plans of the Board of Governors in order to provide for the roles of the universities and Florida College System institutions to be

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coordinated to best meet state needs and reflect cost-effective use of state resources. The strategic plan must clarify the mission statements of each Florida College System institution and the system as a whole and identify degree programs, including baccalaureate degree programs, to be offered at each Florida College System institution in accordance with the objectives provided in this subsection and the coordinated 5year plan pursuant to paragraph (2) (v). The strategic plan must cover a period of 5 years, with modification of the program lists after 2 years. Development of each 5-year plan must be coordinated with and initiated after completion of the master plan. The strategic plans must specifically include programs and procedures for responding to the educational needs of teachers and students in the public schools of this state and consider reports and recommendations of the Higher Education Coordinating Council pursuant to s. 1004.015 and the Articulation Coordinating Committee pursuant to s. 1007.01. The state board shall submit a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives upon modification of the plan and as part of its legislative budget request.

- (4) The State Board of Education shall:
- (b) Specify, by rule, procedures to be used by the Florida College System institution boards of trustees in the annual evaluations of presidents and review the evaluations of presidents by the boards of trustees, including the extent to which presidents serve both institutional and system goals. The state board may require boards of trustees to consider recommendations of the Chancellor of the Florida College System

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when evaluating the performance of the president.

- (d) Establish criteria for making recommendations for modifying district boundary lines for Florida College System institutions, including criteria for service delivery areas of institutions designated as state colleges.
- (6) The State Board of Education shall prescribe minimum standards, definitions, and guidelines for Florida College System institutions that will ensure the quality of education, coordination among the Florida College System institutions and state universities, and efficient progress toward accomplishing the Florida College System institution mission. At a minimum, these rules must address:
- (d) Provisions for curriculum development, graduation requirements, college calendars, and program service areas. These provisions must include rules that:
- 1. Provide for the award of an associate in arts degree to a student who successfully completes 60 semester credit hours at the Florida College System institution.
- 2. Require all of the credits accepted for the associate in arts degree to be in the statewide course numbering system as credits toward a baccalaureate degree offered by a state university or a Florida College System institution.
- 3. Require no more than 30 36 semester credit hours in general education courses in the subject areas of communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences.

The rules should encourage Florida College System institutions to enter into agreements with state universities that allow

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Florida College System institution students to complete upperdivision-level courses at a Florida College System institution. An agreement may provide for concurrent enrollment at the Florida College System institution and the state university and may authorize the Florida College System institution to offer an upper-division-level course or distance learning.

Section 2. Subsection (16) is added to section 1001.03, Florida Statutes, to read:

1001.03 Specific powers of State Board of Education.-

- (16) UNIFIED PLAN FOR STEM.—The State Board of Education shall adopt a definition of STEM and STEM—related programs. The state board shall also, in consultation with the Board of Governors and the Department of Economic Opportunity, adopt a unified state plan to improve K-20 education and prepare students for high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand employment in STEM and STEM—related fields. The unified plan must advise school districts, Florida College System institutions, and state universities to inform, advise, and recruit students into STEM and STEM—related programs and employment opportunities.
- Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (8) of section 1001.64, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 1001.64 Florida College System institution boards of trustees; powers and duties.—
- (8) Each board of trustees has authority for policies related to students, enrollment of students, student records, student activities, financial assistance, and other student services.
  - (d) Boards of trustees shall identify their general

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education core curricula, which shall include courses required by the State Board of Education, pursuant to the provisions of s. 1007.25(6).

Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4), subsection (5), paragraph (a) of subsection (6), and subsections (9) and (10) of section 1001.706, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (11) is added to that section, to read:

1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.-

- (4) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO FINANCE.-
- (c) The Board of Governors, or the board's designee, shall establish tuition and fees pursuant to ss. 1009.24 and 1009.26, unless otherwise provided in law.
  - (5) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO ACCOUNTABILITY.-
- (a) The Legislature intends that the Board of Governors shall align the missions of each constituent university with the academic success of its students; the national reputation of its faculty and its academic and research programs; the quantity of externally generated research, patents, and licenses; and the strategic and accountability plans required in paragraphs (b) and (c). The mission alignment and strategic plan shall consider peer institutions at the constituent universities. The mission alignment and strategic plan shall acknowledge that universities that have a national and international impact have the greatest capacity to promote the state's economic development through: new discoveries, patents, licenses, and technologies that generate state businesses of global importance; research achievements through external grants and contracts that are comparable to nationally recognized and ranked universities; the

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creation of a resource rich academic environment that attracts high-technology business and venture capital to the state; and this generation's finest minds focusing on solving the state's economic, social, environmental, and legal problems in the areas of life sciences, water, sustainability, energy, and health care. A nationally recognized and ranked university that has a global perspective and impact shall be afforded the opportunity to enable and protect the university's competitiveness on the global stage in fair competition with other institutions of other states in the highest Carnegie Classification.

