

SPC St. Petersburg College

2014 Legislative Session

New Law Summary

June, 2014

The Florida House and Senate adjourned Sine Die during the final hours of Friday, May 2, 2014. A total of 1,812 bills were introduced, although only 264 passed both chambers. Below is a preliminary summary of the 2014 General Appropriations Act, Implementing Bill, Conforming Bills, and key bills impacting the Florida College System, St. Petersburg College and the St. Petersburg Collegiate High School (Charter School).



The Florida College System (FCS) has some significant legislative changes to address as a result of the 2014 Legislative Session. Perhaps most impactful to a select group of students was the passing of CS/CS/CS HB 851, which created a waiver of out-of-state fees for undocumented students and others who recently graduated from a Florida high school, and attended that school for the three consecutive years prior to graduation. House Bill 851 also addressed some long-standing concerns with the residency-for-tuition-purposes law, adding flexibility in the use of the term “parent”

and confirming that a parent’s immigration status cannot be used as a reason to deny a student in-state status.

The Legislature addressed another long-standing concern related to out-of-state tuition, allowing veterans to have their out-of-state fees waived. The “Florida GI Bill” includes that provision, as well as providing additional options for funding current and post-service training.

Baccalaureate degree offerings in the Florida College System came under fire this session in the Florida Senate. At one point, Senate committees had approved language that would eliminate the opportunity to add new degrees, and would have moved 10% of the funding for the existing degrees to the university sector. The Council of Presidents agreed to a one year “pause” in new baccalaureate proposals being submitted to the Florida Board of Education, which is included in HB 5101, and a review of the existing programs. A review will likely compare the existing degrees to the statutory authorization for the degrees, completion data, and earnings of graduates. This review also is expected to look at the current approval process and determine any changes which may be needed.

Last year, legislation established a requirement that school districts pay colleges for tuition or other costs, depending on the location of the dual enrollment. This year, the language was amended to restrict some of those costs, particularly the costs associated with dual enrollment offered at the high

school. In addition, funding for dual enrollment was provided to specifically cover the cost of summer dual enrollment. A new provision related to dual enrollment outlines the requirement that every Florida College System (FCS) college develop a collegiate high school program in every school district in their service area. The collegiate high school program requirement is described in the SB 850 summary, but basically provides high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to earn 30 college credits and an industry certification.

As always, many issues failed to pass during the legislative session, even when both sides appeared to support the concept. This year, retirement changes were expected again, but in the end, agreement was not to be had. The two chambers differed on their intent, although neither side proposed changes that would impact existing employees. Another issue that was watched carefully was a House proposal to allow school district technical centers to become technical colleges. While the bill did not move far in the Senate, language was adopted related to reporting that may be a precursor to the issue returning in 2015. Finally, changes to the current textbook laws moved through the process rapidly, but in the end did not pass.

General Appropriations Act (GAA) 2014-15, HB 5001

STATEWIDE FUNDING **(Summary before Governor's Actions)**

The Florida Legislature had significant additional General Revenue available to address budget issues. However, while funding for the Florida College System and the Florida College System Program Fund (FCSPF) increased for 2014-15 from the 2013-14 level by \$31.2 million, this was below the \$50 million level requested by the Council of Presidents.

As part of this year's appropriation, the Legislature again implemented a funding source shift for the Florida College System. Funding from General Revenue was replaced with funding from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund (Lottery) which is up substantially from \$204,938,935 to \$254,972,113, for an increase of \$50,033,178 or 24 percent. Historically, these funds have not been available for the colleges to draw against until after the midpoint of the fiscal year, potentially causing cash flow problems.

Operating costs for new facilities was fully funded at \$2.0 million, including \$1.2 million for the annualization of appropriations from 2013-14 and \$.8 million for new facilities opening in 2014-15.

