

2013 Legislative Session

Within Reach

St. Petersburg College
SPC

New Law Summary

July 1, 2013

On May 3, 2013 the Florida Legislature adjourned for this Legislative Session. A total of 1,848 bills were introduced, although only 286 passed both chambers.

Several keys bills which impact the Florida College System were introduced and significant legislative changes were made. Perhaps the most significant legislative changes impacting higher education were in the area of developmental education and career focused education.

The term “college preparatory” was redefined as “developmental education.” More importantly, many students in Florida will be afforded options, rather than requirements, in developmental education. The methods for offering developmental education will change dramatically as well, with a broader range of delivery options and instruction to be offered in ways that move students quickly into college credit course of instruction using co-requisite instruction, modularized instruction, and tutoring, among other offerings. The college placement testing (CPT) will no longer be required for most Florida public high school graduates. Admissions counseling and enhanced methods of advising are mandated, and will be critical to student retention and overall success.

Also impacting postsecondary education are the changing requirements for high school graduation, including changes to the math requirements for a standard diploma and the required successful completion of “end of course” exams. In addition to the standard diploma, students will be able to earn a Merit Designation (industry certification) and a Scholar Designation (college preparatory).

Additional changes impacting dual enrollment were enacted, including provisions mandating that school districts pay state colleges for tuition and other costs depending on the location of the dual enrollment program and instruction.



This year the Legislature had significant additional General Revenue available to address

budget issues. Funding for the Florida College System and the Florida College System Program Fund was increased for 2013-14 from the 2012-13 level. As part of this year's appropriation, the Legislature implemented a funding source shift for the Florida College System as well. Funding from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund (Lottery) is up substantially from \$180,808,060 to \$204,938,935, for an increase of \$24,130,875 or thirteen (13%) percent.

Operating costs for new facilities was fully funded at \$6.3 million, including \$2.4 million for the annualization of appropriations from 2012-13 and \$3.9 million for new facilities opening in 2013-14.

The Legislature adjusted funding in the Florida College System Program Fund (FCSPF) to reflect a change in Florida Retirement System employer contributions. [SB 1810, Retirement System Contributions, establishes this year's rates paid by employers participating in the Florida Retirement System (FRS)] An increase of \$27.7 million was provided to fund normal cost increases of the program and to cover the Unfunded Actuarial Liability. The increase reflects the employer's contribution rates to be paid by the colleges during the 2013-14 fiscal year. These changes are intended by the Legislature to have no net impact on the funds available for college operations.

In addition, the Legislature appropriated \$13.3 million in new operational funding through the Florida College System Program Fund (FCSPF) to be distributed among the 28 colleges using the Funding Allocation Model. The result was an overall increase in state funding for the Florida College System Program Fund of \$48.6 million or a net increase of 4.6 percent over 2012-13. While the Legislature authorized boards to increase tuition by up to 3 percent, this funding was vetoed by the Governor on May 20, 2013.

The Legislature appropriated, and the Governor approved, funding to strengthen Florida's educational system, including the Florida Families First budget which includes \$20 million in new funds for certain state colleges. Also appropriated was \$5 million for performance funding (pursuant to the General Appropriations Act, Chapter 2013-40, Laws of Florida, specific appropriation 119A), based on the number of associated industry certifications earned by a college's students. The budget also provides approximately \$41.7 million in PECO funding for deferred maintenance for Florida College System projects.

Based on recent legislative activity and current enrollment data, state operating funds are set to increase next year by a system-wide average of \$138 or 4.6 percent per FTE. If college enrollments are maintained at the current level, state provided operating funds will increase from \$2,983 in 2012-13 to \$3,121 in 2013-14.

I. GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS

Appropriations Proviso Language, and Implementing and Conforming Bills

The Legislature has three methods to reflect decisions made in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) process. Proviso is language attached to a specific appropriation and directs or authorizes how the funds can be expended. An implementing bill may provide instructions to enact specific provisions in the GAA language or proviso by changing the law on a temporary basis for one year. While the GAA cannot contradict current law, there may be a need to temporarily suspend some provision of law. Finally, a conforming bill may also travel with the GAA. It is different from the implementing bill in that it may make permanent changes to law.

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General Appropriations Act for 2013 - 2014 (GAA)

The General Appropriations Act provides funding for the Florida College System for the annual period of July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014.