- (b) The Board of Governors shall develop a strategic plan specifying goals and objectives for the State University System and each constituent university, including each university's contribution to overall system goals and objectives. The strategic plan must:
- 1. Include performance metrics and standards common for all institutions and metrics and standards unique to institutions depending on institutional core missions, including, but not limited to, student admission requirements, graduation, retention, employment, continuing education, licensure passage, excess hours, student loan burden and default rates, faculty awards, state and federal research funding, patents, licenses and royalties, intellectual property, startup companies, annual giving, endowments, and well-known, highly respected national rankings for institutional and program achievements.
- 2. Consider reports and recommendations of the Higher
  Education Coordinating Council pursuant to s. 1004.015 and the

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Articulation Coordinating Committee pursuant to s. 1007.01.

- 3. Include student enrollment and performance data delineated by traditional, online, or distance learning instruction.
- (c) The Board of Governors shall develop an accountability plan for the State University System and each constituent university. The accountability plan must address institutional and system achievement of goals and objectives specified in the strategic plan adopted pursuant to paragraph (b) and must be submitted as part of its legislative budget request.
- (d) The Board of Governors shall maintain an effective information system to provide accurate, timely, and cost-effective information about each university. The board shall continue to collect and maintain, at a minimum, management information as such information existed on June 30, 2002.
- (e) If the Board of Governors of the State University System determines that a state university board of trustees is unwilling or unable to address substantiated allegations made by any person relating to waste, fraud, or financial mismanagement within the state university, the Office of the Inspector General shall investigate the allegations.
- (f) The Board of Governors may consider waiving its regulations and waive or modify tuition differential use requirements under s. 1009.24(16)(a). If not currently authorized, the Board of Governors may request from the Legislature waiver or modification of specific statutory requirements, including percentages and dollar amount limitations in s. 1009.24, in order to reduce barriers and

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support attainment of goals identified in institutional plans as necessary for advancing system and unique institutional priorities. Regulatory or statutory flexibilities authorized or sought by the Board of Governors pursuant to this paragraph must be disclosed in the accountability plan prepared and submitted pursuant to paragraph (c).

- (6) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO PERSONNEL.-
- (a) The Board of Governors, or the board's designee, shall establish the personnel program for all employees of a state university. The Board of Governors shall confirm the presidential selection and reappointment by a university board of trustees as a means of acknowledging that system cooperation is expected. The recommendation of the Chancellor of the State University System must be considered by a university board of trustees when fulfilling requirements of this paragraph.
- (9) COOPERATION WITH OTHER BOARDS.—The Board of Governors shall implement a plan for working on a regular basis with the State Board of Education, the Commission for Independent Education, the Higher Education Coordinating Council, the Articulation Coordinating Committee, the university boards of trustees, representatives of the Florida College System institution boards of trustees, representatives of the private colleges and universities, and representatives of the district school boards to achieve a seamless education system.
- (10) <u>PROHIBITION.—</u>The Board of Governors is prohibited from assessing any fee on state universities, unless specifically authorized by law.
  - (11) AUTHORIZATION TO REVOKE OR MODIFY.—The Board of

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253 Governors may revoke or modify the scope of any power or duty it
254 has delegated.

Section 5. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of section 1005.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1005.22 Powers and duties of commission.

(1) The commission shall:

- (i) Serve as a central agency for collecting and distributing current information regarding institutions licensed by the commission. The commission shall collect, and all institutions licensed by the commission shall report, student-level data for each student who receives state funds. At a minimum, data must be reported annually and include retention rates, transfer rates, completion rates, graduation rates, employment and placement rates, and earnings of graduates.
- Section 6. Subsections (3), (6), (7), (8), and (10) of section 1007.25, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites; other degree requirements.—
- Chancellor of the State University System department shall jointly appoint faculty committees to identify those courses that meet general education requirements, including statewide core course requirements, within the subject areas of communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences. General education core course requirements shall consist of 15 to 18 semester credit hours that contain high-level academic and critical thinking skills and competencies that students must demonstrate to successfully

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complete the courses. Each general education course The courses shall be identified by its their statewide course code number. All public postsecondary educational institutions shall offer and accept core these general education courses.

