



2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FINAL SESSION REPORT

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**Prepared for Distribution
by**

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**With Assistance From
Florida College System Institutional Lobbyists
Florida Department of Education, Division of Florida Colleges
Association of Florida Colleges Staff and Lobbyists**

Session Highlights

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.

There was some good news for the Florida College System in the 2012 session. Despite a sagging economy and a legislature facing significant budget deficits, the Florida College System fared better than other systems maintaining current levels of state operating support and receiving additional funds for facilities operations and special 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 did not veto the tuition increase, which will allow the Boards of Trustees to make that decision. However, the trustees are aware that the Governor is not in favor of tuition increases, so these decisions will be made with great care.

While education K-12 saw an increase of \$1.1 billion, the state universities faced a far more volatile session, absorbing a \$285 million cut in base funding, expected to be replaced by using fund balances and significant tuition increases. Two universities were granted legislative authority to charge market value for tuition but that bill was vetoed by the Governor. In addition, the Legislature agreed to the creation of a 12th state university.

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.

A bill revising the general education requirements for all the State of 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 was created in statute targeting students who have begun but did not complete a degree. The project was to be carried out by two universities (University of West Florida and University of South Florida) and two state colleges (FSCJ and St. Petersburg College). However, the funding of \$2.5 million for this project was vetoed. It is unclear at this time how much can be done without the additional funds.

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) will be an important body to watch, as recommendations for Florida College System governance could be considered.

The lack of Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funding continued to create problems for the Florida College System, with only very a 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 colleges' projects. The final fixed capital outlay list was completely different from those included in each chamber's initial budgets. And for the first time, half of the colleges received no funds

for renovation or remodeling. 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, with over 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 was required to reappoint within forty-five days, or the appointments were slated to expire. FSCJ trustees were reappointed on the forty-fifth day along with most trustees in the FCS. However, there were some trustees in the system that were not reappointed.

In addition to budget cuts and reapportionment, there were other factors that caused this legislative session to be particularly difficult. Legislators whose terms were concluding broke with their party and voted against leadership bills, leading to dissension and even 20 to 20 votes on some bills in the senate. There were candidates and coalitions vying for enough pledges to become senate president in future years. The budget cuts pitted social programs, the environment, education and health care, against those that wanted to provide more tax relief to businesses and corporations in an attempt to stimulate the economy. Adding to the turmoil, a number of legislators who held powerful positions were term-limited and determined to obtain funding and policies that they had not been able to obtain in earlier sessions. State employees failed to see any increase in their pay for the sixth year and nearly 4,500 state jobs were eliminated.

Specialized funding issues for both capital outlay projects and the additional \$36 million added to individual college's budgets have caused even greater disparities in funding among colleges and threaten the cohesive collaboration for which the Florida College System has been known. The major challenge for the Council of Presidents for this next year will be finding ways to address funding disparities among colleges and redeveloping the "one voice," which has historically been the greatest strength of the 28 colleges when speaking to the legislature.

Even though the Session ended on March 9th, the Legislature had to return to Tallahassee for a special session on reapportionment. The Florida Supreme Court rejected the Senate's redistricting plan, causing a special session to be called for Wednesday, March 14, 2012 for the purposes of redesigning several Senate districts. The lines were revised and re-submitted to the Supreme Court where they were finally approved.

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 percent 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.

There is some evidence that the Florida economy is beginning to rebound and we can only hope that the 2013 session will have a more positive impact on Florida's one million state college students.

Susan Lehr
Vice President for Government Relations

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General Appropriations Act (GAA) 2012-13, HB 5001

Statewide Funding

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.

Operating costs for new facilities was fully funded at \$7.3 million, including \$2.1 million in annualization of appropriations from 2011-12 and \$5.2 million for new facilities opening in 2012-13.

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 potential increase in tuition receipts of \$45.5 million, the overall potential increase in funding will amount to 3.8 percent.

The maximum increase in state dollars was 20.9 percent. Twenty-one colleges had a net change of less than 3.2 percent. 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 percent, 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 for distribution to colleges and universities.

Based on recent legislative activity and current enrollment data, state operating funds are set to increase next year by \$69 or 2.6 percent per FTE. If college enrollments are maintained at the current level, state provided operating funds per FTE will increase from \$2,692 in 2011-12 to \$2,761 in 2012-13.

Over the past five years state operating appropriations for the colleges have declined by \$81.1 million (7.2 percent), from a high of \$1.11 billion in 2007-08 to \$1.03 billion in 2012-13. On a per FTE basis, state operating funds have declined by \$882 (24.2 percent) since 2007-08. Over the same time period FTE enrollment has grown by 22.3 percent, adding more than 68,000 additional FTE students to the system.

