

VALENCIA COLLEGE

THE SESSION REPORT

May 7, 2012



House Speaker Dean Cannon, R-Winter Park, left, and Senate President Mike Haridopolis, R-Melbourne, right, stand together providing a cameo image of the Legislature's leadership during a pause in the ceremonial joint session of the Legislature.

2012 Legislative Session

Introduction

▶ There was good news and bad news for Florida higher education in the 2012 session. Despite a sagging economy and a Legislature facing significant budget deficits, the Florida College System fared well, maintaining current levels of state operating support and receiving additional funds for facilities operations and specific college projects. The \$70 billion dollar budget included a 2.8 percent increase for the Florida College System over the previous year's budget, and both the House and the Senate agreed to a 5 percent tuition increase. The Governor has the option to accept or reject the proposed tuition increase. However, if he uses his

veto pen, Florida law provides college Boards of Trustees with the ability to increase tuition based on the consumer price index, which is 3 percent this year.

▶ With one minute to spare, the Florida Legislature adjourned *sine die* at 11:59 PM on Friday, March 9, 2012. A total of 2052 bills were introduced, although only 292 passed both chambers. Perhaps one of the most difficult aspects of the session was the record number of conforming bills (35) which added pages of statutory changes to both the House and Senate appropriations; along with a number of bills that will have a dramatic impact, if signed into law.

▶ The state universities faced a far more volatile session, absorbing an almost \$300 million reduction in base funding, expected to be replaced by using fund balances and significant tuition increases. Two universities were granted permission to charge market value for tuition. In addition, the Legislature agreed to the creation of a 12th state university.

▶ A bill revising the general education requirements for all the State higher education institutions will have a significant impact on college and university curriculum. The required number of general education hours was lowered from 36 to 30 with 15 hours to be standardized across both delivery systems. Foreign language requirements must now be met as part of the graduation requirements for the Associate in Arts degree.

▶ Distance learning, student advising (FACTS), and library support (CCLA and FCLA) were consolidated into one state-wide entity. A pilot

distance learning project, targeting students who began but did not complete a degree, was also created. This funded project will be carried out by two universities and two colleges, and could have a significant impact on future distance learning activities.

▶ There were several subtle, but important, changes in the Florida college governance system and calls for additional studies regarding higher education governance. The Higher Education Coordinating Council (HECC) have an important role, as recommendations for Florida College System governance could be considered.

▶ The lack of Public Education Capital Outlay funding continued to create problems for the Florida College System, with only very small amount (\$5.3 million) available for maintenance at all 28 colleges. No projects were funded out of PECO dollars, but Lottery bond proceeds were appropriated to fund selected college projects. The final fixed capital outlay list was completely different from those included in each chamber's initial budgets. The Legislature did provide appropriations to backfill the current PECO cash shortage impacting the 2008 and 2010 approved PECO projects.

▶ Finally, for the first time in recent legislative history, of more than 300 gubernatorial appointments slated to be confirmed by the Senate, only eight were confirmed. All other gubernatorial appointments including hundreds of college and university trustees were not confirmed. The Governor must reappoint within forty-five days, or the appointments expire.

▶ Another legal issue will play a role for the future. On March 6, 2012, the Circuit Court of the Second Judicial Circuit issued an order striking down the 2011 law that required employees in the Florida Retirement System to contribute 3% of their salary toward their retirement. The trial court's opinion has been appealed by the State. No changes to benefits or deductions are being made during the appeals process.

Funding Issues

▶ In general, funding for the Florida College System and the Community College Program Fund (CCPF) was slightly increased for 2012-13 from the 2011-12 level. Lottery funding was up significantly from \$130,359,158 to \$180,808,060 for an increase of \$50,448,902 or 39 percent. The Legislature offset

this by a fund shift reduction of a like amount from General Revenue.

▶ The Legislature again adjusted funding in the Community College Program Fund to reflect a change in Florida Retirement System contributions. An increase of \$7.2 million was provided to fund normal cost increases of the program. The increase was offset by a reduction in funding of \$6.5 million, which reflects the lowered employer's contribution rates which will be charged for members of the CCORP and the Investment programs in 2012-13. Because of the lowered rates, it is expected that these changes should have no net impact on the funds available for operations.

▶ In addition, the Legislature provided approximately \$36.1 million to individual colleges resulting in an overall increase in state funding of \$28.3 million or a net increase of 2.8 percent. The Legislature also authorized local boards to increase tuition by up to 5 percent. With the inclusion of the projected tuition receipts of \$45.5 million, the overall potential increase in funding will amount to 3.8%.

▶ The maximum increase in state dollars was 20.9 percent. Twenty-one colleges had a net change of less than 3.2%. Depending on an individual college's funding for retirement adjustments, operating cost for new facilities, legislative initiatives, and tuition the range of increase will be from 1.3 percent to 15 percent.

▶ Funding for the College Center for Library Automation was removed from being part of the CCPF allocation. The \$12.8 million was transferred, reduced by 5%, and appropriated as part of the new Florida Virtual Campus line item. Funding was continued for the 2+2 partnership initiative at the level of \$3 million.



Speaker Dean Cannon, R-Winter Park, center; confers with Representatives Mike Horner, R-Kissimmee, left; and Stephen Precourt, R-Orlando, right; on the House floor during session.

Florida College System Appropriations

Issue	Funding 2011-12	Funding 2012-13
Lottery	\$130,359,158	\$180,808,060
Community College Program Fund (CCPF)	\$893,092,474	\$870,982,214
Adults with Disabilities	\$1,030,830	\$876,206
Student Fees	8 % increase	5 % increase
Facilities Matching	0	0
Phillip Benjamin Matching	0	0
PECO		
General Revenue	\$1,440,000	\$0
Lottery	\$18,776,420	\$69,098,805
PECO	<u>\$82,648,517</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Total	\$102,864,937 <i>After veto:</i> <i>\$18,636,486</i>	\$69,098,805
PECO Sum-of-Digits	\$8,088,000	\$5,377,488
First Generation Matching	\$1,397,017	\$1,327,166
College Reach Out Program	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Public Fin Aid		
Lottery	\$45,100,892	\$45,100,892
Student Loan		
Operating Trust Fund		\$59,602,832
General Revenue (FSAG)	<u>\$55,304,031</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Total	\$100,404,923	\$104,703,724

Issue	Funding 2011-12	Funding 2012-13
Fl Distance Learning Consortium		
FACTS	\$590,000	2011-12 unspent balance re-appropriated
Florida Virtual Campus (FDLN,FACTS, CCLA,FCLA)	This is the FCS share. SUS share separate.	\$10,963,647
2 + 2 Partnerships, SUS and FCS	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Operating Costs for New Facilities	\$6,632,212	\$7,299,889
Total State Funds	\$1,027,572,933	\$1,066,187,103 (3.8%)

Valencia Appropriations

STATE ALLOCATED FUNDS	2010-11	2010-11
Community College Program Fund (CCPF) Lottery	\$ 7,814,525	\$11,861,086*
CCPF General Revenue (recurring)	\$ 52,771,488	\$ 57,136,806

TOTAL **\$ 60,586,013** **\$ 68,997,892**
(13.9%)

► **Foundation Matching Funds**

For the fifth consecutive year, the legislature declined to fund the Florida College System’s challenge matching grants program. If funded, Valencia’s Foundation would have received over \$7,245,090 to match private contributions received by February 1, 2012.

► **Facilities Matching Funds**

For the fifth consecutive year, the legislature declined to fund the Florida College System’s facilities matching grants program. If funded, Valencia would have received \$5,181,896 to match contributions received for the construction of Building 4, Osceola Campus.

Public Educational Capital Outlay (PECO) Funds

VALENCIA PROJECT	AMOUNT FUNDED 2011-12
Gen ren/rem, infrastructure and site improvements & acquisition	\$ 1,807,926
Library & High Tech Bldg 4 - Osceola (ce) comp	\$ 4,191,590
Maj Ren/Rem, Emg repl-Chill w/loop, infrastr-East campus	\$ 0
Sum-of Digits (Maintenance)	\$ 247,430

TOTAL PECO \$ 6,246,946

► **Proviso Language**

In Section 12(20) of the Appropriations Act, language is included that provides Valencia with needed authority to acquire land/facilities and remodel/renovate facilities of classrooms, labs, offices, support space and parking for the State Board of Education approved West Campus and Sand Lake Special Purpose Center.

■ **Bills that Passed**

NOTE: Governor’s Approval or Veto

► Bills which were passed by the legislature will be sent to the Governor to sign, veto, or to become law without his signature. Pursuant to Article III, Section 8, of the Florida Constitution, "[e]very bill passed by the legislature shall be presented to the governor for approval and shall become a law if the governor approves and signs it, or fails to veto it within seven consecutive days after presentation. If during that period or on the seventh day the legislature adjourns sine die or takes a recess of more than thirty days, the governor shall have fifteen consecutive days from the date of presentation to act on the bill. Most bills are passed during the last week of session and have not been signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. Once signed, the bills are presented to the Governor for his action. This often takes a number of weeks. Usually, bills are sent in staggered groups to the Governor to allow time for review in their final form. The

Governor then has a 15 day period from the day each bill is received to take action.

NOTE: Appropriations Proviso, Implementing Bills and Conforming Bills

► The Legislature has three methods to reflect decisions made in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) process. First, proviso is language attached to a specific appropriation and directs or authorizes how the funds can be expended. Or, an implementing bill may provide instructions to enact specific provisions in the GAA language or proviso by changing the law on a temporary basis for one year. While the GAA cannot contradict current law, there may be a need to temporarily suspend some provision of law. Finally, a conforming bill may also travel with the GAA. It is different from the implementing bill in that it makes permanent changes to Florida laws.