The Legislature adjusted funding in the Florida College System Program Fund (FCSPF) to reflect a change in Florida Retirement System (FRS) employer contributions. An increase of \$4.8 million was provided to fund normal cost increases of the retirement program and to cover the unfunded actuarial liability. The increase reflects the employer's contribution rates to be paid by the colleges during the 2014-15 fiscal year. These changes are intended by the Legislature to have no net impact on the funds available for college operations.

The Legislature provided approximately \$15.5 million in compression/equity funding, which was distributed to fourteen colleges with the lowest percentage of met need (basically below 75.50%) in the Funding Allocation Model. This resulted in a significant reduction in the range of least-funded to best-funded colleges. While still under review, compression/equity funding may be complete, or close to complete.

In addition, the Legislature appropriated \$5.0 million in new operational funding through the

FCSPF, to be distributed among the 28 colleges using the Funding Allocation Model. As stated above, the result was an overall increase in state funding for the Florida College System Program Fund of \$31.2 million or a net increase of 2.8 percent over 2013-14. However, because the Legislature did not authorize a tuition increase for the FY 2014-15, the overall increase in funding for the Florida College System is 1.4%. The Legislature also, in separate legislation (HB 5101), removed the authority of local boards to increase tuition by the change in the Consumer Price Index.

The Legislature appropriated another \$5.0 million for performance funding as a separate categorical. Distribution of these funds will be based on the number of specified industry certifications earned by a college's students.

The Legislature appropriated \$4.8 million of non-recurring General Revenue for dual enrollment funding within the Florida College System Program Fund (FCSPF) appropriation. Distribution of these funds is included in the totals above and is based on the number of students served during the summer term.

The Florida Virtual Campus was appropriated \$9.0 million (with a matching amount provided through the State University System's appropriation.) The Commission on Community Service (Florida's Americorp program) received an increase in funding of \$250,000, raising their total funding to approximately \$.7 million (this is a pass-through Federal appropriation.)

CAPITAL OUTLAY

The Legislature provided \$107,511,216 from the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund (PECO) for twenty three projects at twenty colleges. This compares with \$41,510,867 in the 2013-14 budget after the Governor's

veto. In addition, the budget includes two appropriations for maintenance. \$5 million is for the regular repair, maintenance, and renovation type projects. A second appropriation for \$10 million is dedicated to critical maintenance projects for a total of \$15 million for maintenance.

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Appropriations Proviso,
Implementing and Conforming
Bill Issues

The Legislature has three methods to reflect funding decisions made in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) process. “Proviso” is language in the General Appropriations Act attached to a specific appropriation which directs or authorizes how the funds can be expended. An implementing bill is a substantive bill which provides instructions to enact specific provisions for a GAA appropriation or proviso by changing the law (Florida Statutes) temporarily for one year. This is necessary because the courts have ruled the GAA cannot contradict current law; however, there may be a need to temporarily suspend some provision of law. A conforming bill is also a substantive bill which may “travel” with the GAA. It differs from the implementing bill in that it makes permanent changes to Florida Statutes.

In summary, proviso language and implementing bills are law for only one year and then they expire, while a conforming bill makes a permanent change in Florida law. While the Governor may veto the entire appropriations act or exercise his veto by “line item,” he does not have “line item” veto in a conforming or implementing bill but must act on the entire bill. Bills which are passed by the Legislature are sent to the Governor. The Governor may sign, veto, or allow a bill to become law without his signature. Because the Legislature has now adjourned the 2014 Session, the Governor has fifteen consecutive days from the date he receives a bill to act on that bill. Leadership of the Legislature staggers sending bills to the Governor in order to provide time to fully review the content/impact of bills.

When a bill is passed and sent to the Governor while the Legislature is still in session, the time line is different; the Governor must act within seven days from the time his office receives the bill. Several bills were signed into law during this legislative session, for example HB 7015 has already been signed and becomes effective on July 1, 2014.

