

**By** the Appropriations Committee on Education; the Committee on Education Postsecondary; and Senator Grall

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to higher education; amending s.  
3       1001.706, F.S.; revising the duties of the Board of  
4       Governors relating to the mission of each state  
5       university; revising requirements for the Board of  
6       Governors' strategic plan relating to the goals and  
7       objectives of the State University System; requiring  
8       the Board of Governors to annually require each state  
9       university to include certain information in its  
10      economic security report; requiring, rather than  
11      authorizing, a Board of Governors regulation to  
12      include a post-tenure review of state university  
13      faculty on a specified basis; amending s. 1001.7065,  
14      F.S.; requiring the Board of Governors Accountability  
15      Plan to annually report certain research expenditures  
16      of a specified amount; revising the number of  
17      standards an institution must meet to receive a  
18      specified designation; creating s. 1001.741, F.S.;  
19      providing that each state university president is  
20      responsible for hiring the provost, the deans, and  
21      full-time faculty; providing that the president has a  
22      duty to assess the performance of the provost and  
23      deans; authorizing the president to delegate hiring  
24      authority to specified individuals and entities;  
25      prohibiting a university from using specified methods  
26      in its admissions or personnel processes; providing  
27      that certain actions regarding personnel may not be  
28      appealed beyond the university president; requiring  
29      each state university board of trustees to have review

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30 procedures for the president's selection and  
31 reappointment of certain faculty; requiring each state  
32 university president to annually present specified  
33 performance evaluations and salaries to the board of  
34 trustees; amending s. 1004.06, F.S.; prohibiting  
35 specified educational institutions from expending  
36 funds to promote specified concepts; providing  
37 exceptions; requiring the State Board of Education and  
38 the Board of Governors to adopt rules and regulations,  
39 respectively; creating s. 1004.3841, F.S.; creating  
40 the Institute for Risk Management and Insurance  
41 Education within the College of Business at the  
42 University of Central Florida; requiring that the  
43 institute be located in a specified county; providing  
44 the purpose and goals of the institute; amending s.  
45 1004.6496, F.S.; authorizing the Board of Trustees of  
46 the University of Florida to use charitable donations  
47 in addition to appropriated funds to fund the Hamilton  
48 Center for Classical and Civic Education; revising the  
49 goals of the center; providing powers of the center;  
50 amending s. 1004.6499, F.S.; renaming the Florida  
51 Institute of Politics at the Florida State University  
52 as the Florida Institute for Governance and Civics;  
53 providing the goals of the institute; amending s.  
54 1004.64991, F.S.; authorizing the Adam Smith Center  
55 for the Study of Economic Freedom to perform certain  
56 tasks in order to carry out its established purpose;  
57 amending s. 1007.25, F.S.; revising how general  
58 education core courses are established; requiring the

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59 State Board of Education and the Board of Governors to  
60 consider approval of certain courses; requiring  
61 faculty committees to review and submit  
62 recommendations to the Articulation Coordinating  
63 Committee and the commissioner relating to certain  
64 courses by a specified date and periodically  
65 thereafter; prohibiting general education core courses  
66 from teaching certain topics or presenting information  
67 in specified ways; providing requirements for general  
68 education core courses; requiring specified  
69 educational institutions to offer certain courses;  
70 prohibiting public postsecondary educational  
71 institutions from requiring students to take certain  
72 additional general education core courses; creating s.  
73 1007.55, F.S.; providing legislative findings;  
74 providing requirements for general education courses;  
75 requiring public postsecondary educational institution  
76 boards of trustees and presidents to annually review  
77 and approve general education requirements; requiring  
78 public postsecondary educational institutions to  
79 report certain courses to the department; providing a  
80 penalty for failing to meet such review and approval  
81 requirements; prohibiting public postsecondary  
82 educational institutions from requiring students to  
83 take certain additional general education courses;  
84 requiring the State Board of Education and the Board  
85 of Governors to adopt rules and regulations,  
86 respectively; amending s. 1008.47, F.S.; specifying a  
87 one-time limit on the requirement to change

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88 accrediting agencies; providing for expiration;  
89 prohibiting an accrediting entity from requiring a  
90 public postsecondary institution to violate state law;  
91 amending s. 1009.26, F.S.; requiring the Board of  
92 Governors to identify state-approved teacher  
93 preparation programs eligible for a tuition waiver;  
94 providing that certain postsecondary fee waivers  
95 continue until specified criteria are met; providing  
96 an effective date.