► Conforming bills usually appear late in Session, often in conjunction with the adoption of a chambers appropriation bill. Such bills are necessary to “conform” certain provisions of the law to the directions contained in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) about how appropriated funds are to be expended. A conforming bill makes permanent changes to Florida law, while an Implementing bill makes changes in law only for the life of the GAA, one year. In previous years, conforming bills adhered to long standing procedures requiring that the bill specifically address items connected to the GAA. Over the past several years it has become common practice to insert substantive bill language into the conforming bill that have a blurry connection to the GAA. This practice has the effect of changing law without the change language being vetted in the legislative committee process. The effect is that this practice limits or eliminates any lobbying effort on the issue. In addition, the number of conforming bills has grown from 3 to 5 bills in a session to a record number of 44 bills in the 2011 session, and 35 bills in the 2012 session, 17 of these have no companion bill. Somehow, this new practice appears to have become routine.

► In summary, proviso language and implementing bills are law for only one year and then they expire, while a conforming bill is a permanent change in Florida law. While the Governor may veto the entire appropriations act or by “line item,” he does not have line item veto in a conforming or implementing bill, but must act on the entire bill.

▶ Another term that is encountered as each Session draws to a close is “Conference Report.” When the Senate and House of Representatives pass different versions of a bill and they are not able to agree upon common content through the amendatory process, each house appoints members (“conferees”) to a conference committee on the bills. The committee members negotiate the differences between the bills and present a mutually agreed upon version to both houses. This product is called a “Conference Report” which may only be accepted or rejected, but not amended, by each house. Although the General Appropriations Act and its related bills are commonly conferenced, there has been a growing tendency for other important bills to also be conferenced. This year, in addition to the GAA and Implementing Bills, there were 35 conference report bills.

[HB 5003 Appropriation Implementing Bill for the 2012 Budget](#)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-119; effective 7/1/12)

▶ Provides specific authority for implementing the budget - expires in one year.

[General Appropriations Act 2011, Conference Report on HB 5001 \(GAA\)](#)

(Approved by Governor with Line Item Veto; Chapter No. 2012-118; effective 7/1/12)

Tuition and Fees

▶ Proviso following Specific Appropriation 108, General Appropriations Act states:

- Beginning with the Fall 2012 semester, tuition and fee rates are established for the 2012-2013 fiscal year as follows:
- For advanced and professional, postsecondary vocational, college preparatory, and educator preparation institute programs, standard tuition for residents and nonresidents shall be \$71.98 per credit hour for residents. For nonresidents, the out-of-state fee shall be \$215.94 per credit hour in addition to the standard tuition of \$71.98 per credit hour.
- For baccalaureate degree programs, the standard tuition shall be \$91.79 per credit hour for students who are residents.

- For programs leading to a career certificate or an applied technology diploma, the standard tuition shall be \$2.33 per contact hour for residents and nonresidents and the out-of-state fee shall be \$6.99 per contact hour, in addition to the standard tuition.

Community College Program Fund

▶ Proviso following Specific Appropriation 108, General Appropriations Act includes:

- The requirement to submit an operating budget included details for planned expenditures for baccalaureate programs and the source of funds.
- Language regarding the statutory fee increase if the tuition and fees specified in the General Appropriations Act become law.
- Language relating to fee waivers for Workforce Development Education.
- Reporting requirements for adult general education programs.
- Language relating to flexibility for each college board of trustees to make adjustments to the operating budget.

Private Colleges and Universities

▶ Proviso following Specific Appropriation 54, General Appropriations Act (NEW Language):

- Institutions must submit an annual report to the Department of Education detailing the following metrics for Florida resident students: entrance requirements for the year; percentage of students receiving PELL grants, Bright Futures and other academic aid; graduation rates; job placement rates up to 120 days past graduation; and, where applicable, average grant recipients' GPA and freshmen grant recipients' test scores. Reports must be submitted by September 1, 2012 reflecting prior academic year statistics. Further, proposed expenditure plans are required for all funded with specific appropriations as opposed to grants.

Florida Resident Access Grants (FRAG)

- ▶ Proviso following Specific Appropriation 56, General Appropriations Act:
 - The total appropriation of \$78,958,406 is for both original FRAG students and the new, Keiser students who were added last year when Keiser moved from for-profit status to not-for-profit status. This is an overall decrease of \$1,802,849 from the 2011 appropriation of \$80,761,255.
 - The original FRAG students' appropriation for 2012 is \$73,119,350 for 34,009 students at \$2,150 each. This appropriation is \$3,255,919 less than 2011 when they were authorized for 35,529 students at \$2,149 each.
 - The appropriation for students eligible in 2010-2011 (Keiser students), will receive \$5,839,056 for 3,956 students at \$1,476 per student (an increase of \$673 per student or 84%). This appropriation is an increase of \$1,453,070 or 33% over last year's appropriation of \$4,385,986 for 5,462 students at \$803 per student. The legislature is phasing in the Keiser students to become eligible for the full amount of the original FRAG students.

Access to Better Learning and Education (ABLE)

- ▶ Proviso following Specific Appropriation 55, General Appropriations Act :
 - The appropriation provides \$2,310,231 for 2,877 students at a maximum of \$803 per student. Office of Financial Assistance may prorate award to a lesser amount in the second term if funds are insufficient to provide a full award to all eligible students. This is an decrease of \$109,208 from last year's allocation. Further, last year they were authorized for more students at 3,013 students but at the same amount of \$803 per student.

“Back of the General Appropriations Bill” Sections Relating to the Florida College System

- ▶ Section 12: Authorizes specific colleges to acquire or construct certain facilities from non-PECO sources.
- ▶ This approval allows the college to request operating cost for new facilities from the state in a future legislative budget request.
- ▶ Section 13: Provides a total of \$250,000,000 in funding from GR and Lottery to cover the shortfall in PECO bonding revenue. Reverts \$250,000,000 in un-issued PECO bond authorizations.
 - Section 13 addresses the outstanding \$250 million Public Education Capital Outlay funding issue by replacing the bonded monies with cash. While this potentially alleviates the cash-flow issue, colleges should need to wait on the official go-ahead from the Governor before moving forward with additional projects/contracts. To be clear however, the Department of Education recommends that new contracts/projects should remain on hold for now, except for those involving life-safety issues.

Key Substantive Legislative Issues

[HB 5201 Appropriations Conforming Bill: Postsecondary Education Funding](#)
(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-134; effective 7/1/12)

Auditor General Reporting Requirements Relating to Florida College System and State University System Institutions

- ▶ HB 5201, Section 1, adding paragraph (j) to subsection (7) of section 11.45, Florida Statutes:
 - Requires the Auditor General to notify the Legislative Auditing Committee if a college or university fails to take full corrective action in response to an audit recommendation that was included in the two previous financial or operational audit reports on the institution. Authorizes the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee to request the institution to provide a written

explanation of why full corrective action has not been taken on the recommendation and, if the response is deemed insufficient, to require the chair of the governing body of the institution, or the chair's designee, to appear before the Committee.

- If the Committee determines there is no justifiable reason why the institution has failed to take full corrective action on the recommendation, the Committee may direct the Department of Financial Services to withhold funds until the institution complies with the recommendation.



[Beyond the Seven Mile Bridge](#)

South Florida Community College Name Change

- ▶ HB 5201, Section 3, amends paragraph (z) of subsection (3) of section 1000.21, Florida Statutes:

Authorizes South Florida Community College to change its name to South Florida State College effective upon the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) granting accreditation of the college's baccalaureate degree programs.

Restrictions on Severance Pay Provisions of Employee Contracts

- ▶ HB 5201, Section 4, amending subsection (47) of section 1001.64, Florida Statutes, and adding subsection (48) to that section:

Requires severance pay provisions included in employee contracts at public universities and public colleges to conform with s. 215.425, Florida Statutes, which limits such pay to 20 weeks of compensation. Provides further that severance pay may not be provided when the employee is fired for misconduct.

Purchasing Consortia

- ▶ New language in subsection HB 5201(48) requires each board of trustees to use purchasing agreements, state contracts, or to enter into consortia

and cooperative agreements to maximize purchasing power for goods and services. The goal is to achieve a 5-percent savings on existing contracts through the use of new cooperative arrangements or new consortium contracts.

Creation of the Florida Virtual Campus and Expansion of Transient Course Fee

- ▶ HB 5201, Section 14, creating s. 1006.73, Florida Statutes:

- The Florida Virtual Campus is established which consolidates the Florida Distance Learning Consortium, FACTS.org, the Florida Center for Library Automation (FCLA), and the College Center for Library Automation (CCLA). Funding for the Florida Virtual Campus is evenly split between the Florida College System and the State University System. As part of the reorganization, FACTS.org is no longer required to provide career planning tools for the K-12 students.
- Primary responsibilities of the Florida Virtual Campus are to provide access to online student services and library support services, serve as a statewide resource and clearinghouse for postsecondary education distance learning courses and degree programs, and increase student access and completion of degrees. Joint oversight for the Florida Virtual Campus is assigned to Florida College System and State University System Chancellors who shall establish the governing and reporting structure, staffing, and operating budget for the Virtual Campus.
- Sections 2, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, and 22 of HB 5201 also make changes relating to the creation of the Florida Virtual Campus and the de-authorization of the current entities of the Florida Distance Learning Catalog, Florida Distance Learning Consortium, FACTS.org, the Florida Center for Library Automation (FCLA), and the College Center for Library Automation (CCLA).
- The 2011 Legislature required all Public postsecondary students taking distance learning classes transient students to apply

for transient admission online. That legislation limited the transient admissions fee to \$5.00. HB 5201 expands the online admissions process to be required for ALL transient students and types of courses, in person or distance, with authorization for up to a \$5.00 fee per course.

Degree Completion Pilot Project

- ▶ HB 5201, Section 15, creates s.1006.735, Florida Statutes, effective upon the bill becoming law:
 - The Pilot Project is designed to recruit, recover, and retain adult learners who have “stopped out” of college prior to attaining a degree. Students must have left college in good standing and have successfully completed college level coursework in multiple semesters. Returning students are to be assisted in obtaining degrees aligned with high-wage, high-skill workforce needs of the State.
 - The Degree Completion Pilot Project is established with four public institutions in the Pilot. They are the University of West Florida (as the lead institution), the University of South Florida, Florida State College at Jacksonville, and St. Petersburg College. The institutions are to submit a detailed project plan by August 1, 2012 to the Legislature and begin implementation in the 2012-13 academic year. The sum of \$2,500,000 is appropriated for the Pilot Project.

