

Florida State College at Jacksonville | Legislative Update I – 2024

JANUARY 12, 2024

Week 1

The 2024 Legislative Session kicked off on Tuesday, January 9. The Florida Legislature will meet in session for the next 60 days, concluding their work on Friday, March 8. In that time, the Florida House and Senate will be responsible for passing legislation as well as a balanced budget.

Since the end of the 2023 session, FSCJ has continued to meet with the legislators representing our area, referred to as the Duval Delegation. In September, Dr. Avendano and the District Board of Trustees welcomed the Duval Delegation to our Downtown Campus. During that visit, FSCJ was able to share the College's legislative priorities.

The FSCJ Student Government Association also visited Tallahassee this past November to attend the Florida College System Student Government Association (FCSSGA) Legislative Conference. Our student leaders had the opportunity to meet with members of the Duval Delegation.



Bill Tracking

HB 25/ SB 262 (Identical bills)	This bill makes a minor naming change in Florida Statute 1009.534 regarding the eligibility for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. It removes "National Hispanic Recognition Program" and replaces it with "College Board National Recognition Programs."	In Postsecondary Education & Workforce Committee
SB 62/ HB 767 (Identical bills)	The bill amends Florida Statute 1009.21 ("Determination of resident status for tuition purposes.") to allow individuals who have been incarcerated to use evidence of being incarcerated in Florida to establish in state residency to obtain in-state tuition.	In Education Postsecondary Committee.
SB 130/HB 209 (Identical bills)	The bill prohibits the use of a firearm in a "sensitive location." The bill includes college campuses in the definition of a "sensitive location." The bill includes criminal penalties as well as specific exceptions.	In Criminal Justice Committee
HB 149/SB 656 (Similar bills)	The bill amends Florida Statute 287.055 ("Acquisition of professional architectural, engineering, landscape architectural, or surveying and mapping services; definitions; procedures; contingent fees prohibited; penalties.") to allow governmental entities (including state colleges) to enter into contracts with construction management entities and program management entities on a continuing contract so long as the individual projects do not exceed \$7.5M each.	Passed by the Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Committee
HB 151/ SB 242 (Similar bills)	The bill amends Florida Statute 121.101 to provide for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for FRS pension plan members beginning July 1, 2024, which will adjust every July 1 thereafter.	Passed by the Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Committee
SB 164/HB 147 (Identical bills)	The bill creates Florida Statute 1009.675, which is a loan forgiveness program for mental health professionals. The bill provides scholarships of up to \$8K per year for up to 5K scholarships. The bill provides exceptions by which the loan repayments would not continue once enrolled in the program. The Florida Department of Education would create rules to administer the program.	In Health Policy Committee
SB 166	The bill creates Florida State 112.23 ("Medical Marijuana Public Employee Protection Act.") which provides that a public employer may not take adverse personnel action against an employee or a job applicant who is a qualified patient for his or her use of medical marijuana consistent with Florida Statute 381.986, unless certain exceptions are met.	In Health Policy Committee