- institutions shall identify their core curricula, which shall include courses required by the State Board of Education. The boards of trustees of the state universities shall identify their core curricula, which shall include courses required by the Board of Governors. The universities and Florida College System institutions shall work with their school districts to assure that high school curricula coordinate with the general education core curricula and to prepare students for college-level work. General education Core curricula for associate in arts programs shall be identified by each institution adopted in rule by the State Board of Education and shall include 30 36 semester hours of general education courses in the subject areas of communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences.
- (7) An associate in arts degree shall require no more than 60 semester hours of college credit, including 30 36 semester hours of general education coursework and 8 semester hours of college credit in one foreign language if two high school credits in one foreign language were not earned in high school. Except for college-preparatory coursework required pursuant to s. 1008.30, all required coursework shall count toward the associate in arts degree or the baccalaureate degree.
  - (8) A baccalaureate degree program shall require no more

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than 120 semester hours of college credit, including 30 36 semester hours of general education coursework, unless prior approval has been granted by the Board of Governors for baccalaureate degree programs offered by state universities and by the State Board of Education for baccalaureate degree programs offered by Florida College System institutions.

- (10) Students at state universities may request associate in arts certificates if they have successfully completed the minimum requirements for the degree of associate in arts (A.A.). The university must grant the student an associate in arts degree if the student has successfully completed minimum requirements for college-level communication and computation skills adopted by the State Board of Education and 60 academic semester hours or the equivalent within a degree program area, with  $\underline{30}$  36 semester hours in general education courses in the subject areas of communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences, consistent with the general education requirements specified in the articulation agreement pursuant to s. 1007.23.
- Section 7. Subsections (5), (6), and (7) 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:
- (a) Each Florida College System institution to submit a notice of its intent to propose a baccalaureate degree program to the Division of Florida Colleges at least 100 days before the submission of its proposal under paragraph (d). The notice must

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include a brief description of the program, <u>independently</u>

<u>determined</u> the workforce demand and unmet need for graduates of
the program, the geographic region to be served, and an
estimated timeframe for implementation. Notices of intent may be
submitted by a Florida College System institution at any time
throughout the year.

- The Division of Florida Colleges to forward the notice of intent within 10 business days after receiving such notice to the Chancellor of the State University System, the President of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida, and the Executive Director of the Council for Independent Education. State universities shall have 60 days following receipt of the notice by the Chancellor of the State University System to submit objections to the proposed new program or submit an alternative proposal to offer the baccalaureate degree program. If a proposal from a state university is not received within the 60-day period, the State Board of Education shall provide regionally accredited private colleges and universities 30 days to submit objections to the proposed new program or submit an alternative proposal. Alternative proposals shall be submitted to the Division of Florida Colleges and must be considered by the State Board of Education in making its decision to approve or deny a Florida College System institution's proposal.
- (c) An alternative proposal submitted by a state university or private college or university to adequately address:
- 1. The extent to which the workforce demand and unmet need described in the notice of intent will be met.

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- 2. The extent to which students will be able to complete the degree in the geographic region proposed to be served by the Florida College System institution.
- 3. The level of financial commitment of the college or university to the development, implementation, and maintenance of the specified degree program, including timelines.
- 4. The extent to which faculty at both the Florida College System institution and the college or university will collaborate in the development and offering of the curriculum.
- 5. The ability of the Florida College System institution and the college or university to develop and approve the curriculum for the specified degree program within 6 months after an agreement between the Florida College System institution and the college or university is signed.
- 6. The extent to which the student may incur additional costs above what the student would expect to incur if the program were offered by the Florida College System institution.
- (d) Each proposal submitted by a Florida College System institution to, at a minimum, include:
- 1. A description of the planning process and timeline for implementation.
- 2. An <u>independent</u> analysis of workforce demand and unmet need for graduates of the program on a district, regional, or statewide basis, as appropriate.
- 3. Identification of the facilities, equipment, and library and academic resources that will be used to deliver the program.
  - 4. The program cost analysis of creating a new

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baccalaureate degree when compared to alternative proposals and other program delivery options.

- 5. The program's admission requirements, academic content, curriculum, faculty credentials, student-to-teacher ratios, and accreditation plan.
- 6. The program's enrollment projections and funding requirements.
  - 7. A plan of action if the program is terminated.
- (e) The Division of Florida Colleges to review the proposal, notify the Florida College System institution of any deficiencies in writing within 30 days following receipt of the proposal, and provide the Florida College System institution with an opportunity to correct the deficiencies. Within 45 days following receipt of a completed proposal by the Division of Florida Colleges, the Commissioner of Education shall recommend approval or disapproval of the proposal to the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall consider such recommendation, the proposal, and any alternative proposals at its next meeting. If the State Board of Education disapproves the Florida College System institution's proposal, it shall provide the Florida College System institution with written reasons for that determination.
- (f) The Florida College System institution to obtain from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation as a baccalaureate-degreegranting institution if approved by the State Board of Education to offer its first baccalaureate degree program.
  - (q) The Florida College System institution to notify the

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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;			
2. Maintaining qualified faculty and institutional			
resources;			
3. Maintaining enrollment projections in previously			
approved programs;			
4. Managing fiscal resources appropriately;			
5. Complying with the primary mission and responsibility			
requirements in subsections (2) and (3);			
6. Timely submitting the institution's annual performance			
accountability report; and			

7. Other indicators of success, including program completers, placements, and surveys of students 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.