Florida College System Baccalaureate Degree Approval Process

- ▶ HB 5201, Section 19, deletes current subsection (6) and renumbers current subsection (7) as subsection (6) of section 1007.33, Florida Statutes:
 - This section removes current language authorizing a college to apply for an exemption from State Board of Education approval of new baccalaureate degree programs. Requests for approval of future baccalaureate degree programs must be made to, and approved by, the State Board of Education, which is the current practice.

Summer Bright Futures Pilot Program at the University of Florida

- ▶ HB5201, Section 20:

This section clarifies that a Bright Futures Scholarship Award recipient attending the University of Florida may receive an award for two semesters or the equivalent per fiscal year including the summer semester. This language may be expanded to include institutions in the Florida College System if the pilot project shows students will attend in the summer term.

Increase in the Student Fee for Capital Improvement (CIF)

- ▶ HB 5201, Section 21, amending section 1009.23, Florida Statutes, to:

Allows a local board of trustees to increase the charge for the Capital Improvement Fee over time from up to 10-percent of tuition to as maximum of 20-percent of tuition per credit hour for resident students. The maximum increase in any given year remains limited to \$2 per credit hour over the prior year.

Fee Exemption for Workforce Education Program Students

- ▶ HB 5201, Section 23, amending subsection (1) of section 1009.25, Florida Statutes:

This section amends language to specify that exemptions from tuition and fees, including lab fees at a school district, Florida College System college, or state university apply to students in workforce education programs and not postsecondary career programs.

Excess Hour Surcharge

- ▶ HB 5201, Section 24, amending sections (2) and (7) of section 1009.286, Florida Statutes:
 - For First-Time-In-College (FTIC) students who enroll in the State University System in 2012-13, and who maintain continuous enrollment, a 100% tuition surcharge is established for hours over 110% of the required number to receive specific baccalaureate degrees. Currently enrolled

students who maintain continuous enrollment continue to be grandfathered under the provisions regarding excess credit hours at the time the student first enrolled. *NOTE: Does not expand the excess hour surcharge to include students attending Florida College System institutions.*

Bright Futures Scholarship Eligibility Requirements

- ▶ HB 5201, Section 25, amending sections (2) and (7) of section 1009.531, Florida Statutes:
 - Provides that high school students graduating in the 2012-13 academic year and thereafter will have 2 years instead of 3 years to accept an initial award. Students will have 5 years after high school graduation to receive renewal awards. Grounds for an extension of one year to renew an award are specified as a verifiable illness or other documented emergency.
 - To be eligible for an initial award or to renew an award, students will be required to submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Currently, only initial award applicants are required to submit the form.

Bright Futures Gold Seal – Renewal Awards and Gold Seal Awards

- ▶ HB 5201, Section 26, amending subsection (3) of section 1009.532, Florida Statutes:
 - Limits use of the Bright Futures Scholarship to 100 percent of the number of credit hours to complete an associate or baccalaureate degree program, or a postsecondary career certificate program for students initially eligible in the 2012-13 academic year.
 - Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars awards are limited to 100-percent of the hours required to complete one of the following: applied technology diploma programs (up to 60 credit hours or the equivalent), technical degree or career certificate programs (not to exceed 72 credit hours or the equivalent).

Bright Futures Award Amounts to be Specified in the General Appropriations Act

- ▶ HB 5201, Section 27, 28, and 29:
 - This section specifies that the award amount for each Bright Futures Scholarship Program shall be the amount set in the General Appropriations Act. Removes existing language tying the award amounts to tuition and fees.
 - Restrictions relating to secondary school career credits are removed.
 - To receive the Florida Medallion Scholars Award or the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Award, home school students are required to complete a program of community service work the same as are public high school students. *NOTE: An Increase in the Grade Point Average for renewal of Bright Futures awards was not included in the final version of the bill.*

Review of Significant Findings in an Audit at a Meeting of a Board of Trustees

- ▶ HB 5201, Section 35, amending section (2) and of section 1010.30, Florida Statutes:

This section provides that if a Florida College System institution has a significant finding in an audit, the board of trustees shall conduct an audit overview during a public meeting.

Co-Enrolled Student Funding and Fees

- ▶ HB 5201, Section 36, amending section 1011.80(10), Florida Statutes:

Authorizing students who are co-enrolled in core curriculum courses for credit recovery or dropout prevention during 2012-2013 and do not have a pattern of excessive absenteeism or habitual truancy or a history of disruptive behavior in school, to be reported for funding for up to two courses per student. These students are exempt from being charged adult general education tuition.

Contract Language for Administrative and Instructional Staff

- ▶ HB 5201, Section 37, amending section 1012.83, Florida Statutes, to:
 - Require that each contract or employment agreement, or renewal or renegotiation of an existing contract or employment agreement which contains a severance pay provision must include the following provisions in the contract:
 - A requirement that severance pay provided may not exceed an amount greater than 20 weeks of compensation.
 - A prohibition of provision of severance pay when the officer, agent, employee, or contractor has been fired for misconduct, as defined in s.443.036(29), by the unit of government.

Restrictions on the Remuneration of Florida College System Presidents and Administrative Employees

- ▶ HB 5201, Sections 38, and 39

Continues for fiscal year 2012-13, the current restrictions against using state appropriated funds in excess of \$200,000 to pay the salary of presidents or administrative employees.

[HB 5101, K-12 Education Conforming Bill](#)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-133; effective 7/1/12)

Educational TV and Radio

- ▶ Removes educational radio from exemptions and support in law, while allowing educational television to continue. NOTE: proviso requires a study of learning gains of students exposed to public broadcasting educational materials.

Charter Schools

- ▶ Changes calculation of administrative fee charged for charter schools with 75% or more exceptional students.

Department of Juvenile Justice

- ▶ Amends funding, via the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP).

Reading

- ▶ Creates new emphasis on improving reading in the K-12 system, with new standards and requirements, including the need to use certified reading coaches.

K-12 Facilities

- ▶ Creates K-12 Facilities Funding Task Force to address equitable funding for charter and public schools.

[Postsecondary Education: HB 7135 by the House Education Committee and Proctor \(CS/CS/SB 1366 by Gaetz and the Budget Subcommittee on Higher Education Appropriations and Lynn\)](#)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-195; effective immediately)

SUS Planning and Performance

- ▶ Requires that the Board of Governors' (BOG) strategic plan address:
 - goals and objectives for the SUS and each constituent university, but also each university's contribution to overall system goals and objectives.
 - performance metrics and standards common to all institutions and standards and metrics unique to each institution, depending on the institutional mission.

- ▶ Establishes a formula for state university performance funding for engineering and technology programs that have high employment outcomes.

FCS Planning and Performance

- ▶ Directs the State Board of Education (SBE) to clarify the mission statements of each FCS institution and its role within the system as a whole, including

- the role of each institution in baccalaureate degree production and establish criteria for baccalaureate degrees service delivery areas.
- performance metrics and a plan that specifies goals and objectives for each FCS institution.

FCS Baccalaureate Degrees

- ▶ Amends the language related to FCS institution notice of intent to propose a baccalaureate degree program to:
 - include independently-determined workforce demand and unmet need data
 - repeal the unused provision allowing FCS institutions to bypass SBE approval for additional baccalaureate degrees
 - require evidence that there have been discussions with SUS and other regionally accredited providers in the service area.
- ▶ Requires each FCS institution offering baccalaureate degree programs to annually report its status using specific performance and compliance indicators.
- ▶ Authorizes the SBE to require modification or termination of baccalaureate programs offered by FCS institutions.

STEM Plan

- ▶ Requires the SBE, in consultation with the BOG and the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to adopt a unified state plan for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

FCS Issues

- ▶ Allows the SBE to ask FCS District Boards of Trustees to evaluate the performance of presidents based on system, as well as institutional, goals.
- ▶ Authorizes the Commissioner or his/her designee to conduct a review or investigation at any College if such College takes actions inconsistent with sound financial, management or academic practice.

AA Student Advising

- ▶ Requires the Articulation Coordinating Council (ACC) to have each FCS student identify a desired baccalaureate degree, offered by institution of interest, by time the student earns 30 credits. The FCS institution must then notify the student of degree program prerequisites for baccalaureate degree offered by student's institution of interest.

General Education

- ▶ Revises general education and foreign language requirements beginning with students initially entering a FCS institution in 2014-15.
 - Reduces the requirement from 36 semester credit hours to 30 semester credit hours for an associate or baccalaureate degree.
 - Requires the SBE and the BOG to jointly convene faculty committees to identify statewide general education core course options. General education core course options must consist of a maximum of five courses within each of the subject areas of communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences.
 - Requires competency in a foreign language, pursuant to s. 1007.262, F.S., to obtain an Associate in Arts degree.

Student Information on Careers

- ▶ Requires the DEO to annually, beginning December 31, 2013, prepare a report of employment and earning outcomes for degrees or certificates earned at a public postsecondary educational institution. Report must be provided to public high school and postsecondary students.

Private Sector Student Data

- ▶ Requires all private postsecondary institutions to submit student-level data to appropriate state level entities for each student that receives state funds.



[Okeehumkee on the Oklawaha](#)

[Acceleration Options, CS/CS HB 7059 by K-20 Innovation \(CS/CS SB 1368 by Gaetz\)](#)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-191; effective 7/1/12)

Creates Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL)

► Requires K-12 principals and school districts to establish eligibility for ACCEL options and the process for parents to request participation. Extensive work for principal and district.

► At minimum, each school must offer the following ACCEL curriculum enhancements and acceleration options: whole grade promotion, mid-year promotion, subject matter acceleration, virtual instruction in higher grade level subjects and Credit Acceleration Program (credit by exam). Also lists other options.

Replaces the Inter-institutional Articulation Agreement with dual enrollment agreement.