Following are the appropriations, implementing and education related conforming bills that passed this session. The implementing bill did not include any sections that impacted the FCS this year, and is not addressed in this report.

HB 5001, General Appropriations Act
HB 5003, Implementing Bill
HB 5101, Education Conforming Bill

[Appropriations Proviso](#)

Performance Funding

The original Senate appropriations bill included \$40 million in performance funding for the Florida College System (FCS). Included in the \$40 million was \$10 million for industry certification performance, as was funded at \$5 million in 2013. The remaining \$30 million would have created a new performance fund, with \$15 million in new funds, and \$15 million taken out of the College’s base funding and redistributed among all colleges based on performance. All colleges would have been competing for their own money.

The Senate proposal was not included in the final appropriations bill. However, proviso language was agreed to which requires the Commissioner of Education to recommend a performance funding formula to allocate funds to FCS institutions. The Commissioner’s recommendation is to include up to ten performance measures, appropriate performance benchmarks for each measure, and

a detailed methodology for allocating performance funds to the colleges. At a minimum, the measures must include job placement rates, cost per degree, and graduation/retention rates. In addition, the performance benchmarks and allocation methodology must consider institutions' current performance effectiveness as well as rates of improvement. The Commissioner's report is due no later than December 31, 2014.

Conforming Bill: HB 5101

PUBLIC EDUCATION CAPITAL OUTLAY (PECO) Section 1, 2

Creates a separate account within the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund. The purpose of the account is to ensure sufficient revenue is available to meet both debt service (interest) and bond (principal) payment requirements in a fiscally responsible manner. The first transfers are to occur on or before June 30, 2014.

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES Section 3

Provides that the State Board of Education and the Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College may not approve a Florida College System baccalaureate degree program proposal from March 31, 2014 through May 31, 2015. Earlier versions of Senate Bills would have repealed altogether the authority of the State Board and St. Petersburg College Board of Trustees to approve new bachelor's degrees after March 31, 2014. A parallel proposal to reduce funding of baccalaureate degrees by 10% and shift funding to preeminent universities was adopted at the committee level, but was not included in HB 5101.

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY (K-12)

Section 4, 19, 27

Requires development and implementation of a digital classroom plan, to include computer science and technology instruction.

FLVC/FCLA Sections 15, 16, 17

Creates the Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative for the public colleges and universities, in lieu of the existing Florida Center for Library Automation, under the leadership of the University of West Florida. Shifts the services administered through the Florida Virtual Campus to UWF. The effort is renamed the Complete Florida Plus Program and includes the statewide student support services, online student advising, and the statewide catalog of distance learning courses.

ARTICULATION REPORTING Section 18

Requires the Articulation Coordinating Committee to make recommendations on the costs and requirements to develop and implement an online system for data on transfer of credit by postsecondary students. The report is due by January 31, 2015.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

Section 26

Creates the National Merit Scholar Incentive Program. Any National Merit Scholar or Achievement Scholar who is a Florida resident, and who enrolls in a baccalaureate program at a regionally accredited public or private postsecondary institution is eligible for a scholarship. The Appropriations Act included \$2.8 million for this program.

DUAL ENROLLMENT (DE) Section 21

Requires School Districts to have Dual Enrollment (DE) agreements with each public postsecondary institution in its service area. School Districts are required to pay public

postsecondary institutions tuition for courses at the institution in the fall or spring term. Districts are required to only pay cost of salary and benefits, not 'other actual costs', when courses are offered at a high school by postsecondary instructor. Districts are no longer required to pay if a course is offered at a high school by a high school teacher. Summer tuition is subject to an annual appropriation.

Education: **CS/CS/SB 850**

COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM - DUAL ENROLLMENT Section 10

Each Florida College System (FCS) institution is required to work with its designated school districts to establish one or more collegiate high school program in every school district in the college's service area. Funding will be in accordance with dual enrollment (§ 1007.271, F.S.) and the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) (§ 1011.62, F.S.).

