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589-05061B-08

Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Higher Education

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 the Florida  
5 College System Task Force for the purpose of developing  
6 recommendations for the migration of community colleges to  
7 baccalaureate-degree-granting colleges; providing for  
8 membership and appointments; providing duties of the task  
9 force and reporting requirements; providing for the task  
10 force to be dissolved unless extended by general law;  
11 creating the State College Pilot Project; designating  
12 certain institutions to participate in the project;  
13 providing duties and reporting requirements for the  
14 institutions; providing an effective date.

15  
16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:17  
18 Section 1. Paragraphs (e) and (k) of subsection (3) of  
19 section 1000.21, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:20 1000.21 Systemwide definitions.--As used in the Florida K-  
21 20 Education Code:22 (3) "Community college," except as otherwise specifically  
23 provided, includes the following institutions and any branch  
24 campuses, centers, or other affiliates of the institution:25 (e) Daytona Beach ~~Community~~ College.26 (k) Indian River ~~Community~~ College.27 Section 2. Florida College System Task Force.--



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28       (1) The Florida College System Task Force is established  
29 within the Division of Community Colleges of the Department of  
30 Education for the purpose of developing findings and issuing  
31 recommendations regarding the migration of community colleges to  
32 baccalaureate-degree-granting colleges and the criteria for  
33 establishing and funding state colleges.

34       (2) (a) All members of the task force must be appointed on  
35 or before July 15, 2008, and the task force shall hold its first  
36 meeting on or before August 15, 2008.

37       (b) The task force shall be comprised of eight community  
38 college presidents appointed by the Commissioner of Education.  
39 The appointees shall reflect the diversity of program offerings  
40 and service areas of the 28 community colleges and include  
41 representatives of community colleges that are authorized to  
42 grant baccalaureate degrees, community colleges that are not  
43 authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees, community colleges  
44 that have urban service areas, community colleges the service  
45 areas of which have populations of 500,000 or more, and community  
46 colleges the service areas of which have populations of fewer  
47 than 500,000. The Commissioner of Education shall be the chair of  
48 the task force.

49       (3) The task force shall:

50       (a) Recommend a program-approval process for new  
51 baccalaureate degree programs that are designed to meet the  
52 employment needs of Florida, including approval as a  
53 baccalaureate-degree-granting community college and as a state  
54 college.

55       (b) Recommend a funding model that considers projected  
56 enrollment, adjustments for actual enrollment, program mix, and  
57 comparable support for similar programs across all institutions,



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58 | including community colleges authorized by the State Board of  
59 | Education to award baccalaureate degrees pursuant to s. 1007.33,  
60 | Florida Statutes, and state colleges participating in the State  
61 | College Pilot Project. The funding model must ensure that the  
62 | programs and services offered by institutions in the Florida  
63 | College System in providing associate and baccalaureate degrees  
64 | are delivered in a cost-effective manner that demonstrates  
65 | substantial savings to the student and to the state over the cost  
66 | of providing the degree at a state university.

67 | (c) Identify the areas, both geographic and academic, in  
68 | which an increased number of graduates who have baccalaureate  
69 | degrees are necessary in order to meet regional and statewide  
70 | workforce needs.

71 | (d) Monitor implementation of the State College Pilot  
72 | Project.

73 | (4) The task force shall exist within the Division of  
74 | Community Colleges of the Department of Education and shall be  
75 | staffed by existing employees of that office.

76 | (5) Community colleges, state universities, the Commission  
77 | for Independent Education, and the Agency for Workforce  
78 | Innovation shall provide information and assistance to the task  
79 | force.

80 | (6) The task force shall submit a report and  
81 | recommendations to the Governor, the State Board of Education,  
82 | the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
83 | Representatives by January 1, 2009. The report must include any  
84 | specific recommendations of the task force for legislative action  
85 | during the 2009 Regular Session of the Legislature.

86 | (7) The task force shall be dissolved effective June 1,  
87 | 2009, unless extended by general law.



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88           Section 3. State College Pilot Project.--

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

93           (2) Beginning with the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the State  
94 College Pilot Project is created which shall be conducted as a  
95 pilot project by St. Petersburg College, Okaloosa-Walton College,  
96 and Indian River College in collaboration with the Florida  
97 College System Task Force. The purpose of the project is to  
98 recommend to the Legislature an approval process for the  
99 transition of baccalaureate-degree-granting community colleges to  
100 state colleges in order to meet the employment needs of Florida,  
101 criteria for the migration of institutions in the Florida College  
102 System to state colleges, and a funding model for the Florida  
103 College System.

104           (3) The institutions participating in the pilot project  
105 shall:

106           (a) Maintain, as the institution's primary mission,  
107 responsibility for responding to community needs for  
108 postsecondary academic education and career degree education as  
109 prescribed in s. 1004.65(6), Florida Statutes.

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

112           (c) Require, as a condition of admission to upper-division  
113 programs, successful completion of the college-level  
114 communication and mathematics skills examination established  
115 pursuant to s. 1008.29, Florida Statutes, unless the student has  
116 been awarded an associate degree from a community college or  
117 state university.



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118 (d) Continue to provide outreach to underserved  
119 populations.

120 (e) Continue to provide remedial education.

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

125 (g) Be prohibited from awarding graduate credit or graduate  
126 degrees.

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

129 (i) Deliver the programs and services in providing  
130 associate and baccalaureate degrees in a cost-effective manner  
131 that demonstrates substantial savings to the student and the  
132 state over the cost of providing the degree at a state  
133 university.

134 (4) (a) The institutions participating in the pilot project  
135 shall collaborate with the Florida College System Task Force to  
136 make recommendations to the State Board of Education and the  
137 Legislature on specific issues that should be addressed in the  
138 transition of a community college to a state college. At a  
139 minimum, the following areas should be addressed during the  
140 course of the pilot project:

141 1. The development of a program-approval process to be  
142 followed by the State Board of Education when considering  
143 proposals for new baccalaureate degree programs that are designed  
144 to meet the employment needs of Florida. Proposals for new  
145 baccalaureate degree programs are not limited to proposals  
146 designed to meet regional workforce needs.



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

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

150        (b) A final report, including a status report on the  
151 transition of the institutions participating in the pilot project  
152 and recommendations on the issues outlined in paragraph (a),  
153 shall be submitted to the President of the Senate and the Speaker  
154 of the House of Representatives by February 1, 2009.

155        Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.