

The logo features a blue header with overlapping geometric shapes and a thin grey line. Below this, the text 'UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA' is displayed in blue, with 'of' in a script font and 'WEST FLORIDA' in a bold sans-serif font. A blue underline is positioned beneath the word 'WEST'.

UNIVERSITY *of* **WEST FLORIDA**

## 2017 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

University of West Florida

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## Summary

It took an additional three days for the legislature to complete its work this year. Of the 3,052 bills that were filed 249 made it through both chambers. Outside of the budget, there were quite a few major pieces of legislation that made it through both chambers and have a significant impact on UWF. Below are a few highlights from the major pieces of legislation. More detailed reports on the bills can be found later in this report.

### **SB 374 – Higher Education Conforming Bill**

On the Performance Based Funding Metrics, the Board of Governors (BOG) is now required to use the four-year graduation rate instead of the six-year graduation rate; must reward universities with access rates above 50 percent (FAMU and FIU currently); and does not allow the BOG to make these changes retroactively and apply to this year's scores and awards.

The BOG is also required to perform a study on the allocation of the state investment and report the findings to the legislature. This study must include options where all universities would be eligible for funding (no bottom three) based on their unique missions and not compared to other SUS institutions.

The bill requires each state university Board of Trustees (BOT) to adopt a block tuition and fee policy by October 1, 2017 for the Fall 2018 semester.

The bill also makes significant changes to college and university Direct Service Organizations (DSOs). DSOs are no longer allowed to use state funding to pay for foundation employees or use payroll services of the university, beginning July 1, 2022. The bill also prohibits DSOs from using state funds for travel expenses. Also, state university DSOs information related to the expenditure of unrestricted non-state funds and the expenditure of private funds for travel are no longer exempt from public record laws.

### **HB 7077 – Triumph**

The Triumph bill had quite a few changes. The major ones are that all payments made to the state from the BP settlement will now be automatically transferred to Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. The bill also requires that each county receive 5 percent of the total funding for year one and 4 percent thereafter. The bill also gave county commissions the authority to recommend projects to the Triumph board and preference is given to projects approved by the county.

The bill adds two more members to the Triumph board who must be from the four least populated counties.

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## Budget

This was a particularly rocky budget year for higher education. The legislature decided to review member projects in university bases for the last 10 years. Normally they ask us to report on those for one to two years then they are safely in our budget. That is no longer the case. These projects are also lined out in the budget and subject to line item veto.

As you can see from the chart on the next page, UWF is up about \$1.5 million from last year. This does not include additional performance funding.

### **Budget Highlights**

#### **Reductions**

- The Mechanical Engineering and Physician Assistants reductions were fully restored
- The Office of Economic Development reduction was cut in half. UWF will receive \$2.5 million for that appropriation.
- The FAA certifications line item (\$100,000) was eliminated.

#### **New Funding**

- \$1,000,000 for the Ph.D. In Robotics and Intelligent Systems
- \$351,000 for the Advanced Manufacturing Design Studio
- \$4,460,000 for the Building 58 Annex
- UWF received just under \$2.7 million for President Negrón's World Class Scholars program and the Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence programs.

### **Other Budget Issues**

- \$20 million was added to the state investment of the performance funding.
- The House prevailed on getting all past member projects lined out in the university budgets on top of all new projects. This means they are subject to line item veto by the Governor. Below is a list of past year's appropriations that are subject to a veto from the Governor:
  - \$1,100,000 for the Archeology Institute
  - \$2,500,000 for the Office of Economic Development and Engagement
  - \$1,000,000 for Mechanical Engineering
  - \$1,000,000 for the Physician Assistants Program
  - \$1,000,000 for the Doctor of Nursing Practice
  - \$1,000,000 for the Doctor of Physical Therapy
  - \$250,000 for Veteran and Military Support