97

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

99

100 Section 1. Paragraphs (a) through (d) of subsection (5) and  
101 paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of section 1001.706, Florida  
102 Statutes, are amended to read:

103 1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—

104 (5) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO ACCOUNTABILITY.—

105 (a) The Legislature intends that the Board of Governors  
106 shall align the missions of each constituent university with the  
107 academic success of its students; the existing and emerging  
108 economic development needs of the state; the national reputation  
109 of its faculty and its academic and research programs; the  
110 quantity of externally generated research, patents, and  
111 licenses; and the strategic and accountability plans required in  
112 paragraphs (b) and (c). The Board of Governors shall  
113 periodically review the mission of each constituent university  
114 and make updates or revisions as needed. Upon completion of a  
115 review of the mission, the board shall review existing academic  
116 programs for alignment with the mission. The board shall include

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117 in its review a directive to each constituent university to  
118 examine its programs for any curriculum that violates s. 1000.05  
119 or that is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism,  
120 oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of  
121 the United States and were created to maintain social,  
122 political, and economic inequities. The mission alignment and  
123 strategic plan must ~~shall~~ consider peer institutions at the  
124 constituent universities. The mission alignment and strategic  
125 plan must ~~shall~~ acknowledge that universities that have a  
126 national and international impact have the greatest capacity to  
127 promote the state's economic development through: new  
128 discoveries, patents, licenses, and technologies that generate  
129 state businesses of global importance; research achievements  
130 through external grants and contracts that are comparable to  
131 nationally recognized and ranked universities; the creation of a  
132 resource rich academic environment that attracts high-technology  
133 business and venture capital to the state; and this generation's  
134 finest minds focusing on solving the state's economic, social,  
135 environmental, and legal problems in the areas of life sciences,  
136 water, sustainability, energy, and health care. A nationally  
137 recognized and ranked university that has a global perspective  
138 and impact must ~~shall~~ be afforded the opportunity to enable and  
139 protect the university's competitiveness on the global stage in  
140 fair competition with other institutions of other states in the  
141 highest Carnegie Classification.

142 (b) The Board of Governors shall develop a strategic plan  
143 specifying goals and objectives for the State University System  
144 and each constituent university, including each university's  
145 contribution to overall system goals and objectives. The

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146 strategic plan must:

147 1. Include performance metrics and standards common for all  
148 institutions and metrics and standards unique to institutions  
149 depending on institutional core missions, including, but not  
150 limited to, student admission requirements, retention,  
151 graduation, percentage of graduates who have attained  
152 employment, percentage of graduates enrolled in continued  
153 education, licensure passage, nondegree credential attainment,  
154 average wages of employed graduates, average cost per graduate,  
155 excess hours, student loan burden and default rates, faculty  
156 awards, total annual research expenditures, patents, licenses  
157 and royalties, intellectual property, startup companies, annual  
158 giving, endowments, and well-known, highly respected national  
159 rankings for institutional and program achievements.

160 2. Consider reports and recommendations of the Florida  
161 Talent Development Council under s. 1004.015 and the  
162 Articulation Coordinating Committee under s. 1007.01.

163 3. Include student enrollment and performance data  
164 delineated by method of instruction, including, but not limited  
165 to, traditional, online, and distance learning instruction.

166 4. Include criteria for designating baccalaureate degree  
167 and master's degree programs at specified universities as high-  
168 demand programs of emphasis. The programs of emphasis list  
169 adopted by the Board of Governors before July 1, 2021, shall be  
170 used for the 2021-2022 academic year. Beginning in the 2022-2023  
171 academic year, the Board of Governors shall adopt the criteria  
172 to determine value for and prioritization of degree credentials  
173 and degree programs established by the Credentials Review  
174 Committee under s. 445.004 for designating high-demand programs

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175 of emphasis. The Board of Governors must review designated  
176 programs of emphasis, at a minimum, every 3 years to ensure  
177 alignment with the prioritization of degree credentials and  
178 degree programs identified by the Credentials Review Committee.

179 5. Include criteria for nondegree credentials.

180 (c) The Board of Governors shall develop an accountability  
181 plan for the State University System and each constituent  
182 university. The accountability plan must address institutional  
183 and system achievement of goals and objectives specified in the  
184 strategic plan adopted pursuant to paragraph (b) and must be  
185 submitted as part of its legislative budget request. Each  
186 university shall submit, as a component of the university's  
187 annual accountability plan:7

188 1. Information on the effectiveness of its plan for  
189 improving 4-year graduation rates; and

190 2. The level of financial assistance provided to students  
191 pursuant to paragraph (h).

