

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to postsecondary education; amending
3 s. 1004.085, F.S.; providing requirements for lists of
4 required and recommended textbooks and instructional
5 materials for Florida College System institution and
6 state university courses; amending s. 1007.24, F.S.;
7 revising the maintenance requirements of and
8 information that must be included in the statewide
9 course numbering system; requiring certain
10 postsecondary educational institutions' registration
11 processes to include specified information; requiring
12 certain postsecondary educational institutions to
13 accept and apply general education courses and credit
14 in a specified manner; requiring the State Board of
15 Education to adopt rules; providing requirements for
16 the rules; creating s. 1008.47, F.S.; defining the
17 term "postsecondary education institution";
18 prohibiting public postsecondary education
19 institutions from being accredited by the same agency
20 or association for consecutive accreditation cycles;
21 requiring public postsecondary education institutions
22 to collaborate to identify accrediting agencies or
23 associations that are recognized by the database
24 created and maintained by the United States Department
25 of Education, other than their current accrediting

26 agencies or associations, from which to seek
 27 accreditation and seek and obtain accreditation;
 28 creating a cause of action for postsecondary education
 29 institutions; authorizing the award of specified
 30 damages, court costs, and attorney fees; providing for
 31 the future expiration of the section; amending ss.
 32 1009.23 and 1009.24, F.S.; requiring Florida College
 33 System institutions and state universities,
 34 respectively, to post specified information relating
 35 to tuition and fee rates on their websites; revising
 36 the information that must be included in a required
 37 notice to students; requiring a specific press release
 38 to be e-mailed to enrolled students; providing
 39 requirements for a Florida College System institution
 40 or state university, respectively, to raise, impose,
 41 or authorize certain fees; providing a directive to
 42 the Division of Law Revision; providing an effective
 43 date.

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 45 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 47 Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 1004.085, Florida
 48 Statutes, is amended to read:

49 1004.085 Textbook and instructional materials
 50 affordability and transparency.-

51 (5) (a) Each Florida College System institution and state
 52 university shall post prominently in the course registration
 53 system and on its website, ~~as early as is feasible, but at least~~
 54 ~~45 days before the first day of class for each term,~~ a hyperlink
 55 to lists of required and recommended textbooks and instructional
 56 materials for at least 95 percent of all courses and course
 57 sections offered at the institution during the upcoming term.
 58 The lists must include the International Standard Book Number
 59 (ISBN) for each required and recommended textbook and
 60 instructional material or other identifying information, which
 61 must include, at a minimum, all of the following: the title, all
 62 authors listed, publishers, edition number, copyright date,
 63 published date, and other relevant information necessary to
 64 identify the specific textbooks or instructional materials
 65 required and recommended for each course. The State Board of
 66 Education and the Board of Governors shall include in the
 67 policies, procedures, and guidelines adopted under subsection
 68 (6) certain limited exceptions to this notification requirement
 69 for classes added after the notification deadline.

70 (b) The lists of required and recommended textbooks and
 71 instructional materials required in paragraph (a) must:

- 72 1. Be posted as early as is feasible but at least 45 days
 73 before the first day of class for each term.
- 74 2. Remain posted for at least 5 academic years.
- 75 3. Be searchable by the course subject, course number,

HB 7051

2022

76 course title, the name of the instructor of the course, the
77 title of each assigned textbook or instructional material, and
78 each author of an assigned textbook or instructional material.

79 4. Be easily downloadable by current and prospective
80 students.

81 (c) If a course subject to the requirements of paragraphs
82 (a) and (b) is a general education core course option identified
83 pursuant to s. 1007.25, course syllabi information containing
84 sufficient detail to inform students of all of the following
85 must be included:

86 1. The course curriculum.

87 2. The goals, objectives, and student expectations of the
88 course.

89 3. How student performance will be measured.

90 Section 2. Subsection (8) of section 1007.24, Florida
91 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (9), subsections (4), (5),
92 and present subsection (8) are amended, and a new subsection (8)
93 is added to that section, to read:

94 1007.24 Statewide course numbering system.—

95 (4) The statewide course numbering system must be ~~shall~~
96 maintained electronically and regularly updated by the
97 department, and include the courses at the recommended levels,
98 course numbers, course titles, credits awarded, and other
99 identifiable information by institution and academic year, as
100 required by state board rule.

101 (5) The registration process at each state university and
 102 Florida College System institution shall include the courses at
 103 their designated levels, ~~and~~ statewide course numbers, course
 104 titles, credits awarded, and other identifiable information, as
 105 required by state board rule.

106 (8) Participating postsecondary institutions receiving
 107 transfer course credit must accept and apply general education
 108 courses and credit in accordance with this section, s. 1007.25,
 109 and other provisions of law, including credit earned through
 110 dual enrollment, course equivalencies, and other acceleration
 111 mechanisms, as first satisfying general education core course
 112 credit requirements and other general education subject area
 113 course credit requirements before applying the course credit as
 114 elective credit.

115 ~~(9)-(8)~~ The State Board of Education shall adopt rules that
 116 provide for the collection of course information from
 117 participating institutions, identifiable information required
 118 for each course, and the conduct of regularly scheduled faculty
 119 committee reviews and recommendations. At a minimum, rules must
 120 address all of the following:

121 (a) Required institutional reporting formats, timelines,
 122 and procedures for the timely and uniform collection and
 123 publication of course data information.