	2016-2017	Conference Report
General Revenue	\$88,646,512	\$91,580,045
Lottery	\$8,492,718	\$7,054,953
Performance Funding Investment	\$12,133,627	\$12,133,627
Performance Funding Awarded	\$0	TBD
Financial Aid	\$157,766	\$157,766
Total	\$109,430,623	\$110,926,391
<b>SPECIALS</b>		
Foundation Clawback	\$0	\$0
Carry Forward Sweep	\$0	\$0
World Class Faculty and Scholar Program	\$0	\$2,073,629
Professional and Graduate Degree Program	\$0	\$625,838
IT Performance Funding	\$3,750,000	\$3,750,000
SBDC	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
DPT	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
DNP	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Complete Florida	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Operational Support	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
FAA Certifications	\$100,000	\$0
Florida Virtual Campus	\$22,828,801	\$22,828,801
Career Education Planning Tool	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
MVRC	\$250,000	\$250,000
OEDE	\$5,000,000	\$2,500,000
PA Program	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Mechanical Engineering	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Archaeology Institute	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000
Ph.D. Robotics and Intelligent Systems	\$0	\$1,000,000
Advanced Manufacturing	\$0	\$351,000
Total	\$51,028,801	\$52,479,268
<b>PECO</b>		
Laboratory Sciences	\$4,460,000	\$4,460,000
Total	\$4,460,000	\$4,460,000

UWF Position
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New Issue
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Funding Cut from Previous Year
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## Conforming Bill SB 374

The bill establishes the “Florida Excellence in Higher Education Act of 2017” to expand financial aid provisions and assist students in accessing higher education and incentivize postsecondary institutions to emphasize on-time graduation. The bill also expands and enhances policy and funding options for state universities to recruit and retain exemplary faculty, enhance the quality of professional and graduate schools, and upgrade facilities and research infrastructure. Additionally, the bill restructures the governance and modifies the mission of the community colleges.

### Performance Funding, Preeminence, and Accountability

The bill strengthens institutional accountability by modifying state university and community college performance and accountability metrics and standards to promote on-time student graduation.

#### **Modifies the State University System (SUS) Performance-Based Metrics**

- Specifies the performance-based metric for graduation rate must be a four-year graduation rate.
- Specifies the performance-based metric for access must include benchmarks that reward institutions with access rates at or above 50 percent.
- Requires the Board of Governor’s 2017 determination of each university’s performance improvement and achievement ratings as well as the related distribution of 2017-2018 appropriation funds for the incentive apply to the metrics and benchmarks in place on January 1, 2017.
- Requires the BOG to conduct a study of state investment allocation methodologies for the performance-based model and submit a report to the chairs of the House and Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittees by December 31, 2017. The study must include various options, including options in which each university may be eligible to receive some portion of the state investment based on benchmarks that reflect the institutional mission of each university rather than rankings based on overall performance-based funding model scores.

#### **Modifies the Preeminent State Research Universities Program**

- Revises the metric related to the six-year graduation rate of 70 percent or higher for full-time, first-time-in-college (FTIC), students to a four-year rate of 60 percent or higher. However, for the BOG’s 2017 determination of preeminence and emerging preeminence status and the related distribution of 2017-2018 appropriation funds for the program, the metric and benchmark remains at a six-year graduation rate of 70 percent or higher.
- Eliminates the authority for the preeminent state research universities to require FTIC students to take a six-credit unique set of courses.
- Revises funding for emerging preeminent state research universities from one-half to one-fourth of the total increased funding to preeminent state research universities.

#### **Other Provisions**

- The bill modifies the requirements of the BOG’s strategic plan to require state universities to use data-driven gap analyses to identify internship opportunities in high-demand fields.
- Changes from a recommendation to a requirement that the BOG establish standards and measures for programs of excellence throughout the SUS and specify that the programs include undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees, and require the BOG to make recommendations to the legislature by September 1, 2017, on enhancing and promoting such programs.

### Community College and State University Direct Support Organizations

The bill modifies requirements relating to community college and state university direct support organizations (DSO) to:

- Prohibits college and university DSOs from using state-funded personal services, beginning July 1, 2022.
- Prohibits college and university DSOs from using state funds for travel expenses.
- Prohibits college and university DSOs from giving, either directly or indirectly, any gift to a political committee, with no exceptions.
- Requires the chair of a university or community college board of trustees to appoint at least one member to the DSO executive committee.
- Specifies that, for state university DSOs, information related to the expenditure of unrestricted non-state funds and the expenditure of private funds for travel are not confidential and exempt.

