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Last week, the third week of the nine-week session, preliminary budgets were released by the House and Senate, the “Dreamers Act” passed the House, a rollback of vehicle-registration fees was sent to the governor, and Floridians paid their final respects to former Gov. Reubin Askew.

Initial budget plans released by the House and Senate had the House appropriating fewer “university performance” dollars than the Senate, but the House also suggested the use of recurring revenues for this allocation while the Senate recommended non-recurring monies. Appropriations Committees for each chamber will discuss their proposals this week. (See Related Story.)

Legislation that would impact state universities, including bills pertaining to textbook accountability, teacher preparation, performance measures and changes to state-employee health benefits, continue to move through the legislative process. Information on these and other bills can be found in the Spotlight on Bills section of this newsletter.

The House Finance and Tax Subcommittee will consider a variety of possible tax cuts this week, including several sales-tax holidays. Gov. Scott, meanwhile, is ready to sign into law a reduction in vehicle-registration fees, which will save motorists \$20 to \$25 per vehicle while reducing state revenue by \$309 million during the coming year and nearly \$400 million in future years.

After some dissention, the House last week passed legislation that would reduce the tuition state universities charge undocumented immigrants. The bill has been sent to the Senate, where its future remains uncertain.

Former Gov. Reubin Askew was laid in state at the Old Capitol on Tuesday and thousands of mourners filed by. During funeral services the next day, former FSU President Sandy D’Alemberte said Askew would be remembered for “his public-service calling, and his convictions that Florida could be a model for diversity, for equal opportunity, and for integrity.” D’Alemberte also recalled that someone who probably intended the label to be derisive once dubbed Askew “Reubin the Good.” “But the truth of the matter, he simply was good. If you think about Reubin Askew, you think of a person of good character, good judgment, and charm.”

As always, please feel free to contact me if you would like copies of bills and their analyses, or have questions about proposed legislation. I can be reached at **(850) 644-4453** or **kdaly@fsu.edu**.

Kathleen

Proposed Budgets Released

At a time when each chamber typically stakes out their conflicting budgets in advance of conference negotiations – which will get underway in the next few weeks – the House and Senate budget plans released last week had surprisingly few differences.

Both legislative bodies, however, allocate substantially more than Gov. Scott’s \$74.2 billion proposal; the House recommends a budget for 2014-2015 of \$75.3 billion, while the Senate proposes \$74.9 billion.

State-revenue estimators recently projected an additional \$1 billion compared to the current fiscal year, and both chambers’ proposals include at least \$500 million in tax and fee exemptions.

One area of divergence is the performance-funding model for state universities. The House finances their proposal by allocating \$45 million in new recurring revenue, and the shifting of an existing \$15 million, for a total of \$60 million in recurring dollars. The Senate, meanwhile, allocates \$200 million toward performance funding by appropriating \$100 million in new non-recurring funds, and transferring the other \$100 million from state universities’ recurring allocations to non-recurring funds.

Another difference is in the amounts held back in the form of reserves – \$1.2 billion by the House (not including the state’s rainy-day fund and Lawton Chiles Endowment Fund) compared to \$1.5 billion in the Senate.

The House Appropriations Committee is expected to finalize its plan on Wednesday, while the Senate Appropriations Committee will meet Thursday.

Below is a side-by-side comparison of where FSU allocations stand in each chamber's budget.

Issue	House	Senate
General Revenue	248,735,811	245,980,999
Preeminence included	15,000,000	20,000,000
Includes American Legion Boy and Girls Housing	100,000 NR	100,000 NR
Includes Campus Compact	250,000 NR	
Includes Pepper Center for Long Term Care		(500,000) R
Student and Other Fees	227,550,703	227,550,703
Lottery	47,599,914	37,064,365
SUS Performance Based Incentives	60,000,000 R	200,000,000 NR
College of Medicine	45,874,413	47,899,389
Includes Military ESE Early Intervention Services		2,000,000 R
College of Medicine Lottery	605,115	605,115
SUS Fixed Capital Outlay	31,123,760	41,123,760
SUS Maintenance Repair & Renovation	34,004,165	27,649,378
PECO		
FSU/FAMU College of Engineering III	15,000,000	10,000,000
Earth Ocean Atmospheric Sciences Building	30,000,000	
SUS Critical Deferred Maintenance	60,147,116	
WFSU-TV/FM Tower Renovation	115,000	115,000
Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources Center	450,000	396,525
Communication Navigator	1,000,000	1,500,000
Autism Program	1,578,492	1,056,211
Public Broadcasting		
Statewide Governmental & Cultural Affairs Programing	497,522	497,522
Florida Channel Closed Captioning	441,756	340,862
Florida Channel Year Round Coverage	2,072,554	2,272,554
Florida Channel Satellite Transponder Operations	800,000	800,000
Public Television Stations	3,996,811	3,996,811
Public Radio Stations	1,300,000	1,300,000
Student Financial Assistance	1,467,667	1,467,667
FSU College of Medicine – Immokalee	300,000 NR	300,000 NR
Florida Catastrophic Storm Risk		
Management Center	1,100,000	1,500,000