► Requires FCS presidents to develop and implement jointly with school districts comprehensive dual enrollment agreements.

K-12 Student and parent rights

► Requires notification of options for early or accelerated high school graduation.

Early High School Graduation

- Option to graduate early once student completes 24 credits in specific courses.
- Defines “graduating” in less than 8 semesters or the equivalent.
- If graduation is early, student can get Bright Futures scholarship for spring college term.
- Allows districts to receive funding for students who obtain more than 6 credits per year (e.g. end-of-course Algebra I without taking course).
- Requires parents to be advised of options, requires high schools to notify parents if student is eligible to graduate early.

► Students may participate in all high school activities, class ranking, graduation, etc.

End-of-Course Assessments

- Establishes performance based budgeting for Algebra 1, Biology 1, and Geometry courses for students who pass assessments (begins in 4th year of administering the end-of-course exams).
- Requires the assessment for Algebra I to be administered four times each year, beginning with the 2012-13 school year. As of the 2011-12 academic years, Algebra I is the only must pass end-of-course assessment. Per current law, Biology I and Geometry assessments will also be “must pass” beginning in the 2012-13 school year, but the bill does not require four administrations of those assessments. Accordingly, they will only be administered three times per year.

Dual Enrollment

- Eliminates the exemption from FCS admission standards for secondary students taking a college-level course outside of the dual enrollment program. A student who is enrolled in postsecondary instruction that is not creditable toward a standard high school diploma may not be classified as a dual enrollment student.
- By eliminating this exemption, the bill prohibits the practice of “credit in escrow,” which allows a high school student, who does not qualify for dual enrollment, to enroll in and pay for college courses that do not count toward high school graduation. In the past, credit was held until the student graduated from high school and enrolled in postsecondary.
- If a student enrolls in a postsecondary course and graduates from HS before that course is completed, the student may not register through dual enrollment. They may apply and take the course but would be required to pay tuition and fees.
- For dual enrollment eligibility the bill requires a 3.0 GPA and minimum score on a

- CPT established by SBOE. Continued eligibility is 3.0 GPA in HS and the GPA established by the postsecondary institution. Students may lose eligibility if they are disruptive to the learning process.
- ▶ Eligibility for initial and continued enrollment in career certificates dual enrollment courses must include a 2.0 HS GPA, exceptions may be granted on an individual basis if educational entities agree and those terms are in the articulation agreement.
 - ▶ Colleges may impose additional requirements, which must be in the dual enrollment articulation agreement.
 - ▶ Establishes that course requirements and curriculum standards taught on the high school campus must be identical to those taught on campus and include same materials. The college must advise the school district of materials requirements as soon as that information becomes available but no later than one term before a course is offered.
 - ▶ Faculty and curriculum standards must be consistent with SACS. Faculty must be treated the same as all other college faculty (evaluation, handbook, etc.) Faculty must observe the procedures and deadlines of the postsecondary institution for the submission of grades.
 - ▶ The bill prohibits the combination of dual enrollment courses and other high school courses. This prohibits a school district from offering dual enrollment credit to a portion of students within a class (including advanced placement), even though all students are performing the same coursework. (Repeals 1007.272). Students are required to choose which credit they wish to pursue at the beginning of the course.



[To Have and Have Not](#)

- ▶ The bill clarifies that district school boards may not refuse to enter into a dual enrollment articulation agreement.
- ▶ Provides that a FCS institution may limit dual enrollment participation based upon capacity. Any limitation based upon capacity must be clearly specified in the dual enrollment articulation agreement.
- ▶ Requires the School District to annually assess the demand for dual enrollment and provide that information to each partnering postsecondary institution. Prohibits discrimination against dual enrollment courses.
- ▶ Clarifies that grade discrimination against dual enrollment courses is prohibited.
- ▶ Requires postsecondary institution to assign letter grades to each student in dual enrollment and that grade will be posted to the student's high school transcript by the school district.
- ▶ Requires district superintendent and FCS president to develop a comprehensive dual enrollment articulation agreement with each appointing members to serve on a joint committee for the development of such agreement. Elements of the agreement are specified.

Early Admission

- ▶ Student must enroll in a minimum of 12 college credit hours per semester but may not be required to enroll in more than 15 college credit hours per semester.
- ▶ Each home schooled student requires an articulation agreement with the college; the elements are specified.

Career Themed Courses

- ▶ Defines career-themed course – leads to an industry certification.
- ▶ Provides that students completing a career-themed course must be provided opportunities to earn postsecondary credit if the credit of the career-themed course can be

articulated to a postsecondary institution approved to operate in the State. NOTE: this could be utilized by private postsecondary institutions as a recruitment effort. Colleges should work with districts to articulate as much as possible.

- ▶ Provides that partnerships with postsecondary institutions shall be delineated in articulation agreements and career and professional academy courses or career-themed courses that add postsecondary credit.
- ▶ Changes existing strategic 5 year plan required to be coordinated by the school district to be a 3 year plan – working with workforce boards, postsecondary institutions, etc.
- ▶ Adds requirement for the 3 year plan to be developed jointly by the local school district, regional workforce boards, economic development agencies, and state approved postsecondary institutions to include: 1003.491 (3) (q) “strategies to redirect appropriated career funding in secondary and postsecondary institutions to support career academies and career themed courses that lead to industry certification.”

Bright Futures

- ▶ A student, who graduates from high school midyear, must apply no later than August 31 of the student’s graduation year in order to be evaluated for and, if eligible, receive an award for the current academic year (Spring Semester).
- ▶ A student who receives an initial award during the spring term shall be evaluated for scholarship renewal after completion of a full academic year, which begins with the fall term.



[The Spring of Life](#)

[Preeminent Universities, HB 7129 by Education Committee \(CS/CS/SB 1752 by Oelrich and Lynn\)](#) (Vetoed by Governor)

- ▶ Established the criteria for State Universities to become universities of Academic Excellence and National Universities of Preeminence.
- ▶ Allowed Universities that acquire the national status of Preeminence to establish market rate tuition and fees that are differentiated from other Florida public Universities
- ▶ Allowed these universities to establish their own core courses of 9-12 hours, and accelerated credit is excluded.

[Postsecondary Education \(USF Polytechnic / Florida Polytechnic University\), SB 1994 by Budget Committee](#) (Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-129; effective immediately)

- ▶ This legislation eliminates a regional campus of the University of South Florida (USF) and establishes a new state university. Since 1988, USF has had a regional campus (first “USF Lakeland” and, since 2008, “USF Polytechnic”) on a joint-use campus owned by Polk State College in Lakeland. In 2011, the Board of Governors established a “path to independence,” whereby the regional campus could achieve independence after first gaining campus-level SACS accreditation as a part of the USF system and achieving certain other benchmarks. This legislation supersedes that BOG plan, creating a new institution and eliminating the regional campus.
 - Creates a new state university, Florida Polytechnic University, focused on STEM and STEM-related fields.
 - Requires that USF continue to serve all of the current, regional campus students through a “teach-out,” thus allowing those students to complete USF degrees locally.
 - Assigns all space on the joint-use campus to Polk State College as space is vacated by USF’s “teach-out.”
 - Designates the University of Florida as an advisory institution to the Florida Polytechnic Board and President in matters related to accreditation and administration.

Personnel Records, SB 878 by Benacquisto (CS/HB 1465 by Caldwell)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-46; effective 7/1/12)

▶ Amends provisions of law relating to limited access personnel records of Florida College System employees, ostensibly to conform with regulations and law relating to SUS employees. Specifies what records are considered limited access and opens non-academic evaluations to public inspection

▶ Provides that such limited access records include only:

- Records containing information reflecting academic evaluations of employee performance; however, the employee and officials of the institution responsible for supervision of the employee shall have access to such records.
- Records maintained for the purposes of any investigation of employee misconduct, including, but not limited to, a complaint against an employee and all information obtained pursuant to the investigation of such complaint; however, these records become public (subject to other exemptions) after the investigation ceases to be active or when the institution provides written notice to the employee who is the subject of the complaint that the institution has:
 1. Concluded the investigation with a finding not to proceed with disciplinary action;
 2. Concluded the investigation with a finding to proceed with disciplinary action; or
 3. Issued a letter of discipline.

▶ Records maintained for the purposes of any disciplinary proceeding brought against an employee; however, these records shall be open to inspection by the employee and shall become public (subject to other exemptions) after a final decision is made in the proceeding.

▶ Records maintained for the purposes of any grievance proceeding brought by an employee for enforcement of a collective bargaining agreement or contract; however, these records shall be open to inspection by the employee and by officials of the institution conducting the grievance proceeding and

shall become public (subject to other exemptions) after a final decision is made in the proceeding.

State Information Technology, HB 5011 by Appropriations Committee, Grimsley

(Vetoed by Governor)

▶ Created the Agency for State Technology (AST) and authorizes a transfer of all records, property, funding balances, administrative authority and administrative rules from the Agency for Enterprise Information Technology to the Agency for State Technology.

▶ Established the Agency for State Technology within the Executive Office of the Governor making the head of the agency the Governor and Cabinet. Provided requirements and duties for the executive director of the executive agency, who will be the state's Chief Information Officer (CIO).

▶ Required the CIO and Agency for State Technology to develop an Information Technology Strategic Plan for Florida that establishes a mission, goals, and objectives for the use of information technology in state government information and services; the plan shall be submitted to the House Speaker and Senate President beginning October 1, 2013 and biennially thereafter.

▶ Defined the duties and responsibilities of the AST, including inventory of state's information technology resources and the provision of project management oversight of the state's agency data center consolidations.

▶ Repealed statutory provisions relating to the Agency for Enterprise Information Technology.

Protection of Vulnerable Persons, CS/CS/CS/HB 1355 by Dorworth (CS/CS/SB 1816 by Benacquisto)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-155; effective 10/1/12)

▶ Currently child abuse and sexual abuse laws require all adults to report child abuse to the Florida Child Abuse Hotline when a caregiver (definition only includes parent, legal custodian, adult household member, etc.) commits abuse. The bill amends child abuse reporting laws by providing that all adults must report child abuse committed by any person, not just caregivers.