### Student Financial Aid and Tuition Assistance

The bill expands student financial aid and tuition assistance programs to help to address financial insecurity concerns of students and their families. Specifically the bill:

#### **Bright Futures**

- Increases the Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) award amount to cover 100 percent of public postsecondary education institution tuition and specified fees, plus \$300 per semester for textbooks and college-related expenses during fall and spring terms, beginning in the fall 2017 semester. Additionally, the bill provides for funding for Florida Bright Futures Scholarship awards, which at a minimum, supports summer term enrollment for an FAS award.

#### **National Merit Scholars (Benacquisto Scholars)**

- Expands the Benacquisto Scholarship Program to attract qualified students from out-of-state. These students must physically reside on or near the postsecondary education institution in which they enroll, earn a high school diploma or the equivalent, comparable to Florida, be accepted and enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program in the 2017-2018 academic year or thereafter, and meet the specified requirement to qualify for the scholarship. The bill exempts such students from the payment of out-of-state fees and specifies that the award amount for such students is equal to the institutional cost of attendance for a Florida resident less the student's National Merit Scholarship.

#### **Florida Farmworker Scholarship Program**

- Creates the Florida Farmworker Scholarship Program for farmworkers and the children of farmworkers, who meet the specified scholarship eligibility criteria. The bill specifies that the Department of Education (DOE) may award up to 50 scholarships annually and recipients may receive an award for a maximum of 100 percent of the credit hours or clock hours required to complete up to 90 credit hours of a program that terminates in a career certificate. The recipient is eligible for an award equal to 100 percent of tuition and specified fees at a public postsecondary education institution in Florida. Undocumented immigrants are not eligible for the award.

**First Generation Matching Grant**

- Expands the First Generation Matching Grant Program by revising the state-to-private match requirements from a 1:1 match to a 2:1 match.

**Block Tuition**

- Requires each state university board of trustees to adopt a block tuition and fee policy by October 1, 2017, for implementation in the fall 2018 semester. The policy must apply to the entering freshman class of full-time, FTIC students and may be extended to include other enrolled students. The bill requires each university board of trustees to submit the policy, including information on the potential impact of the policy on students, to the BOG by October 1, 2017. The bill also requires the Chancellor of the State University System to submit to the Governor and the Legislature a summary of the policies, status of approvals, and recommendations for improving block tuition and fee benefits for students by December 1, 2017.
- The Policy must include the following provisions:
  - The policy must include block tuition and any required fees, including, but not limited to, activity and service fees, financial aid fees, capital improvement fees, health fees, and technology fees.
  - The policy must require the university to maximize the application of appropriate accelerated credits to minimize unnecessary credits and excess hours.
  - The policy must enable students to have the flexibility to earn credits across all terms of the entire academic year.

**Florida Prepaid and Florida Resident Access Grant**

- Specifies that a Florida Prepaid College Program plan, purchased prior to July 1, 2024, is only obligated to pay for the credit hours in which a student is enrolled.
- Renames the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG) Program as the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) Grant Program.

**State University Faculty, Program, and Infrastructure Investments**

The bill establishes the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program and the State University Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program. Specifically, the bill:

- Establishes the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program to fund and support the efforts of state universities to recruit and retain exemplary faculty and research scholars. Specifically, the bill:
  - Authorizes state university investments in areas such as research-centric cluster hires, faculty research, and research commercialization efforts. The funds may not be used for the construction of buildings.
  - Requires the BOG to provide an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature that summarizes the expenditures and the impact of those expenditures in elevating the national competitiveness of the universities by March 15.
- Establishes the State University Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program to fund and support the efforts of state universities to enhance the quality of professional and graduate schools and degree programs in medicine, law, and business, and expand the economic impact of state universities. Specifically, the bill:

- Authorizes quality improvement efforts that may include, but are not limited to, targeted investment in faculty, students, research infrastructure and other strategic efforts to elevate the national and global prominence of state university medicine, law, and graduate level business programs. The funds may not be used for the construction of buildings.
- Requires the BOG to provide an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature a report summarizing the expenditures and the impact of those expenditures in elevating the national and global prominence of the university medicine, law, and graduate-level business programs by March 15.

