

**By** the Committee on Fiscal Policy; 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 for certain purposes; providing exceptions;  
37 requiring the State Board of Education and the Board  
38 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; requiring  
49 the University of Florida to annually report to the  
50 Governor and Legislature on the transition of the  
51 center to a college; revising the goals of the center;  
52 requiring the University of Florida president to take  
53 specified actions; providing requirements for the use  
54 of appropriated funds; authorizing the university to  
55 provide additional funding to the center; amending s.  
56 1004.6499, F.S.; renaming the Florida Institute of  
57 Politics at the Florida State University as the  
58 Florida Institute for Governance and Civics; providing

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59 the goals of the institute; amending s. 1004.64991,  
60 F.S.; authorizing the Adam Smith Center for the Study  
61 of Economic Freedom to perform certain tasks in order  
62 to carry out its established purpose; amending s.  
63 1007.25, F.S.; revising how general education core  
64 courses are established; requiring the State Board of  
65 Education and the Board of Governors to consider  
66 approval of certain courses; requiring faculty  
67 committees to review and submit recommendations to the  
68 Articulation Coordinating Committee and the  
69 commissioner relating to certain courses by a  
70 specified date and periodically thereafter;  
71 prohibiting general education core courses from  
72 teaching certain topics or presenting information in  
73 specified ways; providing requirements for general  
74 education core courses; requiring specified  
75 educational institutions to offer certain courses;  
76 prohibiting public postsecondary educational  
77 institutions from requiring students to take certain  
78 additional general education core courses; creating s.  
79 1007.55, F.S.; providing legislative findings;  
80 providing requirements for general education courses;  
81 requiring public postsecondary educational institution  
82 boards of trustees and presidents to annually review  
83 and approve general education requirements; requiring  
84 public postsecondary educational institutions to  
85 report certain courses to the department; requiring  
86 the Articulation Coordinating Committee to submit  
87 general education courses to the State Board of

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88 Education and the Board of Governors for action;  
89 providing a penalty for failing to meet such review  
90 and approval requirements; prohibiting public  
91 postsecondary educational institutions from requiring  
92 students to take certain additional general education  
93 courses; requiring the State Board of Education and  
94 the Board of Governors to adopt rules and regulations,  
95 respectively; amending s. 1008.47, F.S.; specifying a  
96 one-time limit on the requirement to change  
97 accrediting agencies; providing for expiration;  
98 prohibiting an accrediting entity from requiring a  
99 public postsecondary institution to violate state law;  
100 amending s. 1009.26, F.S.; requiring the Board of  
101 Governors to identify state-approved teacher  
102 preparation programs eligible for a tuition waiver;  
103 providing that certain postsecondary fee waivers  
104 continue until specified criteria are met; providing  
105 an effective date.

106  
107 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

108  
109 Section 1. Paragraphs (a) through (d) of subsection (5) and  
110 paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of section 1001.706, Florida  
111 Statutes, are amended to read:

112 1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—

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

114 (a) The Legislature intends that the Board of Governors  
115 shall align the missions of each constituent university with the  
116 academic success of its students; the existing and emerging

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117 economic development needs of the state; the national reputation  
118 of its faculty and its academic and research programs; the  
119 quantity of externally generated research, patents, and  
120 licenses; and the strategic and accountability plans required in  
121 paragraphs (b) and (c). The Board of Governors shall  
122 periodically review the mission of each constituent university  
123 and make updates or revisions as needed. Upon completion of a  
124 review of the mission, the board shall review existing academic  
125 programs for alignment with the mission. The board shall include  
126 in its review a directive to each constituent university  
127 regarding its programs for any curriculum that violates s.  
128 1000.05 or that is based on theories that systemic racism,  
129 sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the  
130 institutions of the United States and were created to maintain  
131 social, political, and economic inequities. The mission  
132 alignment and strategic plan must ~~shall~~ consider peer  
133 institutions at the constituent universities. The mission  
134 alignment and strategic plan must ~~shall~~ acknowledge that  
135 universities that have a national and international impact have  
136 the greatest capacity to promote the state's economic  
137 development through: new discoveries, patents, licenses, and  
138 technologies that generate state businesses of global  
139 importance; research achievements through external grants and  
140 contracts that are comparable to nationally recognized and  
141 ranked universities; the creation of a resource rich academic  
142 environment that attracts high-technology business and venture  
143 capital to the state; and this generation's finest minds  
144 focusing on solving the state's economic, social, environmental,  
145 and legal problems in the areas of life sciences, water,