▶ Establishes a \$1 million fine (for each violation) for any Florida College System institution, state university, or nonpublic college, university, or school, whose administrators knowingly and willfully, upon receiving information from faculty, staff, or other institution employees, fail to report known or suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect committed on the property of the institution, or during an event or function sponsored by the institution, or who knowingly and willfully prevent another person from doing so; or whose law enforcement agency fails to report known or suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect committed on the property of the institution, or during an event or function sponsored by the institution.

Retirement, HB 5005 Conference Report

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-146; effective 7/1/12)

▶ Establishes the Employer and Employee contribution rates for both the Defined Benefit (Pension) plans and the Defined Contribution (Investment) plans.

▶ The amount contributed by an employee in either plan remains at 3%.

▶ For the defined contribution (Investment) plans, the employer contribution rate has been lowered. The Legislature is reducing the employer contribution over time, with the goal of having the contribution to the pension plan and the investment plan be the same.

Retirement, CS/HB 7079 by Patronis (CS/CS/SB 2024 by Government Oversight)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-222; effective 7/1/12)

▶ Clarifies language as it pertains to Defined Contribution (Investment) plans. Provides the ability for Investment plan members to withdraw funds from plans three months after termination.

▶ Provides that Investment plan members can withdraw 10% of the invested funds one month after termination if retirement age defined as being age 65 or vested after eight years whichever is later.

▶ Clarifies participation in DROP by employees who elect to participate after July 1, 2011 as being age 65 or the requisite number of service years.

Veterans and Military Omnibus Bill, CS/CS/SB 922 by Bennett (CS/CS/977 by Nelson and other House and Senate Bills)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-159; effective 10/1/12)

▶ Amends the Florida “Service-Disabled” Veteran Business Enterprise Opportunity Act by opening the provisions to all veterans of wartime service (as defined in state statute and federal law). (See also SB 152/ HB 977)

- Provides requirements, definitions and provisions relating to requirements in public contracting/vendor preference

▶ Requires priority registration at public higher education institutions for recipients of G.I. Bill benefits or their spouse or dependents if the institution has any priorities for course registration until such eligibility for the G.I. Bill expires. (See also HB 45 by Smith)

- Encourages private institutions to implement the same plan.

▶ Contains many provisions relating to further expanding Florida’s reputation as the most veteran and military friendly state in the nation, but unrelated to educational issues

NOTE: One provision removed from the final bill (also contained in SB 164/ HB 131) would have allowed ANY veteran who attended the physical location of a public higher education institution to be classified as a resident immediately for in-state tuition rates.

Priority Course Registration for Veterans, CS/HB 45 by Smith (SB 94 by Fasano)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-162; effective 7/1/12)

▶ Requires that if a public institution of higher education offers priority course registration to any segment of students, then the institution must also provide priority course registration for veterans of the United States Armed Forces receiving education benefits under the G.I. Bill or to their spouse or dependent children receiving those benefits transferred from the veteran, until those benefits expire.

▶ Encourages private institutions to provide similar priority registration as the public institution requirements

[College Credit for Military Training, HB 347 by Harrell \(SB 532 by Altman\)](#)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-169; effective 7/1/12)

► Requires the Board of Governors (state university system) and the State Board of Education (Florida College System) to adopt rules and procedures enabling members of the military and veterans to earn academic credit at public higher education institutions for college level training and education acquired while serving our nation.

[Digital Learning, CS/CS/HB 7063 by K-20 Innovation Subcommittee \(CS/CS/SB 1402 by Gardiner\)](#)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-192; effective 7/1/12)

► Applicable to institutions that have charter schools or are virtual providers under section 1002.45, Florida Statutes.

- Refers to digital technology in public education and public charter schools.
- Further clarifies virtual education, expands virtual offerings to K-5th grade and defines blended learning courses.

► Strengthens criminal penalties for fraudulently misrepresenting identity when taking exams for others, and clarifies funding for virtual instruction.

[Administrative Authority, CS/HB 7055 by Gaetz, M. \(CS/SB 1312 by Gaetz, D.\)](#)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-116; effective 7/1/12)

► In response to the Florida Supreme Court decision in *Whiley v. Scott*, clarifies Legislative authority to organize and delegate powers of the administrative departments (executive state agencies) to be directly supervised by the Governor.

► Clarifies oversight of the administrative policy and rulemaking granted to such departments, which must be conducted according to the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), and ensures that non-elected agency heads serve at the pleasure of the Governor and cannot exercise any power independent from the Governor's direction and supervision.

[Legal Notices, CS/CS/HB 937 by Workman \(CS/CS/SB 292 by Bennett\)](#)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-212; effective 7/1/12)

► Requires legal notices to be placed, at no extra charge, on a newspaper's website the same day it is published in the paper. Newspapers charging for online access are required to provide a free 'link' to view the legal notices.

► In addition to publishing legal notices online at the newspaper's website, newspapers are required to place the notice on a statewide website (www.floridapublicnotices.com) to be established and maintained by the Florida Press Association.

► Limits the rate that may be charged for certain government notices required to be published more than once.



[A New Capital](#)

[Electronic Filing of Construction Plans, CS/HB 387 by Ahern \(CS/CS/SB 600 Bennett\)](#)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-58; effective 7/1/12)

► Provides for the electronic filing of construction plans if a building code administrator or building official provides for electronic filing. Includes construction plans, drawings, specifications, reports, final documents or documents prepared or issued by a licensee. The licensee may date and electronically sign and seal the document. The licensee may electronically transmit the document for approval.

[Building Construction and Inspection, CS/CS/SB 704 by Bennett \(CS/CS/HB 651 by Davis\)](#)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-13; effective immediately)

► Clarifies that bid openings must occur in public meetings (note that State Requirements for Educational Facilities already had this requirement)

- ▶ Allows building code administrators and building officials to approve electronic filing of building plans and related documents
- ▶ Allows fire safety inspectors with five years of experience to sit for the building code inspector or plans examiner exams and addresses a variety of issues related to contractor licensing.
- ▶ Provides local governments with greater flexibility in notifying code violators of violations.

Environmental Regulation, CS/CS/CS/CS/ HB 503 by Patronis (CS/CS/CS/SB 716 by Bennett)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-205; effective 7/1/12)

- ▶ Creates, amends, and revises prior Florida statutes related to environmental regulation and permitting by local, state and federal for the purpose of development.
- ▶ Among the provisions that impact Florida's colleges, the act authorizes expedited permitting for certain commercial or industrial development projects that individually or collectively create a minimum number of jobs. Denial of development permits from agencies will require written notice to the applicant and rationale for denial of permit based on applicable ordinance, rule or statute.

Public Records, CS/ HB 629 by Hooper (CS/SB 916 Oelrich)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-149; effective 10/1/12)

Relating to the inspection or copying of public records:

- ▶ Defines the term "telephone numbers" to include home telephone numbers, personal cellular numbers, personal pager telephone numbers and telephone number associated with personal communication devices.
- ▶ Expands current law which provides for public record exemptions for identification and location information of certain public employees and their spouses and children to include their dates of birth. Included among the categories of employees identified is current or former human resource, labor relations, or employee relations directors, assistant directors, managers, or assistant managers of any local government agency or water management

district whose duties include hiring and firing employees, labor contract negotiation, administration, or other personnel-related duties,

- ▶ Specifies that the exemptions apply retroactively.

Financial Emergencies: SB 368 by Gaetz (HB 7031 by the House Economic Affairs Committee and Hukill)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-38; effective 7/1/12)

- ▶ This bill allows entities in a state of financial emergency to consult with other governmental bodies regarding the consolidation of administrative and support services. Plans created to end a financial emergency must include provisions implementing any consolidation, sourcing, or discontinuance of administrative direction or support services. In addition, this bill provides that governing board members who fail to resolve a financial emergency may be suspended from office by executive order. The bill also amends the approval process for special assessments designed to improve business and historic districts in municipalities.

- ▶ The bill indirectly affects Florida College System institutions if specific costs and services (building inspections, fleet management, insurance, IT and purchasing) can be coordinated to save taxpayer dollars. If a District Board of Trustees fails to resolve a financial emergency, Board members would be guilty of malfeasance and neglect of duty and subject to removal.

Dental Hygienists, SB 1040 by Bogdanoff (CS/HB 1313 by Corcoran)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-14; effective immediately)

- ▶ Revises the examination process for graduates of accredited dental hygiene programs or colleges, and specifies that the examination shall be the Dental Hygiene Examination produced by the American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc. (ADEX).
- ▶ Permits dental hygienists to administer local anesthesia, under the direct supervision of a dentist, to adult patients. Department of Health will provide anesthesia certification. To obtain this, the hygienist must complete a 60 hour course in the administration of local anesthesia offered by an accredited program,

and must also be currently certified in basic or advanced cardiac life support.



[A New Age](#)

[Radiological Personnel, CS/HB 309 by Oliva \(CS/SB 376 by Flores\)](#)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-168; effective 7/1/12)

► Creates a new licensure type called the “specialty technologist” for a licensed radiologic technologist, adding a skill modifier called the “specialty technologist” to the existing radiology technologist license.

- provides guidelines for the titles and title abbreviations that specialty technologists may use to designate the various certifications they hold in Florida.
- authorizes DOH to issue a certificate by endorsement to practice as a specialty technologist and collect a nonrefundable fee not to exceed \$100 if the applicant demonstrates that he or she is currently certified or registered by a national organization in an advanced, post primary, or specialty area.

[Reducing and Streamlining Regulations, CS/HB 517 by the Committee on Business and Consumer Affairs \(CS/CS/SB 762, by Hays\)](#)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-61; effective 7/1/12)

► Establishes general licensing provisions for the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, including the authority to charge licensing fees. Provides an inactive licensee may change his or her status to active provided the licensee meets all requirements for active status, pays the appropriate fees, and meets all continuing education requirements.