### Community College Governance

The bill modifies the governance of the Florida College System under a State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC). Specifically, the bill provides that:

- Effective July 1, 2017:
  - The Florida College System is renamed as the Florida Community College System (FCCS).
  - The SBCC, administratively housed within the DOE, is created to oversee and coordinate the FCCS, and requires the Governor to appoint the membership of the SBCC in time for the board's organizational meeting by September 30, 2017.
  - The Division of Florida Colleges (DFC) must provide administrative support to the SBCC until September 30, 2017.
  - Beginning September 1, 2017, SBCC staggered membership terms are established.
  - The SBCC is required to appoint a Chancellor of the FCCS by November 1, 2017. The Chancellor of the DFC must serve as the Chancellor of the FCCS until the SBCC selects a chancellor.
- Effective October 1, 2017:
  - FCS- and DFC-related powers and duties, functions, personnel, funds, contracts, and administrative rules are transferred to the SBCC.
  - The DOE must provide support services to the SBCC, consistent with the ongoing support services that the DOE provides to the BOG.
  - The Division of Florida Colleges is removed as a division within the DOE.
  - SBE approvals, policies, guidance, and appointments remain in effect unless acted upon by the SBCC.

In addition, the bill includes technical and conforming provisions related to the transfer of responsibilities regarding Florida's community colleges, effective October 1, 2017. The bill does not modify the governance of individual FCCS institutions or powers and duties of the FCCS institution boards of trustees.

### Community College Baccalaureate Degree Approval Process

The bill clarifies expectations and state oversight of baccalaureate degree programs offered by FCCS institutions. Specifically, the bill:

- Modifies the FCCS institution baccalaureate degree approval process:
  - Requires FCCS institutions to submit a notice of interest into a shared postsecondary database at least 180 days before submission of the notice of intent.
  - Requires FCCS institutions to submit a notice of intent and justification for the proposed baccalaureate degree at least 100 days before submitting the baccalaureate degree proposal.
  - Specifies that the required justification for the proposed baccalaureate degree include a data-driven analysis of workforce demand, including employment data and projections by the Department of Economic Opportunity, which must be verified by the Chancellor of the FCCS.
  - Extends the timeframe from 30 days to 60 days for private regionally-accredited colleges and universities, to submit their objections to the proposed baccalaureate degree programs and provide reasons for such objections.
  - Eliminates the requirement for state universities and private colleges and universities to submit alternative proposals to the proposed baccalaureate degree programs.
  - Requires the SBCC consider input from the Chancellor of the SUS and the president of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida, and any objections before approving or denying a college's proposal.

The bill adds to the performance and compliance indicators for baccalaureate degrees, and reinforces state oversight responsibilities by requiring the SBCC to direct an FCCS institution's board of trustees to terminate a baccalaureate degree program if an annual review indicates negative performance and compliance results, and the college fails to demonstrate a need for the program.

Additionally, the bill establishes a cap on upper-level, undergraduate FTE enrollment at FCCS institutions, but provides flexibility for planned and purposeful growth of baccalaureate degree programs if certain conditions are met. The bill requires FCCS institutions to obtain legislative approval for exceeding the specified upper-level, undergraduate FTE enrollment cap, and prohibits community colleges from reporting for funding, the upper-level, undergraduate full-time equivalent enrollment that exceeds the upper-level enrollment percent specified in the bill. Specifically, the bill:

- Provides that if the 2015-2016 total upper-level, undergraduate FTE enrollment at an FCCS institution is:
  - At or above 10 percent of the 2015-2016 combined total lower-level and upper-level FTE enrollment at that institution, the total upper-level enrollment, as a percentage of the combined enrollment, may not increase by more than 4 percentage points unless the institution obtains prior legislative approval.
  - Below 10 percent of the 2015-2016 combined total lower-level and upper-level FTE enrollment at that institution, the total upper-level enrollment, as a percentage of the combined enrollment, may not increase by more than 8 percentage points unless the institution obtains prior legislative approval.

- Specifies that the total upper-level enrollment at any institution may not exceed 15 percent of the combined upper-level and lower-level FTE enrollment at that institution.