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146 sustainability, energy, and health care. A nationally recognized  
147 and ranked university that has a global perspective and impact  
148 must ~~shall~~ be afforded the opportunity to enable and protect the  
149 university's competitiveness on the global stage in fair  
150 competition with other institutions of other states in the  
151 highest Carnegie Classification.

152 (b) The Board of Governors shall develop a strategic plan  
153 specifying goals and objectives for the State University System  
154 and each constituent university, including each university's  
155 contribution to overall system goals and objectives. The  
156 strategic plan must:

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

170 2. Consider reports and recommendations of the Florida  
171 Talent Development Council under s. 1004.015 and the  
172 Articulation Coordinating Committee under s. 1007.01.

173 3. Include student enrollment and performance data  
174 delineated by method of instruction, including, but not limited

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175 to, traditional, online, and distance learning instruction.

176 4. Include criteria for designating baccalaureate degree  
177 and master's degree programs at specified universities as high-  
178 demand programs of emphasis. The programs of emphasis list  
179 adopted by the Board of Governors before July 1, 2021, shall be  
180 used for the 2021-2022 academic year. Beginning in the 2022-2023  
181 academic year, the Board of Governors shall adopt the criteria  
182 to determine value for and prioritization of degree credentials  
183 and degree programs established by the Credentials Review  
184 Committee under s. 445.004 for designating high-demand programs  
185 of emphasis. The Board of Governors must review designated  
186 programs of emphasis, at a minimum, every 3 years to ensure  
187 alignment with the prioritization of degree credentials and  
188 degree programs identified by the Credentials Review Committee.

189 5. Include criteria for nondegree credentials.

190 (c) The Board of Governors shall develop an accountability  
191 plan for the State University System and each constituent  
192 university. The accountability plan must address institutional  
193 and system achievement of goals and objectives specified in the  
194 strategic plan adopted pursuant to paragraph (b) and must be  
195 submitted as part of its legislative budget request. Each  
196 university shall submit, as a component of the university's  
197 annual accountability plan:7

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

200 2. The level of financial assistance provided to students  
201 pursuant to paragraph (h).

202 (d) ~~Beginning in the 2014-2015 academic year and annually~~  
203 ~~thereafter,~~ The Board of Governors shall annually require a

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204 state university prior to registration to provide each enrolled  
205 student electronic access to the economic security report of  
206 employment and earning outcomes prepared by the Department of  
207 Economic Opportunity pursuant to s. 445.07. In addition, the  
208 Board of Governors shall require a state university to provide  
209 each student electronic access to the following information each  
210 year prior to registration using the data described in s.  
211 1008.39:

212 1. The top 25 percent of degrees reported by the university  
213 in terms of highest full-time job placement and highest average  
214 annualized earnings in the year after earning the degree.

215 2. The bottom 10 percent of degrees reported by the  
216 university in terms of lowest full-time job placement and lowest  
217 average annualized earnings in the year after earning the  
218 degree.

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

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

- 225 1. Accomplishments and productivity;
- 226 2. Assigned duties in research, teaching, and service;
- 227 3. Performance metrics, evaluations, and ratings; and
- 228 4. Recognition and compensation considerations, as well as  
229 improvement plans and consequences for underperformance.