Florida College System 2011-12 and 2012-13 Funding

Issue	Funding 2011-12	Funding 2012-13
Community College Program Fund (CCPF) - Lottery	\$130,359,158	\$180,808,060
Community College Program Fund (CCPF) - GR	\$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 Lottery CO & DS TF PECO Total	\$1,440,000 \$18,776,420 <u>\$82,648,517</u> Total \$102,864,937 After veto: \$18,636,486	\$0 \$69,098,805 <u>\$0</u> Total \$69,098,805
PECO Sum-of-Digits	\$8,088,000	\$5,377,488
First Generation Matching - Lottery	\$1,397,017	\$1,327,166
College Reach Out Program	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Displaced Homemakers	\$1,816,434	\$1,816,434
Public Financial Aid Lottery Student Loan Operating TF General Revenue (FSAG) Total	\$45,100,892 <u>\$55,304,031</u> Total \$100,404,923	\$45,100,892 <u>\$59,602,832</u> Total \$104,703,724
Florida Distance Learning Consortium FACTS Florida Virtual Campus (FDLN,FACTS,CCLA,FCLA)	\$590,000 This is the FCS share. SUS share is in the SUS budget.	2011-12 unspent balance re-appropriated for 2012-13 \$10,963,647
2 + 2 Partnerships, SUS and FCS	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000

General Appropriations Bill HB 5001 and Florida State College Jax Budget

FSCJ Issues	2011-12	Conference 2012-13	Change 2012-13
General Revenue*	\$64,243,165	\$61,049,319	(\$3,193,346) -5%
Recurring Lottery*	\$9,513,278	\$12,673,289	\$3,160,011 33.2%
<u>Total Appropriated Funds</u>	<u>73,756,443</u>	<u>\$73,722,608</u>	<u>(\$33,835)</u> 0%
Approx. Value of 3% Tuition		\$1,875,000	
Net Impact with 3% Tuition		<u>\$75,597,608</u>	
Approx. Value of 5% Tuition		\$3,125,000	
Net Impact with 5% Tuition		<u>\$76,847,608</u>	
PECO - FSCJ			
General renovation, remodel	0	985,514	
Aircraft Coating-Correction	\$1,440,000	NA	

* Note the amount of recurring general revenue that is being replaced with lottery. This is a major concern. Often lottery funds are not released on time and fluctuate with the lottery's income from sales. This could leave the College with some operational issues.

Appropriations Proviso, Implementing, and Conforming Bill Issues

The Legislature has three methods to reflect funding decisions made in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) process. “Proviso” is language in the General Appropriations Act attached to a specific appropriation which directs or authorizes how the funds can be expended. An implementing bill is a substantive bill which provides instructions to enact specific provisions for a GAA appropriation or proviso by changing the law (Florida Statutes) temporarily for one year. This is necessary because the courts have ruled the GAA cannot contradict current law; however, there may be a need to temporarily suspend some provision of law. A conforming bill is also a substantive bill which may “travel” with the GAA. It differs from the implementing bill in that it makes permanent changes to Florida Statutes.

In summary, proviso language and implementing bills are law for only one year and then they expire, while a conforming bill makes a permanent change in Florida law. While the Governor may veto the entire appropriations act or exercise his veto by “line item,” he does not have “line item” veto in a conforming or implementing bill but must act on the entire bill. Bills which are passed by the Legislature are sent to the Governor. The Governor may sign, veto, or allow a bill to become law without his signature. Because the Legislature has now adjourned the 2012 Session, the Governor has fifteen consecutive days from the date he receives a bill to act on that bill. Leadership of the Legislature staggers sending bills to the Governor in order to provide time to fully review the content/impact of bills.

Following are the appropriations and Florida College System related bills passed this session:

- HB 5001, General Appropriations Act
- HB 5003, Appropriations Implementing Bill
- HB 5201, Higher Education Conforming Bill

Another term that is heard or read as the 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.

Tuition and Fees Contained in HB 5001, the General Appropriations Bill

Florida College System (FCS) Tuition

- Proviso following Specific Appropriation 108, General Appropriations Act:

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.

Adult Education – Tuition

- Proviso following Specific Appropriation 108, General Appropriations Act:

For adult general education programs, block tuition will be assessed in the amount of \$45 per half year or \$30 per term for residents. For non-residents, the out-of-state fee shall be \$135 per half year or \$90 per term, in addition to the standard tuition. This reflects a continuation of the 2011-12 fees.