► Reduces regulatory requirements for professions and businesses, and streamlines regulatory functions primarily for programs under the

Department. Only professions that involve colleges are listed below, including:

- reduces the required continuing education requirements to reactivate an inactive license to only one cycle of hours required, instead of the hours required for the years the license was inactive;
- decriminalizes specified violations of several professional boards’ rules and administrative requirements that currently carry second-degree misdemeanor fines and penalties;
- allows greater reciprocity of architect licensees and modifies the internship requirements to make Florida consistent with other states to improve licensing mobility for architects;
- amends ss. 468.8317 (home inspector license), 468.8417 (mold assessor/remediator license), 477.0212 (cosmetologist license), 481.217 (architect or interior designer license), 481.315 (landscape architect license), 489.116 (contractor license), and 489.519 (electrical contractor license). Florida Statutes, reducing the amount of continuing education a licensee must complete to the equivalent of one renewal cycle before reactivating an inactive licensee.

► The bill decriminalizes violations of administrative rules and certain statutes by amending the criminal penalty provisions of specific practice acts. State attorneys may still file criminal charges against a licensee for more serious violations. The applicable regulatory board will still be able to impose administrative discipline against a licensee for violating administrative rules under the following statutes:

- Florida Board of Auctioneers, under s. 468.389(1)(j), F.S.
- Florida Real Estate Commission, under s. 475.25(1)(e), F.S.
- Florida Real Estate Appraisal Board, under s. 475.624(4), F.S.
- Barbers’ Board, under s. 476.204(1)(i), F.S.
- Board of Cosmetology, under s. 477.029(1)(i), F.S.

▶ Authorizes distance learning courses as an acceptable alternative to classroom instruction for renewal of a real estate instructor permit; provides that distance learning courses are under the discretion of the school offering the real estate course; and requires distance learning courses to adhere to certain requirements.

Department of Health, CS/CS/CS 1263 by Hudson and the Health and Human Services Quality Services Committee (CS/SB 1824 by Garcia)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-184; effective immediately)

- ▶ Changes which impact FCS include:
- Changes the requirement for a Certified Nursing Assistants certification applicant to complete the curriculum developed under the Department of Education to a curriculum developed by the Enterprise Florida Jobs and Education Partnership grant. That group will set the minimum score established by rule of that board on the nursing assistant competency exam.
 - Transfers the nursing student loan forgiveness program from Department of Health to the Dept. of Education.
 - Requires the Board of Nursing to deny a program application for a new pre-licensure program if the institution has an existing program that is on probationary status.
 - Places the regulatory board for emergency medical technicians and paramedics under the Department of Health, Division of Medical Quality Assurance.

Communications Services Taxes, CS/HB 809 by Grant (CS/CS/CS/SB 1060 by Bogdanoff)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-70; effective 7/1/12)

- ▶ Updates and modernizes a number of definitions related to the communications services tax.
- ▶ Creates a Communications Services Tax Working Group, housed for administrative purposes,

within the Department of Revenue.

- consists of 9 members chosen from the Department of Revenue, Industry representatives, counties, and municipalities
- Working Group will review national and state tax policies, Florida tax revenue history, bonding issues, fairness of laws, and options and prepare a report by Feb. 1, 2013.

Regional Workforce Boards, CS/HB 7023 by Business and Consumer Affairs Subcommittee (CS/CS/SB 1398, Gardiner)

(Approved by Governor, Chapter No. 2012-29; effective 7/1/12)

- ▶ Provides for at least fifty percent of the Title I funds for Adults and Dislocated Workers that are passed through to regional workforce boards to be allocated to and expended on Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) unless a regional workforce board obtains a waiver from Workforce Florida, Inc.
- ▶ Expands the list of allowable expenditures for ITAs to include books and fees of training providers and other training services prescribed and authorized by the Workforce Investment Act of 1988.
- ▶ Limits the total membership of each local regional workforce board to the minimum membership required under Federal law. However, upon approval by the Governor the local elected official may appoint additional members.
- ▶ Requires that a private nonprofit provider and a private for-profit provider be appointed to the board, if a public education or training provider is represented.
- ▶ Requires each member and the executive director or designated person responsible for the operational and administrative functions of a regional workforce board to file a disclosure of financial interest if they are not already required to file a financial disclosure according to law.
- ▶ Provides authority for the Governor to remove any member of a regional workforce board for cause.



Patriot And Warrior

▶ Requires workforce boards to provide the greatest possible choice of training providers to those who qualify for training services.

▶ Prohibits a board from limiting the choice of training providers based upon cost, location, or historical training arrangements, but allows a board to restrict the amount of training resources available to any one client.

▶ Requires that any contract between a regional workforce board and a member of the board, or a contract between a board and a relative of a member or employee of the board, has to be approved by a two-thirds vote of the board after a quorum is established. Any such contract in excess of \$25,000 must also be approved by Workforce Florida, Inc.

▶ Requires Workforce Florida, Inc., to evaluate the development of a single, statewide workforce-system brand for Florida and submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by November 1, 2012.

▶ Provides that state workforce services participants in an adult or youth work experience activity are considered employees of the state for the purpose of workers' compensation coverage.

Disabled Parking Permits, CS/SB 226 by Margolis (CS/HB 27 by Julien)

(Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2012-157; effective 7/1/12)

▶ Provides that fines for parking in a handicapped space shall be waived if a person provides to law enforcement agency or parking enforcement specialist or agency who issued the citation proof of valid disabled parking permit.

▶ Allows law enforcement officer or parking enforcement specialist to confiscate disabled parking permit from any person who fraudulently obtains or unlawfully uses a disabled parking permit.

Personal Property and Printing Services-Economic Development, HB 7087 by House Committee on Finance and Tax

(Approved by Governor, Chapter No. 2012-32; effective 7/1/12)

▶ Requires universities, colleges and school districts to give preference to vendors located within

the state when awarding contracts to have materials printed.

▶ Universities and colleges were also added to the "preference to Florida business" section of the state purchasing law, requiring institutions to award a preference to the lowest responsible and responsive vendor having a principal place of business in Florida when purchasing personal property through competitive solicitation.

■ General Bills and Proviso that Failed

Public-Private Partnerships CS/CS/HB 337 by Williams, T. (CS/SB-576 by Bennett)

▶ Would have created framework for the construction or upgrade of facilities by private entities which are used predominately for public purposes.

▶ Would have required public entities to develop and adopt guidelines governing procedures and criteria for selection of projects and public-private agreements.

▶ Provided for interim and comprehensive agreements between public and private entities and provided for private financing agreements and for use fees.

Public Meetings, CS/CS/CS/SB 206 by Negrón (CS/CS HB 355 by Kiar)

▶ Intended to provide additional requirements for Boards to allow citizens to speak at public meetings, and specified that the opportunity to be heard must be "reasonable" and must occur during the decision making process though not necessarily at the meeting where the decision is made.

▶ Allowed agencies/Boards to establish reasonable guidelines and forms relating to allowing citizens to speak; including establishing time limits, requiring groups to appoint a spokesperson and other reasonable regulations/rules.

▶ Provided exceptions when the Board is dealing with an emergency, carrying out a ministerial function, the meeting is exempt from public meeting laws or when the Board is acting in a quasi-judicial role dealing with the rights of an individual (provided that the individual affected retains all rights otherwise provided by law).

Preference to Florida Businesses in Procurement of Personal Property and Services, SB 538 by Bogdanoff (HB 153 by Hooper)

► Would have created the “Buy Florida Act”, requiring that in the event the lowest and best bid for printing services is from a vendor outside the State of Florida and where comparable quality can be obtained from a vendor within the State, the lowest and most responsive bidder from within the State would receive a preference of 5%.

► Would have provided that Statewide public service announcement programs provided by a Florida statewide nonprofit corporation under s. 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code, with a guaranteed documented match of at least \$3 to \$1 shall be exempt from the competitive bidding requirements for purchases exceeding the category two threshold. (\$50,000)

► Required that when the lowest responsible and responsive bid is from an out of state vendor whose home state has a preference system, the lowest responsible and responsive bidder from within the State of Florida shall receive a preference of 5%.

► Provided that a vendor whose principal place of business is in this state may not be precluded from being an authorized reseller of information technology commodities of a state contractor as long as the vendor demonstrates that it employs an internationally recognized quality management system, such as ISO 9001 or its equivalent, and provides a warranty on the information technology commodities which is, at a minimum, of equal scope and length as that of the contract.

State Contracting, CS/CS/CS/SB 1626 by Gaetz (CS/HB 1409 by Albritton)

► Would have required that the Auditor General notify the joint legislative auditing committee of any governmental entity (including Florida College System Institutions) that does not comply with Florida Statute 215.985 (revised in the Bill).

► Would have required that all contracts executed on or after July 1, 2012 be uploaded to the DFS website. It would have been the responsibility of each College to update the information and monitor to ensure continued compliance and

accuracy. Additionally, this would have become an audit review issue and will require documenting compliance during subsequent audits.

► Required that within 30 days of execution of a contract, the entity must post the following information on the Chief Financial Officer’s state contract management system:

1. The name of the contracting entities;
2. The procurement method;
3. The contract beginning and ending dates;
4. The nature or type of the commodities or services purchased;
5. Applicable contract unit prices and deliverables;
6. Total compensation to be paid or received under the contract;
7. All payments made to the contract vendor to date;
8. All commodities or services received from the contract vendor to date;
9. Applicable contract performance measures;
10. Contract extensions or renewals, if any;
11. The justification for not using competitive solicitation to procure the contract, including citation to any statutory exemption or exception from competitive solicitation, if applicable; and
12. Electronic copies of the contract and procurement documents that have been redacted to conceal exempt or confidential information.

► Required that all information be updated within 30 days of any major modification (including changes in substantive terms, renewal or other amendments).

Wage Protection for Employees, CS/HB 609 by Goodson (SB 862 by Simmons)

► Focused on the conditions under which and processes whereby an employee could collect unpaid wages, would have defined “wage theft” as an illegal or improper underpayment of a worker’s wages, salaries, commissions or other compensation.

