

## Florida State College at Jacksonville | Legislative Update VI – 2023

APRIL 17, 2023

### Week 6

Budget negotiations between Senate and House leadership continued during the sixth week of session. Week 6 also saw the last of regularly scheduled subcommittee meetings. If a bill has not been heard by any subcommittee of reference, it is likely that the bill will not be moving forward this session. Both the Senate and House will continue to meet in regular committees for the next few weeks. The last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings is April 25, 2023.

Bills of note:

SB 266 -Higher Education and HB 999 – Postsecondary Educational Institutions

During week 6 of session, SB 266 was amended and passed by the Appropriations Committee on Education. A summary of the changes made to the bill by amendment can be found [here](#), and a report of the Appropriation Committee on Education’s discussion of the bill may be found [here](#). HB 999 has not seen any committee movement since mid-March. If SB 266 passes its last committee of reference, it will be sent to the House for review and approval in committees. A summary of HB 999 can be found in the Bill Tracking section below.

SB 256/HB 1445 - Employee Organizations Representing Public Employees

SB 256 and HB 1445 are identical bills. SB 256 was passed by the Senate and sent to the House for review and approval on March 31, 2023. During week 6, HB 1445 was amended and approved by the State Affairs Committee, its last committee of reference. A summary of the amended bill can be found [here](#). HB 1445 has been placed on the House Calendar for a second reading. If passed by the House, HB 1445 will be sent to the Senate. From there, the legislation will go to conferencing to ensure identical language is in the bills approved by each chamber. If adopted in conferencing, the bill will go to the Governor to be signed into law or vetoed.






# Bill Tracking

<b>HB 339</b> <b>(Similar to SB 550)</b>	Revises eligibility requirements for educational benefits provided by state to spouse or dependent child of deceased or disabled servicemember; revises eligibility requirements for educational benefits provided by state to dependent child of prisoner of war, person missing in action, or deceased or disabled servicemember who participated in certain military operations.	<b>Passed by the House. Sent to Senate. Referred to Senate Fiscal Policy Committee.</b>
<b>SB 256</b> <b>(Similar to HB 1445)</b>	Requires a public employee who desires to be a member of an employee organization to sign a membership authorization form beginning on a specified date; requires an employee organization to revoke a public employee's membership upon receipt of his or her written request for revocation; prohibits certain employee organizations from having dues and uniform assessments deducted and collected by the employer from certain salaries; revises requirements for applications for initial registrations and renewals of registration of employee organizations; revises prohibitions for employee organizations and certain persons and entities relating to employee organizations.	<b>Passed by the Senate. Sent to House for approval. Identical House bill placed on House Calendar for a second reading.</b>
<b>SB 274/HB 517</b> <b>(Identical bills)</b>	Revising a primary goal of the Florida Center for Nursing to provide that development of a state-wide plan for nursing manpower must include the encouragement and coordination of the development of partnerships with hospitals which provide opportunities for nursing students to obtain clinical experience; requiring that the Articulation Coordinating Committee convene a workgroup to establish a process for determining postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock hours that must be awarded in accredited nursing education programs for military training and education required for service in specified positions; authorizing the award of additional postsecondary credit or career education clock hours.	<b>Passed by the Senate. Sent to House for approval. Identical House bill placed on House Calendar for a second reading.</b>
<b>SB 7026</b>	Requires the BOG to develop regulations for university boards of trustees relating to contracting for the construction of new facilities or for work on existing facilities; authorizes a state university to waive the out-of-state fee for a student who is an intercollegiate athlete receiving a scholarship; revises the list of authorized expenditures that may be included in a carry forward spending plan for state universities and Florida College System institutions; revises a limitation on compensation for state university employees, providing that certain educational facility contracting and construction techniques applicable to school districts also apply to Florida College System institutions.	<b>Passed by the Senate. Sent to House for approval.</b>
<b>SB 732/HB 845</b> <b>(Identical bills)</b>	Defines the term "military student;" requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules and the Board of Governors to adopt regulations to establish the Collegiate Purple Star Campuses program; specifying program criteria for participating Florida College System institutions, state universities, and career centers.	<b>Passed by the Senate. Sent to House for approval.</b>