124 (b) Regularly scheduled faculty committee reviews and
 125 recommendations to the commissioner for the alignment or

HB 7051

2022

126 realignment of courses, course numbers, course titles,
127 designated levels, credits awarded, and other identifiable
128 information for the purpose of facilitating credit transfer and
129 acceptance for substantially similar courses at receiving
130 institutions.

131 (c) Regularly scheduled faculty committee reviews and
132 recommendations to the commissioner for the classification or
133 reclassification of courses as satisfying general education,
134 general education core, prerequisite, substitution, equivalency,
135 civic literacy, or other course types, pursuant to s. 1007.25,
136 consistent with subject area, course content, programmatic, and
137 other requirements outlined in rule.

138 (d) Purges of courses that are listed in the statewide
139 course numbering system but have not been taught at an
140 institution for the preceding 5 years. These rules must include
141 waiver provisions that allow course continuation if an
142 institution has reasonable cause for having not offered a course
143 within the 5-year limit and an expectation that the course will
144 be offered again within the following 5 years.

145 Section 3. Section 1008.47, Florida Statutes, is created
146 to read:

147 1008.47 Postsecondary education institution
148 accreditation.—

149 (1) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term
150 "postsecondary education institution" means a Florida College

151 System institution, state university, or nonpublic postsecondary
152 education institution that receives state funds.

153 (2) ACCREDITATION.—A public postsecondary education
154 institution may not be accredited by the same accrediting agency
155 or association for consecutive accreditation cycles. In the year
156 following reaffirmation or fifth-year review by their
157 accrediting agencies or associations, public postsecondary
158 education institutions must collaborate to identify accrediting
159 agencies or associations that are recognized by the database
160 created and maintained by the United States Department of
161 Education, other than their current accrediting agencies or
162 associations, from which to seek accreditation and seek and
163 obtain accreditation before their next reaffirmation date.

164 (3) CAUSE OF ACTION.—A postsecondary education institution
165 negatively impacted by retaliatory action taken against the
166 postsecondary education institution by an accrediting agency or
167 association may bring an action against the accrediting agency
168 or association in a court of competent jurisdiction and may
169 obtain liquidated damages up to the amount of federal financial
170 aid received by the postsecondary education institution, court
171 costs, and reasonable attorney fees.

172 (4) This section expires December 31, 2032.

173 Section 4. Subsection (20) of section 1009.23, Florida
174 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (21) is added to that
175 section, to read:

HB 7051

2022

176 1009.23 Florida College System institution student fees.-

177 (20) All tuition and fees described in this section, and
178 any proposed changes to such tuition and fees, must be

179 prominently posted on the Florida College System institution's
180 website in an area that is transparent and easily accessible.

181 Each Florida College System institution shall publicly notice
182 and notify all enrolled students of any proposal to increase
183 tuition or fees at least 28 days before its consideration for a
184 vote taken at a board of trustees meeting. The notice must:

185 (a) Include the date and time of the meeting at which the
186 proposal will be considered.

187 (b) Specifically outline the details of existing tuition
188 and fees, including how such tuition and fees are expended, the
189 rationale and necessity for the proposed increase, and how the
190 funds from the proposed increase will be used.

191 (c) Be posted on the institution's website and issued in a
192 press release, which must also be enclosed in an email sent to
193 all enrolled students.

194 (21) Any proposal or action of a Florida College System
195 institution to raise, impose, or authorize any fee, as
196 authorized by law, except for tuition, must be approved by a
197 supermajority vote of the members of the board of trustees of
198 the institution, if approval by the board of trustees is
199 required by general law, and at least a supermajority vote of
200 the members of the State Board of Education, if approval by the

201 State Board of Education is required by general law, in order to
 202 take effect.

203 Section 5. Subsection (20) of section 1009.24, Florida
 204 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (21) is added to that
 205 section, to read:

206 1009.24 State university student fees.—

207 (20) All tuition and fees described in this section, and
 208 any proposed changes to such tuition and fees, must be
 209 prominently posted on the state university's website in an area
 210 that is transparent and easily accessible. Each state university
 211 shall publicly notice and notify all enrolled students of any
 212 proposal to change tuition or fees at least 28 days before its
 213 consideration for a vote taken at a board of trustees meeting.

214 The notice must:

215 (a) Include the date and time of the meeting at which the
 216 proposal will be considered.

217 (b) Specifically outline the details of existing tuition
 218 and fees, including how such tuition and fees are expended, the
 219 rationale and necessity for the proposed change, and how the
 220 funds from the proposed change will be used.

221 (c) Be posted on the university's website and issued in a
 222 press release, which must also be enclosed in an email sent to
 223 all enrolled students.

224 (21) Pursuant to s. 7(e), Art. IX of the State
 225 Constitution, any proposal or action of a constituent university

HB 7051

2022

226 to raise, impose, or authorize any fee, as authorized by law,
227 except for tuition, must be approved by at least nine
228 affirmative votes of the members of the board of trustees of the
229 constituent university, if approval by the board of trustees is
230 required by general law, and at least twelve affirmative votes
231 of the members of the Board of Governors, if approval by the
232 Board of Governors is required by general law, in order to take
233 effect.

234 Section 6. The Division of Law Revision shall prepare a
235 reviser's bill for the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature
236 to replace references to the phrases "the Southern Association
237 of Colleges and Schools," "the Commission on Colleges of the
238 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools," and "the Southern
239 Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges"
240 wherever they occur in Florida Statutes with the phrase "an
241 accrediting agency or association recognized by the database
242 created and maintained by the United States Department of
243 Education."

244 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.