The Governor withheld his approval of numerous line items in the 2013-2014 GAA impacting the Florida College System, particularly proviso language relating to Specific Appropriations 117 and 120, with the intent of maintaining college tuition and fees at current levels.

Effective July 1, 2013

Approved by the Governor with Appropriation Veto Chapter 2013-40, Laws of Florida

SB 1720 – Conforming Bill for Higher Education Conference Report

Developmental Education: Conforming Language

Throughout the statutes, “college preparatory” is changed to “developmental education.” Many sections of the bill do not make substantive changes, merely this “conforming” change.

Definitions (Sections 9 and 18)

Developmental education is defined as instruction through which a high school graduate who applies for any college credit program may attain the communication and computation skills necessary to successfully complete college credit instruction. “Gateway course” is defined as the first course that provides transferable, college-level credit allowing a student to progress in his or her program of study. “Meta-major” is defined as a collection of programs of study or academic discipline groupings that share common foundational skills.

Postsecondary Education Accountability (Section 3)

Provides rule-making authority regarding the implementation of procedures and penalties for not reporting child abuse at postsecondary institutions. Enacted last session, and effective October 1, 2012, the Vulnerable Persons Act provides for mandatory reporting to the Florida Abuse Hotline related to children who are the victims of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect, including sexual abuse. A one million dollar fine will be assessed for each Florida College System institution 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 campus or during a college sponsored event or function, or who knowingly and willfully prevent another person from doing so.

Developmental Education (Section 18)

Provides that developmental education may be delivered through a variety of accelerated and co-requisite strategies and includes any of the following:

- Modularized instruction that is customized and targeted to address specific skills gaps.
- Compressed course structures that accelerate student progression from developmental instruction to college-level coursework.
- Contextualized developmental instruction that is related to meta-majors.
- Co-requisite developmental instruction or tutoring that supplements credit instruction while a student is concurrently enrolled in a credit-bearing course.

Admissions, Counseling & Testing of Students (Sections 16 and 19)

Florida College System institutions are to provide developmental education that is more tailored to the specific communication and

computation skills a student needs to develop to be successful in performing college-level work.

The provisions of this bill do not repeal non-credit courses but require colleges to offer developmental education options a student may pursue while also enrolled in college-credit courses. Students whose test scores indicate the need for developmental education must be advised of options and may enroll in the developmental education options of their choice.

Florida state colleges must provide admissions counseling to all students entering college credit programs. Counseling provides developmental education options for students whose assessment indicates that they need to improve communication or computation skills that are essential to perform college-level work. The bill further requires local board policies to provide that students are notified of developmental education options including tutoring, extended time in gateway courses, free online courses, adult basic education, adult secondary, or private provider education. Students who are not required to be tested or to enroll in developmental education may request assessment and may enroll in developmental education if they wish.

The bill specifies two groups of students that are not required to take the common placement test or to enroll in developmental education:

- Students who entered 9th grade in a Florida public school in 2003-2004 or thereafter and who earned a standard Florida high school diploma; or
- Students who are serving as active duty members of the United States Armed Services.

Important dates:

- By October 31, 2013, the State Board of Education to establish by rule the test scores a student must achieve on the

common placement test in order to perform college level-work;

- By December 31, 2013, the State Board of Education to approve a series of meta-majors and academic pathways and identify the gateway courses to the meta-majors;
- By March 1, 2014, Florida College System institutions to submit developmental education plans to the Chancellor of the Florida College System for implementation beginning no later than Fall 2014; and
- Each Florida College System institution and the Florida College System Chancellor to submit annual accountability reports to the state beginning in 2015.

Revision of General Education Requirements (Sections 5 and 15)

Reinstates the general education credit hour requirement to 36 semester hours from the proposed 30 hours; extends implementation of the revised core course requirements for one year, from 2014-15 to 2015-16; and allows for the inclusion of an additional core course option.

Office of K-20 Articulation (Sections 2 and 8)

Creates a new Office of K-20 Articulation in the Department of Education to support the work of the Higher Education Coordinating Council and the Articulation Coordinating Committee. The bill also revises duties of the Articulation Coordinating Committee and revises membership and duties of the Higher Education Coordinating Council.