SB 222/ HB 217 (Identical bills)	This bill provides that additional beds for healthcare workers may be included in the construction of dormitories on the campus of a Florida College System (FCS) institution, and revises the number of beds that may be provided in such dormitories for employees, educators, healthcare workers, and first responders. The bill revises the evacuation requirement for an FCS institution's hurricane evacuation plan. Additionally, the bill authorizes certain funds to be used to construct or maintain dormitories.	Passed by the Education Postsecondary Committee
SB 460/ HB 917 (Similar bills)	The bill creates the Career and Technical Education Task force. The task force must submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Commissioner of Education by June 1, 2025. At present, the Task Force is not charged with studying the workforce programs offered by the FCS.	In Education Pre K - 12 Committee.
HB 465/ SB 470 (Identical bills)	The bill requires public postsecondary educational institutions to report certain student information to U.S. Department of Homeland Security; requires FCS institutions & state universities to assess out-of-state fee for students who promote foreign terrorist organization; & provides that students who promote foreign terrorist organization are ineligible for specified fee waivers & any institutional or state grants, financial aid, scholarships, or tuition assistance.	In Postsecondary Education & Workforce Committee
SB 472/ HB 569 (Similar bills)	The bill increases the statutory limits on liability for tort claims against the state and its agencies and subdivisions (including FCS institutions); prohibiting an insurance policy from conditioning payment of benefits on the enactment of a claim bill; specifying that the limitations in effect on the date a final judgment is entered apply to that claim.	In Governmental Oversight & Accountability Committee
HB 483	The bill amends Florida Statute 1009.532 ("Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program; student eligibility requirements for renewal awards.") to include scholarship awards for industry certifications, a technical certificate, an applied technology diploma, a career and technical certificate, an apprentice program, or a registered apprenticeship program. The same change is made to Florida Statute 1009.536 ("Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars and Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars awards.") The bill also creates the Artificial Intelligence Task Force, which requires the Department of Education to establish a Task Force, which will then study the application of artificial intelligence to K-12 and higher education.	In Choice & Innovation Committee
HB 599/ SB 1382 (Identical bills)	The bill creates Florida Statute 110.1051 ("Personal titles and pronouns.") and applies to employees, contractors, and employers of "of the state or any county, municipality, or special district or any subdivision or agency thereof." The bill prohibits employees & contractors of certain employers from being required to use, from providing, & from being asked to provide certain titles & pronouns; prohibits employees & contractors from being penalized or subjected to certain actions for not providing certain titles & pronouns; prohibits adverse personnel action on basis of deeply held religious or biology-based beliefs; provides administrative & civil remedies.	In Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Committee

SB 622	This bill deletes Florida Statute 1004.91(2), which requires a student who is enrolled in a program that requires 450 clock hours or more to take a basic skills examination, which a student must pass in order to receive a certificate of completion. It also deletes the requirement in 1011.81 that a dual enrollment student cannot be counted for funding unless that student has completed the exam.	In Education Postsecondary Committee
SB 634	The bill amends Florida Statute 1009.21 ("Determination of resident status for tuition purposes.") to allow an application for property tax exemption for homestead property that has been approved by a property appraiser, provided that such property has been continuously maintained as the primary residence for at least 12 months before the first day of the semester for which the resident status is being claimed, as conclusive evidence of residency to establish in-state tuition.	In Education Postsecondary Committee
HB 643/ SB 686 (Similar bills)	This bill amends Florida Statute 1001.05 and 1002.20 to prohibit discrimination based on protected hairstyle in the K-20 public education system.	In Education Quality Committee
HB 899/ SB 970 (Similar bills)	The bill creates Florida Statute 447.009(6) which provides SUS and FCS faculty with the right to collectively bargain. The bill revises Florida Statute 1001.03 to state that Florida College System institutions must be free of undue political influence, including influence on curriculum design. The bill revises Florida Statute 1001.64 to require boards of trustees to create programs to promote diversity equity and inclusion. The bill creates Florida Statute 1004.022 ("Academic freedom.") which aims to ensure students have the right to "pursue education access across all academic disciplines without governmental or institutional interference, including, but not limited to, a student's prerogative to select, drop, or change courses and areas of study without facing pressure or restrictions based on political or ideological grounds." The bill removes from Florida Statute 1004.09 diversity, equity and inclusion programs from the list of prohibited expenditures. The bill eliminates from Florida Statute 1004.097 the right of students to record class lectures. The bill creates Florida Statute 1012.802 ("Faculty assignments at public postsecondary educational institutions.") which requires academic departments to negotiate annual assignments with faculty, and the process must be free from oversight or influence by boards of trustees or other governing bodies. The bill creates Florida Statute 1012.9451 ("Non-tenure track state university faculty.") which states that non-tenure track faculty must have access to continuing contracts that will not be revoked without due process rights identical to those of tenure track faculty.	In Postsecondary Education & Workforce Committee
HB 901/ SB 1120 (Similar bills)	The bill creates Florida 256.045 ("Display of flags; governmental agencies, local governments, or other units of local government."). It prohibits, among others, colleges and universities from erecting or displaying a flag that represent a political viewpoint, including, but not limited to, a politically partisan, racial, sexual orientation and gender, or political ideology viewpoint.	Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Committee

