



## SENATE BILL 72 – HIGHER EDUCATION

<b>BILL SPONSOR(S)</b>	Senator Stargel and Appropriations Committee
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE(S)</b>	July 1, 2020, except as otherwise provided
<b>STATUTE(S)</b>	Amends sections (ss.) 287.057, 1001.03, 1001.7065, 1001.92, 1004.085, 1004.346, 1009.50, 1009.505, 1009.51, 1009.52, 1009.534, 1009.893 and 1011.45, Florida Statutes (F.S.). Creates ss. 1004.6499 and 1012.977, F.S.

### SUMMARY

The bill modifies requirements for higher education institutions as they relate to building projects, grant programs, academic/research standards and establishes the Florida Institute of Politics and the Adam Smith Center for the Study of Economic Freedom.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Expands the criteria by which a state agency may contract with a specified nonpublic college or university.
- Modifies Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) criteria for new construction, renovation, or remodeling at a Florida College System (FCS) institution.
- Includes opt-in and opt-out provisions for postsecondary students as it relates to innovative pricing techniques and payment options.
- Establishes the Florida Institute of Politics at Florida State University and The Adam Smith Center for the Study of Economic Freedom at Florida International University.
- Clarifies maximum award amounts, eligibility, awards for summer terms and priority for certain students for all Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG) Programs.
- Modifies the Florida Academic Scholar (FAS) award to specify the annual stipend amount for textbooks in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).
- Modifies the Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) award to provide, beginning in fall 2021, an award equal to 100% tuition and specific fees for an awardee enrolled in an FCS institution's associate degree program.
- Modifies the Benacquisto Scholarship Program:
  - Clarifies the program is for students designated as "National Merit Scholars" removing the "National Achievement Scholar" designation.
  - Specifies scholarship renewal students must be enrolled full-time to receive scholarship funding.
  - Requirements for initial eligibility and scholarship renewal provisions.
- Modifies provisions relating to the carry forward of operational funds by state universities and FCS institutions.
- Modifies the FSAG for public, private, postsecondary and career education:
  - Limits the maximum annual award amount to that specified in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).



## 2020 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

- Modifies the eligible student population to students with up to one and one-half times the maximum Pell Grant-eligible family contribution.
- Requires institutions to report all students eligible for a disbursement.
- Establishes priority funding for FSAG recipients who are within one semester from completing their degree or certificate.
- Establishes reconciliation requirements for fall/spring funding.
- Allows for FSAG summer funding and establishes FSAG summer funding reporting deadlines.

### **GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE**

<b>UPON BECOMING LAW</b>	Academic and research excellence standards, preeminence standards, emerging preeminent funding provisions and program of distinction provisions are amended
<b>JULY 1, 2020</b>	The bill becomes effective, except as otherwise provided
<b>FALL 2021</b>	FMS enrolled in an associate degree program at an FCS institution are eligible for an award equal to 100% tuition and specific fees