House Bill 7135:
Relating to Postsecondary Education

Julie Alexander
&
Carrie Henderson

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The Florida College System

Background

- Bill title: Relating to Postsecondary Education
- Bill sponsor: Representative Proctor
- Effective date: Upon becoming a law or otherwise specified in the bill
- Status: Not yet signed by the Governor
- Discussion:
  - Strategic Planning
  - Mandatory Reports
  - Mandatory Advising
  - General Education Requirements
  - Baccalaureate Proposals
  - State University System Performance Funding
Section 1 amends s. 1001.02, F.S., relating to general powers of State Board of Education (SBE), to:

- Requires SBE to develop, in conjunction with the Board of Governors, a coordinated 5-year plan for postsecondary enrollment and baccalaureate graduation expectations as part of the Legislative Budget Request.
- Revises SBE strategic plan requirements to include clarification of FCS institution missions and the system.
- Beginning 2014-15 academic year, requires FCS institutions to provide students with electronic access to the Economic Security Report of employment and earning outcomes prepared by the Department of Economic Opportunity.
The Florida College System

Section 2 amends s. 1001.03, F.S., relating to specific powers of State Board of Education, to:

- Requires SBE to identify performance metrics for the FCS and develop a plan that specifies goals and objectives for each FCS institution.
  - Remediation Success
  - Retention, Graduation
  - Transfer, Employment
  - Licensure Pass Rates
  - Student Loan Burden, Default Rates

- Requires SBE, in consultation with the Board of Governors, to adopt a unified state plan for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in K-20 education.
Section 3 amends s. 1001.10, F.S., relating to Commissioner of Education; general powers and duties, to:

(7) The commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, may conduct a review or investigation of practices, procedures, or actions at any Florida College System institution which appear to be inconsistent with sound financial, management, or academic practice.
Section 9 amends s. 1007.23, F.S., relating to Statewide Articulation Agreement, to:

- Requires FCS students seeking an associate in arts degree to indicate a baccalaureate degree program offered by an institution of interest by the time the student earns 30 semester hours. The institution in which the student is enrolled shall inform the student of any prerequisites offered in the program at the institution of interest.
The Florida College System

Section 10 amends s. 1007.25, F.S., relating to general education courses; common prerequisites; other degree requirements, to:

- Requires the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors to appoint faculty committees to identify core course options.
- General Education Core course options are limited to a maximum of 5 courses per subject area.
- Each core course option must contain common competencies.
- Beginning with students entering 2014-15, each student must complete at least one General Education Core course option per subject area.
- The General Education Core shall be adopted in rule and regulation.
- The reminder of the General Education requirements shall be identified by each FCS institution and reported to the Department.
Section 10 amends s. 1007.25, F.S., relating to general education courses; common prerequisites; other degree requirements, to:

- Beginning with students entering in 2014-15, associate in arts and baccalaureate degrees must include 30 semester hours of general education coursework.
- Beginning with students entering in 2014-15, associate in arts students will be required to demonstrate foreign language competency.
Section 11 amends s. 1007.33, F.S., relating to site-determined baccalaureate degree access, to:

- Requires the notice of intent to include the workforce demand and unmet need for the program with evidence from entities independent of the institution.
- Moves existing language regarding need, demand and impact discussions with other nearby postsecondary institutions
- Authorizes other postsecondary institutions to submit objections to proposed baccalaureate programs
- Requires annual report of performance and compliance indicator.
- Authorizes the State Board of Education to require a board of trustees to modify or terminate a baccalaureate program.
Section 11 amends s. 1007.33, F.S., relating to site-determined baccalaureate degree access, to:

- Removes the requirement to submit an annual performance accountability report.
- Eliminates the authority for the State Board of Education to grant an exemption to certain FCS institutions from the baccalaureate approval process.
- Requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules related to compliance reviews.
The Florida College System

Section 14 creates s. 1011.905, F.S., relating to performance funding for state universities, to:

- Requires the Board of Governors to rank each state university based on a specified formula, including job placement for students with degrees in the following programs:
  - Computer and Information Science
  - Computer Engineering
  - Information Systems Technology
  - Information Technology
  - Management Information Systems

- Includes a $15 million appropriation.

- Funds awarded must be directed to the department that offers the degree.
Section 15 creates s. 445.07, F.S., relating to Economic security report of employment and earning outcomes, to:

- Requires the Department of Economic Opportunity to annually prepare, or contract with an entity to prepare, an Economic Security Report of employment and earning outcomes for degrees or certificates earned at public postsecondary educational institutions.
Next Steps

- Department and Board of Governors develop an action plan for the identification of the General Education Core course options.
- State Board of Education and Board of Governors appoint faculty committees.
  - Joint Committee: Chief Academic Officer or designee
  - Faculty Subcommittees: Statewide Course Numbering System Discipline Chairs, Common Prerequisite Discipline Committee Members

- Identify overarching, common competencies for each discipline.
- Identify a maximum of 5 courses within each discipline that will encompass the common competencies.
- Revise State Board of Education rules.
Changes to SBE Rule

- 6A-10.024, Articulation Between and Among Universities, Community Colleges and School Districts
- 6A-10.02412, Foreign Language Competence and Equivalence
- 6A-14.026, Employment of a President
- 6A-10.030, Other Assessment Procedures for College-Level Communication and Computation Skills (Gordon Rule)
- 6A-14.030, Instruction and Awards in Community Colleges
- 6A-14.060, Accountability Standards
- 6A-14.095, Site Determined Baccalaureate Access