The bill also reinforces the state's expectation of college affordability by requiring the college's program enrollment projections and funding requirements to include the college's efforts to sustain the program at a cost of tuition and fees for Florida residents not to exceed \$10,000 for the entire degree program, including flexible tuition and fee rates, and the use of waivers authorized by law.

### Articulation

The bill strengthens "2+2" articulation to assist students enrolled in associate degree (AA) programs to graduate on time, transfer to a baccalaureate degree program, and complete the baccalaureate degree in four years. Accordingly, the bill creates a mechanism for expanding locally-developed "2+2" articulation agreements to include guaranteed pathways to baccalaureate degree programs at state universities for students enrolled in AA degree programs at FCCS institutions. Specifically, the bill:

- Requires each FCCS institution to execute at least one "2+2" targeted pathway articulation agreement with one or more state universities.
- Establishes student eligibility criteria to participate in a "2+2" targeted pathway program.
- Establishes requirements for state universities that execute "2+2" targeted pathway articulation agreements with their partner colleges.
- Requires the SBCC and BOG to collaborate to eliminate barriers to executing "2+2" targeted pathway articulation agreements.

Additionally, the bill requires district school boards to notify students who enroll in acceleration mechanism courses or take exams about the credit-by-examination equivalency list and dual enrollment and high school subject area equivalency list.

### Mission of Florida's Public K-20 Education System

The bill reinforces the state's expectation that institutions within Florida's K-20 education system avoid wasteful duplication of programs offered by state universities, FCCS institutions, and career centers operated by district school boards, and:

- Changes the provision of upper-level instruction and awarding baccalaureate degrees from a primary mission to a secondary mission of FCCS institutions.
- Specifies that the primary mission of a career center or a charter technical career center is to promote advances and innovations in workforce preparation and economic development.

## Triumph – HB 7077

The bill establishes a mechanism for 75 percent of the settlement funds received by the state, pursuant to Florida's claims for economic damages caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, to be appropriated to Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. The bill also amends provisions related to the operation of Triumph Gulf Coast. The bill:

- Requires 75 percent of the settlement funds currently held in General Revenue to be immediately transferred to the trust account established by Triumph Gulf Coast, and 40 percent of those funds must be allocated by Triumph Gulf Coast to awards within each of the disproportionately affected counties, so that projects and programs within each county are awarded at least 5 percent of the allocated funds;
- Requires 75 percent of the subsequent settlement payments to be transferred to the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund and released to the trust account established by Triumph Gulf Coast within 30 days of the transfer, and 32 percent of those funds must be allocated by Triumph Gulf Coast to awards within each of the disproportionately affected counties, so that projects and programs within each county are awarded at least 4 percent of the allocated funds;
- Provides that the board of county commissioners of each disproportionately affected county must solicit other elected local government boards for projects and programs within their county;
- Requires each board of county commissioners to provide Triumph Gulf Coast with a list of proposed projects and programs within their county, including those submitted by other local governing boards, and those recommended by the board of county commissioners;
- Adds two members to the board of directors of Triumph Gulf Coast, with the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives each appointing an individual from one of the four lesser populated counties within the disproportionately affected counties;
- Limits the allowable cost of administrative fees to 0.75 percent of the funds available for use by Triumph Gulf Coast;
- Limits the annual salary of any employee or contracted staff of Triumph Gulf Coast to \$130,000, and provides that associated benefits may not exceed 35 percent of the salary;
- Requires Triumph Gulf Coast board members appointed on or after July 1, 2017, to refrain from having any direct interest in awards made by Triumph Gulf Coast for a duration of six years after serving on the board of directors;
- Requires Triumph Gulf Coast to publish on a website its intent to approve an award and a project summary at least 14 calendar days prior to approving an award;
- Clarifies awards may be made for ad valorem tax rate reduction and public infrastructure projects for construction, expansion, or maintenance;
- Amends the types of projects that are eligible for award funding and the factors for prioritizing the projects by the following criteria:
  - Generate maximum estimated economic benefits, based on tools and models not generally employed by economic input-output analyses, including cost-benefit, return-on-investment, or dynamic scoring techniques to determine how the long-term economic growth potential of the disproportionately affected counties may be enhanced by the investment.
  - Increase household income in the disproportionately affected counties above national average household income.