Proviso Relating to the Community College Program Fund Contained in HB 5001, the General Appropriations Bill

Adult General Education Program Transfer

- Proviso following Specific Appropriations 104 and 106, General Appropriations Act:

Contingent upon agreement between the Putnam County School Board and the St. Johns River State College, funding and operational responsibility for the adult general education program shall be transferred from the district to the college by July 1, 2012.

Other Standard Proviso Relating to the Operational Budget

- Proviso following Specific Appropriation 108, General Appropriations Act:

Standard language relating to the following issues is included:

- The requirement to submit an operating budget including details for planned expenditures for baccalaureate programs and the source of funds.
- Language regarding the statutory fee increases 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.

Proviso Relating to Private Colleges and Universities

(for all private colleges and universities)

Proviso Relating to Private Colleges and Universities Contained in HB 5001

- 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 percent. 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 a 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 wait on the official go-ahead from the Governor before moving forward with additional projects/contracts. **To be clear, the Department of Education recommends that new contracts/projects should remain on hold for now, except for those involving life-safety issues.**

HB 5003, the 2012-13 Implementing Bill

There were no provisions relating to the Florida College System contained in this year's Implementing Bill.

Conforming Bills

Conforming bills usually appear late in Session, often in conjunction with the adoption of a chamber's appropriations 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 Legislative Sessions conforming bills adhered to a long standing practice 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 has a tangential connection to the GAA. This practice has the effect of changing law without the change language being vetted in the legislative committee process.

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 had no companion bill.

HB 5201, Higher Education Conforming Bill for the 2012 Legislative Session

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

- HB 5201 Higher Education Conforming, 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.

South Florida Community College Name Change

- HB 5201 Higher Education Conforming, 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 Higher Education Conforming, 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 that severance pay may not be provided when the employee is fired for misconduct.

Purchasing Consortia

- New language in subsection (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 Higher Education Conforming, 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, the Higher Education Conforming Bill 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 to apply for transient admission online. That legislation limited the transient admissions fee to \$5.00. This section of the bill expanded 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.

Degree Completion Pilot Project

- HB 5201 Higher Education Conforming, 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. **\$2.5 million to implement vetoed by Governor. Assignments remain.**

Florida College System Baccalaureate Degree Approval Process

- HB 5201 Higher Education Conforming, Section 19, deletes current subsection (6) and renumbers current subsection (7) as subsection (6) of section 1007.33, Florida Statutes:

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 Higher Education Conforming Section 20:

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 Improvements (CIF)

- HB 5201 Higher Education Conforming, 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 a 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 Higher Education Conforming, Section 23, amending subsection (1) of section 1009.25, Florida Statutes:

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 Higher Education Conforming, 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 percent tuition surcharge is established for hours over 110 percent 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 was an FTIC.

NOTE: Does not expand the excess hour surcharge to include students attending Florida College System institutions.

Bright Futures Scholarship Eligibility Requirements

- HB 5201 Higher Education Conforming, 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 Higher Education Conforming, 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 Higher Education Conforming, Section 27, 28, and 29:

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 Public Meeting of a Board of Trustees

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

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 Higher Education Conforming, 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 Higher Education Conforming, Section 37, amending section 1012.83, Florida Statutes, to:

Requires 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 Higher Education Conforming, 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 for the 2012 Legislative Session**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 percent 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.

Proposed Committee Bill, (PCB)

A Proposed Committee Bill (PCB) is a bill that is written by a substantive committee as a result of an interim committee project or at the request of a member serving on the committee. In past sessions a PCB would be published early in the session, then discussed and voted on in the committee of origin, given a bill number and referred to committees of jurisdiction for discussion and debate. The bill rose or fell on its merits as determined by the committee process. It was understood that PCB's had leadership and or committee chairman backing and would be difficult to amend. The process provided the public and interested parties the opportunity for input prior to final legislative action and, hopefully, resulted in better legislation.

This year, PCBs affecting postsecondary education were introduced later than usual in the session. One 30-plus page bill, with significant Higher Education policy changes, was released on day 49 of the 60 day session, and was scheduled on the agenda of its only committee of reference three days later on day 52. If this practice continues and grows, as has been the experience with the conforming bill process, the ability to affect system changing legislation may be severely impacted.

BILLS THAT PASSED

Note: The first bill number shown is the bill that passed. The number and bill sponsor in the parentheses was the companion bill.