► Would have specifically preempted any existing local ordinances or regulations related to wage theft, reserving that regulation to the state.



La Florida

Public Contracting, SB 794 by Hays (HB 719 VanZant)

- ▶ Specifically included Florida College System institutions and facilities, and
 - Would have prohibited a governmental unit from entering into or spending funds under a contract for construction, repair, remodeling, or demolition of a facility if the contract or its subcontract contains a term that:
 - Requires, prohibits, encourages, or discourages bidders, contractors, or subcontractors from entering into or adhering to agreements with a collective bargaining organization relating to the construction project or other related construction projects.
 - Discriminates against bidders, contractors, or subcontractors based on whether or not they are party or non-party to, or the willingness to enter into an agreement with a collective bargaining organization relating to the construction project or other related construction projects.
 - Would have extended the period for the notice of protest for bid specifications from 72 hours to 7 days excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays.

Preference in Award of Governmental Entity Contracts, CS/CS/HB 673 by Brodeur (SB 538 by Bogdanoff, HB 153 by Hooper)

- ▶ Some states provide their in-state businesses with a competitive “home state” advantage in public purchasing processes. In response, Florida has a discretionary “reciprocal preference” law that gives Florida-based businesses a comparable advantage when competing against an out-of-state business from a state with such a home state preference.



Reflecting on Ocean Pond

- Would have expanded the reciprocal preference currently applicable to the public purchase of personal property to include the purchase of construction services.
- Would have specified that the state’s reciprocal preference trumps any local ordinances or regulations.
- Would have permitted public purchasing units to award contracts to any vendor (in-state or out-of-state), assuming compliance with all other applicable laws relating to public purchases.

Retirement, HB 525 by Workman (SB 1280 by Latvala, SB-1334 by Oelrich)

- ▶ Would have reduced the age and years of service for Special Risk Defined Contribution (Pension) from age 60 to 55 with vesting and 30 years of service to 25 at age 48, paid for by increasing the vesting of other classes of the Defined Benefit (Pension) from eight to eleven.

Emergency Medical Services, CS/HB 241 by Perry (CS/SB-0450 by Oelrich)

- ▶ Would have updated Florida’s Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and paramedic training requirements to reflect the new 2009 national training standards developed by the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- ▶ Would have amended the definition of “basic life support” to update the definition to include the name of the new National EMS Education Standards, removes outdated competencies that are captured within the training course and makes conforming changes.
- ▶ Would have increased the timeframe within which EMTs and paramedics can take the state examination following successful completion of an approved training program from 1 to 2 years.
- ▶ Would have removed the requirement that EMTs and paramedics obtain HIV/AIDS continuing education instruction.

[Veterans' College of Choice, HB 755 by Holder \(SB 404 by Bennett\)](#)

▶ Would have allowed any veteran of the United States Armed Forces who was a Florida resident for 4 years prior to entering military service, and who had at least an associate degree or 60 hours of college credit from a Florida College System institution, to be admitted to the Florida College System or State University System institution of their choice.

[Veteran Residency Status for Tuition Purposes, SB 164 by Fasano, HB 131 by Grant](#)

▶ Would have allowed veterans of the U.S. Armed Services, including reserve components, who attend the physical location of a public college, university or institution of higher learning in Florida, to be automatically classified as a resident of the state for tuition purposes. Essentially waived the current one year residency requirement.

[Residency Status for Tuition Purposes, SB 1018 by Garcia \(HB 441 by Fullwood\)](#)

▶ Would have added to the list of persons who are residents for tuition purposes a United States citizen who attends a Florida high school for at least 2 consecutive years and submits his or her high school transcript to, and enrolls in, an institution of higher education within 12 months of graduating from a Florida high school.

▶ Would have provided residency status for tuition purposes to U.S. born children of undocumented immigrant parents as well as to other children who met the requirements of the bill, regardless of where their parents lived.

[Postsecondary Student Fees, SB 106 by Siplin \(HB 081 by Bullard, D\)](#)

▶ Would have authorized a student to qualify for in-state tuition who currently does not qualify as a resident for tuition purposes if he or she:

- Attended high school in Florida for 3 or more years;
- Graduated from a Florida high school or attained high school equivalency;
- Registered as an entering student or is currently enrolled at a state university or Florida College System institution;

- And, in the case of a student without lawful immigration status, filed an affidavit stating that the student had filed an application to legalize his or her immigration status or would do so as soon as he or she were eligible.

Note: This bill was commonly referred to as the Florida Dream Act because it would have allowed the State to make an exception for in-state tuition for undocumented students, as many states across the country have done.

[Residency for Tuition Purposes, SB 1164 by Detert \(HB 1493 by Pilon\)](#)

▶ Would have allowed a high school student whose parent died or moved out of state, but who maintained residency in this state while completing his or her high school requirements, to qualify as a resident for tuition purposes regardless of the parent's claim on the minor child in federal income tax provisions.

[Dan Marino Foundation Florida Vocational College, HB 973 by Diaz. CS/SB 1270 by Flores](#)

▶ Would have created the Dan Marino Foundation Florida Vocational College as a public, residential, inclusionary, postsecondary school in Broward County. The college would have been included in the Florida College System.

▶ College would have been responsible for serving students with autism and other developmental disabilities and be overseen by a board of trustees. The bill provided that the college be funded through the Department of Education (DOE).

[Credit Reports of Employment Applicants, HB 303 by Rogers, CS/ SB 102 by Siplin, SB 1356 by Detert](#)

▶ Would have prohibited the use of a personal credit report to deny employment or determine compensation or privileges of employment. Exceptions would have been allowed for employment in positions for which an employer has a bona fide purpose to request an applicant's credit report or history, including positions that are managerial, financial or involve access to personal information.

Ethical Requirements for Public Officers, SB 1560 by Thrasher

▶ Would have provided that a member of the Legislature may not work for, or contract with, a state university or Florida College System institution while in office or for two years after leaving office.

Charter Schools, CS/ SB 1852 by Wise (CS/CS/CS/HB 903 by Adkins)

▶ Would have allowed a FCS institution with a teacher prep program to offer no more than one k-12 charter school (current language only allows secondary).

Family Charter Academies, HB 1507 by Grant (SB 1162 by Simmons)

▶ Would have established family charter academies as a part of the state's public school system.

▶ Specified guiding principles of family charter academies (including high standards of student achievement and accountability and performance-based funding).

▶ Allowed literacy organizations, municipalities, or other legally organized entities to submit applications for family charter academies.

▶ Provided for sponsorship of family charter academies by either a district school board or a Florida College System institution.

Career and Adult Education, HB 331 by Patronis (SB 1010 by Oelrich)

▶ Would have removed financial literacy from the mathematics standard requirements of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and added to the social studies Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, for public schools.

▶ Would have required the one-half credit in economics required for high school graduation to include financial literacy.

▶ Would have removed the exemption for a student who has completed or who is exempt from the college level communication and computation skills examination or who is exempt from the college

entry level examination from having to be TABE tested.

▶ Would have removed a requirement that colleges provide academic services to students in lifelong learning related to recreational and leisurely pursuits.

▶ Would have removed the fee exemption for out-of state and out-of-country transfer students attending adult basic, adult secondary or vocational-preparatory instruction programs.

▶ Would have allowed school boards and colleges to vary the intended learning outcomes of each career education program up to 10 percent to better meet local needs.



Senate Majority Leader Andy Gardiner with Senator John Thrasher

Preference to Florida Businesses in Procurement of Personal Property and Services, SB 538 by Bogdanoff (HB 153 by Hooper)

▶ Would have created the "Buy Florida Act", requiring that in the event the lowest and best bid for printing services is from a vendor outside the State of Florida and where comparable quality can be obtained from a vendor within the State, the lowest and most responsive bidder from within the State would receive a preference of 5%. Provision PASSED in HB 7087.

▶ Would have provided that Statewide public service announcement programs provided by a Florida statewide nonprofit corporation under s. 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code, with a guaranteed documented match of at least \$3 to \$1 shall be exempt from the competitive bidding

requirements for purchases exceeding the category two threshold. (\$50,000)

► Required that when the lowest responsible and responsive bid is from an out of state vendor whose home state has a preference system, the lowest responsible and responsive bidder from within the State of Florida shall receive a preference of 5%. Provision PASSED in HB 7087.

► Provided that a vendor whose principal place of business is in this state may not be precluded from being an authorized reseller of information technology commodities of a state contractor as long as the vendor demonstrates that it employs an internationally recognized quality management system, such as ISO 9001 or its equivalent, and provides a warranty on the information technology commodities which is, at a minimum, of equal scope and length as that of the contract.



How to Find the Final Version of a Bill

The simplest way to see the final version of a bill is to go to www.flsenate.gov and enter the bill number in the space provided on the top of the homepage, or go to www.flhouse.gov and click on the top tab "Bills." Senate bills are always even numbers (SB 00) and House bills are always odd numbers (HB 11). On the House site, note that you may choose either chamber or choose "both." When you enter the bill number, the history of the bill will appear. For bills that have passed, go to the section on "Bill Text" and choose the entry followed by "ER," which is the most recent, enrolled version of the bill. An enrolled bill is the one being sent to the Governor. For bills that have not passed, go to the section on "Bill Text" and choose the entry with the latest date, which is the final version of the bill before it failed.

Many Thanks to the Florida College System Lobbying Corps - for its work in drafting the base version of this report. Special thanks to Erin McColskey, Susan Lehr, and Ed Woodruff.

If you have questions regarding The Session Report or need additional information, please contact [William J. Muldowney](mailto:William.J.Muldowney@valenciacollege.edu) in the Office of the Vice President for Policy and General Counsel. Dr. Muldowney can be reached at 407-582-3411.



VALENCIA COLLEGE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

Please extend thanks to all of the members of Valencia's local legislative delegation. Their names and contact information are listed below.