FSU Day at the Capitol

The annual salute to Florida State's significant contributions to our state is just one week away and will take place on **Tuesday, April 1, from 10:00 to 2:00.**

FSU Day at the Capitol has become one of the most popular traditions during the legislative session, and provides a wonderful opportunity to showcase our University's programs and accomplishments to our friends in the legislature.

Preceding the day's festivities, a "Seminole Evening" reception will be held on March 31 starting at 5:30 on the 22nd floor of the Capitol. This special event is sponsored by the FSU Student Government Association and all University supporters are welcome to attend.

As always, **FSU Day at the Capitol** will include informative displays, which will be positioned throughout the plaza level and second and third floor rotundas. Also featured will be University "celebrities" – administrators, legislative alumni and more – along with performances by the FSU pep band, cheerleaders and Flying High Circus.

A special celebration of all things FSU will take place in the Capitol courtyard beginning at **11:30** with refreshments available for all to enjoy.

Mark your calendars now for this Garnet and Gold event on **April 1st!**

Legislative Priorities for 2014

Each year, Florida State University administrators identify priorities determined to be vital to the operation and growth of the university. Below are the top three priorities for the 2014 Legislative Session, which begins on March 4th.

1. Support for the continuation of preeminence performance funding – \$15 million

Last session the legislature passed SB 1076, which established performance standards state universities need to meet in order to be granted preeminent status. Currently, only FSU and UF meet those criteria. In doing so, each university's annual base budget is supplemented by \$15 million, and Florida State will be encouraging state lawmakers to follow through on the second \$15 million installment. Additional system metrics are in development which are tied to separate performance funding. This funding will also be a priority.

2. Support the facilities funding

New facilities, renovations, and the expansion of existing facilities, as well as funding for general maintenance, has fallen short of the university's needs because of diminishing Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funds, enrollment and programmatic growth, and the impact of the recession. To address these critical needs, state universities have established the "Hard Hats for Higher Education" campaign. This initiative will involve both fiscal and policy issues, including requests for non-recurring dollars for priority projects and building-maintenance needs, legislation that gives universities more financing flexibility through public/private partnerships, and addressing the backlog of private gifts for educational facilities that qualify for state matching grants. The top three projects on FSU's priority list are:

1. *FAMU-FSU College of Engineering III* -- This request involves a joint-use project between Florida State University and Florida A&M University that will provide approximately 75,000 sq. ft. of space for the Colleges operations. \$15 million requested.
2. *EOAS (Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science) Building* -- The two-phased EOAS complex will be the focus of earth, ocean and atmospheric sciences. The idea is to create an environment where earth science disciplines such as these can interact in a collaborative effort to teach, conduct research, and public service. The facility will provide space primarily for classroom/teaching lab, study, research lab, administrative and academic support functions. \$30 million requested.
3. *Building Maintenance* -- The University's utility systems, infrastructure, and physical plant continue to be in need of renovation and expansion to keep pace with the growth of the campus population. FSU's system share

3. Support for veterans initiatives.

In its ongoing effort to be the most veteran-friendly university in the nation, Florida State has taken the lead in advocating for in-state tuition for veterans, regardless of their state of residency. These efforts were launched at a Capitol press conference during September's interim committee meetings. In addition to President Barron, the press conference included Student Body President Rosie Contreras and current student-veteran Andrew Wright Sloan.

FLORIDA Channel

Remember all of the Legislative activities can be seen daily on The FLORIDA Channel. This year, The FLORIDA Channel will televise, or stream, every committee meeting – as it's happening. A redesigned website and updated app means that users can access all meetings and events The FLORIDA Channel is covering – either live or in the archives. Simply click on what you want and the

website delivers the content directly to your computer or hand-held device.

FLORIDA Channel programming can be seen locally on Comcast Channel 201 and 4, on Centurylink Channel 12 and of course, at **TheFLORIDAChannel.org**.

SPOTLIGHT ON **BILLS**

HB 5105 – State University System Performance Funding Model by Representative Erik Fresen (R- Miami, FSU Alum), provides a framework upon which the Board of Governors can assess the performance and improvement of state universities and distribute performance funds appropriated by the Legislature. The bill:

- Specifies that performance funding shall be allocated to preeminent state research universities based upon the academic and research excellence standards already established by the Legislature to attain preeminent designation in last year's legislation, s. 1001.7065, F.S.;
- Establishes standards for all other state universities that will be used to allocate performance funding for those universities;
- Applies the standards to Florida Polytechnic University beginning July 1, 2022; and
- Provides for specific standards that reflect the unique mission of New College of Florida.