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(6)(a) Beginning July 1, 2010, and each subsequent July 1,			
the Division of Florida Colleges may accept and review			
applications from a Florida College System institution to obtain			
an exemption from the State Board of Education's approval for			
subsequent degrees as required in subsection (5), if the Florida			
College System institution is accredited by the Commission on			
Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as			
a baccalaureate-degree-granting institution and has been			
offering baccalaureate degree programs for 3 or more years. The			
division shall develop criteria for determining eligibility for			
an exemption based upon demonstrated compliance with the			
requirements for baccalaureate degrees, primary mission, and			
fiscal, including, but not limited to:			
1. Obtaining and maintaining appropriate SACS			
accreditation;			
2. The maintenance of qualified faculty and institutional			
resources;			
3. The maintenance of enrollment projections in previously			
approved programs;			
4. The appropriate management of fiscal resources;			
5. Compliance with the primary mission and responsibility			
requirements in subsections (2) and (3);			
6. The timely submission of the institution's annual			
performance accountability report; and			
7. Other indicators of success such as program completers,			
placements, and surveys of students and employers.			
(b) If the Florida College System institution has			

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in fulfilling

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satisfactory progress

eriteria in this subsection, the Division of Florida Colleges may recommend to the State Board of Education that the institution be exempt from the requirement in subsection (5) for approval of future baccalaureate degree programs. The State Board of Education shall review the division's recommendation and determine if an exemption is warranted. If the State Board of Education approves the application, the Florida College System institution is exempt from subsequent program approval under subsection (5) and such authority is delegated to the Florida College System institution board of trustees. If the State Board of Education disapproves of the Florida College System institution's request for an exemption, the college shall continue to be subject to the State Board of Education's approval of subsequent baccalaureate degree programs.

(c) Prior to developing or proposing a new baccalaureate degree program, all Florida College System institutions, regardless of an exemption from subsection (5), shall:

1. Engage in need, demand, and impact discussions with the state university in their service district and other local and regional, accredited postsecondary providers in their region.

2. Send documentation, data, and other information from the inter-institutional discussions regarding program need, demand, and impact required in subparagraph 1. to the college's board of trustees, the Division of Florida Colleges, and the Chancellor of the State University System.

3. Base board of trustees approval of the new program upon the documentation, data, and other information required in this paragraph and the factors in subsection (5)(d).

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The Division of Florida Colleges shall use the documentation, data, and other information required in this subsection, including information from the Chancellor of the State University System, in its compliance review.

(d) The board of trustees of a Florida College System institution that is exempt from subsection (5) must submit newly approved programs to the Division of Florida Colleges and SACS within 30 days after approval.

(e) Within 30 days after receiving the approved baccalaureate degree program, the Division of Florida Colleges shall conduct a compliance review and notify the college if the proposal meets the criteria for implementation based upon the criteria in paragraphs (5)(d) and (6)(c). If the program fails to meet the criteria for implementation as determined by the Division of Florida Colleges, the college may not proceed with implementation of the program until the State Board of Education reviews the proposal and the compliance materials and gives its final approval of the program.

 $\underline{(6)}$  The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to prescribe format and content requirements and submission procedures for notices of intent, proposals, and alternative proposals, and compliance reviews under subsection (5).

Section 8. Section 1008.46, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.46 State university accountability process.—It is the intent of the Legislature that an accountability process be implemented that provides for the systematic, ongoing evaluation

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of quality and effectiveness of state universities. It is further the intent of the Legislature that this accountability process monitor performance at the system level in each of the major areas of instruction, research, and public service, while recognizing the differing missions of each of the state universities. The accountability process shall provide for the adoption of systemwide performance standards and performance goals for each standard identified through a collaborative effort involving state universities, the Board of Governors, the Legislature, and the Governor's Office, consistent with requirements specified in s. 1001.706. These standards and goals shall be consistent with s. 216.011(1) to maintain congruity with the performance-based budgeting process. This process requires that university accountability reports reflect measures defined through performance-based budgeting. The performancebased budgeting measures must also reflect the elements of teaching, research, and service inherent in the missions of the state universities.

- (1) By December 31 of each year, the Board of Governors shall submit an annual accountability report providing information on the implementation of performance standards, actions taken to improve university achievement of performance goals, the achievement of performance goals during the prior year, and initiatives to be undertaken during the next year. The accountability reports shall be designed in consultation with the Governor's Office, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, and the Legislature.
  - (2) The Board of Governors shall recommend in the annual

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accountability report any appropriate modifications to this section.

Section 9. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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