192 ~~(d) Beginning in the 2014-2015 academic year and annually~~  
193 ~~thereafter,~~ The Board of Governors shall annually require a  
194 state university prior to registration to provide each enrolled  
195 student electronic access to the economic security report of  
196 employment and earning outcomes prepared by the Department of  
197 Economic Opportunity pursuant to s. 445.07. In addition, the  
198 Board of Governors shall require a state university to provide  
199 each student electronic access to the following information each  
200 year prior to registration using the data described in s.  
201 1008.39:

202 1. The top 25 percent of degrees reported by the university  
203 in terms of highest full-time job placement and highest average

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204 annualized earnings in the year after earning the degree.

205 2. The bottom 10 percent of degrees reported by the  
206 university in terms of lowest full-time job placement and lowest  
207 average annualized earnings in the year after earning the  
208 degree.

209 (6) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO PERSONNEL.—

210 (b) The Board of Governors shall ~~may~~ adopt a regulation  
211 requiring each tenured state university faculty member to  
212 undergo a comprehensive post-tenure review every 5 years. The  
213 board may include other considerations in the regulation, but  
214 the regulation must address:

215 1. Accomplishments and productivity;  
216 2. Assigned duties in research, teaching, and service;  
217 3. Performance metrics, evaluations, and ratings; and  
218 4. Recognition and compensation considerations, as well as  
219 improvement plans and consequences for underperformance.

220 Section 2. Paragraph (m) is added to subsection (2) of  
221 section 1001.7065, Florida Statutes, and subsection (3) of that  
222 section is amended, to read:

223 1001.7065 Preeminent state research universities program.—

224 (2) ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE STANDARDS.—The  
225 following academic and research excellence standards are  
226 established for the preeminent state research universities  
227 program and shall be reported annually in the Board of Governors  
228 Accountability Plan:

229 (m) Total annual STEM-related research expenditures,  
230 including federal research expenditures, of \$50 million or more.

231 (3) PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY DESIGNATION.—

232 (a) The Board of Governors shall designate each state



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233 university that annually meets at least 12 ~~11~~ of the 13 ~~12~~  
 234 academic and research excellence standards identified in  
 235 subsection (2) as a "preeminent state research university."

236 (b) The Board of Governors shall designate each state  
 237 university that annually meets at least 7 ~~6~~ of the 13 ~~12~~  
 238 academic and research excellence standards identified in  
 239 subsection (2) as an "emerging preeminent state research  
 240 university."

241 Section 3. Section 1001.741, Florida Statutes, is created  
 242 to read:

243 1001.741 State university personnel.-

244 (1) Except as delegated pursuant to paragraph (a), each  
 245 state university president has the final authority for hiring  
 246 the provost, the deans, and all full-time faculty for the  
 247 university, and has an ongoing duty to assess the performance,  
 248 productivity, and employment practices of the university's  
 249 provost and deans. The president of the university is encouraged  
 250 to engage in faculty recruiting as appropriate, and shall  
 251 provide a regular report and recommendations on employment  
 252 practices to the board at least twice annually.

253 (a) The president may delegate hiring authority to  
 254 individuals on the university's executive management team within  
 255 the president's office, to the provost, or to individual deans;  
 256 however, the president or the person delegated such hiring  
 257 authority is not bound by the recommendations or opinions of  
 258 faculty or other individuals.

259 (b) A state university may not require any statement,  
 260 pledge, or oath other than to uphold general and federal law,  
 261 the United States Constitution, and the State Constitution as a

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262 part of any admissions, hiring, employment, promotion, tenure,  
263 disciplinary, or evaluation process.

264 (2) Notwithstanding s. 447.401 or any other law, personnel  
265 actions or decisions regarding faculty, including in the areas  
266 of evaluations, promotions, tenure, discipline, or termination,  
267 may not be appealed beyond the level of a university president  
268 or designee. Such actions or decisions must have as their  
269 terminal step a final agency disposition, which must be issued  
270 in writing to the faculty member, and are not subject to  
271 arbitration. The filing of a grievance does not toll the action  
272 or decision of the university, including the termination of pay  
273 and benefits of a suspended or terminated faculty member.