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)

Many sections of statute are created and amended as follows:

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

- **FCS Bacalaureate Degrees**
 - Amends the language related to FCS institution notice of intent to propose a bacalaureate 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 bacalaureate degrees
 - require evidence that there have been discussions with SUS and other regionally accredited providers in the service area.
 - Requires each FCS institution offering bacalaureate degree programs to annually report its status using specific performance and compliance indicators.
 - Authorizes the SBE to require modification or termination of bacalaureate 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 bacalaureate degree, by institution of interest, by time the student earns 30 credits. The FCS institution must then notify the student of degree program prerequisites.
- **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 bacalaureate 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 an economic security 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.

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

- **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 the dual enrollment articulation agreement. Requires FCS presidents to develop and implement jointly with school districts a comprehensive dual enrollment agreement.
- **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 completed 24 credits in specific courses.
 - Defines “graduating” in less than 8 semesters or the equivalent.
 - If graduate early, 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.
 - 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.

Preeminent Universities, HB 7129 by Education Committee (CS/CS/SB 1752 by Oelrich and Lynn)

- Establishes the criteria for State Universities to become universities of Academic Excellence and National Universities of Preeminence. **VETOED See Table on p. 39 for link to veto letter.**
- Allows Universities that acquire the national status of Preeminence to establish market rate tuition and fees that are differentiated from other Florida public Universities
- Allows these universities to establish their own core courses of 9-12 hours, and accelerated credit is excluded. Accelerated credit may, however, count towards graduation.

Postsecondary Education (USF Polytechnic / Florida Polytechnic University), SB 1994 by Budget Committee

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 of Trustees and President in matters related to accreditation and administration.

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

- 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 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 either:
 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 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 after a final decision is made in the proceeding.

State Information Technology, HB 5011 by Appropriations Committee, Grimsley

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

- Defines 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.
- Repeals 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)

- 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

- 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 percent.
- 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)

- 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 percent 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)

- 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)

- 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)

Requires the Board of Governors (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 and Stargel (CS/CS/SB 1402 by Gardiner)

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.
- Clarifies funding for virtual instruction.

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

- 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)

- 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 repository 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.

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

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) (Sent to Governor 03/08/2012. Governor must act on this bill by 03/23/12)

- 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.
- 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)

- 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)

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)

- 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.

(Cosmetology) Business and Professional Regulation, CS/CS 887 by Business and Consumer Affairs Committee (CS/CS/SB 1252 by Jones, D.)

- Revises continuing education provider and course approval procedures for cosmetology.
- Revises procedures for cosmetology licensure by endorsement; allows anyone licensed in another state to receive a license in Florida. The board may not require proof of educational hours if the license was issued in a state that requires 1,200 or more hours of pre-licensure education and passage of a written examination. This does not apply to applicants who received their license in another state through an apprenticeship program.

- Authorizes the performance of cosmetology and specialty services in a location other than a licensed salon under certain circumstances.

Dental Hygienists, SB 1040 by Bogdanoff (CS/HB 1313 by Corcoran) (Presented to the Governor on March 8, 2012. Governor must act on this bill by March 23)

- 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.

Radiological Personnel, CS/HB 309 by Oliva (CS/SB 376 by Flores)

- 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.

Continuing Education for Athletic Trainers and Massage Therapists, HB 4163 by Hudson (CS/SB 1258 by Benacquisto)

Eliminates the requirement for athletic trainers, licensed or certified pursuant to Part XIII of Chapter 468, Florida Statutes, and massage therapists, licensed or certified pursuant to Chapter 480, Florida Statutes, to complete a continuing education course on HIV and AIDS as part of biennial re-licensure and recertification.

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

- 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)

- Changes which impact FCS include:
 - Changes *one of four* ways to meet certified nursing assistants certification requirements from having completed the curriculum developed by the *Department of Education* [which was struck] to, having completed the curriculum developed under the *Enterprise Florida Jobs and Education Partnership* [also known as the Workforce Development Board (WDB)].
 - Transfers the nursing student loan forgiveness program from Department of Health to the Department 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.

Certification of 911 Public Safety Telecommunicator, CS/ HB 1227 by Drake (CS/SB 514 by Dean)

- Waives the requirement for certification as a 911 public safety telecommunicator for sworn state-certified law enforcement officers that have passed the 911 public safety telecommunicator exam if:
 - The officer is selected by the chief executive of their agency and
 - The officer performs as a 911 public safety telecommunicator on an occasional or limited basis.

- Changes the exam from one “administered” by the Department of Health to one “approved” by the Department.

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

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

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

- 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.
- 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)

- 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.

Reemployment Services (Rehab and Injured Workers Training), Conforming Conference Bill CS/HB 5203

- Transfers responsibilities for training and education of injured workers to the Department of Financial Services and authorizes them to contract with one or more third parties to administer functions of training and education.
- Requires that persons or firms selected to administer reemployment services may not have a conflict of interest.
- Prohibits a rehabilitation provider who contracts with the department to provide injured employees reemployment assessments and other services from also providing training or education to the injured employee.