Senate



Senator Thad Altman
District 24

District Office
6767 North Wickham Road, Suite 211
Melbourne, FL 32940
Phone: 321-752-3138
Fax: 321-752-3140

Capitol Office
314 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
Phone: 850-487-5053

altman.thad.web@flsenate.gov

Legislative Assistants
Kari Janzen
Tres Holton
Rick Kendust

- Committee Assignments*
- Budget
 - Budget Subcommittee on Finance and Tax
 - Budget Subcommittee on Higher Education Appropriations
 - Communications, Energy and Public Utilities
 - Education Pre-K – 12
 - Military Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security
 - Reapportionment
 - Regulated Industries



Senator Andy Gardiner
Majority Leader
District 9

District Office
1013 East Michigan Street
Orlando, FL 32806
Phone: 407-428-5800
Fax: 407-428-5802

Capitol Office
330 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
Phone: 850-487-5047

gardiner.andy.web@flsenate.gov

Legislative Assistants
Michael Broom
Kathy Johnson
Stacy Vancamp-Garcia

- Committee Assignments*
- Budget Subcommittee on Finance and Tax
 - Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities
 - Judiciary
 - Reapportionment
 - Rules



Senator David Simmons
Majority Whip
District 22

District Office
251 Maitland Avenue, Suite 304
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701
Phone: 407-262-7578
Fax: 407-262-7580

Capitol Office
320 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
Phone: 850-487-5050

simmons.david.web@flsenate.gov

Legislative Assistants
Valerie Clarke
Jean Jones
Diane Suddes

- Committee Assignments*
- Agriculture
 - Budget Subcommittee on Education Pre-K – 12 Appropriations
 - Budget Subcommittee on Higher Education Appropriations
 - Judiciary
 - Rules Subcommittee on Ethics and Elections

Senate (continued)



**Senator Gary Siplin
District 19**

District Office
1316 North Pine Hills Road
Orlando, FL 32808
Phone: (407) 297-2071
Fax: (407) 522-2153

Capitol Office
205 Senate Office Bldg.
404 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
Phone: (850) 487-5190

siplin.gary.web@flsenate.gov

Legislative Assistants
Shannon Currie
Lakeisha Hood
Ricky Coleman

- Committee Assignments*
- Joint Legislative Budget Commission
 - Agriculture
 - Budget
 - Budget Subcommittee Pre-K – 12 Appropriations
 - Budget Subcommittee on Higher Education Appropriations
 - Governmental Oversight and Accountability
 - Higher Education
 - Reapportionment
 - Regulated Industries
 - Rules



**Senator Paula Dockery
District 15**

District Office
P.O. Box 2395
Lakeland, FL 33806-2395
Phone: (863) 413-2900
Fax: (863) 413-2902

Capitol Office
224 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
Phone: 850-487-5040

dockery.puala.web@flsenate.gov

Legislative Assistants
Rachel Perrin Rogers

District Secretary
Laura Rodriguez
Anne Kathryn Bell
Kim Thompson

- Committee Assignments*
- Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight
 - Agriculture
 - Budget Subcommittee on Education Pre-K – 12 Appropriations
 - Children, Families, and Elder Affairs
 - Commerce and Tourism
 - Rules Subcommittee on Ethics and Elections



**Senate President
Senator Mike Haridopolos
District 26**

District Office:
3270 Suntree Boulevard
Suite 122
Melbourne, Florida 32940
(321) 752-3131

Capitol Office
409 The Capitol
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
(850) 487-5056

haridopolos.mike.web@flsenate.gov

Legislative Assistants:
Becky Bauer,
Nancy Bernier,
Jennifer Torres

Committee Assignments:
None Listed

House of Representatives



**Representative
Jason T. Brodeur
District 33**

District Office

114 West First Street, Suite 208
Sanford, FL 32771-1273
Phone: (407) 302-4800

Legislative Office

1003 The Capitol
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Phone: (850) 488-0468

ason.brodeur@myfloridahouse.gov

Legislative Assistant

Jon Yapo

District Secretary

Katie Flury

Committee Assignments

- Health & Human Services Committee
- Health & Human Services Access Subcommittee
- Business & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee
- Community & Military Affairs Subcommittee
- Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee
- Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee



**Speaker of House
Representative
Dean Cannon
District 35**

District Office

1992 Mizell Avenue, Suite 200
Winter Park, FL 32792-4117
Phone: (407) 623-5740

Legislative Office

420 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
Phone: (850) 488-2742

dean.cannon@myfloridahouse.gov

Legislative Assistant

None

District Secretary

Kathy Gilland

Committee Assignments

None Listed



**Representative
Steve Crisafulli
District 32**

District Office:

2460 North Courtenay Parkway, #108
Merritt Island, FL 32953-4193
Phone: (321) 449-5111

Legislative Office

303 House Office Bldg.
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Phone: (850) 488-4669

steve.crisafulli@myfloridahouse.gov

Legislative Assistant

Katie Patchett

District Secretary

Helen Franta

Committee Assignments:

- State Affairs Committee
- Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee
- Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee
- Rules & Calendar Committee
- Senate Redistricting Subcommittee



**Representative
Chris Dorworth
District 34**

District Office:

1055 AAA Drive, Suite 205
Heathrow, FL 32746-5072
Phone: (407) 333-1815

Legislative Office

317 The Capitol
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Phone: (850) 488-5843

chris.dorworth@myfloridahouse.gov

Legislative Assistant:

Carolyn Johnson

District Secretary

Chris Sileo

Committee Assignments

- Appropriations Committee
- Rules & Calendar Committee
- Rulemaking & Regulation Subcommittee
- Redistricting Committee
- House Redistricting Subcommittee

House of Representatives (continued)



**Representative
Eric Eisnaugle
District 40**

District Office
2212 Curry Ford Road
Orlando, FL 32806-2422
Phone: (407) 893-3141

Legislative Office
417 House Office Bldg.
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Phone: (850) 488-9770

eric.eisnaugle@myfloridahouse.gov

Legislative Assistant
Joseph Clements

District Secretary
Edgar Robinson

- Committee Assignments*
- Judiciary Committee
 - Civil Justice Subcommittee
 - Justice Appropriations Subcommittee
 - Redistricting Committee



**Representative
Mike Horner
District 79**

District Office
323 Pleasant Street
Kissimmee, FL
34741-5763
Phone: (407) 943-3077

Legislative Office
222 The Capitol
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Phone: (850) 488-8992

mike.horner@myfloridahouse.gov

Legislative Assistant
Adam Lovejoy

District Secretary
Rose Hernandez

- Committee Assignments*
- Health & Human Services Access Subcommittee
 - Economic Affairs Committee
 - Transportation & Highway Safety Subcommittee
 - Appropriations Committee
 - Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee
 - Redistricting Committee
 - Joint Legislative Budget Commission
 - Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee



**Representative
Bryan Nelson
District 38**

District Office:
409 S. Park Ave
Apopka, FL 32703-5261
Phone: (407) 884-2023
Phone: (321) 449-5111

Legislative Office
204 House Office Bldg.
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Phone: (850) 488-2023

bryan.nelson@myfloridahouse.gov

Legislative Assistant
Maria Pecoraro

District Secretary
Gina Herron

- Committee Assignments:*
- Select Committee on Water Policy
 - Economic Affairs Committee
 - Insurance & Banking Subcommittee
 - Government Operations Subcommittee
 - Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee
 - Joint Legislative Auditing Committee



**Representative
Scott Plakon
District 37**

District Office:
1855 West State Road 434, # 242
Longwood, FL 32750-5071
Phone: (407) 262-7520

Legislative Office
317 The Capitol
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Phone: (850) 488-5843

scott.plakon@myfloridahouse.gov

Legislative Assistant:
Luke Givens

District Secretary
Jennifer Marquez

- Committee Assignments*
- Business & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee
 - Civil Justice Subcommittee
 - State Affairs Committee
 - Energy & Utilities Subcommittee
 - Rules & Calendar Committee
 - Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee

House of Representatives (continued)



**Representative
Steve Precourt
District 41**

District Address:
7009 Dr. Phillips Boulevard, #270
Orlando, FL 32819-5124
Phone: (407) 355-5784

Legislative Address
212 The Capitol
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL
32399-1300
Phone: (850) 488-0256

steve.precourt@myfloridahouse.gov

Legislative Assistant
Kelsey Wohlman

District Secretary
Maggie Mickler

- Committee Assignments*
- Finance & Tax Committee
 - Rules & Calendar Committee
 - Redistricting Committee



**Representative
Scott Randolph
District 36**

District Address
701 East South Street, # 100
Orlando, FL 32801-2953
Phone: (407) 893-3084
Fax: (407) 893-3086

Legislative Address
1302 The Capitol
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Phone: (850) 488-0660

scott.randolph@myfloridahouse.gov

Legislative Assistant
Carlos Smith

District Secretary
Jessica Graham

- Committee Assignments*
- Health & Human Services Quality Subcommittee
 - Community & Military Affairs Subcommittee
 - Finance & Tax Committee
 - Rulemaking & Regulation Subcommittee



**Representative
Darren Soto
District 49**

District Address
5425 S. Semoran Boulevard
Orlando, FL 32822
Phone: (407) 249-4743

Legislative Address
200 House Office Bldg.
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Phone: (850) 488-9240

darren.soto@myfloridahouse.gov

Legislative Assistant
Christine Aleknavich

District Secretary
Tracy Brooks
Cecilia Figueroa

- Committee Assignments*
- K-20 Innovation Subcommittee
 - Judiciary Committee
 - Civil Justice Subcommittee
 - Justice Appropriations Subcommittee



**Representative
Geraldine Thompson
District 39**

District Address
511 West South Street
Orlando, FL
32805-2761
Phone: (407) 245-1511

Legislative OAddress
1402 The Capitol
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL
32399-1300
Phone: (850) 488-0760

geraldine.thompson@myfloridahouse.gov

Legislative Assistant:
Landraa Robeson

District Secretary
Landra Robeson

- Committee Assignments*
- Economic Affairs Committee
 - Business & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee
 - Federal Affairs Subcommittee
 - Pre K-12 Appropriations Subcommittee