

The Florida Senate
HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education

[2018s00004.hms.hms]

BILL: CS/SB 4

INTRODUCER: Appropriations Committee; Senator Galvano and others

SUBJECT: Higher Education

DATE: March 5, 2018

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 - Amendment 843425 (Body with Title)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 maintains the substance of the bill with some modifications. Specifically, the amendment:

- (1) Replaces the requirement for each university to adopt a block tuition policy with a requirement for each university to submit to the Board of Governors (BOG), by June 1, 2018, a proposal to improve 4-year graduation rates and annually report on implementation. Proposals must identify academic, financial, policy, and curricular incentives and disincentives for timely graduation; implement a financial aid program to enable full-time students with financial need to take at least 15 credit hours in the fall and spring; and include assurances of no increased cost to students.
- (2) Revises university direct-support organization (DSO) requirements by: (a) replacing the prohibition on personal services for DSO activities with a requirement that personal services must comply with law limiting compensation for university administrators; (b) requiring the university board of trustees to approve appointments to the DSO; (c) specifying financial (vs. all) records related to travel using private funds are subject to public records; (d) prohibiting the transfer of funds to a DSO that does not provide equal employment opportunities; and (e) requiring university boards of trustees to adopt rules for the audit and oversight of their DSOs.
- (3) Removes the retroactivity provision to implement the World Class Faculty and Scholar, the State University Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence, and the Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship programs beginning in the 2018-19 fiscal year (vs. this fiscal year).
- (4) Directs the BOG to study and submit, by October 1, 2019, recommendations to the Legislature regarding a complete performance-based continuous improvement model focused on the equitable distribution of performance funds. The recommendations become enacted only if affirmatively acted upon by the Legislature.

(5) Creates the “Campus Free Expression Act,” establishing definitions and codifying right to free-speech activities. The act prohibits public institutions of higher education to designate any area of campus as a free-speech zone, but authorizes restrictions under specified conditions. The act authorizes action against a public institution of higher education to obtain declaratory and injunctive relief, reasonable court costs, and attorney fees.

(6) Creates a USF Consolidation Planning Study and Implementation Task Force to assist in the termination of separate accreditation by the St. Petersburg and Manatee/Sarasota campuses by June 30, 2020.