Senator Gaetz moved the following:

**Senate Amendment to Amendment (620160) (with title amendment)**

Between lines 1136 and 1137 insert:

Section 7. Subsection (1) of section 1001.7065, Florida Statutes, is reenacted, and subsections (2), (3), and (5) through (9) of that section are amended, to read:

1001.7065 Preeminent state research universities program.—

(1) STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM SHARED GOVERNANCE COLLABORATION.—A collaborative partnership is established
between the Board of Governors and the Legislature to elevate
the academic and research preeminence of Florida’s highest-
performing state research universities in accordance with this
section. The partnership stems from the State University System
Governance Agreement executed on March 24, 2010, wherein the
Board of Governors and leaders of the Legislature agreed to a
framework for the collaborative exercise of their joint
authority and shared responsibility for the State University
System. The governance agreement confirmed the commitment of the
Board of Governors and the Legislature to continue collaboration
on accountability measures, the use of data, and recommendations
derived from such data.

(2) ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE STANDARDS.—Effective
July 1, 2013, The following academic and research excellence
standards are established for the preeminent state research
universities program:

(a) An average weighted grade point average of 4.0 or
higher on a 4.0 scale and an average SAT score of 1800 or higher
on a 2400-point scale or 1200 or higher on a 1600-point scale
for fall semester incoming freshmen, as reported annually.

(b) A top-50 ranking on at least two well-known and highly
respected national public university rankings, including, but
not limited to, the U.S. News and World Report rankings,
reflecting national preeminence, using most recent rankings.

(c) A freshman retention rate of 90 percent or higher for
full-time, first-time-in-college students, as reported annually
to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

(d) A 6-year graduation rate of 70 percent or higher for
full-time, first-time-in-college students, as reported annually
(e) Six or more faculty members at the state university who are members of a national academy, as reported by the Center for Measuring University Performance in the Top American Research Universities (TARU) annual report or the official membership directories maintained by each national academy.

(f) Total annual research expenditures, including federal research expenditures, of $200 million or more, as reported annually by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

(g) Total annual research expenditures in diversified nonmedical sciences of $150 million or more, based on data reported annually by the NSF.

(h) A top-100 university national ranking for research expenditures in five or more science, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields of study, as reported annually by the NSF.

(i) One hundred or more total patents awarded by the United States Patent and Trademark Office for the most recent 3-year period.

(j) Four hundred or more doctoral degrees awarded annually, including professional doctoral degrees awarded in medical and health care disciplines, as reported in the Board of Governors Annual Accountability Report.

(k) Two hundred or more postdoctoral appointees annually, as reported in the TARU annual report.

(l) An endowment of $500 million or more, as reported in the Board of Governors Annual Accountability Report.

(3) PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY DESIGNATION.—

(a) The Board of Governors shall designate each state research university that annually meets at least 11 of the 12
academic and research excellence standards identified in subsection (2) as a “preeminent state research university.”

(b) The Board of Governors shall designate each state university that annually meets at least 6 of the 12 academic and research excellence standards identified in subsection (2) as an "emerging preeminent state research university."

(5) PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES PROGRAM UNIVERSITY SUPPORT.—

(a) A state research university that is designated as a preeminent state research university, as of July 1, 2013, meets all 12 of the academic and research excellence standards identified in subsection (2), as verified by the Board of Governors, shall submit to the Board of Governors a 5-year benchmark plan with target rankings on key performance metrics for national excellence. Upon approval by the Board of Governors, and upon the university’s meeting the benchmark plan goals annually, the Board of Governors shall award the university its proportionate share of any funds provided annually to support the program created under this section an amount specified in the General Appropriations Act to be provided annually throughout the 5-year period. Funding for this purpose is contingent upon specific appropriation in the General Appropriations Act.

(b) A state university designated as an emerging preeminent state research university shall submit to the Board of Governors a 5-year benchmark plan with target rankings on key performance metrics for national excellence. Upon approval by the Board of Governors, and upon the university’s meeting the benchmark plan
goals annually, the Board of Governors shall award the university its proportionate share of any funds provided annually to support the program created under this section.

(c) The award of funds under this subsection is contingent upon funding provided in the General Appropriations Act to support the preeminent state research universities program created under this section. Funding increases appropriated beyond the amounts funded in the previous fiscal year shall be distributed as follows:

1. Each designated preeminent state research university that meets the criteria in paragraph (a) shall receive an equal amount of funding.

2. Each designated emerging preeminent state research university that meets the criteria in paragraph (b) shall receive an amount of funding that is equal to one-half of the total increased amount awarded to each designated preeminent state research university.

(6) PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE. A state research university that, as of July 1, 2013, meets 11 of the 12 academic and research excellence standards identified in subsection (2), as verified by the Board of Governors, shall submit to the Board of Governors a 5-year benchmark plan with target rankings on key performance metrics for national excellence. Upon the university’s meeting the benchmark plan goals annually, the Board of Governors shall award the university an amount specified in the General Appropriations Act to be provided annually throughout the 5-year period for the purpose of recruiting National Academy Members, expediting the provision of a master’s degree in cloud
virtualization, and instituting an entrepreneurs-in-residence program throughout its campus. Funding for this purpose is contingent upon specific appropriation in the General Appropriations Act.

(7) PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COURSE REQUIREMENT AUTHORITY.—In order to provide a jointly shared educational experience, a university that is designated a preeminent state research university may require its incoming first-time-in-college students to take a 9-to-12-credit set of unique courses specifically determined by the university and published on the university’s website. The university may stipulate that credit for such courses may not be earned through any acceleration mechanism pursuant to s. 1007.27 or s. 1007.271 or any other transfer credit. All accelerated credits earned up to the limits specified in ss. 1007.27 and 1007.271 shall be applied toward graduation at the student’s request.

(6)(9) PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY FLEXIBILITY AUTHORITY.—The Board of Governors is encouraged to identify and grant all reasonable, feasible authority and flexibility to ensure that a designated preeminent state research university is free from unnecessary restrictions.

(7)(9) PROGRAMS OF EXCELLENCE THROUGHOUT THE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.—The Board of Governors is encouraged to establish standards and measures whereby individual programs in state universities that objectively reflect national excellence can be identified and make recommendations to the Legislature as to how any such programs could be enhanced and promoted.

================== TITLE AMENDMENT =================
And the title is amended as follows:

Between lines 3609 and 3610

insert:

amending s. 1001.7065, F.S.; deleting obsolete provisions; revising the academic and research excellence standards for the preeminent state research universities program; requiring the Board of Governors to designate a state university that meets specified requirements as an “emerging preeminent state research university”; requiring an emerging preeminent state research university to submit a certain plan to the board and meet specified expectations to receive certain funds; providing for the distribution of certain funding increases; deleting provisions relating to the preeminent state research university enhancement initiative and special course requirement authorization;