SENATE BILL 72 – HIGHER EDUCATION

BILL SPONSOR(S) | Senator Stargel and Appropriations Committee
EFFECTIVE DATE(S) | July 1, 2020, except as otherwise provided
STATUTE(S) | 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:
  o Clarifies the program is for students designated as "National Merit Scholars" removing the “National Achievement Scholar” designation.
  o Specifies scholarship renewal students must be enrolled full-time to receive scholarship funding.
  o 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:
  o Limits the maximum annual award amount to that specified in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).
o Modifies the eligible student population to students with up to one and one-half times the maximum Pell Grant-eligible family contribution.

o Requires institutions to report all students eligible for a disbursement.

o Establishes priority funding for FSAG recipients who are within one semester from completing their degree or certificate.

o Establishes reconciliation requirements for fall/spring funding.

o Allows for FSAG summer funding and establishes FSAG summer funding reporting deadlines.

GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

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