230 Section 2. Paragraph (m) is added to subsection (2) of  
231 section 1001.7065, Florida Statutes, and subsection (3) of that  
232 section is amended, to read:



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233 1001.7065 Preeminent state research universities program.—

234 (2) ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE STANDARDS.—The  
235 following academic and research excellence standards are  
236 established for the preeminent state research universities  
237 program and shall be reported annually in the Board of Governors  
238 Accountability Plan:

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

241 (3) PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY DESIGNATION.—

242 (a) The Board of Governors shall designate each state  
243 university that annually meets at least 12 ~~11~~ of the 13 ~~12~~  
244 academic and research excellence standards identified in  
245 subsection (2) as a "preeminent state research university."

246 (b) The Board of Governors shall designate each state  
247 university that annually meets at least 7 ~~6~~ of the 13 ~~12~~  
248 academic and research excellence standards identified in  
249 subsection (2) as an "emerging preeminent state research  
250 university."

251 Section 3. Section 1001.741, Florida Statutes, is created  
252 to read:

253 1001.741 State university personnel.—

254 (1) Except as delegated pursuant to paragraph (a), each  
255 state university president has the final authority for hiring  
256 the provost, the deans, and all full-time faculty for the  
257 university, and has an ongoing duty to assess the performance,  
258 productivity, and employment practices of the university's  
259 provost and deans. The president of the university is encouraged  
260 to engage in faculty recruiting as appropriate, and shall  
261 provide a regular report and recommendations on employment

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262 practices to the board at least twice annually.

263 (a) The president may delegate hiring authority to  
264 individuals on the university's executive management team within  
265 the president's office, to the provost, or to individual deans;  
266 however, the president or the person delegated such hiring  
267 authority is not bound by the recommendations or opinions of  
268 faculty or other individuals.

269 (b) A state university may not require any statement,  
270 pledge, or oath other than to uphold general and federal law,  
271 the United States Constitution, and the State Constitution as a  
272 part of any admissions, hiring, employment, promotion, tenure,  
273 disciplinary, or evaluation process.

274 (2) Notwithstanding s. 447.401 or any other law, personnel  
275 actions or decisions regarding faculty, including in the areas  
276 of evaluations, promotions, tenure, discipline, or termination,  
277 may not be appealed beyond the level of a university president  
278 or designee. Such actions or decisions must have as their  
279 terminal step a final agency disposition, which must be issued  
280 in writing to the faculty member, and are not subject to  
281 arbitration. The filing of a grievance does not toll the action  
282 or decision of the university, including the termination of pay  
283 and benefits of a suspended or terminated faculty member.

284 (3) Each state university board of trustees must have  
285 procedures for the review of the president's selection and  
286 reappointment of each member of the university's executive  
287 management team, and his or her respective contract and annual  
288 salary, before such contracts and salaries become effective, in  
289 accordance with the personnel program established by the Board  
290 of Governors.

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291 (4) Each state university president shall annually present  
292 to the state university board of trustees the results of  
293 performance evaluations and associated annual salaries for all  
294 evaluated academic and administrative personnel earning an  
295 annual salary of \$200,000 or more, regardless of the funding  
296 source for such salaries. The results may be presented in a  
297 summary or written format.

298 Section 4. Section 1004.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
299 read:

300 1004.06 Prohibited expenditures.—

301 (1) A ~~No~~ Florida College System institution, state  
302 university, Florida College System institution direct-support  
303 organization, or state university direct-support organization  
304 may not ~~shall~~ expend any funds, regardless of source, to  
305 purchase membership in, or goods and services from, any  
306 organization that discriminates on the basis of race, color,  
307 national origin, sex, disability ~~gender~~, or religion.

308 (2) A Florida College System institution, state university,  
309 Florida College System institution direct-support organization,  
310 or state university direct-support organization may not expend  
311 any state or federal funds to promote, support, or maintain any  
312 programs or campus activities that:

313 (a) Violate s. 1000.05; or

314 (b) Advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion, or  
315 promote or engage in political or social activism, as defined by  
316 rules of the State Board of Education and regulations of the  
317 Board of Governors.

