

## Florida State College at Jacksonville | Legislative Update VIII – 2024

MARCH 1, 2024

### Week 8

#### BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS ONGOING

Senate President Passidomo and House Speaker Renner released budget allocations by policy area on Monday, March 23 (listed below). The chambers agreed on general revenue allocations of \$48 billion, including over \$6 billion for higher education. The list of legislators appointed to sit on the conference committees was also released on Monday. Committees in each policy area met multiple times in Week 8 to resolve the differences in program and project funding amounts proposed by each chamber. Many committees, including Higher Education, have begun to “bump up” unresolved budget issues to the Appropriation Chair level. Both chambers must reach a final agreement on the budget by Tuesday, March 5 if the 2024 Legislature is to finish on time.

Policy Area	Total
PreK-12 Education	15,686,600,000
Higher Education	6,374,300,000
Health Care / Health and Human Services	16,045,600,000
Criminal and Civil Justice	6,192,900,000
Infrastructure & Tourism	744,300,000
Agriculture & Natural Resources	1,366,800,000
State Administration & Technology	662,800,000
Administered Funds & Statewide Issues	942,400,000
<b>Total General Revenue Allocations</b>	<b>48,015,800,000</b>

# Bill Tracking

<b>SB <a href="#">62</a>/ HB <a href="#">767</a> (Identical bills)</b>	The bill amends Florida Statute 1009.21 ("Determination of resident status for tuition purposes.") to allow individuals who have been incarcerated to use evidence of being incarcerated in Florida to establish in state residency to obtain in-state tuition.	<b>HB passed by House and sent to Senate</b>
<b>HB <a href="#">149</a>/ SB <a href="#">656</a> (Similar bills)</b>	The bill amends Florida Statute 287.055 ("Acquisition of professional architectural, engineering, landscape architectural, or surveying and mapping services; definitions; procedures; contingent fees prohibited; penalties.") to allow governmental entities (including state colleges) to enter into contracts with construction management entities and program management entities on a continuing contract so long as the individual projects do not exceed \$10M each.	<b>HB passed by House and sent to the Senate</b>
<b>HB <a href="#">151</a>/ SB <a href="#">242</a> (Similar bills)</b>	The bill amends Florida Statute 121.101 to provide for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for FRS pension plan members beginning July 1, 2024, which will adjust every July 1 thereafter. The bill also increases member contribution rates, increases the allocations to the investment plan accounts for each membership class, and closes the FRS Preservation of Benefits Plan to new members effective July 1, 2026.	<b>HB passed by House. SB passed by Senate. Bills placed on Conference Committee agenda to reconcile differences in bill language.</b>
<b>SB <a href="#">460</a>/ HB <a href="#">917</a> (Similar bills)</b>	The bill provides a uniform standard for counties and municipalities to recognize a journey worker. The bill authorizes district school boards to satisfy the career fair requirement through consulting with specified groups to determine free or cost-effective methods to provide other career and industry networking opportunities. The bill authorizes a student who earns credit for one year of related technical instruction for a registered apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program to use such credit to satisfy high school graduation credit requirements. The bill authorizes an exemption from the career education basic skills assessment to certain students with a private school diploma or home education affidavit. The bill adds to the duties of the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help to study the status of CTE in each school district within the state and coordinate a statewide report on the supply and demand of nursing occupations. The bill repeals the Florida Talent Development Council. The bill also requires the DOE to convene a CTE workgroup that will identify best practices in CTE pathways from middle school to high school and identify three math pathways that align with skills for success in the corresponding academic programs, postsecondary education, and careers.	<b>Placed on Senate Special Order Calendar</b>

**SB [996](#)/  
HB [1285](#)  
(Similar  
bills)**

As it relates to the FCS, the bill amends Florida Statute 1007.25 to allow for the State Board of Education to set requirements for specialized transfer degrees, and a process for applying for a specialized transfer degree that requires more than 60 hours of coursework for purposes of transfer. The bill repeals the Florida College System institution employment equity accountability program found in Florida Statute 1012.86. The bill authorizes proof of a homestead exemption in Florida to serve as a single, conclusive piece of evidence for a student to prove residency for tuition purposes. The bill also authorizes a pilot program for three FCS institutions to charge an amount not to exceed \$290 per credit hour for nonresident tuition and fees for distance learning. FCS institutions may phase in this nonresident tuition rate by degree program. As it relates to the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program, the bill revises the definition of the term "tuition differential." The bill also prohibits FCS and SUS board trustees from having a business affiliation or interest in an entity that does business with the institution.

**Placed on  
Senate  
Special Order  
Calendar**

**SB [1372](#)/  
HB [1291](#)  
(Identical  
bills)**

The bill amends Florida Statute 1004.04 ("Public accountability and state approval for teacher preparation programs") and 1004.85 ("Postsecondary educator preparation institutes). The bill prohibits teacher preparation program courses from distorting significant historical events or include a curriculum or instruction that teaches identity politics, violates Florida Statute 1000.05, or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.

**Passed by  
Rules  
Committee.  
Placed on  
Senate  
Calendar for a  
Second  
Reading**

**HB [7007](#)/  
SB [7022](#)  
(Identical  
bills)**

The bill renews the public records and public meeting exemption found in Florida Statute 1004.0962 ("Campus emergency response of a public postsecondary educational institution; public records exemption; public meetings exemption.") It removes certain sections under which plans would be disclosed.

**HB passed by  
both House  
and Senate**

**SB [7004](#)/  
(Substituted  
for language  
in HB [7025](#))**

As it related to the FCS, the bill deletes the requirement for the SBE to establish performance metrics for the FCS and removes language related to the annual evaluation of the executive director of the FCS. The bill also removes outdated language related to the authorization for St. Petersburg College to establish one or more bachelor's degrees.

