

Florida State College at Jacksonville | Legislative Update I - 2023

MARCH 10, 2023

Week 1

The 2023 Legislative Session kicked off on Tuesday, March 7.

Each year, the Governor provides a State-of-the-State Address to the joint legislature on the opening day of session. Governor DeSantis said the following related to high education and workforce development:

"We have the number one public higher education system in the country.

We believe in workforce education and we've expanded opportunities for Floridians to obtain certifications and credentials. A four-year degree from a traditional brick and ivy university is one way you can be successful. It is not the only way.

Four years ago, the state was producing about 600 truck drivers a year. Now through all of our initiatives over the last four years, we're capable of producing 3,500 truck drivers each and every year. You want to talk about supply chain, you want to talk about making sure our economy runs, these guys are really important for that.

I think as many of you know, there's a nationwide nursing shortage. And so what we've been able to do with the help of the legislature is put record resources into our systems so we can train more Floridians to become nurses."



FSCJ Students Meet with Legislators

Members from the FSCJ Student Government Association visited with Duval Delgation members on February 22 during the interim committee week at the Capitol. These student leaders shared their legislative priorities during meetings with Representative Baker, Representative Daniels, Representative Duggan, Representative Micheal, Representative Nixon, and Senator Yarborough. This group also attended the House Local Administration Subcommittee hearing and toured the Historic Capitol Building.



Bill Tracking

HB39	Requires Florida College System institutions & state universities to have supply of emergency opioid antagonists in certain residence halls & dormitories for use by specified employees; provides requirements for placement & accessibility of emergency opioid antagonists & training; provides specified immunity from liability.	In Post-Secondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee
SB44	Directs the Division of Law Revision to prepare a reviser's bill to replace references to the phrases "the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools," "the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools," and "the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges," wherever they occur in the Florida Statutes, with the phrase "an accrediting agency or association recognized by the database created and maintained by the United States Department of Education."	Passed by the Senate. Identical Bill has been referred to the House.
HB 51	Defines "protected hairstyle"; prohibits discrimination based on protected hairstyle in Florida K-20 public education system; provides that term "race" includes protected hairstyles for purposes of United States Code within public & private education system.	In Education Quality Subcommittee
HB 139	Provides benefits, training, and employment assistance for Veterans and their spouses, including a requirement for Department of Veterans Affairs to create a grant program for veterans' nursing degree programs.	In Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee
HB 191	Provides certain low-income, female students who are pregnant as result of rape, incest, domestic violence, or human trafficking are exempt from paying specified postsecondary tuition & fees; establishes Academic Success of Pregnant Female Students Who Are Victims of Sexual Abuse Grant Program within DOE.	In Post-Secondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee
HB 215	Defines "sensitive location"; prohibits possession or use of firearm in sensitive location; includes educational institutions as a sensitive location.	In Criminal Justice Subcommittee
SB 240	Requires the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help to work with other specified entities to provide certain information relating to workforce development boards; revising the list of credentials that must be included on the Master Credentials List; revising the entities that may be a local apprenticeship sponsor; revising the credit requirements for a high school diploma; revising which courses must be included on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List; revising the cost factor for secondary career education programs; revising requirements for the Florida Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program.	In Education Pre-K-12 Committee
HB 311	Removes provisions relating to intellectual freedom & viewpoint diversity assessment within FCS institutions & state universities; removes prohibition against SBE & BOG shielding specified individuals from free speech; removes prohibition against SBE & BOG shielding specified individuals from access to or observation of certain ideas & opinions; removes authorization for students to record video or audio of class lectures.	In Post-Secondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee
HB 339	Revises eligibility requirements for educational benefits provided by state to spouse or dependent child of deceased or disabled servicemember; revises eligibility requirements for educational benefits provided by state to dependent child of prisoner of war, person missing in action, or deceased or disabled servicemember who participated in certain military operations.	In Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee

HB 417	Requires Department of Lottery to create instant-ticket lottery game that benefits veterans' assistance education programs; provides that veterans' assistance education programs may be funded by Educational Enhancement Trust Fund; requires department to provide certain information to public.	In Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee
HB 461	Creates the Apprenticeship and Preapprenticeship Direct Funding Grant Program for specified purposes; requiring the Department of Education to administer the program; requiring apprenticeship or preapprenticeship programs to submit an application to the department for participation in the program; prohibiting certain apprenticeship or preapprenticeship programs from participating in the grant program.	In Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee
SB 517	Revising a primary goal of the Florida Center for Nursing to provide that development of a state-wide plan for nursing manpower must include the encouragement and coordination of the development of partnerships with hospitals which provide opportunities for nursing students to obtain clinical experience; requiring that the Articulation Coordinating Committee convene a workgroup to establish a process for determining postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock hours that must be awarded in accredited nursing education programs for military training and education required for service in specified positions; authorizing the award of additional postsecondary credit or career education clock hours.	In Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee
SB 526	Revises requirements for a person to be considered a resident for tuition purposes to include time spent in certain correctional institutions; revising the types of documentation authorized to determine residency in the state for specified purposes	In Education Post-Secondary
SB 630	Increases the amount the Department of Education may reimburse an institution through the Open Door Grant Program for a completed workforce training program.	In Education Pre-K-12 Committee
HB 679	Prohibits state universities & state colleges from accepting grants from or participating in partnerships or agreements with foreign country of concern unless specified conditions are met; provides requirements for such colleges & universities to enter into such partnerships or agreements; provides reporting requirements; & prohibits such universities & colleges from soliciting or accepting gift from foreign country of concern.	In Post-Secondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee
SB 732	Defines the term "military student;" requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules and the Board of Governors to adopt regulations to establish the Collegiate Purple Star Campuses program; specifying program criteria for participating Florida College System institutions, state universities, and career centers.	In Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security
SB 750	Requires the Articulation Coordinating Committee to convene a workgroup by a specified date to develop specified articulation agreements; requiring Florida College System institutions to award transfer credit for certain courses; providing requirements for an associate in arts specialized transfer degree; providing that, upon approval of a new associate in arts specialized transfer degree, Florida College System institutions may offer the degree and shall report certain data.	In Education Post-Secondary
HB 931	Revises date by which SBE & BOG must annually compile & publish specified assessments; establishes Office of Public Policy Events within State University System & provides requirements; designates Florida Student Association as non-profit advocacy organization for students of SUS & provides requirements; & prohibits public institutions of higher education from requiring completion of political loyalty test or for persons to meet certain qualifications for specified purposes.	In Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee

HB 999 Revises academic & research excellence standards for preeminent state research universities; provides requirements for hiring state university faculty; authorizes state university boards of trustees to review tenure status of faculty members; authorizes state universities to initiate post-tenure reviews for cause; renaming "Florida Institute of Politics" as "Florida Institute for Governance & Civics;" **revises requirements for general education core courses; requires Articulation Coordinating Committee to submit certain courses to State Board of Education & Board of Governors; provides requirements for public postsecondary educational institutions & their presidents & boards of trustees relating to general education courses.**




In Post-Secondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee

*Sections in bold are related to Florida colleges, section not in bold would not impact Florida colleges, including FSCJ.

SB 1172 Establishing the Hunger-Free Campus Pilot Program within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for a specified period; requiring the Commissioner of Agriculture to identify the three state universities or Florida College System institutions with the highest number of Pell Grant-eligible students for participation in the pilot program; requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to conduct a study to evaluate food insecurity on the campuses of state universities and Florida College System institutions.

In Agriculture

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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