318  
319 Student fees to support student-led organizations are permitted

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320 notwithstanding any speech or expressive activity by such  
321 organizations which would otherwise violate this subsection,  
322 provided that the public funds must be allocated to student-led  
323 organizations pursuant to written policies or regulations of  
324 each Florida College System institution or state university, as  
325 applicable. Use of institution facilities by student-led  
326 organizations is permitted notwithstanding any speech or  
327 expressive activity by such organizations which would otherwise  
328 violate this subsection, provided that such use must be granted  
329 to student-led organizations pursuant to written policies or  
330 regulations of each Florida College System institution or state  
331 university, as applicable.

332 (3) Subsection (2) does not prohibit programs, campus  
333 activities, or functions required for compliance with general or  
334 federal laws or regulations; for obtaining or retaining  
335 institutional or discipline-specific accreditation; or for  
336 access programs for military veterans, Pell Grant recipients,  
337 first generation college students, nontraditional students,  
338 "2+2" transfer students from the Florida College System,  
339 students from low-income families, or students with unique  
340 abilities.

341 (4) The State Board of Education and the Board of Governors  
342 shall adopt rules and regulations, respectively, to implement  
343 this section.

344 Section 5. Section 1004.3841, Florida Statutes, is created  
345 to read:

346 1004.3841 The Institute for Risk Management and Insurance  
347 Education.—The Institute for Risk Management and Insurance  
348 Education is established within the College of Business at the

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349 University of Central Florida. Since insurance and risk  
350 management is a major industry in this state, with a  
351 concentration of such industry in Volusia County, the institute  
352 must be located in Volusia County. Like many other industries in  
353 the state, the insurance and risk management industry is being  
354 revolutionized by, among other things, the integration of  
355 technology, predictive analytics, and data science, and is  
356 becoming more complex, given its exposure to transformative  
357 trends in the economy and environment. The purpose of the  
358 institute is to respond to the ever-evolving insurance and risk  
359 management industry and the present and emerging needs of this  
360 state and its residents. The goals of the institute are to:

361 (1) Pursue technological innovations that advance risk  
362 valuation models and operational efficiencies in the insurance  
363 industry.

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

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

370 (4) Take advantage of the University of Central Florida's  
371 robust portfolio of academic program offerings and draw on  
372 faculty and industry experts in diverse fields, including  
373 actuarial science, computer science, economics, engineering,  
374 environmental science, finance, forensics, law, management,  
375 marketing, and psychology.

376 (5) Develop and offer risk management and insurance  
377 education, including education that recognizes risks in areas

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378 such as the environment, pandemic disease, and digital security.

379 (6) Offer programs, workshops, case studies, and applied  
380 research studies that integrate technology and artificial  
381 intelligence with soft skills while preparing students and  
382 professionals for the technology-enabled insurance industry of  
383 the future.

384 Section 6. Section 1004.6496, Florida Statutes, is amended  
385 to read:

386 1004.6496 Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic  
387 Education.—

388 (1) The Board of Trustees of the University of Florida may  
389 use funds as provided in the General Appropriations Act and  
390 charitable donations to establish and fund the Hamilton Center  
391 for Classical and Civic Education as an academic unit within the  
392 University of Florida. The purpose of the center is to support  
393 teaching and research concerning the ideas, traditions, and  
394 texts that form the foundations of Western and American  
395 civilization.

396 (2) Beginning January 1, 2025, and by each January 1  
397 thereafter, the University of Florida must report to the  
398 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
399 House of Representatives on the progress toward establishing the  
400 center as a permanent college at the university. The report must  
401 include a timeline for establishing the college, enrollment and  
402 educational outcomes and future goals for enrollment and  
403 educational outcomes, current financial progress and future  
404 financial needs, and any recommendation for changes in general  
405 law.

406 (3) The goals of the center are to:

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

409 1. The center is responsible for developing curriculum and  
410 courses to satisfy the requirement for the competency in civil  
411 discourse.

412 2. Courses developed under this paragraph may be used to  
413 satisfy the requirements of s. 1007.25(5).