Access to Postsecondary Education (Sections 28, 29 and 33)

Raises the cap on the number of fee exemptions a Florida College System institution may grant from 40 to 54 full-time-equivalent students or one percent of the institution's total full-time equivalent enrollment, whichever is greater.

Repeals the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) requirement for Bright Futures Scholarships, Florida Resident Access Grant, and

Access to Better Learning and Education tuition assistance grants.

Authorizes a Florida College System institution to establish a differential out-of-state fee for non-resident distance learners.

*Effective July 1, 2013
Chapter 2013-51, Laws of Florida*

SB 1514 – Conforming Bill for Higher Education Conference Report

Dual Enrollment (Section 13)

Revises FTE reporting for the K-12 system.

Mandates that school districts pay the standard tuition to a College for students attending dual enrollment classes on a College campus. Requires school districts to cover state colleges' actual costs incurred when instruction is offered on the K-12 site. If taught by the college faculty, the school district will reimburse the college the costs associated with the proportion of salary and benefits, and other actual costs, to provide the instruction. If taught by the high school instructor, the school district will only be responsible for the college's actual costs. Such payments to be made from the FEFP allocation to the school district.

Removes authority for colleges to limit dual enrollment based on capacity issues. Requires school districts to permit a student to enter a dual enrollment course if the student is otherwise eligible.

Salary Caps (Sections 21 and 22)

Makes permanent a cap on remuneration of college presidents and administrative employees. Cap was previously set at \$200,000 from state appropriated funds and was renewed annually. This change makes that cap permanent.

*Effective July 1, 2013
Chapter 2013-45, Laws of Florida*

Other Key Legislation Impacting State Colleges

II. DIGITAL LEARNING

HB 7029 – Digital Learning

Online Catalog (Section 1)

Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to develop an online catalog of available digital learning courses from public and private providers. Each course must have a course description, completion and passage rates, as well as a method for students and teacher users to provide evaluative feedback.

Rules to Provide Postsecondary Credit for Online Courses (Section 6)

Requires, beginning in the 2015-16 school year, the State Board of Education (SBE) and Board of Governors (BOG) to adopt rules that enable students to earn academic credit for online courses, including MOOCs, prior to initial enrollment at a postsecondary institution.

Rules of SBE and BOG must include procedures for credential evaluation and the award of credit, including, but not limited to, recommendations for credit by ACE; equivalency and alignment of coursework with appropriate courses; course descriptions; type and amount of credit that may be awarded; and transfer of credit.

Allows courses to use a blended learning model and include differentiated instruction, flexible scheduling, differentiated teaching and self-paced learning. Also allows instruction to be provided using online videos, class forums and homework assignments and projects, coupled with one-one-one direct instructional support to students.

Private Contractor to Review Courses (Section 8)

Requires, by August 30, 2013, the Department of Education (DOE) to contract with a qualified contractor to review and provide recommendations for online courses, including MOOCs and competency-based online courses for K-12 and postsecondary education. The recommendations must, at a minimum, include improving access to the online courses; approving the courses; funding the courses; holding providers accountable; and awarding credit for such courses.

Effective July 1, 2013

Chapter 2013-250, Laws of Florida

III. CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

SB 1076 – Career and Professional Education (CAPE)

Aligns education with economic opportunity for graduates of Florida’s public schools, colleges, and universities to better prepare students for their future work. The law revises educational programs and targets funding to foster students’ development of technology skills in prekindergarten through college and increases opportunities for students to earn industry certifications in high school and college.

Integration of Technology into the Classroom (Section 7)

The law establishes new requirements that integrate technology skills and knowledge into K-12 classrooms. By December 31, 2013, the law requires the Department of Education to contract with one or more technology companies or affiliated non-profit organizations that have industry certifications on the Industry Certification Funding List or the Postsecondary Industry Certification Funding List to develop

the new recognitions and certificate. The law requires the recognitions and the certificate to be available to all public school students in elementary schools and middle schools, respectively, at no cost to the school district or charter school.

High School Graduation Requirements (Sections 17, 18 and 21)

- **Florida Standard High School Diploma**

Redefines one rigorous standard high school diploma for students entering 9th grade during the 2013-2014 school year.

