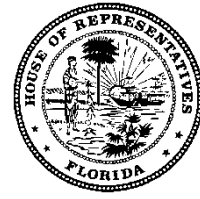




Joe Negron
President of the Senate

THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE



Richard Corcoran
*Speaker of the House of
Representatives*

May 05, 2017

The Honorable Joe Negron
President of the Senate

The Honorable Richard Corcoran
Speaker, House of Representatives

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

Your Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes of the two houses on CS/CS/SB 374, 1st Eng., same being:

An act relating to Postsecondary Education.

having met, and after full and free conference, do recommend to their respective houses as follows:

- 1 That the House of Representatives recede from its Amendment 594501.
- 2 That the Senate and House of Representatives adopt the Conference Committee Amendment attached hereto, and by reference made a part of this report.

<hr/> <i>Senator Jack Latvala, Chair</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Senator Anitere Flores, Vice Chair</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Senator Dennis Baxley, At Large</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Senator Aaron Bean</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto, At Large</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Senator Lauren Book</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Senator Randolph Bracy</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Senator Rob Bradley, At Large</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Senator Jeff Brandes</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Senator Oscar Braynon II, At Large</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Senator Doug Broxson</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Senator Daphne Campbell</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Senator Jeff Clemens, At Large</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Senator Gary M. Farmer Jr.</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Senator George B. Gainer</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Senator Bill Galvano, At Large</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Senator Rene Garcia</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Senator Audrey Gibson</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Senator Denise Grimsley, At Large</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Senator Travis Hutson</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Senator Tom Lee</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Senator Debbie Mayfield</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Senator Bill Montford, At Large</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Senator Kathleen Passidomo</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Senator Keith Perry</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Senator Bobby Powell</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Senator Kevin J. Rader</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Senator Jose Javier Rodriguez</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Senator Darryl Ervin Rouson</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Senator David Simmons</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Senator Wilton Simpson, At Large</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Senator Kelli Stargel</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Senator Linda Stewart</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Senator Perry E. Thurston Jr.</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Senator Victor M. Torres Jr.</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Senator Dana D. Young</i> <hr/>

Conferees on the part of the Senate

<hr/> <i>Representative Carlos Trujillo, Chair</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Representative Larry Ahern, Chair</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Representative Ramon Alexander</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Representative Lori Berman, At Large</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Representative Michael Bileca, At Large</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Representative Jim Boyd, At Large</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Representative Matt Caldwell, At Large</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Representative Robert Cortes</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Representative Janet Cruz, At Large</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Representative W. Travis Cummings, At Large</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Representative Jose Felix Diaz, At Large</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Representative Bobby B. DuBose, At Large</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Representative Katie A. Edwards</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Representative Julio Gonzalez</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Representative Larry Lee Jr.</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Representative Thomas J. Leek</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Representative Amber Mariano</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Representative Kionne L. McGhee, At Large</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Representative Larry Metz, At Large</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Representative Alexandra Miller</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Representative George R. Moraitis Jr., At Large</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Representative Jared Evan Moskowitz, At Large</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Representative Jeanette M. Nuñez, At Large</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Representative Jose R. Oliva, At Large</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Representative Mel Ponder</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Representative Elizabeth W. Porter</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Representative Ray Wesley Rodrigues</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Representative David Silvers</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Representative Carlos Guillermo Smith</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Representative Chris Sprowls, At Large</i> <hr/>
<hr/> <i>Representative Cynthia A. Stafford, At Large</i> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>Representative Richard Stark, At Large</i> <hr/>

Managers on the part of the House of Representatives

May 05, 2017

The Conference Committee Amendment for SB 374, relating to postsecondary education, establishes the “Florida Excellence in Higher Education Act of 2017.” The bill expands financial aid provisions and modifies programmatic mechanisms to assist students in accessing higher education and incentivizes postsecondary institutions to emphasize on-time graduation. The bill expands and enhances policy and funding options for state universities to recruit and retain exemplary faculty, enhance the quality of professional and graduate schools, and upgrade facilities and research infrastructure. The bill also restructures the governance of the Florida College System and modifies the mission of the system and its institutions.

Specifically, the bill:

- Modifies the state university and Florida College System institution performance accountability metrics and standards to promote on-time student graduation.
- Increases student financial aid and tuition assistance by:
- Expanding the Florida Bright Futures Academic Scholars award to cover 100 percent of tuition and specified fees plus \$300 per fall and spring semester for textbooks and college-related expenses;
- Expanding eligibility for the Benacquisto Scholarship Program to include eligible students graduating from out of state; and
- Revising the state-to-private match requirements for contributions to the First Generation Matching Grant Program from 1:1 to 2:1.
- Establishing the Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship Program for farmworkers and the children of farmworkers.
- Renaming the Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG) Program to the Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) Grant Program.
- Requires each state university board of trustees to adopt an undergraduate block tuition policy.
- Strengthens public college-to-university articulation by establishing the “2+2” targeted pathway program to provide to students guaranteed access to baccalaureate degree programs at state universities.
- Establishes the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program to fund and support the efforts of state universities to recruit and retain exemplary faculty and research scholars and specifies that funding for the program will be as provided in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).
- Establishes the State University Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program to fund and support the efforts of state universities to enhance the quality and excellence of professional schools and graduate degree programs in medicine, law, and business, and specifies that funding for the program will be as provided in the GAA.
- Authorizes the legislature to prioritize funding for certain projects under the Alec P. Courtelis University Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, subject to the GAA.
- Links education to job opportunities by modifying requirements of the strategic plan, developed by the Board of Governors, to require state universities to use data-driven gap analyses to identify internship opportunities for students in high-demand fields.
- Modifies the governance of the Florida Community College System by establishing a State Board of Community Colleges, and transferring responsibilities regarding Florida’s community colleges from the State Board of Education to the State Board of Community Colleges.

- Clarifies expectations and state oversight of baccalaureate degree programs offered by Florida Community College System institutions, and:
- Aligns the baccalaureate approval process for St. Petersburg College with the approval process for other institutions.
- Establishes a cap on upper-level, undergraduate full-time equivalent enrollment at Florida's community colleges, but provides flexibility for planned and purposeful growth of baccalaureate degree programs if certain conditions are met.
- Modifies college and university direct-support organizations (DSO) to:
- Prohibit DSOs from using university or college personal services beginning July 1, 2022
- Prohibit the use of state funds for DSO travel expenses; and
- Prohibit the specified DSOs from giving, either directly or indirectly, to a political committee.