Public Records/Donor Identity/Publicly Owned Performing Arts Centers, SB 570 by Ring (HB 351 by Moraitis)

- Creates a public records exemption for information that identifies a donor or a prospective donor to a publicly owned performing arts center should the donor wish to remain anonymous. It is projected that anonymity of donors under this bill would encourage an increase in donation to the arts.
- A "publicly owned performing arts center" is defined as: "A facility consisting of at least 200 seats, owned and operated by a county, municipality, or special district, which is used and occupied to promote development of any or all of the performing, visual or fine arts or any or all matters relating thereto, and to encourage and cultivate public and professional knowledge and appreciation of the arts."

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

- 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.

BILLS 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.
- Provided for private financing agreements and for use fees.

Public Meetings, CS/CS/CS/SB 206 by Negron (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 to ensure orderly progress of the meeting.
- 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 percent.
- 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 percent.
- 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.
- Requires 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.

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.

- 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 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 FCS colleges 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.
- Would have required students in adult general education programs to identify goals and link their skills to workforce opportunities.

Education Repeals, CS/HB 4041 by the House Education Committee and Burgin (CS/CS/SB 492 by Braynon)

- Would have repealed statutes relating to the sponsorships of athletic activities similar to those for which scholarships are offered.
- Would have repealed a provision that allows certain FCS institutions to apply for an exemption from the requirement that future baccalaureate degrees be approved by the State Board of Education. This provision passed in the higher education conforming bill, HB 5201.

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 percent. **This 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 percent. **This 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.

Table: Higher Education Bills Passed & Staff Analysis*
2012 Legislative Session

Find the bill number you are interested in and click on the link in the last column. This will take you to the Florida House of Representatives website which has information on all the bills listed in this report. For the text of the bill scroll down to the "Bill Text" section and click on "Enrolled." The enrolled bill is the version as passed by both the House and Senate and sent to the Governor. For a more user friendly and easier to understand report on the legislation, scroll down further to the "Staff Analysis" section and click on the "Final Bill Analysis." If no final bill analysis is listed, click on the most recent analysis.

Bill # (Linked to Doc. Page)	Action	Effective Date July 1, 2012 Except as Noted Below	Link to Text of Bill & Staff Analysis
45	Signed 4/27		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=47030
226	Signed 4/27		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=47212
309	Signed 4/27		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=47454
347	Signed 4/27		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=47488
368	Signed 4/6		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=47347
387	Signed 4/6		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=47533
503	Signed 5/4		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=47691
517	Signed 4/6		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=47704
570	Signed 3/23	10/1/12	http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=47529
629	Signed 4/24	10/1/12	http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=47852
704	Signed 3/23	Sec.(20) When signed by Gov.	http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=47664
809	Signed 4/6		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=48046
878	Signed 4/6		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=47824
887	Signed 4/6	10/1/12	http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=48120
922	Signed 4/27	Sec. (4) 10/1/12	http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=47863
937	Signed 5/4		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=48170
1040	Signed 3/23	When signed by Gov.	http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=47973
1227	Signed 3/23		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=48491
1263	Signed 4/27	When signed by Gov.	http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=48529
1355	Signed 4/27	10/1/12	http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=48669
1994	Signed 4/20	When signed by Gov.	http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=49105
4163	Signed 4/13		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=48305
5001	Signed w/ vetoes 4/17		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=49009
5003	Signed 4/17		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=49013
5005	Signed 4/20		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=49014
5011	4/20 vetoed		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=49012
5101	Signed 4/20		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=48964
5201	Signed 4/20		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=48960
5203	Signed 4/20		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=48950
7023	Signed 3/28		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=48291
7055	Signed 4/13		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=48941
7059	Signed 4/27		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=48949
7063	Signed 4/27		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=48958
7079	Signed 5/4		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=48990
7087	Signed 3/28		http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=49007

Bill # (Linked to Doc. Page)	Action	Effective Date July 1, 2012 Except as Noted Below	Link to Text of Bill & Staff Analysis
7129	Vetoed 4/27	When signed by Gov.	http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=49134 VETO LETTER http://capitalsoup.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/4.27.12-HB-7129-Veto-Letter.pdf
7135	Signed 4/27	When signed by Gov.	http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=49141

***For a PDF version of this report which contains active links to bill text and staff analysis, go to:**

<http://www.fscj.edu/district/government-relations/assets/documents/final-leg-rpt.pdf>