

By Senator Alexander

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the University of South Florida
3 Lakeland; creating s. 1004.345, F.S.; establishing and
4 designating the University of South Florida Lakeland
5 campus; providing legislative intent; requiring the Board
6 of Trustees to appoint a Campus Board; providing
7 membership, powers, and duties of the Campus Board;
8 providing that the university is administered by a Campus
9 Executive Officer; requiring the President of the
10 University of South Florida to consult with the Campus
11 Board before hiring or terminating the Campus Executive
12 Officer; providing duties and powers of the Campus
13 Executive Officer; providing that students enrolled at a
14 branch campus of the university have the same rights as
15 other students; requiring the University of South Florida
16 to provide for a system of student registration that meets
17 certain conditions; providing an effective date.

18
19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

20
21 Section 1. Section 1004.345, Florida Statutes, is created
22 to read:

23 1004.345 The University of South Florida Lakeland.--

24 (1) The Lakeland campus of the University of South Florida
25 is established and shall be known as the "University of South
26 Florida Lakeland."

27 (a) The Legislature intends that the University of South
28 Florida Lakeland be operated and maintained as a separate
29 organizational and budget entity of the University of South

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30 Florida, and that all legislative appropriations for the
31 University of South Florida Lakeland be set forth as separate
32 line items in the annual General Appropriations Act.

33 (b) The University of South Florida Lakeland shall have a
34 Campus Board and a Campus Executive Officer.

35 (c) The Legislature intends that the University of South
36 Florida Lakeland operate under separate accreditation from the
37 Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges
38 and Schools when separate accreditation is in the best interest
39 of the campus. The Campus Board shall ensure that sufficient
40 student enrollment, faculty, and administration are in place
41 before requesting that the Board of Trustees of the University of
42 South Florida apply for separate accreditation for the University
43 of South Florida Lakeland. Upon approval by the Board of Trustees
44 of the University of South Florida, the President of the
45 University of South Florida shall begin the application process
46 for separate accreditation on behalf of the Board of Trustees of
47 the University of South Florida. If the application is not
48 approved, or is provisionally approved, the President of the
49 University of South Florida shall correct any identified
50 deficiencies and shall continue to work for separate
51 accreditation.

52 (2) The Board of Trustees of the University of South
53 Florida shall appoint, from a list of candidates recommended by
54 the President of the University of South Florida, four residents
55 of the Lakeland campus service area to serve on the Campus Board.
56 The fifth member of the Campus Board shall be selected by the
57 Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida from among
58 its membership, and that trustee shall serve jointly as a member

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59 of the Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida and
60 the Campus Board. A trustee who serves jointly on the Campus
61 Board must be a resident of the Lakeland campus service area,
62 unless none of the appointed members of the Board of Trustees of
63 the University of South Florida meet this criteria, in which case
64 any trustee may be appointed to serve jointly on the Campus
65 Board. The Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida
66 shall ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that each county
67 in the Lakeland campus service area is represented among the
68 membership of the Campus Board. Each member of the Campus Board
69 shall be appointed to a 4-year term and may be reappointed for
70 one additional 4-year term. However, for purposes of staggering
71 the terms of the initial appointees, the Board of Trustees of the
72 University of South Florida shall select and appoint one member
73 to serve a term of 1 year, one member to serve a term of 2 years,
74 and one member to serve a term of 3 years, each of whom may be
75 reappointed to a subsequent 4-year term. The Campus Board has the
76 powers and duties provided by law, which include the authority
77 to:

78 (a) Review and approve an annual legislative budget request
79 to be submitted to the Board of Trustees of the University of
80 South Florida. The Campus Executive Officer shall prepare the
81 legislative budget request in accordance with guidelines
82 established by the Board of Governors of the State University
83 System. This request must include items for campus operations and
84 fixed capital outlay.

85 (b) Approve and submit an annual operating plan and budget
86 for review and consultation by the Board of Trustees of the
87 University of South Florida. The campus operating budget must

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88 reflect the actual funding available to that campus from separate
89 line-item appropriations contained in each annual General
90 Appropriations Act. Such line-item appropriations must initially
91 reflect the funds reported to the Legislature for the University
92 of South Florida Lakeland campus for the 2007-2008 fiscal year
93 and any additional funds provided in the legislative
94 appropriation for the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

95 (c) Enter into central support services contracts with the
96 Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida for any
97 services that the Lakeland campus cannot provide more
98 economically, including payroll processing, accounting,
99 technology, construction administration, and other desired
100 services. However, all legal services for the campus must be
101 provided by a central services contract with the university. The
102 Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida and the
103 Campus Board shall determine in a letter of agreement any
104 allocation or sharing of student fee revenue between the
105 University of South Florida's main campus and the Lakeland
106 campus.

107
108 The Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida may
109 lawfully delegate other powers and duties to the Campus Board for
110 the efficient operation and improvement of the campus and for the
111 purpose of vesting in the campus the attributes necessary to meet
112 the requirements for separate accreditation by the Southern
113 Association of Colleges and Schools.

114 (3) The University of South Florida Lakeland shall be
115 administered by a Campus Executive Officer who shall be appointed
116 by, report directly to, and serve at the pleasure of the

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117 President of the University of South Florida. The President shall
118 consult with the Campus Board before hiring or terminating the
119 Campus Executive Officer. The Campus Executive Officer has
120 authority and responsibility as provided in law, including the
121 authority to:

122 (a) Administer campus operations within the annual
123 operating budget as approved by the Campus Board.

124 (b) Recommend to the Campus Board an annual legislative
125 budget request that includes funding for campus operations and
126 fixed capital outlay.

127 (c) Recommend to the Campus Board an annual campus
128 operating budget.

129 (d) Recommend to the Campus Board appropriate services and
130 terms and conditions to be included in annual central support
131 services contracts.

132 (e) Carry out any additional responsibilities assigned or
133 delegated by the President of the University of South Florida for
134 the efficient operation and improvement of the campus, especially
135 any authority necessary for the purpose of vesting in the campus
136 attributes necessary to meet the requirements for separate
137 accreditation.

138 (4) Students enrolled at the University of South Florida,
139 including those enrolled at a branch campus, have the same rights
140 and obligations as provided by law, policy, or rule adopted by
141 the University of South Florida, the Board of Governors of the
142 State University System, the Department of Education, or any
143 other lawful entity. The University of South Florida shall
144 provide a comprehensive and coordinated system of student
145 registration so that a student enrolled at any campus of the

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146 University of South Florida has the ability to register for
147 courses at any other campus of the University of South Florida.

148 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.