274 (3) Each state university board of trustees must have  
275 procedures for the review of the president's selection and  
276 reappointment of each member of the university's executive  
277 management team, and his or her respective contract and annual  
278 salary, before such contracts and salaries become effective, in  
279 accordance with the personnel program established by the Board  
280 of Governors.

281 (4) Each state university president shall annually present  
282 to the state university board of trustees the results of  
283 performance evaluations and associated annual salaries for all  
284 evaluated academic and administrative personnel earning an  
285 annual salary of \$200,000 or more, regardless of the funding  
286 source for such salaries. The results may be presented in a  
287 summary or written format.

288 Section 4. Section 1004.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
289 read:

290 1004.06 Prohibited expenditures.-

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291       (1) ~~A No~~ Florida College System institution, state  
292 university, Florida College System institution direct-support  
293 organization, or state university direct-support organization  
294 may not shall expend any funds, regardless of source, to  
295 purchase membership in, or goods and services from, any  
296 organization that discriminates on the basis of race, color,  
297 national origin, sex, disability ~~gender~~, or religion.

298       (2) A Florida College System institution, state university,  
299 Florida College System institution direct-support organization,  
300 or state university direct-support organization may not expend  
301 any funds, regardless of source, to promote, support, or  
302 maintain any programs or campus activities that:

303       (a) Violate s. 1000.05; or

304       (b) Are based on theories that systemic racism, sexism,  
305 oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of  
306 the United States and were created to maintain social,  
307 political, and economic inequities.

308       (3) Subsection (2) does not prohibit programs or campus  
309 activities and functions required for compliance with federal  
310 laws or regulations; for obtaining or retaining institutional or  
311 discipline-specific accreditation; for securing or retaining  
312 research contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements; or for  
313 access programs for military veterans, Pell Grant recipients,  
314 first generation college students, nontraditional students,  
315 "2+2" transfer students from the Florida College System,  
316 students from low-income families, or students with unique  
317 abilities.

318       (4) The State Board of Education and the Board of Governors  
319 shall adopt rules and regulations, respectively, to implement

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320 this section.

321 Section 5. Section 1004.3841, Florida Statutes, is created  
322 to read:

323 1004.3841 The Institute for Risk Management and Insurance  
324 Education.—The Institute for Risk Management and Insurance  
325 Education is established within the College of Business at the  
326 University of Central Florida. Since insurance and risk  
327 management is a major industry in the state, with a  
328 concentration of such industry in Volusia County, the institute  
329 shall be located in Volusia County. Like many other industries  
330 in the state, the insurance and risk management industry is  
331 being revolutionized by, among other things, the integration of  
332 technology, predictive analytics, and data science, and is  
333 becoming more complex, given its exposure to transformative  
334 trends in the economy and environment. The purpose of the  
335 institute is to respond to the ever-evolving insurance and risk  
336 management industry and the present and emerging needs of this  
337 state and its residents. The goals of the institute are to:

338 (1) Pursue technological innovations that advance risk  
339 valuation models and operational efficiencies in the insurance  
340 industry.

341 (2) Drive the development of workforce competencies in data  
342 analytics, system-level thinking, technology integration,  
343 entrepreneurship, and actuarial science.

344 (3) Leverage the University of Central Florida's world-  
345 class assets in data science, artificial intelligence, computer  
346 science, engineering, finance, economics, and sales.

347 (4) Take advantage of the University of Central Florida's  
348 robust portfolio of academic program offerings and draw on

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349 faculty and industry experts in diverse fields, including  
350 actuarial science, computer science, economics, engineering,  
351 environmental science, finance, forensics, law, management,  
352 marketing, and psychology.

353 (5) Develop and offer risk management and insurance  
354 education, including education that recognizes risks in areas  
355 such as the environment, pandemic disease, and digital security.

356 (6) Offer programs, workshops, case studies, and applied  
357 research studies that integrate technology and artificial  
358 intelligence with soft skills while preparing students and  
359 professionals for the technology-enabled insurance industry of  
360 the future.

361 Section 6. Section 1004.6496, Florida Statutes, is amended  
362 to read:

363 1004.6496 Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic  
364 Education.—

365 (1) By July 1, 2024, the Board of Trustees of the  
366 University of Florida may use funds as provided in the General  
367 Appropriations Act and charitable donations to establish and  
368 fund the Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education as an  
369 academic unit within the University of Florida. The purpose of  
370 the center is to support teaching and research concerning the  
371 ideas, traditions, and texts that form the foundations of  
372 Western and American civilization.

