

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 35 Florida College System Institutions
SPONSOR(S): K-12 Competitiveness Subcommittee, Ford and others
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** CS/SB 84

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) K-20 Competitiveness Subcommittee	12 Y, 0 N, As CS	Thomas	Ahearn
2) Education Committee	17 Y, 1 N	Thomas	Klebacha

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill amends current law to change the name of "Gulf Coast Community College" to "Gulf Coast State College," "Pensacola Junior College" to "Pensacola State College," "St. Johns River Community College" to "St. Johns River State College," and "Valencia Community College" to "Valencia College." Each college has complied with the statutory requirements for its name change.

Current law permits an institution in the Florida College System to change its name and use the designation "college" or "state college" if the name change has been approved by the institution's district board of trustees, the institution has been authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees, and the institution has been accredited as a baccalaureate-degree-granting institution by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. A district board of trustees that approves such a name change must seek statutory codification of the name change during the next regular legislative session.

The fiscal impact of the bill is indeterminate. (See FISCAL COMMENTS).

The bill provides and effective date July 1, 2011.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background

With the approval of its district board of trustees, a Florida college may change the name of the institution as listed in s. 1000.21(3), F.S., and use the designation “college” or “state college” if it has been authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees and has been accredited as a baccalaureate-degree-granting institution by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.¹ A district board of trustees that approves the use of the designation “college” or “state college” must seek statutory codification of the name change during the next regular legislative session.²

Gulf Coast Community College

The Gulf Coast Community College (GCCC) District Board of Trustees approved the request to submit a proposal to offer the Baccalaureate of Science in Technology Management on October 8, 2009. The State Board of Education approved GCCC’s proposal to offer a Baccalaureate of Science in Technology Management on March 26, 2010. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) approved the college to offer baccalaureate degrees on December 6, 2010. GCCC’s District Board of Trustees (DBOT) approved the college’s name change to Gulf Coast State College on January 13, 2011.³

Pensacola Junior College

The Pensacola Junior College (PJC) District Board of Trustees approved the request to submit a proposal to offer the Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and the Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Supervision and Administration on November 10, 2008. The State Board of Education approved PJC’s proposal to offer both baccalaureate degrees on March 26, 2010. SACS approved the college to offer baccalaureate degrees on June 24, 2010. PJC’s DBOT approved the college’s name change to Pensacola State College on July 20, 2010.⁴

St. Johns River Community College

The St. Johns River Community College (SJRCC) District Board of Trustees approved the request to submit a proposal to offer the Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Organizational Management and the Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education on June 16, 2009. The State Board of Education approved SJRCC’s proposal to offer both baccalaureate degrees on March 26, 2010. SACS approved the college to offer baccalaureate degrees on June 24, 2010. SJRCC’s DBOT approved the college’s name change to St. Johns River State College on September 15, 2010.⁵

Valencia Community College

The Valencia Community College (VCC) District Board of Trustees approved the request to submit a proposal to offer the Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology and Bachelor of Science in Radiologic and Imaging Sciences on December 15, 2009. The State Board of Education approved VCC’s proposal to offer both baccalaureate degrees on September 21, 2010. The SACS approved the college to offer baccalaureate degrees on December 7, 2010. VCC’s DBOT approved the college’s name change to Valencia College on December 14, 2010.⁶

¹ Section 1001.60(2)(b)1., F.S.

² Section 1001.60(2)(c), F.S.

³ E-mail, Department of Education Staff (Feb. 14, 2011) and Gulf Coast Community College, Board of Trustees, http://www.gulfcoast.edu/about_us/minutes/default.aspx (last visited March 17, 2011).

⁴ Department of Education Analysis of HB 35 (Feb. 14, 2011).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ E-mail, Department of Education Staff (Feb. 14, 2011) and telephone conversation with community college (March 17, 2011).

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill amends s. 1000.21, F.S., to change the name of "Gulf Coast Community College" to "Gulf Coast State College," "Pensacola Junior College" to "Pensacola State College," "St. Johns River Community College" to "St. Johns River State College," and "Valencia Community College" to "Valencia College." Each college has complied with the statutory requirements for its name change. The bill makes conforming changes in ss. 288.8175, 1004.74, and 1004.75, F.S.

The bill provides an effective date July 1, 2011.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 1000.21, F.S., renaming specified community colleges.

Section 2. Amends s. 288.8175, F.S., conforming provisions.

Section 3. Amends s. 1004.74, F.S., conforming provisions.

Section 4. Amends s. 1004.75, F.S., conforming provisions.

Section 5. Provides an effective date.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

According to the Department of Education, there will be related costs associated with institutional name changes in a variety of areas such as signage, publications, and documentation. Due to the unique need of each institution, the costs associated with name changes are indeterminate at this time.⁷

⁷Department of Education Analysis of HB 35 (Feb. 14, 2011).

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not Applicable. This bill does not appear to affect county or municipal governments.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On March 17, 2011, the K-20 Competitiveness Subcommittee adopted one amendment to HB 35 and reported the bill favorably as a Committee Substitute. The amendment changes the name of two additional community colleges from "Gulf Coast Community College" to "Gulf Coast College" and "Valencia Community College" to "Valencia College." The amendment also makes conforming changes in s. 288.8175, F.S., and provides a new effective date of July 1, 2011.