The bill requires the Board of Governors (BOG) to use these standards to establish a performance-funding model, which allocates the funds to provide rewards and sanctions based on each university's performance. Within this model, preeminent university academic and research excellence standards are worth twice the value of the quality standards established for the other universities.

Once the BOG implements the funding model, it will submit a budget amendment with the allocation of the funds based on each university's performance and, upon approval by the Legislative Budget Commission, the funds will be released.

To enhance transparency and clarity of student and parental choice options, the bill requires the BOG to design and annually disseminate a report card for each university that displays the university's rankings on the performance funding model standards.

The bill is now in the Appropriations Committee. There is no Senate companion at this time.

PCB 7112 – Postsecondary Education by the Education Committee, increases the annual maximum number of scholarships that may be awarded, increases the annual maximum award amount per student and, creates the Florida National Merit Scholar Incentive Program. The bill provides the purpose of the incentive program and requires the Department of Education to administer the incentive program, advertise the availability of the incentive program, and notify students, teachers, parents, and school administrators about the incentive program's criteria and application procedures. The bill will be heard in the Education Committee tomorrow. There is no House companion at this time.

SPB 7108 – Florida Retirement System by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee, creates a narrow exception on renewed membership in the Florida Retirement System for those considered investment system retirees. Pension plan retirees are not included in this bill. Retirees who retired before July 1, 2010 from the State University System Optional

Retirement Plan would be allowed to return to the plan on or after January 1, 2015. Vesting requirements would need to be met by renewed members. Creditable service would not accrue for a retiree's employment in a regularly established position with a covered employer from July 1, 2010, through December 31, 2014. During this time period, the employer or employee contributions would not be paid into a renewed member's investment plan account. An amendment provided that (after January 1, 2015) the employer and employee contributions must be transferred to the investment plan and placed in a default account as designated by the State Board of Administration. The retiree could then move the contributions once an account is activated in the investment plan.

SB 1692 – State Employee Group Health Insurance Plan by Representative Jason Brodeur (R – Sanford), requires the Department of Management Services (DMS) to establish employee contribution rates for 2015 plan year that reflect the full actuarial benefit difference between the Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) and the Preferred Provider Organization (PPO). The PPO contribution rate must be less than the employee contribution level for the 2014 plan year. Next year employees would be given a choice between paying more for the HMO and paying less, compared to the prior year, for the PPO. Also, beginning in 2015, DMS is directed to implement a 3-year price transparency pilot project in at least one, but no more than three areas of the state. The purpose of the pilot is to reward value-based pricing by publishing the prices of certain diagnostic and surgical procedures and sharing any savings generated by the enrollee's choice of providers. Participation in the transparency pilot project would be voluntary. Additionally, beginning in the 2017 plan year, the bill provides that state employees will have health

plan choices at four different benefit levels. If the state's contribution for premium is more than the cost of the plan selected by the employee, then the employee may use the remainder to: 1) fund a flexible spending arrangement, 2) fund a health savings account, 3) purchase additional benefits offered through state group insurance program, and 4) increase the employee's salary. Finally, other provisions in the bill require DMS to contract with at least one entity that provides comprehensive pricing and inclusive services for surgery and other types of medical procedures. DMS is also directed to hire an independent benefits consultant who will assist in developing a plan for the implementation of the new benefit levels in the state program. There is not House companion at this time.

CS/SB 928 – State Technology by the Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee, substantially revises how the state establishes information technology (IT) policy and procedures. The bill creates the Agency for State Technology (AST), administratively housed in the Department of Management Services. The Agency for Enterprise Information Technology is abolished in the bill, and its duties are transferred to the AST. The AST is given extensive authority to set state technology policy and perform project oversight of large IT projects. The Northwood and Southwood shared resource centers are transferred to the AST. The bill provides funding, staffing and salary rates for the agency.

The bill was amended to:

- Clarify and specify the funding approach for the AST; appropriates recurring general revenue of \$3,563,573, non-recurring general revenue of \$1,095,005 and 25 full time positions to the AST.
- Appropriate \$144,870 of recurring general revenue, \$7,546 of nonrecurring general revenue, and two positions to the Florida

Department of Law Enforcement to support new duties defined in the bill related to cybercrime.