- **High School Diploma Designations**

Establishes new Scholar and Merit diploma designations for current and future high school students earning a standard high school diploma:

- Students may earn a Scholar designation if they satisfy course and testing requirements above-and-beyond those required for a standard diploma.
- Students pursuing a Merit designation must attain one or more industry certifications. Rigorous industry certification courses that lead to college credit may satisfy up to two math credits and one science credit.
- The law repeals the statute that established the 18-credit accelerated high school diploma, but retains the opportunity as an Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) option for students.

Student Assessments Program (Sections 5 and 33)

In addition to high school graduation requirements, the law further revises high school assessments. The law also codifies the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards to reflect

subject area standards adopted by the State Board of Education. The Standards are for the subject areas of English language arts, science, mathematics, and social studies. Visual and performing arts, physical education, health, and foreign language standards must include distinct grade-level expectations for the knowledge and skills a student is expected to acquire.

Dual Enrollment Programs for Career Students (Section 32)

Limits career dual enrollment as curricular options to pursuing industry certifications, which count as credits toward the high school diploma industry certificate or associate degree. Defines career early admission as a form of dual enrollment when students enroll full-time in a career center of a FCS institution in programs leading to industry certifications. Allows participation if students have completed 4 semesters, formerly six, of full-time secondary enrollment including the 9th grade.

Postsecondary Industry Certification Funding (Section 37)

The law requires the State Board of Education to approve a Postsecondary Industry Certification Funding List at least annually. The list will be used to determine annual performance funding distributions to school district technical centers and Florida College System institutions that provide instruction leading to rigorous industry certifications.

Performance Funding (Section 59)

The law establishes performance funding provisions for public schools, school district workforce education programs, Florida College System institutions, and state universities to reward educational entities that align programs with economic demands.

Allocation of Performance Funds (Section 61)

By October 31, 2013, the law requires the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors to recommend to the Legislature a mechanism for allocating performance funding to Florida College

System institutions and state universities based on three employment outcomes: percentage of graduates employed or enrolled in further education; the average wages of employed graduates; and, the average cost per graduate.

College and Career Planning (Section 18)

Requires initiatives to help students focus on their future work while they are still in school and to target technical programs addressing industry needs.

Career Readiness Initiatives (Section 21)

Establishes a process for developing career education courses that enable students to simultaneously earn credit in career courses and core academic credit required for high school graduation.

Adult General Education (Section 50)

Requires students entering adult general education programs after July 1, 2013, to complete “Action Steps to Employment” activities prior to the completion of the first term. The action steps include identifying employment opportunities, creating a personalized employment goal, conducting an inventory of one’s skills and knowledge, and upgrading skills and knowledge, as necessary.

\$10,000 Bachelor’s Degree (Section 56)

The law provides for \$10,000 Bachelor Degrees at Florida College System institutions by authorizing the waiver of Florida College System tuition and fees for the purpose of offering baccalaureate degrees for state residents for which the cost for the degree program does not exceed \$10,000.

Bright Futures (Section 57)

Deletes requirement for Bright Futures recipients to complete a FAFSA.

Complete Florida (Section 51)

Makes permanent a previous pilot program to attract students to complete their degrees online. Priority will be given to adult learners who are

veterans or active duty military. Initial Partners included University of West Florida, St. Petersburg College and Florida State College at Jacksonville. Extends implementation deadline to the end of the 2013-2014 academic year, and must now identify changes to the statewide computer assisted student advising system. Requires a report from UWF and its partners on the program to the chairs of the Board of Governors, State Board of Education and the Legislature by September 1, 2013.

Effective July 1, 2013

Chapter 2013-27, Laws of Florida

HB 85 – Public-Private Partnerships

Creates an alternative procurement process and requirements for public-private partnerships to facilitate the construction of public-purpose projects, including educational facilities.

Creates a seven-member Public Facilities and Infrastructure Act Guidelines Task Force to recommend, by July 1, 2014, guidelines for the Legislature to consider for public-private partnerships to foster uniformity across the state. The responsibilities of the Task Force expire on December 31, 2014.

Specifies the requirements for partnerships, including provisions requiring public entities to notice unsolicited proposals, conduct independent analyses of proposed partnerships, notify other affected local jurisdictions, and enter into interim and comprehensive agreements for qualifying projects.

Authorizes responsible public entities to approve a qualifying project if there is a need for or benefit derived from the project, the estimated cost is reasonable, and the private entity's plans will result in the timely acquisition, design, construction, improvement renovation, expansion, equipping, maintenance, or operation of the qualifying project.