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

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

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

421 (e) Coordinate with the Florida Institute for Governance  
422 and Civics ~~of Politics~~ created pursuant to s. 1004.6499 and the  
423 Adam Smith Center for the Study of Economic Freedom created  
424 pursuant to s. 1004.64991 and assist in the curation and  
425 implementation of Portraits in Patriotism created pursuant to s.  
426 1003.44.

427 (f) Develop educational programming and a plan for the  
428 implementation of such programming to ensure that all university  
429 students demonstrate competency in civil discourse.

430 (4) In order to carry out the goals set forth in subsection  
431 (3), the president of the University of Florida must:

432 (a) Annually update the board of trustees on the center's  
433 progress toward developing educational programming to ensure  
434 that all students at the university demonstrate competency in  
435 civil discourse. The president's report must identify a timeline

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436 and support necessary for the university to achieve this goal.

437 (b) Guide the university's leadership and the center to  
438 ensure that the center is able to enroll students, hire faculty,  
439 ensure a pathway to tenure for faculty, develop curricula and  
440 courses, establish certificate and degree programs, establish  
441 major and minor programs, and fulfill other actions approved by  
442 the president of the university.

443 (5) Funds appropriated specifically to the center may not  
444 be used for any other purpose; however, the university may  
445 provide additional funding as available to the center.

446 Section 7. Section 1004.6499, Florida Statutes, is amended  
447 to read:

448 1004.6499 Florida Institute for Governance and Civics ~~of~~  
449 ~~Politics.~~—

450 (1) The Florida Institute for Governance and Civics ~~of~~  
451 ~~Politics~~ is established at the Florida State University ~~within~~  
452 ~~the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy. The purpose of~~  
453 ~~the institute is to provide the southeastern region of the~~  
454 ~~United States with a world class, bipartisan, nationally~~  
455 ~~renowned institute of politics.~~

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

457 (a) Provide students with access to an interdisciplinary  
458 hub that will develop academically rigorous scholarship and  
459 coursework on the origins of the American system of government,  
460 its foundational documents, its subsequent political traditions  
461 and evolutions, and its impact on comparative political systems  
462 ~~Motivate students throughout the Florida State University to~~  
463 ~~become aware of the significance of government and civic~~  
464 ~~engagement at all levels and politics in general.~~



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465           (b) Encourage civic literacy in this state through the  
466 development of educational tools and resources for K-12 and  
467 postsecondary students which foster an understanding of how  
468 individual rights, constitutionalism, separation of powers, and  
469 federalism function within the American system ~~Provide students~~  
470 ~~with an opportunity to be politically active and civically~~  
471 ~~engaged.~~

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

476           (d) Plan and host forums to allow students and guests to  
477 hear from exceptional individuals who have excelled in a wide  
478 range of sectors of American life, to highlight the  
479 possibilities created by individual achievement and  
480 entrepreneurial vision ~~and interact with experts from~~  
481 ~~government, politics, policy, and journalism on a frequent~~  
482 ~~basis.~~

483           (e) Become a national and state resource on using polling  
484 instruments and other assessments to measure civic literacy and  
485 make recommendations for improving civic education ~~information~~  
486 ~~and survey methodology.~~

487           (f) Provide fellowships and internship opportunities to  
488 students in government, ~~nonprofit organizations, and community~~  
489 ~~organizations.~~

490           (g) Create through scholarship, original research,  
491 publications, symposia, testimonials, and other means a body of  
492 resources that can be accessed by students, scholars, and  
493 government officials to understand the innovations in public

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494 ~~policy in this state over a rolling 30-year time period Provide~~  
495 ~~training sessions for newly elected state and local public~~  
496 ~~officials.~~

497 ~~(h) Organize and sponsor conferences, symposia, and~~  
498 ~~workshops throughout this state to educate and inform citizens,~~  
499 ~~elected officials, and appointed policymakers regarding~~  
500 ~~effective policymaking techniques and processes.~~

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

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

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

509 1004.64991 The Adam Smith Center for the Study of Economic  
510 Freedom.—

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

513 (a) Hire necessary faculty and staff pursuant to s.  
514 1001.741;

515 (b) Enroll students;

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

518 (d) Hold events, including fundraisers;

519 (e) Fulfill other actions approved by the president of the  
520 university; and

521 (f) Generate resources based on student credit hour  
522 enrollment, in the same manner as any college within the

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523 institution.