**House  
substituted SB  
7004 for HB  
7025. SB 7004  
was passed by  
House and sent  
back to Senate.**

<p><b>HB 7051/</b> <b>SB 7032</b> <b>(Similar bills)</b></p>	<p>This bill creates the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program, GATE Scholarship Program, and GATE Student Success Incentive Fund. All three programs are aimed at providing high school students the opportunity to earn postsecondary course credits at no cost to the student while pursuing the completion of a standard high school diploma or equivalent credential. The bill provides eligibility criteria for students to enroll in the GATE Program and defines the career education programs and certificates that can be offered to students enrolled in the GATE Program. The bill exempts students that are enrolled in the GATE program from the payment of tuition and specified fees and the costs of instructional materials. To assist Florida College System institutions, school districts, and charter technical career centers in administering the GATE Program, the GATE Scholarship Program reimburses participating institutions for the tuition and fees and instructional materials for students enrolled in the GATE program. Additionally, the bill provides incentive funding for institutions through the GATE Student Success Incentive Fund. The incentive funding is provided based on the number of students enrolled in the GATE program who earn a high standard high school diploma or equivalent credential and postsecondary industry certifications.</p>	<p><b>SB passed by Senate and sent to House for consideration</b></p>
<p><b>SB 658/</b> <b>HB 473</b> <b>(Similar bills)</b></p>	<p>The bill creates Florida Statute 768.401 ("Limitation on liability for cybersecurity incidents"). It provides that counties, municipalities, political subdivisions (including FCS institutions), and commercial entities that comply with Florida 501.171 and the standards listed in the statute are not liable to those whose data is taken for cybersecurity incidents. Defendants in lawsuits have the burden of demonstrating compliance with the law.</p>	<p><b>HB placed on House Calendar for a Third Reading</b></p>
<p><b>SB 1624/</b> <b>HB 1645</b> <b>(Similar bills)</b></p>	<p>As to the Florida College System, the bill amends Florida Statute 286.29 ("Energy guidelines for Climate-friendly public business.") to eliminate subsection 4, which requires the FCS institution, when using the state purchasing plan, to first define the intended purpose as one of many categories and then select a vehicle for the greatest fuel efficiency available for a given use class when fuel economy data are available.</p>	<p><b>Passed by Fiscal Policy. Placed on Senate Calendar for a Second</b></p>
<p><b>HB 611/</b> <b>SB 1018</b> <b>(Identical bills)</b></p>	<p>Unless exempted by law, state and local governments, including colleges, are required to deposit public funds in a qualified public depository (QPD) pursuant to the Florida Security for Public Deposits Act, Ch. 280, F.S. (Act). The bill makes state-chartered and federally-chartered credit unions eligible to become a qualified public depository (QPD)QPDs and custodian for another QPD's pledged collateral. Specifically, the bill creates s. 280.042, F.S., which provides criteria that a credit union must meet before the CFO can designate a credit union as a QPD. These criteria are designed to protect public deposits.</p>	<p><b>Passed by House. Sent to Senate</b></p>

**SB 2516**

The bill amends Florida State 110.123 to define enrollee in the state group health insurance to include: "all participating college officers and employees, retired participating college officers and employees, surviving spouses of deceased participating community officers and employees, and terminated participating community employees or individuals with continuation coverage who are enrolled in an insurance plan offered by the state group." The bill creates Florida Statute 110.1229 ("Participation by Florida College System institutions insurance program"). The bill states the district board of trustees of a college may apply by August 1, 2024, for participation in the state group health insurance program and the prescription drug program. The minimum enrollment period for each eligible college is three years, and one year notice of withdrawal from the program is required. A college is barred from reapplying for two years. The college shall adopt the state's eligibility rules. The college shall pay monthly premiums in amounts sufficient to cover claims costs and administrative costs. The enrollment period for colleges determined eligible by the department shall begin before July 31, 2025. The bill contains language for the GATE Program also found in Senate Bill 7032.




**Bill is in proper posture to go to into Senate and House budget negotiations**

**SB 7016**

The bill creates the TEACH program in Florida Statute 409.91256. It requires the Agency for Health Care Administration to develop an application process for federally qualified health centers, community mental health centers, rural health clinics, and certified community behavioral health clinics to apply for funds to offset administrative costs and loss of revenue associated with establishing, maintaining, or expanding a clinical training program. The facility must agree to, at a minimum, provide appropriate supervision or precepting for one or more of: allopathic or osteopathic residents pursuing a primary care specialty; dental residents; advanced practice registered nursing students pursuing a primary care specialty; nursing students; allopathic or osteopathic medical students; dental students; dental hygiene students; physician assistant students; behavioral health students, including students studying psychology, clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, or mental health counseling. Qualified facilities must provide preference for residents and students enrolled in Florida schools or whose state of legal residence is Florida. Qualified facilities may be reimbursed to offset the administrative costs or lost revenue associated with training students and residents who are enrolled in an accredited educational or residency program in Florida. The program sunsets in 2034. The bill also expands the LINE program. It would include independent schools, colleges, or universities with an accredited nursing program. Additionally, the bill increases the passage rate for the Nursing License Examination, from 70% to 75%, that is required for LPN, associate of science in nursing, and bachelor of science in nursing programs to participate in the LINE Fund.

**Passed by Senate and House**

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

	Website:		Contact:		Email:
	<a href="https://fscj.edu/discover/governance-administration/government-relations">fscj.edu/discover/governance-administration/government-relations</a>		(904) 632-3220		Taylor.Mejia@fscj.edu