373 (2) The goals of the center are to:

374 (a) Educate university students in core texts and great  
375 debates of Western civilization and the Great Books.

376 (b) Educate university students in the principles, ideals,  
377 and institutions of the American political order.

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378 (c) Educate university students in the foundations of  
379 responsible leadership and informed citizenship.

380 (d) Provide programming and training related to civic  
381 education and the values of open inquiry and civil discourse to  
382 support the K-20 system.

383 (e) Coordinate with the Florida Institute for Governance  
384 and Civics ~~of Politics~~ created pursuant to s. 1004.6499 and the  
385 Adam Smith Center for the Study of Economic Freedom created  
386 pursuant to s. 1004.64991 and assist in the curation and  
387 implementation of Portraits in Patriotism created pursuant to s.  
388 1003.44.

389 (3) In order to carry out the purposes set forth in  
390 subsection (2), the center is authorized to:

391 (a) Hire necessary faculty and staff pursuant to s.  
392 1001.741;

393 (b) Enroll students;

394 (c) Develop curriculum and offer new courses, including  
395 honors courses, certificates, and major and minor programs;

396 (d) Hold events, including fundraisers;

397 (e) Fulfill other actions approved by the president of the  
398 university; and

399 (f) Generate resources based on student credit hour  
400 enrollment, in the same manner as any other center within the  
401 institution.

402 (4) The president of the university may hire a director for  
403 the center.

404 (a) The president of the university may remove the director  
405 in accordance with the policies and procedures established at  
406 the university.

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407 (b) The director of the center must report directly to the  
408 president or provost of the university.

409 (5) Faculty of the center may be awarded tenure, subject to  
410 the tenure regulations adopted by the university board of  
411 trustees.

412 (6) Funds appropriated specifically to the center may not  
413 be used for any other purpose at the university; however, the  
414 university can provide additional funding as available to the  
415 center.

416 Section 7. Section 1004.6499, Florida Statutes, is amended  
417 to read:

418 1004.6499 Florida Institute for Governance and Civics ~~of~~  
419 ~~Politics.~~—

420 (1) The Florida Institute for Governance and Civics ~~of~~  
421 ~~Politics~~ is established at the Florida State University ~~within~~  
422 ~~the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy. The purpose of~~  
423 ~~the institute is to provide the southeastern region of the~~  
424 ~~United States with a world class, bipartisan, nationally~~  
425 ~~renowned institute of politics.~~

426 (2) The goals of the institute are to:

427 (a) Provide students with access to an interdisciplinary  
428 hub that will develop academically rigorous scholarship and  
429 coursework on the origins of the American system of government,  
430 its foundational documents, its subsequent political traditions  
431 and evolutions, and its impact on comparative political systems  
432 ~~Motivate students throughout the Florida State University to~~  
433 ~~become aware of the significance of government and civic~~  
434 ~~engagement at all levels and politics in general.~~

435 (b) Encourage civic literacy in this state through the

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436 development of educational tools and resources for K-12 and  
437 postsecondary students which foster an understanding of how  
438 individual rights, constitutionalism, separation of powers, and  
439 federalism function within the American system ~~Provide students~~  
440 ~~with an opportunity to be politically active and civically~~  
441 ~~engaged.~~

442 (c) Model civic discourse that recognizes the importance of  
443 viewpoint diversity, intellectual rigor, and an evidence-based  
444 approach to history ~~Nurture a greater awareness of and passion~~  
445 ~~for public service and politics.~~

446 (d) Plan and host forums to allow students and guests to  
447 hear from exceptional individuals who have excelled in a wide  
448 range of sectors of American life, to highlight the  
449 possibilities created by individual achievement and  
450 entrepreneurial vision ~~and interact with experts from~~  
451 ~~government, politics, policy, and journalism on a frequent~~  
452 ~~basis.~~

453 (e) Become a national and state resource on using polling  
454 instruments and other assessments to measure civic literacy and  
455 make recommendations for improving civic education ~~information~~  
456 ~~and survey methodology.~~

457 (f) Provide fellowships and internship opportunities to  
458 students in government, ~~nonprofit organizations, and community~~  
459 ~~organizations.~~

460 (g) Create through scholarship, original research,  
461 publications, symposia, testimonials, and other means a body of  
462 resources that can be accessed by students, scholars, and  
463 government officials to understand the innovations in public  
464 policy in this state over a rolling 30-year time period ~~Provide~~