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

526 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;  
527 other degree requirements.—

528 (3) The chair of the State Board of Education and the chair  
529 of the Board of Governors, or their designees, shall jointly  
530 appoint faculty committees to review and recommend to the  
531 Articulation Coordinating Committee for approval by the State  
532 Board of Education and the Board of Governors ~~identify~~ statewide  
533 general education core course options for inclusion in the  
534 statewide course numbering system established under s. 1007.24.  
535 Faculty committees shall, by July 1, 2024, and by July 1 every 4  
536 years thereafter, review and submit recommendations to the  
537 Articulation Coordinating Committee and the commissioner for the  
538 removal, alignment, realignment, or addition of general  
539 education core courses that satisfy the requirements of this  
540 subsection.

541 (a) General education core course options shall consist of  
542 a maximum of five courses within each of the subject areas of  
543 communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and  
544 natural sciences. The core courses may be revised, or the five-  
545 course maximum within each subject area may be exceeded, if  
546 approved by the State Board of Education and the Board of  
547 Governors, as recommended by the subject area faculty committee  
548 and approved by the Articulation Coordinating Committee as  
549 necessary for a subject area.

550 (b) Each general education core course option must contain  
551 high-level academic and critical thinking skills and common

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552 competencies that students must demonstrate to successfully  
553 complete the course.

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

560 (d) General education core courses must meet the following  
561 standards:

562 1. Communication courses must afford students the ability  
563 to communicate effectively, including the ability to write  
564 clearly and engage in public speaking.

565 2. Humanities courses must afford students the ability to  
566 think critically through the mastering of subjects concerned  
567 with human culture, especially literature, history, art, music,  
568 and philosophy, and must include selections from the Western  
569 canon.

570 3. Social science courses must afford students an  
571 understanding of the basic social and behavioral science  
572 concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavior and  
573 past and present social, political, and economic issues.

574 4. Natural science courses must afford students the ability  
575 to critically examine and evaluate the principles of the  
576 scientific method, model construction, and use the scientific  
577 method to explain natural experiences and phenomena.

578 5. Mathematics courses must afford students a mastery of  
579 foundational mathematical and computation models and methods by  
580 applying such models and methods in problem solving.

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581       (e) Beginning with students initially entering a Florida  
582 College System institution or state university in 2015-2016 and  
583 thereafter, each student must complete at least one identified  
584 core course in each subject area as part of the general  
585 education course requirements. Beginning in the 2022-2023  
586 academic year and thereafter, students entering a technical  
587 degree education program as defined in s. 1004.02(13) must  
588 complete at least one identified core course in each subject  
589 area as part of the general education course requirements before  
590 a degree is awarded.

591       (f) All public postsecondary educational institutions shall  
592 offer at least one general education core course in each of the  
593 identified subject areas and accept ~~these~~ courses as meeting  
594 general education core course requirements upon transfer,  
595 regardless of whether the receiving institution offers the  
596 identical general education core courses. The remaining general  
597 education course requirements shall be identified by each  
598 institution as approved in accordance with this section and  
599 listed in the statewide course numbering system ~~and reported to~~  
600 ~~the department by their statewide course number.~~

601       (g) A public postsecondary educational institution may not  
602 require a student to complete an additional course to meet a  
603 subject area distribution requirement that was completed by the  
604 student with a course that has since been removed as a general  
605 education core course.

