

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to postsecondary educational
3 institutions; amending s. 1001.706, F.S.; revising the
4 duties of the Board of Governors relating to the
5 mission of each state university; revising
6 requirements for the Board of Governors' strategic
7 plan relating to the goals and objectives of the State
8 University System; requiring the Board of Governors to
9 annually require each state university to include
10 certain information in its economic security report;
11 requiring, rather than authorizing, a Board of
12 Governors regulation to include a post-tenure review
13 of state university faculty on a specified basis;
14 amending s. 1001.7065, F.S.; requiring the Board of
15 Governors Accountability Plan to annually report
16 certain research expenditures of a specified amount;
17 revising the number of standards an institution must
18 meet to receive a specified designation; creating s.
19 1001.741, F.S.; providing that each state university
20 president is responsible for hiring specified
21 personnel; proving that the president has an ongoing
22 duty to assess the performance, productivity, and
23 employment practices of specified personnel;
24 authorizing the president to delegate hiring authority
25 to specified individuals; prohibiting a university

26 | from using certain methods in its admissions or
27 | personnel processes; providing that certain actions
28 | and decisions regarding personnel may not be appealed
29 | beyond the university president or his or her
30 | designee; providing requirements for such actions and
31 | decisions; requiring each state university board of
32 | trustees to have specified procedures for the
33 | president's selection and reappointment of certain
34 | personnel; requiring each state university president
35 | to annually present specified performance evaluation
36 | results and salaries to the board of trustees;
37 | amending s. 1004.06, F.S.; prohibiting certain
38 | entities from expending specified funds for certain
39 | purposes; providing exceptions; requiring the State
40 | Board of Education and the Board of Governors to adopt
41 | certain rules and regulations, respectively; creating
42 | s. 1004.3841, F.S.; creating the Institute for Risk
43 | Management and Insurance Education within the College
44 | of Business at the University of Central Florida;
45 | requiring the institute to be located in a specified
46 | county; providing the purpose and goals of the
47 | institute; amending s. 1004.6496, F.S.; authorizing
48 | the board of trustees of the University of Florida to
49 | use specified funds to fund the Hamilton Center for
50 | Classical and Civic Education; requiring the

51 University of Florida to annually report to the
52 Governor and Legislature on the transition of the
53 center to a college within the university; revising
54 the goals of the center; requiring the University of
55 Florida President to take specified actions; providing
56 requirements for the use of appropriated funds;
57 authorizing the university to provide additional
58 funding to the center; conforming a provision to
59 changes made by the act; amending s. 1004.6499, F.S.;
60 renaming the Florida Institute of Politics at the
61 Florida State University as the Florida Institute for
62 Governance and Civics; revising the goals of the
63 institute; amending s. 1004.64991, F.S.; authorizing
64 the Adam Smith Center for the Study of Economic
65 Freedom to take specified actions; amending s.
66 1007.25, F.S.; revising requirements for the
67 establishment of general education core courses;
68 requiring the State Board of Education and the Board
69 of Governors to approve certain courses; requiring
70 faculty committees to review and submit certain
71 recommendations to the Articulation Coordinating
72 Committee and the commissioner by a specified date and
73 on a specified schedule; prohibiting general education
74 core courses from teaching certain topics or
75 presenting information in specified ways; providing

76 requirements for general education core courses;
 77 requiring specified educational institutions to offer
 78 certain courses; prohibiting public postsecondary
 79 educational institutions from requiring students to
 80 complete certain additional general education core
 81 courses; creating s. 1007.55, F.S.; providing
 82 legislative findings; requiring the Articulation
 83 Coordinating Committee to submit certain courses to
 84 the State Board of Education and the Board of
 85 Governors by a specified date annually; providing
 86 requirements for general education courses; providing
 87 requirements for public postsecondary educational
 88 institutions and their presidents and boards of
 89 trustees relating to general education courses;
 90 providing reporting requirements; amending s. 1008.47,
 91 F.S.; prohibiting postsecondary education institutions
 92 from being required to change accrediting agencies or
 93 associations more than once; prohibiting certain acts
 94 by accrediting agencies and associations; revising the
 95 criteria for a postsecondary education institution to
 96 bring an action against an accrediting agency or
 97 association; revising the amount of authorized damages
 98 to be awarded to a prevailing postsecondary education
 99 institution; amending s. 1009.26, F.S.; requiring the
 100 Board of Governors to identify state-approved teacher

101 preparation programs eligible for a tuition waiver;
 102 providing that certain postsecondary fee waivers
 103 continue until specified criteria are met; revising
 104 student eligibility requirements for the State
 105 University Free Seat Program; defining the term "new
 106 parent"; providing effective dates.