- At a minimum, this must include an option for students in grades 11 or 12, for at least one full school year, to earn CAPE industry certifications and complete 30 credit hours through dual enrollment toward the first year of college for an associate or baccalaureate degree.
- Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, if a designated college does not establish a program in its service area, another FCS institution may do so. Contracts must be executed by January 1 of each school year for implementation of the program during the next school year.

- Allows school board to execute a contract with a state university or a nonprofit independent college or university that is SACS accredited (ICUF schools).
- Requires the State Board of Education to withhold funding for noncompliance.

CAREER & PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (CAPE)

- Requires the Commissioner to recommend the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List, and include the career pathways list approved for the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award.
- Requires the Articulation Coordinating Committee to review and make recommendations to the State Board of Education regarding articulation of postsecondary credit for related degrees for approved industry certifications.
- Specifies K-12 funding for CAPE certificates including additional funding for CAPE Acceleration Industry Certifications that articulate for 15-29 college credit hours and 1.0 FTE for those that articulate for 30 or more college credit hours.

PERSONAL LEARNING SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS Section 16

- Creates a new scholarship (voucher) program called "Personal Learning Scholarship Accounts" for kindergarten through grade 12 students with a disability.

- The new scholarship program created by the bill:
 - Specifies parent and student eligibility requirements, prohibitions, responsibilities and obligations;
 - Delineates allowable expenditures related to elementary, secondary and postsecondary education expenses; and
 - Provides funding, payment, and accountability responsibilities.
- Repeals, with phase-out, the Special Diploma and creates new pathways for students with disabilities who meet the requirements to earn a standard diploma. Also requires postsecondary goals and career transition planning processes begin before a student with a disability turns age 14.
- Provides students with disabilities with an additional opportunity to satisfy the requirements for a standard high school diploma. Additionally, the bill allows a student with a disability to defer receipt of the standard high school diploma if the individual education plan (IEP) prescribes special education or services through age 21 and the student meets high school graduation and other requirements.
- The General Appropriations Bill appropriates \$18.4 million in the Education budget for implementation of this program.

CORPORATE TAX SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Section 17

Among many changes, amends the Corporate Tax Scholarship (voucher) program to allow public universities and private non-profit institutions participating in the Florida Resident Access Grant program (FRAG) to serve as a scholarship funding organization.

JUVENILE JUSTICE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Section 29

Among many changes, requires significant changes to the processes in juvenile justice to encourage student long range planning, including college and career plans.

Education Bill; **CS/CS/CS HB 851**

FLORIDA PREPAID Section 1

Amends law so that the impact of the SUS tuition differential assessments are negated related to prepaid contracts.

TUITION Sections 2, 3, and 4

For adult education, eliminates reference to non-residents, resulting in a block tuition of \$45 per year or \$30 per term for all students.

For all public postsecondary education:

- Corrects the current level of tuition stated in the Statute. Tuition is established in the Appropriations Act, and did not increase.
- Specifies that if the resident undergraduate tuition per credit hour at workforce education institutions, Florida College System institutions, or state universities is not provided in the General Appropriations Act, the

tuition must remain the same as the prior fiscal year.

- Eliminates the annual rate of inflation increase of the resident undergraduate tuition per credit hour at workforce education institutions, Florida College System institutions, and state universities.

For universities, reduces the maximum aggregate sum that the tuition and tuition differential fee may increase for state universities from 15% to 6%. Limits differential tuition to preeminent universities, with cap now of 6%, and that 6% is tied to performance standards.

OUT-OF-STATE FEE WAIVERS/UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Section 5

Requires all public higher education institutions to waive out-of-state fees for students, including those who are undocumented for federal immigration purposes, and who:

- Attended a secondary school in Florida for 3 consecutive years immediately prior to graduation from a Florida high school.
- Apply for enrollment within 24 months of high school graduation.
- Submit an official Florida high school transcript.