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

609       Section 10. Section 1007.55, Florida Statutes, is created

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610 to read:

611 1007.55 General education course principles, standards, and  
612 content.-613 (1) The Legislature finds it necessary to ensure that every  
614 undergraduate student of a Florida public postsecondary  
615 educational institution graduates as an informed citizen through  
616 participation in rigorous general education courses that promote  
617 and preserve the constitutional republic through traditional,  
618 historically accurate, and high-quality coursework. General  
619 education courses should provide broad foundational knowledge to  
620 help students develop intellectual skills and habits that enable  
621 them to become more effective and lifelong learners. Courses  
622 with a curriculum based on unproven, speculative, or exploratory  
623 content are best suited as elective or specific program  
624 prerequisite credit, not general education credit. General  
625 education courses must:626 (a) Meet the course standards as provided in s. 1007.25;  
627 and628 (b) Whenever applicable, provide instruction on the  
629 historical background and philosophical foundation of Western  
630 civilization and this nation's historical documents, such as the  
631 Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the  
632 Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments, and the Federalist  
633 Papers.634 (2) Public postsecondary educational institution boards of  
635 trustees and presidents are responsible for annually reviewing  
636 and approving, at a public meeting, general education course  
637 requirements, as authorized and approved in accordance with ss.  
638 1007.24 and 1007.25 and this section, at their respective

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639 institutions. The following must be included for each listed  
640 general education course:

641 (a) The general education distribution area;

642 (b) The number of state universities that offer the course  
643 and the number of Florida College System institutions that offer  
644 the course; and

645 (c) The course level.

646 (3) Public postsecondary educational institutions must  
647 report courses meeting institutional general education subject  
648 requirements to the department by their statewide course number.

649 (4) In performing its duties under ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25,  
650 by December 1, 2024, and each December 1 thereafter, the  
651 Articulation Coordinating Committee shall submit to the State  
652 Board of Education and the Board of Governors courses that have  
653 been approved by public postsecondary educational institutions  
654 as meeting general education requirements. The listing of  
655 general education courses must include the information in  
656 paragraphs (2) (a), (b), and (c). The State Board of Education  
657 and the Board of Governors must approve or reject the list of  
658 general education courses for each Florida College System  
659 institution and state university, respectively.

660 (5) Public postsecondary educational institutions that fail  
661 to comply with the requirements of this section are not eligible  
662 to receive performance-based funding pursuant to s. 1001.66 or  
663 s. 1001.92.

664 (6) A public postsecondary educational institution may not  
665 require a student to take an additional course to meet a subject  
666 area distribution requirement that was completed by the student  
667 with a course that has since been removed as a general education

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668 course.

669 (7) The State Board of Education and the Board of Governors  
670 shall adopt rules and regulations, respectively, to implement  
671 this section.

672 Section 11. Present subsections (3) and (4) of section  
673 1008.47, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (4)  
674 and (5), respectively, a new subsection (3) is added to that  
675 section, and subsection (2) and present subsection (3) of that  
676 section are amended, to read:

677 1008.47 Postsecondary education institution accreditation.—

678 (2) ACCREDITATION.—

679 (a) By September 1, 2022, the Board of Governors or the  
680 State Board of Education, as applicable, shall identify and  
681 determine the accrediting agencies or associations best suited  
682 to serve as an accreditor for public postsecondary institutions.  
683 Such accrediting agencies or associations must be recognized by  
684 the database created and maintained by the United States  
685 Department of Education. ~~A public postsecondary institution may~~  
686 ~~not be accredited by the same accrediting agency or association~~  
687 ~~for consecutive accreditation cycles.~~ In the year following  
688 reaffirmation or fifth-year review by its accrediting agencies  
689 or associations, each public postsecondary institution must seek  
690 and obtain accreditation from an accrediting agency or  
691 association identified by the Board of Governors or State Board  
692 of Education, respectively, before its next reaffirmation or  
693 fifth-year review date. The requirements in this section are  
694 limited to a one-time change in accreditation. The requirements  
695 of this subsection are not applicable to those professional,  
696 graduate, departmental, or certificate programs at public



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697 postsecondary institutions that have specific accreditation  
698 requirements or best practices, including, but not limited to,  
699 law, pharmacy, engineering, or other similarly situated  
700 educational programs.