<b>HB <a href="#">1259</a></b>	Revises provisions relating to BOG regulations for specified contracts; creates Institute for Risk Management & Insurance Education within College of Business at UCF; revises provisions relating to certain postsecondary fee waivers & creates additional fee waiver; revises provisions relating to certain postsecondary carry forward spending plans & compensation of certain postsecondary employees; requires university boards of trustees to submit annual report to BOG when awarding bonuses; revises applicability of certain contracting & construction techniques; removes obsolete language; revises calculation methodologies for distribution of specified funds to eligible charter schools; provides school district requirements for distribution of capital outlay funds to charter schools; removes cost & size limitations applicable to certain minor facilities.	<b>In Appropriations Committee. Placed on agenda or next committee meeting.</b>
<b>HB <a href="#">139/SB 858</a> (Identical bills)</b>	Provides benefits, training, and employment assistance for Veterans and their spouses, including a requirement for Department of Veterans Affairs to create a grant program for veterans' nursing degree programs.	<b>Placed on House Special Order Calendar. Identical Senate bill in Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services. Placed on agenda for next committee meeting.</b>
<b>SB <a href="#">266</a> (Similar to HB <a href="#">999</a>)</b>	As it relates to Florida College System Institutions – Prohibits state universities and colleges, as well as their direct support organizations, from expending any funds, regardless of source, to promote, support, or maintain any programs or campus activities that violate the discriminatory concepts. The bill exempts from this provision programs required for compliance with federal regulations, or access programs for military veterans, Pell Grant recipients, first generation college students, nontraditional students, “2+2” transfer students from the Florida College System, students from low-income families, or students with unique abilities. The bill revises requirements for general education core courses, similar to HB 999. The bill also clarifies that a public postsecondary institution is not required to change accrediting agencies each accreditation cycle, but that the change in accreditation required in law is restricted to a one-time change, prior to the expiration of this requirement on December 31, 2032.	<b>Amended and passed by Appropriation Committee on Education. Now in Fiscal Policy Committee.</b>
<b>SB <a href="#">846</a> (Similar to HB <a href="#">679</a>)</b>	Prohibits state universities and state colleges from accepting grants or participating in agreements with a foreign country of concern unless specified conditions are met; authorizes state universities to enter into agreements with a foreign country of concern if such agreement is approved by the BOG and specified requirements are met; authorizes the board to sanction and to withhold performance funding from a state university for entering into an unauthorized foreign agreement; requires each state university and state college to annually submit specified information to the BOG and DOE if certain conditions are met.	<b>Placed on Senate Calendar for a second reading.</b>

<b>HB 1401</b> <b>(Similar to SB 751)</b>	Requires the Articulation Coordinating Committee to convene a workgroup by a specified date to develop specified articulation agreements; requiring Florida College System institutions to award transfer credit for certain courses; providing requirements for an associate in arts specialized transfer degree; providing that, upon approval of a new associate in arts specialized transfer degree, Florida College System institutions may offer the degree and shall report certain data.	<b>Placed on House Calendar for a second reading.</b>
<b>SB 240</b>	Requires the REACH Office to work with other specified entities to provide certain information relating to workforce development boards; revises the list of credentials that must be included on the Master Credentials List; revises the entities that may be a local apprenticeship sponsor; revises the credit requirements for a high school diploma; revises which courses must be included on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List; revises the cost factor for secondary career education programs; revises requirements for the Florida Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program.	<b>Placed on Senate Calendar for a second reading.</b>
<b>SB 958</b> <b>(Similar to HB 931)</b>	Revises date by which SBE & BOG must annually compile & publish specified assessments; establishes Office of Public Policy Events within State University System & provides requirements; designates Florida Student Association as non-profit advocacy organization for students of SUS & provides requirements; & prohibits public institutions of higher education from requiring completion of political loyalty test or for persons to meet certain qualifications for specified purposes.	<b>Now in Fiscal Policy Committee.</b>
<b>HB 7051</b>	The bill enhances and streamlines provisions to improve the implementation and expansion of workforce education programs. The bill also increases access to career and technical education in middle and high school, including opportunities for work-based learning, such as apprenticeships. The bill expands the REACH Office's authority, expands the internship tax credit program, and expands the Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program (PCOG). Provides more flexibility for institutions as it relates to the Money-Back Guarantee Program. Converts the Open Door Grant Program to a student financial assistance program.	<b>Now in Education and Employment Committee.</b>
<b>SB 542/HB 39</b> <b>(Identical bills)</b>	Requires Florida College System institutions & state universities to have supply of emergency opioid antagonists in certain residence halls & dormitories for use by specified employees; provides requirements for placement & accessibility of emergency opioid antagonists & training; provides specified immunity from liability.	<b>In Rules. Placed on Committee agenda for next meeting.</b>
<b>HB 999</b> <b>(Similar to SB 266)</b>	As it relates to Florida Colleges System Institutions - revises requirements for general education core courses; requires Articulation Coordinating Committee to submit certain courses to State Board of Education & Board of Governors; provides requirements for public postsecondary educational institutions & their presidents & boards of trustees relating to general education courses.	<b>In Education and Employment Committee. No action in many weeks.</b>

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

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