Effective July 1, 2013

Chapter 2013- 85, Laws of Florida

IV. ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

SB 520 – Emergency Medical Services

Deletes the requirement for emergency medical technicians and paramedics to obtain human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) training and continuing education instruction.

Links the definitions of advanced life support and basic life support to the EMT-Paramedic National Standard and the EMT-Basic National Standard, respectively, as well as the National EMS Education Standards of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT).

Adds those National EMS Education Standards approved by the Department of Health (DOH) to the allowed standards on which EMS trainers may base their curricula.

Increases the period of time within which an EMT or a paramedic must pass their required certification exam after completing their training program from one year to two years.

Effective July 1, 2013

Chapter 2013-128, Laws of Florida

SB 1664 – Educational Personnel: Teacher Preparation

Provides a new accountability framework for the approval of teacher preparation programs that is based on performance outcome metrics. The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to determine continued approval of each program based on specific metrics including placement rate data, retention rate data, student performance by subgroups, and critical teacher shortage.

Requires each state-approved teacher preparation program to include in its uniform core curricula: Florida Educator Accomplished Practices, state-adopted student content standards, reading instruction, content literacy and mathematical practices, strategies for the instruction of English language learners and students with disabilities, and school safety. Institutions must annually report to the Department of Education (DOE) the status of each candidate who is admitted into the program under a waiver of admission requirements.

- **The bill requires each candidate to:**
 - Be instructed and assessed on the uniform core curriculum in his or her program concentration.
 - Demonstrate his or her ability to positively impact student learning growth during a field experience prior to program completion.
 - Demonstrate sufficient mastery of general knowledge as a prerequisite for admission into the undergraduate program, and a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution for admission into graduate level programs.
 - Pass all portions of the Florida Teacher Certification examination prior to program completion.
- **For clinical instructors and sites:**
 - Specifies the qualifications for instructors in postsecondary teacher preparation programs who instruct or supervise field experience courses or internships in which candidates demonstrate an impact on student learning growth.
 - Specifies the qualifications for district and instructional personnel who supervise or direct teacher preparation students during field experience courses or internships.
 - Requires that the candidate's pre-service field experiences include a diverse

population of students in a variety of settings.

- Requires the selection of school sites for pre-service field experiences to be based on the qualifications of supervisory personnel and the needs of candidates.
- **For teacher preparation programs:**
 - Requires each institutional program evaluation plan to include how the institution addresses continuous program improvement.
 - Revises the current requirement that each teacher preparation program provide additional training to a graduate who is employed in a Florida public school. For a graduate who receives a rating of “developing” or “unsatisfactory” on his or her performance evaluation two years immediately following completion of the program or initial certification, his or her teacher preparation program would be required to provide additional training by the program at no expense to the educator or employer.
 - Requires that the continued approval of a program is contingent upon specific performance measures for programs and program completers.
 - Requires institutions and their programs to provide evidence of their capacity to meet requirements for continued approval.

Effective July 1, 2013

Chapter 2013-185, Laws of Florida

V. CHARTER SCHOOLS

HB 7009 – Charter Schools

Provides clarification language to charter sponsors regarding the application and appeal processes.

Impacts FCS charter schools as it relates to monitoring by the school district, requiring annual report on student success and financials, and limiting approved teacher preparation programs. Limits employee contracts beyond the length of the charter contract and requires monthly financial reports.

Effective July 1, 2013
Chapter 213-250, Laws of Florida

HB 113 – Distribution of Materials Harmful to Minors (Applicable to Charter Schools)

The bill creates a new offense making it a third-degree felony for an adult to knowingly distribute material harmful to a minor or to post materials harmful to a minor on public and private school property.

The bill defines school property as the grounds or facility of any public or private kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, junior high school, or secondary school.

The bill defines such material as that “harmful to minors,” and as defined in the Fla. Statutes, §847.001, however exempts materials used in the instruction of a subject by personnel defined in statute.

Effective October 1, 2013
Chapter 2013-75, Laws of Florida

HB 609 – Bullying in the Public School System (Applicable to Charter Schools)

Prohibits the bullying or harassment of any public K-12 student or employee during a public K-12 education program or activity, including charter schools during a school-related or school-sponsored program or activity; on a public K-12 school bus; or through a computer, computer

system, or computer network that is within the scope of a public K-12 educational institution.

