

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Higher Education

BILL: SB 446

INTRODUCER: Senator Bradley

SUBJECT: Florida College System Boards of Trustees

DATE: February 13, 2015

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Bailey	Klebacha	HE	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	FP	_____

I. Summary:

SB 446 revises membership guidelines for Florida College System institution boards of trustees.

Specifically, the bill requires the board of trustees of St. Johns River State College to have three trustees from each of the three counties served by the college: Clay County, Putnam County, and St. Johns County.

In effect, the bill will require the appointment of two additional trustees.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

II. Present Situation:

The Florida College System (FCS) was established for the purpose of maximizing open access, responding to community needs for postsecondary academic and career degree education, and providing associate and baccalaureate degrees that best meet the state's employment needs.¹ The FCS is comprised of 28 institutions, including colleges, state colleges, and community colleges.²

Governed by local boards of trustees, the colleges fall under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Education for legislatively specified activities.³ Boards of trustees exist to represent the general public and are responsible for balancing and integrating the wide variety of interests and needs into policies that benefit the common good and future of their region.⁴ The membership of each

¹ Section 1001.60(1), F.S.

² Section. 1000.21(3), F.S.

³ Section 1001.65, F.S.

⁴ Association of Florida College, *Florida College System Trustee Manual*, (Sept. 2013), available at http://www.myafchome.org/assets/Publications/Trustees/2k13_trustee_manual.pdf.

local board of trustees follows specific criteria and the trustees work closely with the institution presidents who are the chief executive officers of their respective FCS institutions.⁵

St. Johns River Junior College was established as a public institution in 1958 to serve the counties of Clay, Putnam, and St. Johns.⁶ In June 2010,⁷ the college expanded its mission to include upper division level courses and subsequently, the college received baccalaureate-degree level accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools which led to the approval of the college's new name, St. Johns River State College.⁸ Currently, St. Johns River State College (SJRSC) provides full-service college programs for educational and workforce training needs of the Northeast Florida district. The college also forms agreements with other regional colleges and universities for the purpose of increasing access to baccalaureate and graduate degrees for residents of Clay, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties.⁹

Current law requires the FCS institution boards to be comprised of five members when an institution's district is confined to one school board district, seven members when there is one school district and the board of trustees so elects, and not more than nine members when the district contains two or more school board districts. The trustees are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate in regular session.¹⁰

The board of trustees of SJRSC is currently comprised of seven members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Included on the board are two members representing Clay County, three representing Putnam County, and two representing St. Johns County.¹¹ Clay County has a 2015 projected service district population of 203,490, Putnam County with 73,521, and St. Johns County has a population of 213,480.¹² Clay County currently has the largest number of registered students at SJRSC, followed by St. Johns County, and then Putnam County, with a SJRSC combined enrollment of 11,000 students.¹³

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 446 revises the current membership guidelines for the Florida College System institution boards of trustees.

⁵ Section 1001.61, F.S.

⁶ St. Johns River State College, *2014 College Fact Book* (2014), available at <http://sjrstate.edu/pdfs/factbook2014.pdf>.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ With the approval of its district board of trustees, a FCS institution may change the institution's name set forth in s. 1000.21(3) and use the designation "college" if it has been authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees pursuant to s. 1007.33 and has been accredited as a baccalaureate-degree-granting institution. Section 1001.60(2)(b), F.S.

⁹ St. Johns River State College, *2014 College Fact Book* (2014), available at <http://sjrstate.edu/pdfs/factbook2014.pdf>.

¹⁰ Section 1001.61(1), F.S.

¹¹ St. Johns River State College, *District Board of Trustees*, <http://www.sjrstate.edu/boardmembers.html> (last visited Feb. 13, 2015).

¹² St. Johns River State College, *2014 College Fact Book* (2014), available at <http://sjrstate.edu/pdfs/factbook2014.pdf>.

¹³ *Id.*

Specifically, the bill requires the board of trustees of St. Johns River State College to have three trustees from each of the three counties served by the college: Clay County, Putnam County, and St. Johns County.

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The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 1001.61 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