HB 903/ SB 992 (Identical bills)	The bill amends Florida Statute 1004.04 ("Public accountability and state approval for teacher preparation programs.") and Florida Statute 1004.85 ("Postsecondary educator preparation institutes.") to include in curriculum "strategies and practices on identifying, preventing, preparing, addressing, and responding to mass casualty incidents." The bill amends Florida Statute 1012.56 ("Educator certification requirements.") to require those people seeking certification to have been trained in the same. The bill creates Florida 1012.5841 ("Continuing education and in-service training for identifying, preventing, preparing, addressing, and responding to mass casualty incidents.") to require the State Board of Education to adopt a list that states approved trainings for the same.	In Education Quality Committee
HB 947/ SB 1270 (Identical bills)	As to FCS and SUS institutions, the bill creates Florida Statute 1004.0972 ("Public postsecondary educational institution sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking policies.") Each FCS and SUS institution shall create a sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking policy, and lists the requirements for posting the policy. It requires the creation of programs and prevention programs.	In Postsecondary Education & Workforce Committee
HB 973/ SB 1022 (Identical bills)	The bill amends Florida Statute 121.4501 and allows an FRS employee who was enrolled in the FRS pension plan before 2002 and switched to the investment plan to move back to the pension plan while deferring the cost until retirement. The enrollee has 90 days to make the election after receiving notice from DMS.	Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Committee
SB 990	As it relates to the hiring of a SUS or FCS president, the bill defines the term "final group of applicants" to mean no fewer than three and no more than five applicants who will receive final consideration for the position.	In Education Postsecondary Committee
HB 1027/ SB 1728 (Identical bills)	The bill creates Florida Statute 1006.7511 ("Single-sex Student Organizations' Bill of Rights."). The bill prohibits adverse action against members of social fraternities and sororities solely on the basis of their membership or prospective members in such organizations.	In Postsecondary Education & Workforce Committee
HB 1151	As it relates to the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program, the bill revises the definition of the term "tuition differential."	In Postsecondary Education & Workforce Committee

HB 1067/ SB 1308 (Identical bills) The bill amends Florida Statute 409.1452 ("Collaboration with State University System, Florida College System, and Department of Education to assist children and young adults who have been or are in foster care or are experiencing homelessness; documentation regarding eligibility for tuition and fee exemptions"). It revises the requirements for homeless student liaisons. The bill requires State Office on Homelessness within the Department of Children and Families, develop best practices and training materials for all employees of each school district program, Florida College System institution, and state universities for the purpose of assisting homeless students. Employees designated by these entities to serve these students are now required to undergo training. Institutions are required to distribute information about services covered by the statute to students and to post them in physical public places. Institutions must develop plans for prioritizing welfare transition students for placement in on campus housing. If plans are implemented, these students must also be prioritized on-campus housing, year-round housing and work study opportunities. The bill creates Florida Statute 1009.702("Fostering Independence Grant Program"). The bill sets student eligibility criteria and allows students who are in welfare transition programs, former foster youth, and homeless students access to last dollar funding for the cost of attendance at a FCS and SUS institution.