Defines “bullying” as systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students, which may involve teasing; social exclusion; threat; intimidation; stalking; physical violence; theft; sexual, religious, or racial harassment; public humiliation; or destruction of property.

Expands the scope of school district bullying policies to include computer-related bullying occurring outside the scope of a public K-12 educational institution and bullying using technology or electronic devices not owned, leased, or used by a public school or school district. Such conduct is actionable if it substantially interferes with or limits the victim’s ability to participate or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by a school or substantially disrupts the education process or orderly operation of a school.

Effective July 1, 2013
Chapter 2013-87, Laws of Florida

VI. STUDENT AFFAIRS

SB 1036 – Independent Living

Provides young adults the option to remain in foster care until the age of 21, instead of 18. Doing so is designed to encourage completion of high school or GED, enrollment in post-secondary education, or the beginning a career.

Restructures the Road-to-Independence Program to allow for enrollment as a full-time student or equivalent in eligible post-secondary education, or part-time in some circumstances, or with approval from academic advisor.

Requires DCF to work with the Board of Governors, Florida College System and

Department of Education to address the need for a comprehensive support structure in the academic arena and to provide postsecondary educational campus coaching positions integrated into the institution. DCF has the discretion to determine which college or university will offer a campus coaching position based on demographic data indicating the greatest need. Campus coaches are to be employees of the educational institution.

Effective July 1, 2013

Chapter 2013-178, Laws of Florida

VII. INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE

SB 50 – Public Meetings

Requires that any Board or other public body permit citizens to be heard during the decision making process. Provides that the opportunity to be heard does not have to occur at the hearing where the final decision is made, but must be prior to the final decision. Requires affected public bodies to enact appropriate policies and procedures, and provides legal remedies for any violations.

Effective October 1, 2013

Enrolled, pending Governor's signature

VIII. BUSINESS AND CONTRACTING

HB 5401 – Transparency in State Contracting

Requires the Governor's Office to establish and maintain a single website that provides access to all other websites providing information on the approved operating budget for each branch of State government and state agency, and

providing information on fiscal planning for the State, all with specified data and features.

Requires the Department of Management Services to establish and maintain a website that contains certain information regarding employees of State agencies, state universities, and the State Board of Administration, however, does not include employees of state colleges.

The Legislative Auditing committee must, by November 1, 2013, recommend to the Senate President and the House Speaker additional information to be added to a website, such as whether to expand the scope of information to include state universities, Florida College System institutions, school districts, charter schools, charter technical career centers, local government units, and other governmental entities, and a format for collecting and displaying such additional information.

Requires the Chief Financial Officer to establish and maintain a contract tracking system for the contracts and contract amendments of "state entities," a term which is defined and does not appear to include Florida College System institutions.

Effective July 1, 2013

Chapter 2013-54, Laws of Florida

HB 705 – Economic Development

Expands the list of entities eligible to receive assistance from the Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research to include "innovation businesses." It also allows the Institute to create corporate subsidiaries; to acquire ownership (and related) rights with respect to the products of financed companies; and, under some circumstances, to charge for services provided to private companies and/or organizations whose products are developed by

the R&D activities of a publicly supported college, university or research institute.

Creates the Florida Technology Seed Capital Fund as a subsidiary of the Institute, for purposes of stimulating greater private-sector investment and providing advice and other value-added services to start-up companies within targeted industry sectors.

Effective July 1, 2013

Chapter 2013-120, Laws of Florida

IX. EMPLOYMENT

HB 655 – Political Subdivisions/ Employee Benefits

Defines “political subdivision” as a county, municipality, department, commission, district, board, or other public body, whether corporate or otherwise, created by or under State law (to include state colleges). Prohibits a political subdivision from requiring a minimum wage or employment benefit for employees of contractors or subcontractors, or awarding contract preferences based upon the wages or benefits provided to employees.

Adds a definition of “employment benefits” as anything of value that an employee may receive from an employer in addition to wages and salary. The term “State minimum wage” is also added and means a minimum wage required under the State Constitution or state law.

The bill creates the Employer-Sponsored Benefits Study Task Force which is to be organized by September 31, 2013, and shall analyze employment benefits and the impact of State preemption of the regulation of such benefits. Task Force findings and recommendations for legislative action regarding the regulation of employment benefits are due by January 15, 2014.

