

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to postsecondary education enhancements;
 3 requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and
 4 Government Accountability to conduct a study of certain
 5 enrollment forecasting models; requiring a final report;
 6 requiring the Department of Education to conduct a review
 7 of certain courses in the statewide course numbering
 8 system and update the system as appropriate; requiring a
 9 report; requiring nonpublic postsecondary institutions
 10 that participate in statewide course numbering to provide
 11 certain information in their catalogs; requiring the
 12 department's website to include certain information;
 13 requiring the department to review certain examinations
 14 and recommend articulated accelerations mechanisms;
 15 permitting use of certain prepaid contract benefits after
 16 graduation; amending s. 1007.33, F.S.; identifying the
 17 areas in which community colleges may propose to deliver
 18 baccalaureate degree programs; removing requirement that
 19 proposal be submitted to the Council for Education Policy
 20 Research and Improvement for review; providing an
 21 effective date.

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 23 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 25 Section 1. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and
 26 Government Accountability (OPPAGA) shall conduct a study of the
 27 higher education enrollment forecasting models currently used in
 28 the state. The study must analyze the current models and provide
 29 options for improvements. The review shall specifically examine

30 ways to include Florida's changing demographics in the forecasts.
 31 During the course of the study OPPAGA shall consult with staff
 32 from the Office of Economic and Demographic Research. A final
 33 report with recommendations shall be submitted to the President
 34 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by
 35 February 1, 2008.

36 Section 2. (1) The Department of Education shall conduct a
 37 comprehensive review of the courses that are listed in the
 38 statewide course numbering system to:

39 (a) Identify courses that are listed in the system that
 40 have not been taught at an institution for the preceding 5 years;

41 (b) Identify courses of nonpublic postsecondary
 42 institutions that may be inappropriately designated as equivalent
 43 for purposes of transfer of credit; and

44 (c) Update the statewide course numbering system as
 45 appropriate based on these findings.

46 (2) The Department of Education shall submit a report of
 47 its findings and actions to the President of the Senate and the
 48 Speaker of the House of Representatives by February 1, 2008.

49 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or rule to
 50 the contrary, any nonpublic postsecondary institution, as a
 51 condition of initial or continued participation in the statewide
 52 course numbering system, shall identify in all of its catalogs,
 53 printed or electronic, the specific courses offered by the
 54 institution that are included in the statewide course numbering
 55 system.

56 (4) No later than July 1, 2008, the Department of Education
 57 shall develop and maintain in the department's website a listing
 58 of all courses in the statewide course numbering system and the

59 | institutions that offer each course. The listing shall be
 60 | available to the public. Each institution that participates in
 61 | the statewide course numbering system shall include in all of its
 62 | catalogs, printed or electronic, a statement advising the reader
 63 | of the website address and its use as a resource for information
 64 | on the transferability of credits to other Florida institutions.

65 | Section 3. No later than March 1, 2008, the Department of
 66 | Education shall review the Excelsior Exams and Defense Activity
 67 | for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) standardized
 68 | subject area tests and recommend to the State Board of Education,
 69 | the Board of Governors, the President of the Senate, and the
 70 | Speaker of the House of Representatives any exam that should be
 71 | identified as an articulated acceleration mechanism under s.
 72 | 1007.27, Florida Statutes. The department shall also identify the
 73 | minimum scores, maximum credit, and course or courses for which
 74 | credit is to be awarded for each exam recommended by the
 75 | department.

76 | Section 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or
 77 | rule to the contrary, if a student who is a qualified beneficiary
 78 | for purposes of a Prepaid College Plan graduates from college and
 79 | has not used all of his or her contract benefits, the student may
 80 | be provided a refund for any remaining credits or apply the
 81 | credits toward undergraduate, graduate, or professional hours.
 82 | Any hours taken at the graduate or professional level shall be
 83 | covered at the undergraduate rate.

84 | Section 5. Subsection (3) of section 1007.33, Florida
 85 | Statutes, is amended to read:

86 | 1007.33 Site-determined baccalaureate degree access.--

87 (3) A community college may develop a proposal to deliver
 88 specified baccalaureate degree programs in the areas of teaching
 89 and nursing and to deliver bachelor of applied science workforce-
 90 related degrees in high need/high demand majors ~~its district to~~
 91 ~~meet local workforce needs.~~ The bachelor of applied science
 92 degree is a workforce baccalaureate degree designed primarily for
 93 associate in science degree holders desiring career advancement
 94 or advanced technical training. The proposal must be submitted to
 95 the State Board of Education for approval. The community
 96 college's proposal must include the following information:

97 (a) Demand for the baccalaureate degree program is
 98 identified by the workforce development board, local businesses
 99 and industry, local chambers of commerce, and potential students.

100 (b) Unmet need for graduates of the proposed degree program
 101 is substantiated.

102 (c) The community college has the facilities and academic
 103 resources to deliver the program.

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 105 ~~The proposal must be submitted to the Council for Education~~
 106 ~~Policy Research and Improvement for review and comment.~~ Upon
 107 approval of the State Board of Education for the specific degree
 108 program or programs, the community college shall pursue regional
 109 accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern
 110 Association of Colleges and Schools. Any additional baccalaureate
 111 degree programs the community college wishes to offer must be
 112 approved by the State Board of Education.

113 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.