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

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

113 1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—

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

115 (a) The Legislature intends that the Board of Governors
 116 shall align the missions of each constituent university with the
 117 academic success of its students; the existing and emerging
 118 economic development needs of the state; the national reputation
 119 of its faculty and its academic and research programs; the
 120 quantity of externally generated research, patents, and
 121 licenses; and the strategic and accountability plans required in
 122 paragraphs (b) and (c). The Board of Governors shall
 123 periodically review the mission of each constituent university
 124 and make updates or revisions as needed. Upon completion of a
 125 review of a constituent university's mission, the board shall

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

151 competition with other institutions of other states in the
152 highest Carnegie Classification.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

203 (d) ~~Beginning in the 2014-2015 academic year and annually~~
 204 ~~thereafter,~~ The Board of Governors shall annually require a
 205 state university prior to registration to provide each enrolled
 206 student electronic access to the economic security report of
 207 employment and earning outcomes prepared by the Department of
 208 Economic Opportunity pursuant to s. 445.07. In addition, the
 209 Board of Governors shall require a state university to provide
 210 each student electronic access to the following information each
 211 year prior to registration using the data described in s.
 212 1008.39:

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

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

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

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

226 | the regulation must address:
 227 | 1. Accomplishments and productivity;
 228 | 2. Assigned duties in research, teaching, and service;
 229 | 3. Performance metrics, evaluations, and ratings; and
 230 | 4. Recognition and compensation considerations, as well as
 231 | improvement plans and consequences for underperformance.

232 | Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 1001.7065, Florida
 233 | Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (m) is added to subsection
 234 | (2) of that section, to read:

235 | 1001.7065 Preeminent state research universities program.—

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

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

243 | (3) PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY DESIGNATION.—

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

248 | (b) The Board of Governors shall designate each state
 249 | university that annually meets at least 7 ~~6~~ of the 13 ~~12~~
 250 | academic and research excellence standards identified in

251 subsection (2) as an "emerging preeminent state research
252 university."

253 Section 3. Section 1001.741, Florida Statutes, is created
254 to read:

255 1001.741 State university boards of trustees; personnel.-

256 (1) Except as delegated in paragraph (a), each state
257 university president has the responsibility for hiring the
258 provost, deans, and full-time faculty for the university and has
259 an ongoing duty to assess the performance, productivity, and
260 employment practices of the university's provost and deans. The
261 president is encouraged to engage in faculty recruiting as
262 appropriate and shall provide a regular report and
263 recommendations on employment practices to the board of trustees
264 at least twice annually.

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

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

275 (2) Notwithstanding s. 447.401 or any other law, personnel

276 actions or decisions regarding faculty, including evaluations,
277 promotions, tenure, discipline, or termination, may not be
278 appealed beyond the level of a state university president or his
279 or her designee. Such actions or decisions must have a final
280 agency disposition as their terminal step. Such disposition must
281 be issued in writing to the faculty member and is not subject to
282 arbitration. The filing of a grievance does not toll the action
283 or decision of the university, including the termination of pay
284 and benefits of a suspended or terminated faculty member.

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

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

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

301 1004.06 Prohibited expenditures.—

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

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

314 (a) Constitute violations of s. 1000.05; or

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

319
 320 Student fees to support student-led organizations are permitted
 321 notwithstanding any speech or expressive activity by such
 322 organizations that would otherwise violate this subsection,
 323 provided that the public funds must be allocated to student-led
 324 organizations pursuant to written policies or regulations of
 325 each Florida College System institution or state university, as

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

333 (3) Programs, campus activities, or functions required for
 334 compliance with general or federal laws or regulations, or
 335 access programs for military veterans, Pell Grant recipients,
 336 first generation college students, nontraditional students,
 337 "2+2" transfer students from the Florida College System,
 338 students from low-income families, or students with unique
 339 abilities, are not prohibited by this section.