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465 ~~training sessions for newly elected state and local public~~  
466 ~~officials.~~

467 ~~(h) Organize and sponsor conferences, symposia, and~~  
468 ~~workshops throughout this state to educate and inform citizens,~~  
469 ~~elected officials, and appointed policymakers regarding~~  
470 ~~effective policymaking techniques and processes.~~

471 ~~(i) Create and promote research and awareness regarding~~  
472 ~~politics, citizen involvement, and public service.~~

473 ~~(j) Collaborate with related policy institutes and research~~  
474 ~~activities at the Florida State University and other~~  
475 ~~institutions of higher education to motivate, increase, and~~  
476 ~~sustain citizen involvement in public affairs.~~

477 Section 8. Subsection (3) is added to section 1004.64991,  
478 Florida Statutes, to read:

479 1004.64991 The Adam Smith Center for the Study of Economic  
480 Freedom.—

481 (3) In order to carry out the purpose set forth in this  
482 section, the institute is authorized to:

483 (a) Hire necessary faculty and staff pursuant to s.  
484 1001.741;

485 (b) Enroll students;

486 (c) Develop curriculum and offer new courses, including  
487 honors courses, certificates, and major and minor programs;

488 (d) Hold events, including fundraisers;

489 (e) Fulfill other actions approved by the president of the  
490 university; and

491 (f) Generate resources based on student credit hour  
492 enrollment, in the same manner as any college within the  
493 institution.

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494 Section 9. Subsection (3) of section 1007.25, Florida  
495 Statutes, is amended to read:

496 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;  
497 other degree requirements.—

498 (3) The chair of the State Board of Education and the chair  
499 of the Board of Governors, or their designees, shall jointly  
500 appoint faculty committees to review and recommend to the  
501 Articulation Coordinating Committee for approval by the State  
502 Board of Education and the Board of Governors ~~identify~~ statewide  
503 general education core course options for inclusion in the  
504 statewide course numbering system established under s. 1007.24.  
505 Faculty committees shall, by July 1, 2024, and by July 1 every 4  
506 years thereafter, review and submit recommendations to the  
507 Articulation Coordinating Committee and the commissioner for the  
508 removal, alignment, realignment, or addition of general  
509 education core courses that satisfy the requirements of this  
510 subsection.

511 (a) General education core course options shall consist of  
512 a maximum of five courses within each of the subject areas of  
513 communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and  
514 natural sciences. The core courses may be revised, or the five-  
515 course maximum within each subject area may be exceeded, if  
516 approved by the State Board of Education and the Board of  
517 Governors, as recommended by the subject area faculty committee  
518 and approved by the Articulation Coordinating Committee as  
519 necessary for a subject area.

520 (b) Each general education core course option must contain  
521 high-level academic and critical thinking skills and common  
522 competencies that students must demonstrate to successfully

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523 complete the course.

524 (c) General education core courses may not distort  
525 significant historical events or include a curriculum that  
526 teaches identity politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on  
527 theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege  
528 are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were  
529 created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.

530 (d) General education core courses must meet the following  
531 standards:

532 1. Communication courses must afford students the ability  
533 to communicate effectively, including the ability to write  
534 clearly and engage in public speaking.

535 2. Humanities courses must afford students the ability to  
536 think critically through the mastering of subjects concerned  
537 with human culture, especially literature, history, art, music,  
538 and philosophy, and must include selections from the Western  
539 canon.

540 3. Social science courses must afford students an  
541 understanding of the basic social and behavioral science  
542 concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavior and  
543 past and present social, political, and economic issues.

544 4. Natural science courses must afford students the ability  
545 to critically examine and evaluate the principles of the  
546 scientific method, model construction, and use the scientific  
547 method to explain natural experiences and phenomena.

548 5. Mathematics courses must afford students a mastery of  
549 foundational mathematical and computation models and methods by  
550 applying such models and methods in problem solving.

551 (e) Beginning with students initially entering a Florida

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552 College System institution or state university in 2015-2016 and  
553 thereafter, each student must complete at least one identified  
554 core course in each subject area as part of the general  
555 education course requirements. Beginning in the 2022-2023  
556 academic year and thereafter, students entering a technical  
557 degree education program as defined in s. 1004.02(13) must  
558 complete at least one identified core course in each subject  
559 area as part of the general education course requirements before  
560 a degree is awarded.