Effective July 1, 2013

Chapter 2013-200, Laws of Florida

SB 1810 – Employment: Retirement System Contributions

Contributions paid by employers participating in the retiree health insurance subsidy program were increased, however the Legislature adjusted funding in the Program Fund to reflect the change. Increased funds are provided to cover normal cost increases of the program and to cover the Unfunded Actuarial Liability. These changes are intended to have no net impact on the funds available for college operations.

Effective July 1, 2013

Chapter 2013-53, Laws of Florida

X. FACILITIES

SB 674 – Animal Shelters and Animal Control Agencies

Requires that each public or private animal shelter, humane organization, or animal control agency operated by a humane society or by a county, municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision compile and maintain records concerning dogs and cats a facility takes in and the disposition of those animals. Each facility must maintain and make available the following data for the preceding three years, on a monthly basis commencing July 31, 2013:

- The total number of dogs and cats accepted by a facility, categorized by how the animal was admitted to the facility as well as by species;
- The total number of species other than domestic cats and dogs recorded as “other” for tracking;
- The condition under which the animals left the facility or were euthanized;

- A written statement of the facility's policy on euthanizing dogs due to breed or size, as applicable. The number of dogs euthanized due to breed, temperament, or size must be recorded and included in the facility's calculations for determining its percentage of animals euthanized.

Effective July 1, 2013

Chapter 2013-32, Laws of Florida

SB 454 – Florida College System Police Officers

Aligns Florida College System (FCS) statutes with K-12 and state university statutes related to mutual aid agreements, giving FCS officers the same authority as other public education sector law enforcement.

For colleges that have a police force (five FCS institutions, not including St. Petersburg College), provides law enforcement officers with express authority to enter into mutual aid agreements with local law enforcement agencies, and authority to patrol within 1000 feet of college owned or leased property or within an agreed upon jurisdictional area.

Effective July 1, 2013

Chapter 2013-171, Laws of Florida

HB 269 – Public Construction Projects

Requires governmental bodies to identify materials to be utilized on public construction projects. If wood is utilized, requires acquisition within the State of Florida, if available. Common materials such as plywood for forms are exempt.

Requires building permitting agencies to review and approve a structural inspection plan for threshold buildings prior to issuing a building permit and to approve the inspection schedules

prepared by the architect and engineer of record. Colleges will need to comply with the threshold building permit process specified. **(Section 16)**

Directs DBPR to prepare a new energy efficiency code that will apply to the design and operation of all buildings. FCS college buildings are expected to be in compliance with this Energy Conservation code. **(Section 18)**

Clarifies applicability of thermal efficiency standards for all buildings, including college buildings. **(Section 20)**

Outlines specific building features that must be taken into account when designing, operating and renovating non-residential buildings. Includes elements such as HVAC, external envelope components, lighting and all systems consuming energy. **(Sections 21 and 23)**

Effective July 1, 2013

Chapter 2013-193, Laws of Florida

HB 1309 – Procurement of Commodities and Contractual Services

Creates new subsection in the public records statute pertaining to contracts of "public agencies," defined in a manner that includes colleges. All contracts for services will be required to include provisions that the contractor comply with public records laws.

Permits Department of Management Services to lead or enter into joint agreements with governmental entities for the purchase of commodities or contractual services that can be used by multiple agencies. Services or commodities provided to State agencies by governmental entities are now *not* subject to the competitive solicitation requirements otherwise required by law.

Effective July 1, 2013
Chapter 2013-154, Laws of Florida

SB 286 – Design Professionals

Provides tort liability immunity to design professionals (individuals licensed in Florida as an architect, interior designer, landscape architect, engineer, or surveyor) employed by a business or an agent of a business. The individual design professional immunity takes effect if:

- The contract is made between the business entity and the claimant (or another entity on claimant’s behalf).
- The contract does not name an individual employee or agent as a party.
- The contract prominently states that an individual may not be held liable for negligence.
- The business entity maintains professional liability insurance as required under contract.
- And all damages are solely economic in nature and do not extend to persons, nor property, not subject to the contract.