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

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

345 1004.3841 The Institute for Risk Management and Insurance
 346 Education.—The Institute for Risk Management and Insurance
 347 Education is established within the College of Business at the
 348 University of Central Florida. Since insurance and risk
 349 management is a major industry in the state, with a
 350 concentration of such industry in Volusia County, the institute

351 shall be located in Volusia County. Like many other industries
352 in the state, the insurance and risk management industry is
353 being revolutionized by, among other things, the integration of
354 technology, predictive analytics, and data science, and is
355 becoming more complex given its exposure to transformative
356 trends in the economy and environment. The purpose of the
357 institute is to respond to the ever-evolving insurance and risk
358 management industry and the present and emerging needs of the
359 state and its residents. The goals of the institute are to:
360 (1) Pursue technological innovations that advance risk
361 valuation models and operational efficiencies in the insurance
362 industry.
363 (2) Drive the development of workforce competencies in
364 data analytics, system-level thinking, technology integration,
365 entrepreneurship, and actuarial science.
366 (3) Leverage the University of Central Florida's world
367 class assets in data science, artificial intelligence, computer
368 science, engineering, finance, economics, and sales.
369 (4) Take advantage of the University of Central Florida's
370 robust portfolio of academic program offerings and draw on
371 faculty and industry experts in diverse fields, including
372 actuarial science, computer science, economics, engineering,
373 environmental science, finance, forensics, law, management,
374 marketing, and psychology.
375 (5) Develop and offer risk management and insurance

376 education, including education that recognizes risks in areas
 377 such as the environment, pandemic disease, and digital security.

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

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

385 1004.6496 Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic
 386 Education.—

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

395 (2) Beginning January 1, 2024, and by each January 1
 396 thereafter, the University of Florida must annually report to
 397 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
 398 the House of Representatives on the progress toward establishing
 399 the center as a permanent college at the university, including a
 400 timeline for establishing the college, enrollment and

401 educational outcomes and future goals for enrollment and
402 educational outcomes, current financial progress and future
403 financial needs, and any recommendation for changes in general
404 law.

405 (3)-(2) The goals of the center are to:

406 (a) Educate university students in core texts and great
407 debates of Western civilization and the great books. The center
408 is responsible for developing curriculum and courses to satisfy
409 the requirement for the competency in civil discourse. Courses
410 developed under this paragraph may be used to satisfy the
411 requirements of s. 1007.25(5).

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

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

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

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

425 (f) Develop educational programming and a plan for the

426 implementation of such programming to ensure that all university
 427 students demonstrate competency in civil discourse.

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

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

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

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

444 Section 7. Section 1004.6499, Florida Statutes, is amended
 445 to read:

446 1004.6499 Florida Institute for Governance and Civics ~~of~~
 447 ~~Politics.~~—

448 (1) The Florida Institute for Governance and Civics ~~of~~
 449 ~~Politics~~ is established at the Florida State University ~~within~~
 450 ~~the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy. The purpose of~~

451 ~~the institute is to provide the southeastern region of the~~
452 ~~United States with a world class, bipartisan, nationally~~
453 ~~renowned institute of politics.~~

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

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

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

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

474 (d) Plan and host forums to allow students and guests to
475 hear from exceptional individuals who have excelled in

476 government, industry, or civic engagement to highlight the
477 possibilities created by individual achievement, philanthropic
478 ideals, and entrepreneurial vision ~~and interact with experts~~
479 ~~from government, politics, policy, and journalism on a frequent~~
480 ~~basis.~~

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

485 (f) Provide fellowships and internship opportunities to
486 students in government, nonprofit organizations, and community
487 organizations.

488 (g) Create through scholarship, original research,
489 publications, symposia, testimonials, and other means a body of
490 resources that can be accessed by students, scholars, and
491 government officials to understand the innovations in public
492 policy in the state over a rolling 30-year time period ~~Provide~~
493 ~~training sessions for newly elected state and local public~~
494 ~~officials.~~

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

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

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

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

507 1004.64991 The Adam Smith Center for the Study of Economic
 508 Freedom.—

509 (3) In order to carry out the goals outlined in subsection
 510 (2), the center may:

511 (a) Hire the necessary faculty and staff.

512 (b) Enroll students.

513 (c) Develop curriculum and offer new courses, including
 514 honors courses, certificates, and major and minor programs.

515 (d) Hold events, including fundraisers.

516 (e) Fulfill other actions approved by the president of the
 517 university.