- Leverage or further enhance key regional assets, including educational institutions, research facilities, and military bases.
- Partner with local governments to provide funds, infrastructure, land, or other assistance for the project.
- Benefit the environment, in addition to the economy.
- Provide outcome measures.
- Partner with K-20 educational institutions or school districts located within the disproportionately affected counties as of January 1, 2017.
- Are recommended by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the project or program will be located.
- Partner with convention and visitor bureaus, tourist development councils, or chambers of commerce located within the disproportionately affected counties.
- Provides that an award may supplement but not supplant existing funding sources.

## Postsecondary Distance Education – HB 859

The bill authorizes Florida to participate in a reciprocity agreement with other states for the delivery of postsecondary distance education. Specifically, the bill:

- Requires each member state or institution participating in the reciprocity agreement to accept each other's authorization of accredited institutions to operate in their state to offer distance educational services beyond state boundaries.
- Creates the Postsecondary Reciprocal Distance Education Coordinating Council (council) to serve as the single portal entity designated by the state to administer the reciprocity agreement for distance educational services (reciprocity agreement) and serve as the interstate point of contact for questions, complaints, and other matters related to the reciprocity agreement.
  - Specifies the membership of the council to include the Chancellor of the State University System, the Chancellor of the Florida College System, the Commissioner of Education, the Executive Director of the Commission for Independent Education (CIE), and the President of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida, or their designees.
  - Specifies the responsibilities of the council, such as to review and approve applications from institutions in Florida to participate in the reciprocity agreement and establish an appeals process for institutions that are not approved to participate in the reciprocity agreement.
  - Requires the council to collect an annual fee from each Florida institution participating in the reciprocity agreement that must be based on the Florida institution's total full-time equivalent enrollment, specifies caps on such fees, and requires annual reporting, by February 15, to the Governor and the Legislature.
  - Authorizes the council to revoke a Florida institution's approval to participate in the reciprocity agreement if the council determines that such institution is not in compliance with the terms and provisions of the reciprocity agreement.
- Authorizes the Governor to:
  - Request the council to convene for the purpose of reconsidering Florida's participation in the reciprocity agreement and requires the council to provide a recommendation to the Governor within 14 days.
  - Withdraw Florida from participation in the reciprocity agreement and provides the terms of such withdrawal.

- Provides that a non-Florida institution participating in the reciprocity agreement that offers degree programs and conducts activities limited to distance education degree programs and activities in accordance with the reciprocity agreement is not under the jurisdiction of the CIE.
- Provides for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, an appropriation in the sum of \$225,534 in recurring funds from the Institutional Assessment Trust Fund to the Department of Education and two full-time equivalent positions with associated salary rate of \$110,000 for implementing the provisions related to reciprocity for distance education.

## Student Loan Debt – SB 396

The bill requires certain postsecondary education institutions to provide information regarding student loans to students. Specifically, the bill:

- Requires a postsecondary education institution that disburses state financial aid to annually, or once during each academic year, provide the following up-to-date information, in print or electronic format, to each student receiving student loans:
  - An estimate of the student's total amount of borrowed student loans.
  - An estimate of the student's total potential loan repayment amount associated with the total amount of student loans borrowed by the student.
  - An estimate of the student's monthly loan repayment amount for the student's total amount of borrowed student loans.
  - The percentage of the borrowing limit that the student has reached at the time the information is provided.
- Provides that an institution does not incur liability for providing the specified information.

## Public Records and Public Meetings/Information

### Technology/Postsecondary Education Institutions – HB 501

The bill creates a new public records and meetings exemption for records of state universities and Florida College System (FCS) institutions pertaining to Information Technology (IT) security systems if the disclosure of such records would facilitate unauthorized access to, or unauthorized modification, disclosure, or destruction of data, information, or IT resources. Specifically, the bill:

- Exempts from public records laws data or information from technology systems owned by, under contract, or maintained by a state university or FCS institution.
- Exempts from public meetings laws portions of public meetings that may reveal data or information from technology systems owned, contracted, or maintained by a state university or an FCS institution.
  - Requires an exempt portion of a public meeting to be recorded and transcribed but specifies such recording and transcript must be exempt from disclosure, unless a court determines that the meeting was not restricted to discussion of confidential and exempt data.
- Specifies the entities to whom exempt records must be provided.

