

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 Fiscal Policy

BILL: SB 446

INTRODUCER: Senator Bradley

SUBJECT: Florida College System Boards of Trustees

DATE: March 4, 2015

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Bailey</u>	<u>Klebacha</u>	<u>HE</u>	Favorable
2.	<u>Goedert</u>	<u>Hrdlicka</u>	<u>FP</u>	Pre-meeting

I. Summary:

SB 446 requires that the Board of Trustees for St. Johns River State College be comprised of nine members in total. There must be three trustees from each of the three counties served by the college: Clay County, Putnam County, and St. Johns County.

II. Present Situation:

The Florida College System (FCS) was established “in order to maximize open access for students, respond to community needs for postsecondary academic education and career degree education, and provide associate and baccalaureate degrees that will best meet the state’s employment needs.”¹ The FCS is comprised of 28 institutions, including colleges, state colleges, and community colleges.²

Each institution within the FCS is governed by a local board of trustees.³ “Boards of trustees exist to represent the general public. They 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 boards of trustees are vested with certain powers and duties and the trustees work closely with each institution’s president.⁵

Current law requires that the boards of trustees 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 a maximum of nine members when the

¹ Section 1001.60(1), F.S.

² Section 1000.21(3), F.S.

³ Section 1001.60(3), F.S.

⁴ Association of Florida College’s, *Florida College System Trustee Manual*, p. 30 (Sept. 2013), available at http://www.myafchome.org/assets/Publications/Trustees/2k13_trustee_manual.pdf, (last visited March 3, 2015).

⁵ Section 1001.64, F.S.

district contains two or more school board districts. The trustees are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate in regular session.⁶

St. Johns River Junior College was established as a public institution in 1958 to serve the counties of Clay, Putnam, and St. Johns.⁷ In June 2010,⁸ the college expanded its mission to include upper-division-level courses and 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.⁹ Currently, St. Johns River State College (SJRSC) provides full-service college programs for educational and workforce training needs of the Northeast Florida district. SJRSC 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.¹⁰

The Board of Trustees of SJRSC is currently comprised of seven members. Included on the board are two members representing Clay County, three representing Putnam County, and two representing St. Johns County.¹¹ The 2015 projected service district populations for Clay County, Putnam County, and St. Johns County are 203,490, 73,521, and 213,480, respectively.¹² Clay County currently has the largest number of registered students at SJRSC, followed by St. Johns County, and then Putnam County, with a combined enrollment of 11,000 students.¹³

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 446 requires that the Board of Trustees for St. Johns River State College be comprised of nine members in total. There must be three trustees from each of the three counties served by the college: Clay County, Putnam County, and St. Johns County.

The Board of Trustees for St. Johns River State College currently has seven members. In effect, the bill will require the appointment of two additional trustees, one from Clay County and one from St. Johns County.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

⁶ Section 1001.61, F.S.

⁷ St. Johns River State College, *2014 College Fact Book* (2014), available at <http://sjrstate.edu/pdfs/factbook2014.pdf>, (last visited March 3, 2014).

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ 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), F.S., and use the designation "college" if it has been authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees pursuant to s. 1007.33, F.S., and has been accredited as a baccalaureate-degree-granting institution. s.1001.60(2)(b), F.S.

¹⁰ St. Johns River State College, *2014 College Fact Book* (2014), available at <http://sjrstate.edu/pdfs/factbook2014.pdf>, (last visited March 3, 2015).

¹¹ St. Johns River State College, *District Board of Trustees*, <http://www.sjrstate.edu/boardmembers.html> (last visited March 3, 2015).

¹² St. Johns River State College, *2014 College Fact Book* (2014) p. 7, available at <http://sjrstate.edu/pdfs/factbook2014.pdf>, (last visited March 3, 2015).

¹³ *Id.*

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 known.

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.
