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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
04/15/2025	.	
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The Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government (Grall) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause
and insert:

Section 1. Section 20.71, Florida Statutes, is created to
read:

20.71 Residency requirements.—Notwithstanding any other
law:

(1)(a) Effective October 1, 2025, each of the following
persons must be a United States citizen and a resident of this



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state:

1. A member of a commission.

2. A member of a licensing board.

3. The chair of the governing board, or the chief executive, of a statewide entity that is explicitly created or established by statute, regardless of its legal form, for a public purpose or to carry out a government program and that is not under the direct control of a governmental entity.

4. Any other person appointed to hold state office.

(b) If a person listed in subparagraph (a)1., subparagraph (a)2., or subparagraph (a)3. does not meet the requirements of paragraph (a), the office of such person is automatically deemed vacant.

(2) (a) Effective October 1, 2025, each of the following persons must be a United States citizen, must be a resident of this state, and must reside in the same county as his or her respective department headquarters or within 75 miles of the department headquarters:

1. The secretary of a department.

2. The executive director of a department.

3. The chief administrative officer of any unit of state government which is housed under a department for administrative purposes, but is not subject to the control, supervision, or direction of such department.

(b) If a person listed in subparagraph (a)1., subparagraph (a)2., or subparagraph (a)3. does not meet the requirements of paragraph (a), the office of such person is automatically deemed vacant.

(3) Effective January 6, 2027, each member of a state



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university board of trustees must be a United States citizen and either a resident of this state or a graduate of the state university, the administration of which is overseen by such board of trustees.

(4) Effective January 6, 2027, each member of the Board of Governors must be a United States citizen and either a resident of this state or a graduate of a state university as defined in s. 1000.21. If any member of the Board of Governors does not meet the requirements of this subsection, such member's office is automatically deemed vacant.

Section 2. Section 112.31251, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

112.31251 Definition of the term "office."—

(1)(a) For purposes of s. 5(a), Art. II of the State Constitution, the term "office," when referring to an office in this state, means any position in state, county, or municipal government which all of the following apply:

1. Delegates to the individual holding such position a portion of the sovereign power of the government.

2. Requires the exercise of independent governmental authority, which is performed in an official capacity and is not based solely on a contractual or employment relationship.

3. Has a prescribed tenure.

4. Exists independently of the individual holding such position.

(b) The term "office" includes, but is not limited to, each of the following positions:

1. The Governor.

2. The Lieutenant Governor.



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3. A member of the Cabinet.
4. A state senator.
5. A state representative.
6. A county commissioner.
7. A sheriff.
8. A tax collector.
9. A property appraiser.
10. A supervisor of elections.
11. A clerk of the circuit court.
12. A member of the Board of Governors of the State University System.
13. A member of a board of trustees for a state university.
14. A member of a district school board.
15. A member of a state, county, or municipal board or commission that exercises governmental authority and is not purely advisory in nature.
16. A member of the Board of Governors for the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation established under s. 627.351(6).
17. A member of the board of directors for the Florida Housing Finance Corporation established under s. 420.504.
18. A member of the board of directors for the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation established under s. 624.91, other than the member appointed pursuant to s. 624.91(6)(a)9.
19. An administrator or a manager of a county, a municipality, or a corporation established under s. 420.504, s. 624.91, or s. 627.351(6) who exercises in his or her own right any sovereign power or any prescribed independent authority of a governmental nature.
20. The director of a county or municipal emergency



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management agency who exercises in his or her own right any sovereign power or any prescribed independent authority of a governmental nature.

21. A state, county, or municipal law enforcement officer with the authority to arrest without a warrant.

22. Any position that meets all the criteria enumerated in paragraph (a).

(2) The term "office" does not include either of the following:

(a) A legislative designation of an officer to perform ex officio the functions of another office; or

(b) The position of an individual whose relationship with a state, county, or municipal government is considered employment. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "employment" means a relationship with a state, county, or municipal government where an individual does not exercise in his or her own right any sovereign power or any prescribed independent authority of a governmental nature.

Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 1001.71, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.71 University boards of trustees; membership.—

(1) Pursuant to s. 7(c), Art. IX of the State Constitution, each local constituent university shall be administered by a university board of trustees comprised of 13 members as follows: 6 citizen members appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation by the Senate; 5 citizen members appointed by the Board of Governors subject to confirmation by the Senate; the chair of the faculty senate or the equivalent; and the president of the student body of the university. The appointed members



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shall serve staggered 5-year terms. In order to achieve staggered terms, beginning July 1, 2003, of the initial appointments by the Governor, 2 members shall serve 2-year terms, 3 members shall serve 3-year terms, and 1 member shall serve a 5-year term and of the initial appointments by the Board of Governors, 2 members shall serve 2-year terms, 2 members shall serve 3-year terms, and 1 member shall serve a 5-year term. ~~There shall be no state residency requirement~~ For university board members, ~~but~~ the Governor and the Board of Governors shall consider diversity and regional representation. Beginning July 2, 2020, for purposes of this subsection, regional representation shall include the chair of a campus board established pursuant to s. 1004.341.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====
And the title is amended as follows:

Delete everything before the enacting clause
and insert:

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to public officers and employees;
creating s. 20.71, F.S.; requiring that, beginning on
a specified date, members of commissions and licensing
boards, chairs of governing boards or certain chief
executives, or any persons appointed to hold state
office be United States citizens and residents of this
state; requiring that, beginning on a specified date,
secretaries and executive directors of departments and
certain chief administrative officers be United States



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citizens and be residents of, and reside in, specified areas; requiring that, beginning on a specified date, members of the board of trustees for state universities be United States citizens and residents of this state or graduates of the state university that the board oversees; requiring that, beginning on a specified date, members of the Board of Governors of the State University System be United States citizens and residents of this state or have graduated from a state university; providing that if any such requirements are not met, the office is deemed vacant; creating s. 112.31251, F.S.; defining the term "office" for purposes of s. 5(a), Art. II of the State Constitution; defining the term "employment"; amending s. 1001.71, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.