In Postsecondary Education & Workforce Committee

HB 1069/ SB 1118 (Similar bills) The bill amends Florida Statute 464.019 ("Approval of nursing education programs"). The statute establishes application requirements to offer programs for the prelicensure education of professional or practical nurses. The bill requires that the program director be named in the application. The bill amends the statute to require disclosure of the admission criteria. The admission criteria are required to identify students likely in need of additional preparation and education support during the program, and what the individualized support plan will be. It also requires that the program application affirm that the program has an NCLEX preparation exam as an exit component of the program. The application must also contain a statement of what remediation efforts the program will take for those students would do not receive a passing score on the exit examination. The board may deny an application for a program if the entity offering the program has had an adverse action taken against it by a regulatory body in another state. In subsection (3) which pertains to the annual report that must be filed by the program certifying compliance with subsection (1) – the application criteria – the board of nursing can terminate the program if a program is not in compliance. The program director is also subject to discipline. The bill reduces the number of years of scores that will form the basis of being put on probationary status, and a remediation plan is due from the program director within 6 months of being put on probationary status.

In Healthcare Regulation Committee

HB 1285 As it relates to the FCS, the bill amends Florida Statute 1007.25 to allow for the State Board of Education to set requirements for specialized transfer degrees, and a process for applying for a specialized transfer degree that requires more than 60 hours of coursework for purposes of transfer. The bill repeals the Florida College System institution employment equity accountability program found in Florida Statute 1012.86.




No assigned committees yet

SB 1334/ HB 1357 (Identical bills)	The bill requires persons working in roles involving direct interaction with youth to undergo mental health education and training; providing requirements for such education and training; requiring the Department of Children and Families to establish and maintain dedicated spaces within certain institutions, centers, and venues that are easily accessible to youth for the dissemination of information and resources relating to mental health and to promote such spaces.	In Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee
SB 1414/ HB 1355 (Identical bills)	The bill amends Florida Statute 1000.05 ("Discrimination against students and employees in the Florida K-20 public education system prohibited; equality of access required") to delete section 4, which was passed during the 2023 legislative session which states that compelling students and employees to believe certain concepts is discrimination on the basis of race. The bill repeals Florida Statute 1000.071 ("Personal titles and pronouns"). The bill deletes the DEI prohibited expenditure language from 1004.06 ("Prohibited expenditures") passed during the 2023 legislative session. The bill deletes from Florida Statute 1007.25 ("General education courses; common prerequisites") that was passed during that general education core courses may not distort significant historical events or include a curriculum that teaches identity politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.	In Education Pre K - 12 Committee
SB 1416/ HB 1637 (Identical bills)	The bill authorizes employees enrolled in the Special Risk Class of the FRS to make an election to move from the investment plan to the pension plan within a certain timeframe, subject to certain conditions.	In Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee
HB 1667	This bill requires students awarded the Florida Academic Scholars award within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to receive additional funds in certain semesters for textbooks.	No assigned committees yet
HB 7007/ SB 7022 (Identical bills)	The bill renews the public records and public meeting exemption found in Florida Statute 1004.0962 ("Campus emergency response of a public postsecondary educational institution; public records exemption; public meetings exemption.") It removes certain sections under which plans would be disclosed.	Passed by the Postsecondary Education & Workforce Committee
SB 7024	The bill establishes the contribution rates paid by employers that participate in the Florida Retirement System beginning July 1, 2024. The fiscal impact of these changes for the FCS is \$555K less in contributions than last year.	Passed by the Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee

HB EQS1 The bill removes outdated language including the following: (1) the requirement for the SBE to establish the tuition and out-of-state fees for developmental education and for credit instruction that may be counted toward an associate in arts degree, an associate in applied science degree, or an associate in science degree; (2) the requirement for the SBE to identify performance metrics for the FCS and develop a plan that specifies goals and objectives for each FCS institution, and (3) language referring to the Executive Director of the Florida College System and regarding a special baccalaureate approval process for St. Petersburg College that was put in place when bachelor's degrees were first authorized in the FCS.

**Passed by the
Education
Quality
Committee**

If you have any questions or comments about bills being tracked or other matters not included in the update, please feel free to contact Taylor Mejia, Director of Government and Community Relations.

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