518 (f) Generate resources based on student credit hour
 519 enrollment in the same manner as a college within the
 520 university.

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

523 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;
 524 other degree requirements.—

525 (3) The chair of the State Board of Education and the

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

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

547 (b) Each general education core course option must contain
548 high-level academic and critical thinking skills and common
549 competencies that students must demonstrate to successfully
550 complete the course.

551 (c) General education core courses must be based on the
552 fundamental truth that all persons are equal before the law and
553 have inalienable rights and may not distort significant
554 historical events or include a curriculum that teaches identity
555 politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on theories that
556 systemic racism, sexism, oppression, or privilege are inherent
557 in the institutions of the United States and were created to
558 maintain social, political, or economic inequities.

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

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

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

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

573 4. Natural science courses must afford students the
574 ability to critically examine and evaluate the principles of the
575 scientific method, model construction, and use the scientific

576 method to explain natural experiences and phenomena.

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

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

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

600 (g) A public postsecondary educational institution may not

601 require a student to complete an additional course to meet a
602 subject area distribution requirement that was completed by the
603 student with a course that has since been removed as a general
604 education core course.

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

608 Section 10. Section 1007.55, Florida Statutes, is created
609 to read:

610 1007.55 General education course principles, standards,
611 and content.-

612 (1) The Legislature finds it necessary that every
613 undergraduate student of a public postsecondary educational
614 institution in the state graduates as an informed citizen
615 through participation in rigorous general education courses that
616 study and articulate the values and knowledge necessary to
617 preserve the constitutional republic and the economic ingenuity
618 of its citizens through proven, historically accurate, and high-
619 quality coursework. Courses with a curriculum based on unproven,
620 disproven, speculative, or exploratory content are best suited
621 to fulfill elective or specific program prerequisite credit
622 requirements, rather than general education credit requirements.

623 (2) In performing its duties under ss. 1007.24 and
624 1007.25, by December 1, 2024, and each December 1 thereafter,
625 the Articulation Coordinating Committee shall submit to the

626 State of Board of Education and the Board of Governors courses
 627 that have been approved to be used by public postsecondary
 628 educational institutions as meeting general education
 629 requirements.

630 (3) General education courses must meet all of the
 631 following:

632 (a) Be in the general education core subject areas and
 633 meet the course standards as provided in s. 1007.25.

634 (b) Be offered by at least half of all public
 635 postsecondary educational institutions per system, unless a
 636 course is exempted from this requirement by the Board of
 637 Governors or State Board of Education, as applicable.

638 (c) Be identified as lower level in the statewide course
 639 numbering system.

640 (d) Whenever applicable, as defined by regulations or
 641 rules of the Board of Governors or the State Board of Education,
 642 respectively, provide instruction on the historical background
 643 and philosophical foundation of Western civilization and this
 644 nation's founding documents, including the Declaration of
 645 Independence, the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights
 646 and subsequent amendments thereto, and the Federalist Papers.

647 (4) If a course is approved as a general education course,
 648 that course must be accepted as a general education course in
 649 the same subject area by all public postsecondary educational
 650 institutions regardless of whether it is offered by the

651 institution.

652 (5) Each public postsecondary educational institution's
 653 board of trustees and president are responsible for annually
 654 reviewing and approving, at a public meeting, general education
 655 course requirements, as authorized and approved in accordance
 656 with s. 1007.24, s. 1007.25, and this section, at their
 657 institution. A public postsecondary educational institution that
 658 fails to comply with the requirements of this section may not be
 659 eligible to receive performance-based funding.

660 (6) Each public postsecondary educational institution must
 661 report courses meeting general education requirements to the
 662 department by their statewide course number.

663 Section 11. Section 1008.47, Florida Statutes, is amended
 664 to read:

665 1008.47 Postsecondary education institution
 666 accreditation.—

667 (1) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term
 668 "postsecondary education institution" means a Florida College
 669 System institution, state university, or nonpublic postsecondary
 670 education institution that receives state funds.

671 (2) ACCREDITATION.—

672 (a) By September 1, 2022, the Board of Governors or the
 673 State Board of Education, as applicable, shall identify and
 674 determine the accrediting agencies or associations best suited
 675 to serve as an accreditor for public postsecondary institutions.