Provides additional requirements:

- Limits waivers to 110% of required credit hours for program enrolled in.

- Requires reporting as to the number and value of the waivers.
- Requires the State University System system-wide cap to include students covered by waiver.
- Provides priority in non-resident student enrollment system-wide to be given to veterans with waivers over students given waivers according to this act.
- Provides that students who are granted the waiver are not eligible for state financial aid.

RESIDENCY FOR TUITION PURPOSES Section 6

- Amends definition of parent to allow for either or both parents, any guardian, or any person in a parental relationship.
- States that a dependent child cannot be denied classification as a resident for tuition purposes solely based on the immigration status of the parent.
- Reduces the amount of time a child must live with a relative from 5 years to 3 years in order to use the relative's documentation.
- Simplifies the statute related to residency status changes due to marriage.

Other Bills That Passed

**College Name Changes:
CS/SB 236**

Changes the names of Edison State College and Pasco-Hernando State College to Florida SouthWestern State College and Pasco-Hernando State College, respectively.

Effective July 1, 2014
Chapter No. 2014-8

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Educator Certification: **CS/CS HB 433**

Students who take a baccalaureate degree in education must complete an internship as a degree requirement. Current law requires the student's supervisor for the field experience to have a Florida teaching certificate, which is not feasible for out-of-state or out-of-country online students. The bill amends the requirements as follows.

- Instructional personnel in another state must have received "clinical educator" training or its equivalent in that state, hold a valid professional certificate issued by that state, and have at least three years of teaching experience in pre-kindergarten through grade 12.
- Instructional personnel on a U.S. military base outside the U.S. must have received "clinical educator" training or its equivalent; hold a valid professional certificate issued by a state, U.S. territory, or the Department of Defense; and have at least 3 years teaching experience in pre-kindergarten through grade 12.
- Requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules that would expand training

for renewal of professional certificates for educators who must complete training in teaching students with disabilities.

- Revises K-12 educator certification requirements to authorize the use of additional assessment options, align competencies across preparation program types, and provide flexibility for training and in-service requirements.
- Allows additional examinations to be used by teacher certification applicants to demonstrate mastery of subject area knowledge.
- Allows a consortium of charter schools to develop a professional development system.

Effective July 1, 2014
Chapter No. 2014-32

Concrete Masonry Education Act: **CS/CS SB 286**

Creates the Concrete Masonry Council, Inc. as a non-profit, direct support organization to the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and gives the Council power to plan, implement, and conduct educational programs related to concrete masonry with a particular focus on training opportunities that lead to gainful employment in the industry. The Council may accept grants and donations, contract with and make payments to organizations for services, and collect self-imposed voluntary assessments on concrete units produced and sold by masonry manufacturers.

Enrolled, pending Governor's approval

**HEALTH RELATED
PROGRAMS****Nursing Education Programs:
CS/CS SB 1036**

- Establishes a schedule for all registered nurse pre-licensure programs approved by the Board of Nursing (BON) to become accredited by a specialized nursing accrediting agency that is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. Allows the BON to grant a one-year extension for a program that is set for termination due to low licensure passage rates.
- Requires the plan of remediation for a program that is placed on probation to include specific benchmarks to identify progress toward the required passage rate. Authorizes the BON to extend a program's probationary period for 1 year if the program is meeting a majority of the benchmarks.
- Revises the definition of "clinical training" to include clinical simulation and the definition of "practice of professional nursing" to include "the teaching of general principles of health and wellness to the public and to students other than nursing students."
- Increases the percentage of clinical training that may consist of simulation from 25 percent to 50 percent.
- Exempts a nurse who is certified by a health care specialty program that is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying

Agencies (NCCA) or Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC) from the biennial continuing education requirement.