561 (f) All public postsecondary educational institutions shall  
562 offer at least one general education core course in each of the  
563 identified subject areas and accept ~~these~~ courses as meeting  
564 general education core course requirements upon transfer,  
565 regardless of whether the receiving institution offers the  
566 identical general education core courses. The remaining general  
567 education course requirements shall be identified by each  
568 institution as approved in accordance with this section and  
569 listed in the statewide course numbering system and reported to  
570 the department by their statewide course number.

571 (g) A public postsecondary educational institution may not  
572 require a student to complete an additional course to meet a  
573 subject area distribution requirement that was completed by the  
574 student with a course that has since been removed as a general  
575 education core course.

576 (h) The general education core course options shall be  
577 adopted in rule by the State Board of Education and in  
578 regulation by the Board of Governors.

579 Section 10. Section 1007.55, Florida Statutes, is created  
580 to read:

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581 1007.55 General education course principles, standards, and  
582 content.-

583 (1) The Legislature finds it necessary to ensure that every  
584 undergraduate student of a Florida public postsecondary  
585 educational institution graduates as an informed citizen through  
586 participation in rigorous general education courses that promote  
587 and preserve the constitutional republic through traditional,  
588 historically accurate, and high-quality coursework. General  
589 education courses should provide broad foundational knowledge to  
590 help students develop intellectual skills and habits that enable  
591 them to become more effective and lifelong learners. Courses  
592 with a curriculum based on unproven, speculative, or exploratory  
593 content are best suited as elective or specific program  
594 prerequisite credit, not general education credit. General  
595 education courses must:

596 (a) Meet the course standards as provided in s. 1007.25;  
597 and

598 (b) Whenever applicable, provide instruction on the  
599 historical background and philosophical foundation of Western  
600 civilization and this nation's historical documents, such as the  
601 Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the  
602 Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments, and the Federalist  
603 Papers.

604 (2) Public postsecondary educational institution boards of  
605 trustees and presidents are responsible for annually reviewing  
606 and approving, at a public meeting, general education course  
607 requirements, as authorized and approved in accordance with ss.  
608 1007.24 and 1007.25 and this section, at their respective  
609 institutions. The following must be included for each listed

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610 general education course:

611 (a) The general education distribution area;

612 (b) The number of state universities that offer the course  
613 and the number of Florida College System institutions that offer  
614 the course; and

615 (c) The course level.

616 (3) Each public postsecondary educational institution must  
617 annually submit to the Board of Governors or the State Board of  
618 Education, as applicable, the institution's listing of approved  
619 general education courses, which must include the information in  
620 paragraphs (2) (a), (b), and (c). The applicable board must  
621 approve the institution general education course lists.

622 (4) Public postsecondary educational institutions must  
623 report courses meeting institutional general education subject  
624 requirements to the department by their statewide course number.

625 (5) Public postsecondary educational institutions that fail  
626 to comply with the requirements of this section are not eligible  
627 to receive performance-based funding pursuant to ss. 1001.66 or  
628 1001.92.

629 (6) A public postsecondary educational institution may not  
630 require a student to take an additional course to meet a subject  
631 area distribution requirement that was completed by the student  
632 with a course that has since been removed as a general education  
633 course.

634 (7) The State Board of Education and the Board of Governors  
635 shall adopt rules and regulations, respectively, to implement  
636 this section.

637 Section 11. Present subsections (3) and (4) of section  
638 1008.47, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (4)

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639 and (5), respectively, a new subsection (3) is added to that  
640 section, and subsection (2) and present subsection (3) of that  
641 section are amended, to read:

642 1008.47 Postsecondary education institution accreditation.—

643 (2) ACCREDITATION.—

644 (a) By September 1, 2022, the Board of Governors or the  
645 State Board of Education, as applicable, shall identify and  
646 determine the accrediting agencies or associations best suited  
647 to serve as an accreditor for public postsecondary institutions.  
648 Such accrediting agencies or associations must be recognized by  
649 the database created and maintained by the United States  
650 Department of Education. ~~A public postsecondary institution may~~  
651 ~~not be accredited by the same accrediting agency or association~~  
652 ~~for consecutive accreditation cycles.~~ In the year following  
653 reaffirmation or fifth-year review by its accrediting agencies  
654 or associations, each public postsecondary institution must seek  
655 and obtain accreditation from an accrediting agency or  
656 association identified by the Board of Governors or State Board  
657 of Education, respectively, before its next reaffirmation or  
658 fifth-year review date. The requirements in this section are  
659 limited to a one-time change in accreditation. The requirements  
660 of this subsection are not applicable to those professional,  
661 graduate, departmental, or certificate programs at public  
662 postsecondary institutions that have specific accreditation  
663 requirements or best practices, including, but not limited to,  
664 law, pharmacy, engineering, or other similarly situated  
665 educational programs.

