

2024 Legislative Session Higher Education Bills

	House / Senate	Title	Description	Effective Date	Governor Approved
1	H707	State University Unexpended Funds	Authorizes state universities in Florida to retain and report annual reserve balances above the required 7 percent of their operating budget, and allows these funds to be used for authorized expenses in future years.	7/1/2024	4/26/2024
2	H7007	OGSR/ Campus Emergency Response	Amends a statute to enhance confidentiality measures for campus emergency response plans regarding acts of terrorism or other public safety crises at public postsecondary institutions. Exempts from public records	10/1/2024	3/22/2024
3	S494	Graduate Program Admissions	Requires universities to waive GMAT & GRE requirement for servicemembers who apply to a program that requires it.	7/1/2024	
4	H187	Antisemitism	Adopts the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism to assist in identifying and combating antisemitism and hate crimes against Jewish individuals in the state.	7/1/2024	
5	H1291	Educator Preparation Programs	Prohibiting the courses and curricula of teacher preparation programs from distorting certain events and including certain curriculum and instruction; requiring teacher preparation programs, postsecondary educator preparation institutes, professional learning certification programs, and school leader preparation programs to afford candidates certain opportunities, etc.1291 modifies requirements for courses and instruction in initial teacher preparation programs, educator preparation institutes, professional learning certification programs, and school leadership programs to specify that such programs:	7/1/2024	5/2/2024

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6	H1285	Education	<p>a. Creates the Office of Ocean Economy.</p> <p>b. University Boards of Trustees members are subject to s. 112.313 with respect to business dealings with the institution, including any entity under the control of or established for the benefit of the institution under his or her purview while he or she is a member of that instution's board of trustees.</p> <p>c. Allows documentation of the homestead exemption as a single piece of evidence proving residency for tuition purposes.</p> <p>d. Specifies that a public postsecondary institution may not prohibit an applicant or student from being employed, subject to specified exceptions. Does not apply to students employed by an organization or agency associated with a foreign country of concern.</p> <p>e. Requires that publishers make electronic versions of student editions of instructional materials available to teacher preparation programs and educator preparation institutes at a discount below publisher cost.</p> <p>f. Creates a new associate in arts specialized transfer degree for students who need additional credit above the 60 hours in preparation for transfer to a baccalaureate degree program. There will be agreements developed between FCS and SUS for these programs.</p>	7/1/2024	4/16/2024

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7	S7018	Health Care Innovation	Educational pathways that connect students with employers or result in attainment of cost-efficient and timely degrees or credentials. Health Care Innovation Council may coordinate with higher education to include emerging and early stage innovators, developers, and implementers of technology, models, or solutions in health care in the exploration and discussion of concepts and breakthrough innovations.	3/21/2024	3/21/2024
8	H151	Florida Retirement System (COLA)	Allows retirees of the FRS to be employed by non-participating employers without affecting their retirement benefits. Requires a 6 or 12-month waiting period before retirees can receive both a salary and retirement benefits, depending on the retirement or termination date. Stipulates that reemployed retirees cannot renew membership in the FRS but must instead pay into it as if they were employers. Prohibits new participants in the FRS Preservation of Benefits Plan from July 1, 2026. Adjusts employer contribution rates to the FRS to address unfunded actuarial liabilities. Aligns provisions with changes by conforming cross-references and adjusting reemployment policies.	7/1/2024	3/21/2024
9	S7016	Health Care	Each lab school shall develop programs that accelerate the entry of enrolled lab school students into articulated health care programs at its affiliated university or at any public or private postsecondary institution, with the approval of the university president. Each lab school shall offer technical assistance to any Florida school district seeking to replicate the lab school's programs and must annually, beginning December 1, 2025, report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the development of such programs and their results.	3/21/2024	3/21/2024

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	House / Senate	Title	Description	Effective Date	Governor Approved
10	S330	Behavioral Health Teaching Hospitals	Authorizing hospitals to apply for a behavioral health teaching hospital designation beginning on a specified date; authorizing the agency to designate additional behavioral health teaching hospitals that meet the designation criteria; establishing a grant program within the agency for the purpose of funding designated behavioral health teaching hospitals; establishing the Florida Center for Behavioral Health Workforce within the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute for a specified purpose, etc.	7/1/2024	3/21/2024
11	S548	Public Records/Military Personnel and their Spouses and Dependents	Public Records/Military Personnel and their Spouses and Dependents; Providing an exemption from public records requirements for identification and location information of certain current and former military personnel and their spouses and dependents; providing for retroactive application of the exemption; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of public necessity, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law	7/1/2024	4/26/2024
12	H917	Career and Technical Education	Career and Technical Education: Revises duties of Office of Reimagining Education & Career Help; revises provisions relating to journeymen & specified career fairs; provides exemption for minors to work in specified conditions; revises list of individuals who are required to review & comment on certain revisions to state academic standards; requires DOE to convene workgroup by specified date; authorizes certain students to be exempt from completing certain examinations.	7/1/2024	4/26/2024

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13	H1361	Education	The bill amends and introduces provisions to enhance educational services and support, focusing on artificial intelligence, expanded scholarship eligibility, literacy improvements, teacher support, and direct student aid. Designates the University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning as the administrator for the New Worlds Reading Initiative and lists its responsibilities, including annual reporting and support for literacy improvement.	7/1/2024	5/9/2024
14	H149	Continuing Contracts	Raises the maximum estimated construction cost for projects under a continuing contract with a governmental entity to \$7.5 million.	7/1/2024	5/28/2024