

Legislative Update

April 18, 2025

FSCJ Florida State College
of Jacksonville



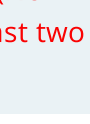
WEEK 7

Last week, April 12 marked the 40th day of session. After the 40th day of regular session, no bill may be retained for the purpose of reconsideration in a committee or subcommittee. This week, April 17 marked the 45th day of session. After the 45th day of regular session, notice shall be provided no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day (including Saturdays and Sundays) before a committee or subcommittee meeting. This short meeting notice requirement signifies the rapid pace at which the legislature is now moving. It is likely that only higher-level committees, like Rules and Fiscal Policy, will be meeting during the eighth week of session.

It is anticipated that budget conferencing will begin during the middle of next week. Budget conferencing is the process in which both chambers of the legislature work to reconcile the proposed Senate and House budgets. The process will begin with the Senate President and Speaker of the House releasing budget allocations by policy area.

Once the budget and other policy legislation have been approved by both chambers, they can be sent to the Governor for review and approval or veto. During session, the Governor must sign or veto legislation within 7 days of transmittal, or it becomes law without his signature. If legislation is sent to the Governor post session, then the Governor must sign or veto legislation within 15 days of transmittal, or it becomes law without being signed.

Bill Tracking



*Bills with no committee or chamber action in the past six weeks have been removed from the bill tracking list below.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

HB 17 / SB 204 (Similar bills)	The bills revise provisions relating to teacher & educator preparation programs, educator certification requirements, & educator in service training requirements to require certified educators to receive training relating to mass casualty incidents.	Passed by House Education Administration Subcommittee (No action in the past two weeks)
HB 21 / SB 82 (Similar bills)	The bills provide application requirements and examination and licensure qualifications for dental therapists; authorizes a dental therapist to perform specified services under the supervision of a dentist under certain conditions.	Passed by House Health & Human Services Committee
HB 219 / SB 526 (Similar bills)	The bills revise the approval and operational requirements for nursing education programs in Florida. Among other changes, the bills authorize the Department of Health to conduct onsite inspections, revise annual reporting requirements, requires at least 50% clinical training in the U.S. and no more than 50% of training to be simulation.	Passed by House Health & Human Services Committee
HB 571 / SB 1094 (Identical bills)	As to the Florida College System, the bill instructs the State Board of Education to adopt regulations for awarding postsecondary credit and career education clock hours for apprenticeship and preapprenticeship training. It establishes a workgroup under the Articulation Coordinating Committee to develop postsecondary course equivalencies for apprenticeship programs, with a deadline for recommendations by March 1, 2026. It specifies that state universities, Florida College System institutions, and career centers must award credit or clock hours based on these equivalencies, with guarantees for statewide transfer.	Passed by House Education Administration Subcommittee (No action in the past four weeks)
HB 681 / SB 1458 (Identical bills)	The bills create a funding formula for registered apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs, aiming to simplify distribution, enhance access, and promote growth to meet workforce demands.	Passed by the House. Sent to Senate.
HB 1145 / SB 742 (Similar bills)	The bills expand and revise provisions related to Florida's workforce development funding and policies including, allowing charter schools to apply for the Cap Grant and requiring school districts and colleges to increase the money-back guarantee from three programs to six.	Passed by Senate Higher Education Appropriations Committee
HB 875	The bill makes many changes to educator preparation programs, including establishing the Coaching for Educator Readiness and Teaching Certification Program, revising mentorship requirements, and updating program criteria like candidate readiness and performance measures.	Placed on House Special Order Calendar
HB 827 / SB 936 (Identical bills)	The bills require the Bureau of Workforce Statistics and Economic Research of the Department of Commerce to study the economic impact of automation, artificial intelligence, and robotics on employment in the state. The bills authorize the bureau to consult with specified entities to complete the study, including academic experts.	Passed by House Education & Employment Committee
SB 2512	The bill establishes the Florida Center for Nursing within the University of South Florida; requires the center to administer the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund; expands the entities eligible to be a matching grant partner within the LINE fund; expands allowable expenditures; and allows LINE funding to be granted for terms of up to three years.	Passed by Senate. Sent to House. (No action in the last week)