## Public Records Exemption/Campus Emergency Response for Public Postsecondary Educational Institutions – HB 1079

The bill creates an exemption from public record and public meeting requirements for information associated with a campus emergency response of a public postsecondary educational institution. “Campus emergency response” is defined as a public postsecondary educational institution’s response to or plan for responding to an act of terrorism or other public safety crisis or emergency, and it includes information such as threat assessments, response plans, staffing, and identification of students, faculty, and staff.

Under the bill, a campus emergency response held by a public postsecondary educational institution, a state or local law enforcement agency, a county or municipal emergency management agency, the Executive Office of the Governor, the Department of Education, the Board of Governors of the State University System, or the Division of Emergency Management is exempt from public record requirements. Additionally, any portion of a public meeting that would reveal information related to a campus emergency response is exempt from public meeting requirements.

This exemption is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2022, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

## Best and Brightest Teachers and Principals – HB 7069

This is mostly a K-12 bill but it has one provision that has an impact on UWF.

- Beginning with students initially entering a Florida College System institution or state university in the 2018-2019 school year and thereafter, each student must demonstrate competency in civic literacy. Students must have the option to demonstrate competency through successful completion of a civic literacy course or by achieving a passing score on an assessment.
- The State Board of Education must adopt in rule and the Board of Governors must adopt in regulation at least one existing assessment that measures competencies consistent with the required course competencies. The chair of the State Board of Education and the chair of the Board of Governors, or their respective designees, shall jointly appoint a faculty committee to:
  - Develop a new course in civic literacy or revise an existing general education core course in American History or American Government to include civic literacy.
  - Establish course competencies and identify outcomes that include, at a minimum, an understanding of the basic principles of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government, an understanding of the United States Constitution, knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-governance, and an understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases and their impact on law and society.

## Public Employees – SB 7022

The bill is a comprehensive benefits package for state employees. It includes modifications to the Florida Retirement System (FRS) and changes to the State Group Insurance Program. The bill provides raises to most state employees but college and university employees are **not** included.

The bill makes several changes to the FRS. Specifically, the bill:

- Permits renewed membership in the investment plan or one of the optional annuity retirement plans for certain former participants of those plans.
- Expands the survivor benefit for investment plan members killed in the line of duty, including Special Risk Class, by making it retroactive to 2002.
- Closes the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity Program to new hires.
- Changes the default from the pension plan to the investment plan for non-Special Risk members of the FRS initially enrolled after January 1, 2018.
- Extends the initial election period from six to nine months after being hired.

The bill also makes significant changes State Group Health Insurance Program. Specifically, the bill:

- Beginning with plan year 2018
  - The bill authorizes offering of new types of health care products and services, including an online cost comparison for health care services and providers and inclusive services for surgery and other medical procedures. Enrollees may access these services and share in any savings to the state.
  - By October 1, 2017, the bill requires calculation of alternative premium rates that reflect the differences in costs to the Program for each of the health maintenance organizations and the preferred provider organization plan options for the 2018 plan year.
- For Plan Year 2019
  - The bill requires the Department of Management Services to determine and recommend premiums for enrollees that reflect the differences in costs to the program for each of the health maintenance organizations and the preferred provider organization plan options.
- Beginning in plan year 2020
  - The bill provides employees in the State Group Insurance Program with a choice of health insurance coverage levels of at least a certain actuarial value:
    - Platinum – 90 percent
    - Gold – 80 percent
    - Silver - 70 percent
    - Bronze - 60 percent
  - If the state's contribution is more than the premium cost of the health plan selected by the employee, the employee will be permitted to allocate unused state health insurance contributions to other benefits or as salary.
  - The bill requires competitive procurement of an independent benefits consultant to help develop an implementation plan for the new benefit levels.
  - The implementation plan must be produced by January 1, 2019, and must include recommended contribution policies and employee education strategies regarding the coverage levels and other benefit alternatives.