676 Such accrediting agencies or associations must be recognized by
677 the database created and maintained by the United States
678 Department of Education. A public postsecondary institution may
679 not be accredited by the same accrediting agency or association
680 for consecutive accreditation cycles. In the year following
681 reaffirmation or fifth-year review by its accrediting agencies
682 or associations, each public postsecondary institution must seek
683 and obtain accreditation from an accrediting agency or
684 association identified by the Board of Governors or State Board
685 of Education, respectively, before its next reaffirmation or
686 fifth-year review date. Notwithstanding the expiration date in
687 paragraph (c), an institution may not be required to change
688 accrediting agencies or associations more than once. The
689 requirements of this subsection are not applicable to those
690 professional, graduate, departmental, or certificate programs at
691 public postsecondary institutions that have specific
692 accreditation requirements or best practices, including, but not
693 limited to, law, pharmacy, engineering, or other similarly
694 situated educational programs.

695 (b) Once a public postsecondary institution is required to
696 seek and obtain accreditation from an agency or association
697 identified pursuant to paragraph (a), the institution shall seek
698 accreditation from a regional accrediting agency or association
699 and provide quarterly reports of its progress to the Board of
700 Governors or State Board of Education, as applicable. If each

701 regional accreditation agency or association identified pursuant
702 to paragraph (a) has refused to grant candidacy status to an
703 institution, the institution shall seek and obtain accreditation
704 from any accrediting agency or association that is different
705 from its current accrediting agency or association and is
706 recognized by the database created and maintained by the United
707 States Department of Education. If a public postsecondary
708 institution is not granted candidacy status before its next
709 reaffirmation or fifth-year review date, the institution may
710 remain with its current accrediting agency or association.

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

712 (3) An accrediting agency or association may not
713 incentivize or coerce any public postsecondary institution to
714 violate general law. Any adverse action upon an institution
715 based upon the institution's compliance with general law shall
716 constitute a violation of this section that may be enforced
717 under subsection (4), except to the extent general law is
718 preempted by a federal law which recognizes the necessity of the
719 accreditation standard or requirement.

720 (4)-(3) CAUSE OF ACTION.—A postsecondary education
721 institution negatively impacted by retaliatory or adverse action
722 taken against the postsecondary education institution by an
723 accrediting agency or association may bring an action against
724 the accrediting agency or association in a court of competent
725 jurisdiction and may obtain liquidated damages in up to the

726 amount of federal financial aid received by the postsecondary
 727 education institution, court costs, and reasonable attorney
 728 fees.

729 ~~(4) EXPIRATION. This section expires December 31, 2032.~~

730 Section 12. Effective upon this act becoming a law,
 731 paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subsection (18) and paragraph
 732 (a) of subsection (19) of section 1009.26, Florida Statutes, are
 733 amended to read:

734 1009.26 Fee waivers.—

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

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

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

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

751 Strategic Emphasis in the critical workforce gap analysis
752 category; and, beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year, two
753 state-approved teacher preparation programs for which a student
754 may be eligible to receive the tuition and fee waiver authorized
755 by this subsection. The programs identified by the board must
756 reflect the priorities of the state and be offered at a majority
757 of state universities at the time the Board of Governors
758 approves the list.

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

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

775 (19) The State University Free Seat Program is created to

776 encourage veterans, active duty members of the United States
777 Armed Forces, active drilling members of the Florida National
778 Guard, and nontraditional students to enroll in an online
779 baccalaureate degree program at a state university. Fee waivers
780 granted pursuant to this subsection may not exceed 1,000
781 students systemwide each academic year.

782 (a) A state university shall waive the tuition and fees
783 for one online course for a student who is a resident for
784 tuition purposes under s. 1009.21, has not previously earned a
785 bachelor's degree, and is enrolled in an online baccalaureate
786 degree program, provided the student meets one of the following
787 eligibility requirements:

788 1. Is a veteran as defined in s. 1.01(14);

789 2. Is an active duty member of the United States Armed
790 Forces;

791 3. Is an active drilling member of the Florida National
792 Guard; ~~or~~

793 4. Has not been enrolled in a postsecondary institution
794 for more than 5 years; or

795 5. Is a new parent. For purposes of this subparagraph, the
796 term "new parent" means a person who has become a biological or
797 adoptive parent of a child within the last 24 months as
798 evidenced by a birth certificate.

799 Section 13. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
800 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon

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2023

801 | this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1,
802 | 2023.