STUDENT AFFAIRS

HB 855 / SB 244 (Similar bills)	The bills prohibit Florida College System institutions & state universities from accepting applications of or admitting individuals who are undocumented for federal immigration purposes.	Withdrawn from further consideration
HB 879 / SB 584 (Similar bills)	The bills mandate Florida College System institutions and state universities, in collaboration with the State Office on Homelessness, to prioritize placements in residence halls and dormitories for young adults in or aging out of the foster care system and those experiencing homelessness. The bills also require educational institutions to give these students first priority for institution-operated housing, year-round housing, and work-study opportunities without needing a cosigner or guarantor for housing.	Passed by House Education & Employment Committee
HB 1245 / SB 980 (Similar bills)	The bills establish the Hunger-Free Campus Pilot Program to combat hunger at public postsecondary institutions for one year. Three state higher education institutions will be selected for the pilot.	Passed by House Housing, Agriculture & Tourism Subcommittee (No action in the last week)
HB 1107 / SB 270 (Similar bills)	The bills amend eligibility requirements for the Bright Futures Scholarship by permitting students who graduate from a non-Florida high school to qualify if they lived with a parent or guardian who is/was on a military or public service assignment outside of Florida. The bills extend eligibility to include those who have retired from service within 12 months prior to the student's graduation.	Passed by Senate Appropriations Committee (No action in the past two weeks)

COLLEGE OPERATIONS

HB 1307 / SB 1624 (Similar bills)	The bills make many changes to various education statutes including, providing tuition assistance for active members of the Florida State Guard, revising submission dates and content of annual reports for apprenticeship programs, renaming the "Florida Educational Equity Act" to the "Florida Educational Equality Act," establishing stricter investigative procedures for cases of sex discrimination in public postsecondary institutions under Title IX, revising the appointment processes and term limits for Florida College System institution presidents, now requiring State Board of Education approval for these actions, repealing certain scholarships and minority-focused educational programs, changing requirements for carry forward balances in college budgets, and making changes to allowable expenditures of PIPELINE funding.	Placed on Senate Special Order Calendar. Temporarily postponed by Senate.
HB 1321 / SB 1726 (Similar bills)	The bills implement various changes regarding governance and regulations in Florida's higher education institutions including, setting term limits for members and chairs of Florida College System institution boards of trustees, removing the State Board of Education's approval for actions related to the president of a Florida College System institution and mandates the formation of a presidential search committee, mandating inclusion of supplemental textbooks and instructional materials in course lists, and revising syllabi posting requirements to include detailed course information. The House version of the bill prohibits state colleges and universities from imposing an institution-wide graduation requirement that includes a course in conflict with state statute prohibiting general education core courses from distorting significant historical events or including a curriculum that teaches identity politics, violates the Florida Educational Equity Act, or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.	Passed by the House. Sent to Senate.

FACILITIES

HB 355	The bill expands the range of emergency opioid antagonists public K-12 schools and postsecondary educational institutions can use and maintain.	Passed by the House. Sent to Senate. (No action in the past two weeks)
HB 814	The bill permits a person to carry a firearm on the property of any college or university, including, but not limited to, any dormitory or residence hall owned or operated by a college or university, and in any other location he or she is legally authorized to do so. The bill states that the Department of Law Enforcement may authorize a college or university, while hosting or sponsoring a sporting or athletic event, to designate a campus facility or area as a sensitive location in which the possession of a concealed weapon or a concealed firearm is prohibited. A security plan is required.	Failed in Senate Criminal Justice Committee (No action in the past two weeks)
HB 1267 / SB 1708 (Identical bills)	As to the FCS, the bills direct the SBE to adopt rules for conducting selective audits of school districts and FCS institutions, aiming for transparency and compliance in facility usage. The Senate bill establishes term limits for members of the Board of Governors, the State Board of Education, and state university and state college boards of trustees. The Senate bill repeals the public records exemption for state university and state college presidential applicants and makes additional changes to the presidential search and selection process.	Passed by House Education & Employment Committee