701 (b) Once a public postsecondary institution is required to  
702 seek and obtain accreditation from an agency or association  
703 identified pursuant to paragraph (a), the institution shall seek  
704 accreditation from a regional accrediting agency or association  
705 and provide quarterly reports of its progress to the Board of  
706 Governors or State Board of Education, as applicable. If each  
707 regional accreditation agency or association identified pursuant  
708 to paragraph (a) has refused to grant candidacy status to an  
709 institution, the institution must ~~shall~~ seek and obtain  
710 accreditation from any accrediting agency or association that is  
711 different from its current accrediting agency or association and  
712 is recognized by the database created and maintained by the  
713 United States Department of Education. If a public postsecondary  
714 institution is not granted candidacy status before its next  
715 reaffirmation or fifth-year review date, the institution may  
716 remain with its current accrediting agency or association.

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

718 (3) PROHIBITION.—An accrediting agency or association may  
719 not compel any public postsecondary institution to violate state  
720 law, and any adverse action upon the institution based upon the  
721 institution's compliance with state law constitutes a violation  
722 of this section that may be enforced through subsection (4),  
723 except to the extent that state law is preempted by a federal  
724 law that recognizes the necessity of the accreditation standard  
725 or requirement.

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726        ~~(4)~~<sup>(3)</sup> CAUSE OF ACTION.—A postsecondary education  
727 institution negatively impacted by retaliatory or adverse action  
728 taken against the postsecondary education institution by an  
729 accrediting agency or association may bring an action against  
730 the accrediting agency or association in a court of competent  
731 jurisdiction and may obtain liquidated damages in up to the  
732 amount of federal financial aid received by the postsecondary  
733 education institution, court costs, and reasonable attorney  
734 fees.

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

737        1009.26 Fee Waivers.—

738        (18) (a) For every course in a Program of Strategic  
739 Emphasis, or in a state-approved teacher preparation program  
740 identified by the Board of Governors, as identified in  
741 subparagraph 3., in which a student is enrolled, a state  
742 university shall waive 100 percent of the tuition and fees for  
743 an equivalent course in such program for a student who:

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

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

748        3. Enrolls in one of 10 Programs of Strategic Emphasis as  
749 adopted by the Board of Governors or in one of two state-  
750 approved teacher preparation programs identified by the Board of  
751 Governors. The Board of Governors shall adopt eight Programs of  
752 Strategic Emphasis in science, technology, engineering, or math;  
753 ~~and,~~ beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year, two Programs of  
754 Strategic Emphasis in the critical workforce gap analysis

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755 category; and beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year, two  
756 state-approved teacher preparation programs for which a student  
757 may be eligible to receive the tuition and fee waiver authorized  
758 by this subsection. The programs identified by the board must  
759 reflect the priorities of the state and be offered at a majority  
760 of state universities at the time the Board of Governors  
761 approves the list.

762 (b) A waiver granted under this subsection is applicable  
763 only for upper-level courses and up to 110 percent of the number  
764 of required credit hours of the baccalaureate degree program for  
765 which the student is enrolled. A student granted a waiver under  
766 this subsection shall continue receiving the waiver until the  
767 student graduates, exceeds the number of allowable credit hours,  
768 or withdraws from an eligible program, regardless of whether the  
769 program is removed from the approved list of eligible programs  
770 subsequent to the student's enrollment.

771 (c) Upon enrollment in a Program of Strategic Emphasis or  
772 in one of two teacher preparation programs identified by the  
773 Board of Governors, the tuition and fees waived under this  
774 subsection must be reported for state funding purposes under ss.  
775 1009.534 and 1009.535 and must be disbursed to the student. The  
776 amount disbursed to the student must ~~shall~~ be equal to the award  
777 amount the student has received under s. 1009.534(2) or s.  
778 1009.535(2).

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