Effective July 1, 2013
Chapter 2013-28, Laws of Florida

HB 21 – Background Screening for Non-Instructional Contractors on School Grounds

Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to create a uniform, statewide identification badge signifying that a non-instructional contractor has satisfied the specified background screening requirements. School districts are responsible for issuing the badges, which must include a photograph of the contractor. A contractor must be issued a badge if he or she is a U.S. resident and citizen or permanent resident alien, 18 years of age or older, and meets the specified background screening requirements.

The badge must be recognized by each Florida school district, visibly worn by the non-instructional contractor when on school grounds (including charter schools), and is valid for five years. DOE must determine a uniform cost that school districts may charge a contractor for a badge. Contractors who are exempt from background screening requirements are not required to obtain a badge.

Effective July 1, 2013
Chapter 2013-73, Laws of Florida



Prepared by the Office of the General Counsel, St. Petersburg College, with excerpts taken from the 2013 Legislation Session Report, Florida College System Institutional Lobbyists and Florida Department of Education.

Bill Title	Citation/Link	Effective Date	Departments Impacted
1. Conforming Bill for Higher Education Conference Report	SB 1720 Chapter 2013-51	7/1/13	Student Services Academic Affairs Business Services Institutional Effectiveness
2. Conforming Bill for Higher Education Conference Report	SB 1514 Chapter 2013-45	7/1/13	Academic Affairs Dual Enrollment
3. Digital Learning	HB 7029 Chapter 2013-225	7/1/13	Academic Affairs Institutional Effectiveness
4. Career and Professional Education	SB 1076 Chapter 2013-27	7/1/13	Student Services Academic Affairs Dual Enrollment Institutional Effectiveness
5. Public-Private Partnerships	HB 85 Chapter 2013-223	7/1/13	Facilities Business Services
6. Emergency Medical Services	SB 520 Chapter 2013-128	7/1/13	Emergency Medical Services Academic Affairs
7. Educational Personnel: Teacher Preparation	SB 1664 Chapter 2013-185	7/1/13	Academic Affairs College of Education
8. Charter Schools	HB 7009 Chapter 2013-250	7/1/13	Collegiate High School
9. Distribution of Materials Harmful to Minors	HB 113 Chapter 2013-75	10/1/13	Collegiate High School Early College Program
10. Bullying in the Public School System	HB 609 Chapter 2013-87	7/1/13	Collegiate High School Early College Program
11. Independent Living	SB 1036 Chapter 2013-178	7/1/13	Academic Affairs Student Services

Continued on the next page.

Bill Title	Citation/Link	Effective Date	Departments Impacted
12. Public Meetings	SB 50 Chapter 2013-227	10/1/13	Board of Trustees Administration
13. Transparency in State Contracting	HB 5401 Chapter 2013-54	7/1/13	Facilities Business Services
14. Economic Development	HB 705 Chapter 2 013-120	7/1/13	Business Services
15. Political Subdivisions/ Employee Benefits	HB 655 Chapter 2013-200	7/1/13	Human Resources Business Services
16. Employment: Retirement System Contributions	SB 1810 Chapter 2013-53	7/1/13	Human Resources Business Services
17. Animal Control Shelters and Animal Control Agencies	SB 674 Chapter 2013-32	7/1/13	Facilities Veterinary Technology Academic Affairs
18. Florida College System Police Officers	SB 454 Chapter 2013-171	7/1/13	Facilities
19. Public Construction Projects	HB 269 Chapter 2013-193	7/1/13	Facilities
20. Procurement of Commodities and Contractual Services	HB 1309 Chapter 2013-154	7/1/13	Business Services Facilities
21. Design Professionals	SB 286 Chapter 2013-28	7/1/13	Facilities
22. Background Screening for Non-instructional Contractors on School Grounds	HB 21 Chapter 2013-73	7/1/13	Facilities Collegiate High School

NOTES

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Within Reach

St. Petersburg College

SPC

The Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College affirms its equal opportunity policy in accordance with the provisions of the Florida Educational Equity Act and all other relevant state and federal laws, rules and regulations. The college will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or against any qualified individual with disabilities in its employment practices or in the admission and treatment of students. Recognizing that sexual harassment constitutes discrimination on the basis of sex and violates this Rule, the college will not tolerate such conduct. Should you experience such behavior, please contact Pamela Smith, the director of EA/EO/Title IX Coordinator at 727-341-3261; by mail at P.O. Box 13489, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3489; or by email eaao_director@spcollege.edu.

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