HUMAN RESOURCES

HB 141 / SB 158 (Similar bills)	The bills prohibit the state group insurance program from imposing any cost-sharing requirement upon an enrollee with respect to coverage for diagnostic breast examinations or supplemental breast examinations.	Passed by House Budget Committee
HB 1387 / SB 1766 (Identical bills)	The bills amend the requirements of the disclosure statement to public employees joining a union. The bills amend the requirements for bargaining unit applications. The bills amend application and voting procedures for certification and decertification. The bills provide that public employers, their agents or representatives, or any persons acting on their behalf may not provide any form of compensation or paid leave to a public employee, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of engaging in employee organization activities.	Passed by House Government Operations Subcommittee (No action in the past three weeks)
HB 1217 / SB 1328 (Similar bills)	The bills make changes to the public employee collective bargaining process, including requiring public employees or their organizations to file a petition with the Public Employees Relations Commission for certification, recertification, or decertification of a bargaining agent. The bills also outline activities that are recognized under "employee organization activities," including aspects like supporting political candidates, influencing legislation, and engaging in union-related activities.	Withdrawn from further consideration
HB 1495 / SB 440 (Identical bills)	The bills create the "Freedom of Conscience in the Workplace Act." The bills state that it is an unlawful employment practice for the state or any county, municipality, special district, or other political subdivision to require, as a condition of employment, any training, instruction, or other activity on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.	Passed by Senate Oversight and Accountability Committee (No action in the past three weeks)
HB 541 / SB 676 (Similar bills)	The bills state that an employer is not subject to the minimum wage enforcement of an employee who is in a structured work-study, internship, preapprenticeship, or apprenticeship program or other similar work-based learning opportunity if such employee opts out of receiving the minimum wage.	Passed by House Commerce Committee (No action the last week)
SB 7022	The bill revises the required employer retirement contribution rates for each membership class and subclass of the Florida Retirement System. The bill also makes changes to DROP for elected officers.	Passed by the Senate and the House.

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

SB 2C	The bill amends state statute to allow out of state fee waivers to apply only to students who are citizens of the United States or lawfully present in the United States. Students who have been given the waiver must be reevaluated for eligibility by July 1, 2025.	Special Session bill passed by Legislature. Signed by Governor on 2/13/2025.
HB 45 / SB 360 (Identical bills)	The bills provide that a person may not lose his or her resident status for tuition purposes due solely to his or her incarceration in specified correctional facilities.	Passed by House Education Administration Subcommittee (No action in the past two weeks)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

HB 977 / SB 1538 (Identical bills)	The bills prohibit governmental entities from entering into certain contracts for products and services with foreign countries of concern if foreign countries have specific ownership interests in those products, including computers, printers, or interoperable or videoconferencing devices. The bills remove provisions which prohibit local governments from entering into or renewing specified contracts with certain entities if doing so would give access to personal identifying information.	Passed by House Government Operations Subcommittee (No action in the past two weeks)
HB 1183 / SB 1576 (Identical bills)	The bills establish that certain entities, including political subdivisions, are not liable for cybersecurity incidents under specific compliance conditions. It shields covered entities and third-party agents from class action liability resulting from cybersecurity incidents if they comply with specified regulations and cybersecurity standards or have an appropriate cybersecurity program in place.	Passed by House Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee (No action in the past two weeks)

We'd love your feedback!

On a scale of 1 to 10, how satisfied are you with the new design and content of this newsletter?

0

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

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



Website



Contact



Email

FSCJ Florida State College
of Jacksonville

