



2015 AFC TRUSTEE COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT

February 3, 2015

Florida College System 2015 Legislation of Interest

VETERANS

On August 7, 2014, the Federal government passed section 702 of the CHOICE Act. The act specifies that any veteran who enrolled in an educational institution within three years of being discharged is entitled to tuition that is equivalent to in-state tuition as long as the veteran lives in the state. A spouse, child or other individual who is using transferred benefits is also eligible for in-state tuition as long as they live within the state. If a state chooses not to grant the individual the in-state tuition fee, then the institution will not be eligible for funds from any GI Bills.

RESIDENCY FOR TUITION PURPOSES

- HB 35 (Stark), SB 148 (Ring)
 - Allows veterans, their spouses and their dependent children to enroll in a Florida school and qualify as a resident for tuition purposes within four years of discharge. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will not issue payments for any eligible students until the institution is in compliance.

OUT-OF-STATE TUITION FEE WAIVER

- SB 560 (Sachs)
 - Expands the out-of-state tuition fee waiver to spouses and children using United States Department of Veterans Affairs educational benefits or benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship to have out-of-state tuition waived.

TUITION AND FEE EXEMPTIONS

- SB 472 (Detert)
 - Exempts certain students who were adopted from the Department of Children and Families or who are or were in the custody of the department under certain circumstances. Allows all exempt students to enroll in remedial courses; there would be no restriction on the amount of hours to be exempted or how many times a student could take a course. The educational institutions would be required to include information on their website about the exemption, and financial aid officers at the institutions would need to contact eligible students to advise them about the exemption.

LICENSE TO CARRY CONCEALED WEAPON ON CAMPUS

- SB 176 (Evers) , HB 4005 (Steube)
 - Removes the prohibition from individuals being able to carry a concealed weapon on a college or university campus.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

- SB 7022 (Governmental Oversight and Accountability)
 - Requires the Department of Management Services, in consultation with other agencies including the Department of Education, to develop and implement programs that incorporate internships, mentoring, on-the-job training and other similar initiatives that are specifically geared toward individuals who have a disability.
- SB 602 (Gaetz)
 - Allows program funds from the Florida Personal Learning Scholarship Accounts Program to be used in conjunction with other funds used by the parent in the purchase of a prepaid college plan.

PUBLIC RECORD EXEMPTION FOR EXECUTIVE SEARCHES

- SB 223 (Combee)
 - Exempts any meeting held for the purpose of identifying or vetting applicants for president, provost, or dean of a state university or FCS institution from the open meeting requirements until a final group of applicants has been established.

FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARDS OF TRUSTEES

- SB 446 (Bradley)
 - Requires that St. Johns River State College have three trustees from each of the three counties that it serves.

FLORIDA STUDENT INTERNSHIP TAX CREDIT

- HB 427 (McGhee)
 - Allows businesses to receive up to a \$3,600 tax credit, pending some restrictions, for hiring a student as an intern within the intern's field of study.

WORKFORCE EDUCATION POSTSECONDARY STUDENT FEES

- HB 4013 (Campbell)
 - Removes adult general education program student fees.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION PREFERENCES

- HB 113 (Perry)
 - Requires that whenever 20% or more of the cost of construction is paid by the state, local ordinances and regulations cannot restrict a certified contractor's competition for an award of a contract.

RENAMING WORKFORCE FLORIDA, INC.

- SB 7002 (Committee on Commerce and Tourism)
 - Renames Workforce Florida, Inc. to CareerSource Florida, Inc.

BUDGET

- **Performance Funding**
- **Miscellaneous**