



Bill Snapshot

CS/HB 423: Excellence in Higher Education Act of 2018

Last Session's Higher Education bill (CS/CS/SB 374) passed the House and Senate but was vetoed by the Governor. Many of the same provisions from last year were reintroduced this year as HB 423 and SB 4.

Both CS/HB 423 and CS/SB 4 revise student financial aid and tuition assistance programs in the following ways:

- Expands Florida Bright Futures Academic Scholars (FAS) award to cover the full cost of tuition and fees plus a stipend of \$300 for books.
- Expands Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) award to cover 75% of full cost of tuition and fees.
- Authorizes the use of Florida Bright Futures Scholarship awards for the summer term.
- Increases funding for the First Generation Matching Grant Program to provide financial assistance for students who are first in their family to go to college.
- Revises state-to-private match requirements for contributions to the program from 1:1 to 2:1.
- Expands the Benacquisto Scholarship to include qualified out-of-state students.
- Creates the Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship Program.
- Renames the Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG) to the Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) Grant.

There are some prominent policy differences between CS/SB 4 and CS/HB 423. Specifically, CS/HB 423:

- Revises the State University System Performance-Based Incentive metrics and requires the Board of Governors (BOG) to develop a plan to transition from a partial performance-based funding model to a complete performance-based continuous improvement-funding model.
- Increases oversight of state university direct support organizations (DSOs), by requiring the university board of trustees to approve appointments to DSO, increasing public access to records, and phasing out the ability for universities to transfer any state appropriations to a DSO for any reason other than funds pledged for debt.
- Requires that the ratio of students to administrators at any state university may not grow at a greater rate than the ratio of students to faculty.
- Requires the USF Board of Trustees to phase-out the separate accreditation of the USF St. Petersburg and USF Manatee/Sarasota campuses; thereby treating all campuses as one.
- Requires the BOG to annually survey students, faculty and administrators on the intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity at each institution.

LAST SEEN:

Reported favorably as a Committee Substitute out of Post-Secondary Education Subcommittee

Sponsor:
Leader Rodrigues

CURRENT STATUS:

Referred to Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee

HEADED TO:

Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee



HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



REPRESENTATIVE RAY RODRIGUES, MAJORITY LEADER

Additionally the bill:

- Requires state universities to establish block tuition policies for implementation in the fall 2019 academic semester.
- Establishes the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program and the State University Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program.