- Requires a person who fails to take the licensure examination within 6 months after graduation to complete an examination preparatory class that is approved by the Board of Nursing. Prohibits the use of state or federal funds to pay for the prep class.
- Requires the graduate passage rate to be calculated based on first-time test takers who take the examination within 6 months of graduation.
- Requires an approved program to require a graduate who does not take the exam within 6 months of graduation to enroll in a prep class.

Enrolled, pending Governor's approval

STUDENT VETERANS**Florida GI Bill:
CS/CS/HB 7015**

The first bill to pass the 2014 Legislative Session was the Florida GI Bill, CS/CS HB 7015, which provides education and employment opportunities for veterans, including:

- Increases funding for Educational Dollars for Duty, EDD.
- Allows National Guard training funds (EDD) to cover training for industry certifications and continuing education to maintain licensure.
- Provides for public higher education to waive out-of-state fees for an honorably discharged veteran who physically resides in Florida while enrolled in a postsecondary institution.
- Creates the “Veterans Employment and Training Services Program” (VETS) in the Department of Veterans Affairs. Florida Is For Veterans, Inc. (FIV) is to run the program, and will create a grant program to fund specialized training specific to a business. The grants can be allocated to any training provider, including FCS institutions.

***Effective July 1, 2014
Chapter No. 2014-1***

**STUDENT RECORDS AND
PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY****Public Records Regarding FERPA:
CS/SB 646**

The bill reenacts this public record exemption for education and applicant records held by a public postsecondary educational institution. Current law provides a public record exemption for public postsecondary education records and applicant records held by a public postsecondary educational institution. For purposes of the public record exemption, applicant records are records that are directly related to an applicant for admission to a public postsecondary educational institution who has not been in attendance at such institution, and that are maintained by such institution. A public postsecondary educational institution may not release a student’s education records without the written consent of the student, except in accordance with and as permitted by the Family Educational Rights Privacy Act (FERPA).

***Effective October 1, 2014
Chapter No. 2014-11***

**ADMINISTRATION
AND BUSINESS****Economic Development:
HB 5601**

As part of a large bill related to tax breaks, changes were made that will create additional funds for PECO projects. The Florida Statutes in Chapter 203 impose, at the rate of 2.5% percent, a tax on gross receipts from the sale, delivery, or transportation of natural gas, manufactured gas, or electricity to a retail consumer in Florida. All revenue received pursuant to this tax is deposited in the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service ("PECO") Trust Fund. The use of such funds is limited to paying the principal and interest on bonds to finance capital projects for institutions of higher learning, community colleges, vocational technical schools, or public schools; the cost of any public educational facility capital project; and the cost of maintenance and repairs.

The bill amends this law to decrease the sales tax rate on sales of electricity by three percentage points from 7% to 4% and increases the gross receipts tax rate on electrical power or energy delivered to a non-exempt retail consumer by three percentage points from 2.5% to 5.5%. The new gross receipts tax additional rate will incorporate the existing exemptions from the sales tax in order to make this change revenue neutral to both the state and to taxpayers. The overall effect of these changes is to provide a small tax reduction to purchasers of electricity and to deposit additional revenues in the Public Education Capital Outlay Trust Fund. The Staff Analysis projects an estimated recurring increase in deposits to the Gross Receipts Tax of between \$160 and \$200 million.

Effective upon becoming law, unless stated otherwise therein.

Chapter No. 2014-38

**Computer Crimes:
CS/CS/CS HB 641**

Recognizing the proliferation of new technologies and the impact of computer-related crimes, the bill amends the definition of computer network and creates a definition of the term *electronic device*, which means "a device or a portion of a device that is designed for and capable of communicating across a computer network with other computers or devices for the purpose of transmitting, receiving, or storing data, including, but not limited to, a cellular telephone, tablet, or other portable device designed for and capable of communicating with or across a computer network and that is actually used for such purpose."