666 (b) Once a public postsecondary institution is required to  
667 seek and obtain accreditation from an agency or association

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668 identified pursuant to paragraph (a), the institution shall seek  
669 accreditation from a regional accrediting agency or association  
670 and provide quarterly reports of its progress to the Board of  
671 Governors or State Board of Education, as applicable. If each  
672 regional accreditation agency or association identified pursuant  
673 to paragraph (a) has refused to grant candidacy status to an  
674 institution, the institution must ~~shall~~ seek and obtain  
675 accreditation from any accrediting agency or association that is  
676 different from its current accrediting agency or association and  
677 is recognized by the database created and maintained by the  
678 United States Department of Education. If a public postsecondary  
679 institution is not granted candidacy status before its next  
680 reaffirmation or fifth-year review date, the institution may  
681 remain with its current accrediting agency or association.

682 (c) This subsection expires December 31, 2032.

683 (3) PROHIBITION.—An accrediting agency or association may  
684 not compel any public postsecondary institution to violate state  
685 law, and any adverse action upon the institution based upon the  
686 institution's compliance with state law constitutes a violation  
687 of this section that may be enforced through subsection (4),  
688 except to the extent that state law is preempted by a federal  
689 law that recognizes the necessity of the accreditation standard  
690 or requirement.

691 (4) ~~(3)~~ CAUSE OF ACTION.—A postsecondary education  
692 institution negatively impacted by retaliatory or adverse action  
693 taken against the postsecondary education institution by an  
694 accrediting agency or association may bring an action against  
695 the accrediting agency or association in a court of competent  
696 jurisdiction and may obtain liquidated damages in up to the



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697 amount of federal financial aid received by the postsecondary  
698 education institution, court costs, and reasonable attorney  
699 fees.

700 Section 12. Paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subsection (18)  
701 of section 1009.26, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

702 1009.26 Fee Waivers.—

703 (18) (a) For every course in a Program of Strategic  
704 Emphasis, or in a state-approved teacher preparation program  
705 identified by the Board of Governors, as identified in  
706 subparagraph 3., in which a student is enrolled, a state  
707 university shall waive 100 percent of the tuition and fees for  
708 an equivalent course in such program for a student who:

709 1. Is a resident for tuition purposes under s. 1009.21.

710 2. Has earned at least 60 semester credit hours towards a  
711 baccalaureate degree within 2 academic years after initial  
712 enrollment at a Florida public postsecondary institution.

713 3. Enrolls in one of 10 Programs of Strategic Emphasis as  
714 adopted by the Board of Governors or in one of two state-  
715 approved teacher preparation programs identified by the Board of  
716 Governors. The Board of Governors shall adopt eight Programs of  
717 Strategic Emphasis in science, technology, engineering, or math;  
718 ~~and~~, beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year, two Programs of  
719 Strategic Emphasis in the critical workforce gap analysis  
720 category; and beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year, two  
721 state-approved teacher preparation programs for which a student  
722 may be eligible to receive the tuition and fee waiver authorized  
723 by this subsection. The programs identified by the board must  
724 reflect the priorities of the state and be offered at a majority  
725 of state universities at the time the Board of Governors

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726 approves the list.

727 (b) A waiver granted under this subsection is applicable  
728 only for upper-level courses and up to 110 percent of the number  
729 of required credit hours of the baccalaureate degree program for  
730 which the student is enrolled. A student granted a waiver under  
731 this subsection shall continue receiving the waiver until the  
732 student graduates, exceeds the number of allowable credit hours,  
733 or withdraws from an eligible program, regardless of whether the  
734 program is removed from the approved list of eligible programs  
735 subsequent to the student's enrollment.

736 (c) Upon enrollment in a Program of Strategic Emphasis or  
737 in one of two teacher preparation programs identified by the  
738 Board of Governors, the tuition and fees waived under this  
739 subsection must be reported for state funding purposes under ss.  
740 1009.534 and 1009.535 and must be disbursed to the student. The  
741 amount disbursed to the student must ~~shall~~ be equal to the award  
742 amount the student has received under s. 1009.534(2) or s.  
743 1009.535(2).

744 Section 13. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.