- Creates new computer-related offenses and expands the application of various existing computer-related crimes to include electronic devices.
- Broadens and creates additional exceptions to computer-related offenses for persons who act pursuant to a search warrant, an exception to a search warrant, or who perform authorized security operations of a government or business.
- Expands the entities that can bring a civil action against persons convicted of computer-related offenses by including owners and lessees of electronic devices.

- Adds electronic devices to the list of items subject to forfeiture if used in computer-related offenses.

Enrolled, pending Governor's approval

Legal Notices:
CS/HB 781

The publication of legal notices in newspapers is a long established practice for giving notice to the general public of matters such as public sales, pending estates, or businesses' fictitious names, and for service of process upon absent, unknown, or unreachable parties to an action. Current law provides that a newspaper's website must include the same legal notices that appear in print. A newspaper's legal notice webpage must be clearly titled and free of charge. The Florida Press Association maintains a statewide website for legal notices as a repository for all published notices. The bill:

- Provides legal notices must be posted on the date that the printed newspaper notice appears in a separate web page entitled, "Legal Notices," "Legal Advertisements," or comparable language.
- Provides that no fee may be charged nor may registration be required for viewing or searching legal notices on the statewide site.
- Requires that a legal notice placed on the statewide website must be searchable by party or case number, be posted for 90 consecutive days, and retained for 18 months.
- Provides that the newspaper's web pages that contain legal notices must present the legal

notices as the dominant and leading subject matter of those pages.

Enrolled, pending Governor's approval

***SECONDARY EDUCATION--
IMPACTING CHARTER
SCHOOLS & EARLY COLLEGE***

**Education Accountability/High School
Graduation: HB 7031**

- This bill is primarily a technical bill that repeals terminated or unfunded programs, corrects cross references, removes obsolete effective dates, eliminates duplicate reporting requirements, repeals completed pilot programs, and updates nomenclature.
- Fixes last year's SB 1076 glitch so that high school students having passed Algebra I in middle school do not have to take the end-of-course (EOC) exam.

***Effective upon becoming law
Chapter No. 2014-39***

Education Data Privacy:
CS/CS SB 188

- Codifies proposed K-12 records changes presented in the Florida Department of Education report: *Student Data Privacy Recommendations*, which may impact FCS Charter Schools, and dual enrollment.
- Defines "biometric information" and precludes schools collecting, obtaining, or retaining information on political affiliation,

voting history, religious affiliation, or biometric information. Grandfathers in through 2014-15 the use of a palm scanner (included in Biometric Information) for schools already using this system for student identification for food programs.

- Specifies limited causes for K-12 institutions to make confidential and exempt records available, mostly relating to lawfully issued subpoenas and court orders.
- Florida's Education Commissioner and the FLDOE are responsible for developing rules and a process for Social Security numbers to be replaced by student identification numbers.

*Effective upon becoming law
Chapter No. 2014-41*

**Sexually Violent Predators:
CS/SB 524**

The bill creates the "Protecting Our Children and Adults from Sexual Predators Act," with the purpose to improve the assessment of sex offenders for possible civil commitment as sexually violent predators and to improve public notification of the location of sexual offenders and predators. The bill requires public and private colleges and universities to inform students and employees at orientation and on the institution's website about the FDLE website and toll-free number.

*Effective July 1, 2014
Chapter No. 2014-3*

**Sexual Offenses by Authority Figures: CS/HB
485**

Creates the "Stop Harassing Underage Teens Act". Applies primarily to K-12 institutions which includes charter schools operated by FCS institutions and increases the penalties for and severity of offenses for criminal sexual activity involving an "authority figure" (any person over the age of 18 who is employed by, volunteering at, or under contract with a school) and a student (person younger than 18 and who is enrolled at the school). "Facilities dedicated exclusively to the education of adults" are specifically excluded.

Enrolled, pending Governor's approval



*Prepared by the Office of the
General Counsel, St. Petersburg College, with excerpts
taken from the 2014 Legislation Session Report,
Florida College System Institutional Lobbyists.*