- Provide for the AST to complete an operational assessment of the state data center and a security risk assessment on state information technology resources by June 2015.
- Revise the duties of the Technology Advisory Council to include the consideration of private-public partnerships and defines a process for the cabinet to appoint a member to the council.
- Revise the definition of "State Agency" to exclude the Department of Financial Services, Department of Legal Affairs, and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- Require AST provide project oversight for any information technology projects of the Department of Financial Services, Department of Legal Affairs, or Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services that have a total project cost of \$25 million or more.
- Provide the time frames by which certain new duties of the agency are to be completed.
- Clarify the responsibilities of the agency as related to the procurement of information technology products and services.
- Provide that state term contracts for information technology commodities, consultant services, or staff augmentation services will not exceed 48 months unless a longer term is in the best interest of the state.

The bill passed out of committee last week and is waiting to be heard by the full Senate. A similar bill in the House, **HB 7073 by Representative Seth McKeel (R – Lakeland)** has been referred to the Governmental Oversight and Accountability, Appropriations Subcommittee

on General Government, and the Appropriations Committee.

CS CS SB 612 – Government Contracting by Senator Alan Hays (R – Umatilla), provides that state law preempts and supersedes any local ordinance or regulation that gives preference to a local contractor if a competitive solicitation for personal property or construction services utilizes state funds to pay for 20 percent or more of the total cost.

The bill requires a political subdivision of the state to disclose in the solicitation document of a competitive solicitation whether payment will come from funds appropriated by the state and, if known, the amount or proportion of such funds.

The bill also requires state agencies to report contract problems, fines, defaults, and terminations to the Department of Management Services (DMS), and for the DMS to maintain a vendor complaint list, a suspended vendor list, and a terminated vendor list. Agencies must consider the fact of a vendor's status on any of the lists in evaluating competitive solicitations. Local governments may participate in the vendor reporting provisions.

The bill requires Florida agencies to update the Florida Accountability Contract Tracking System website with information regarding contractors on any of the above-described lists within 30 calendar days of executing a contract with that contractor.

The bill was amended to:

- Delete the provision that added "construction services" to the state preference for Florida businesses.
- Provides that the state preemption of local preference laws and regulations will only be triggered by competitive solicitations for personal property or construction services that utilize state funds to pay for 20 percent or more of the total cost.

The bill was further amended to require state agencies to report contract problems, fines, defaults, and terminations to the DMS, and for DMS to maintain a vendor complaint list, a suspended vendor list, and a terminated vendor list. Agencies must consider the fact of a vendor's status on any of the lists in evaluating competitive solicitations. Local governments may participate in the vendor reporting provisions.

The bill passed the Community Affairs Committee last week. A comparable bill in the House, **CS HB 801 by Representative Heather Fitzhagen (R – Ft. Myers)**, was amended by the Governmental Operations Subcommittee last week to:

- Remove universities from the bill
- Relocate provisions pertaining to construction services to chapter 255, F.S., which is the chapter that regulates the purchase of construction services;
- Narrow the scope of the bill by making it applicable to construction services only; and
- Provide that certain local restrictions are prohibited when state appropriated funds are used to pay for construction services.

CS SB 646 – Postsecondary Records and Applicant Records by Senator Bill Montford (D – Tallahassee, FSU Alum), continues the current public records exemption for a student's education records and an applicant's records at a public postsecondary educational institution by removing the repeal date.

If the exemption were not reenacted, a conflict would exist between a public postsecondary educational institution's obligations under public records laws and the privacy rights afforded to students under FERPA. Noncompliance with FERPA may result in the loss of federal funding to educational agencies and institutions. The bill is scheduled for

a hearing later this week in the Rules Committee. The identical bill in the House, **HB 7121 by Representative Larry Ahern (R – Seminole)** is now in the State Affairs Committee.

SB 482 – Hurricane Catastrophe Fund by Senator Alan Hays (R – Umatilla), reduces the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund (Cat Fund) coverage limits and allows insurers to recoup through their property insurance premiums specified reinsurance premiums paid by insurers to the Cat Fund. The bill is designed to reduce the overall financial obligations of the fund, reducing the likelihood and amount of bonding and emergency assessments needed to fund deficits in the event the fund experiences a shortfall after a major hurricane.

The bill phases in decreases of \$1 billion per year to the \$17 billion Cat Fund mandatory coverage limit beginning in the 2015-2016 contract year until the 2017-2018 contract year, when the limit will have been reduced to \$14 billion. Thereafter, the bill provides a mechanism for the board to determine if the claims-paying capacity of the fund will exceed \$14 billion.

The bill also allows insurers to recoup reinsurance premiums paid to the Cat Fund and purchased solely to cover a potential gap between the maximum statutory obligation of the fund and the fund's claims-paying capacity estimate. The bill also deletes a prohibition against insurers recouping reinsurance costs that duplicate coverage provided by the Cat Fund. The bill appears on the Banking and Insurance Committee agenda for tomorrow. An amendment authorizing an annual transfer of a portion of investment income from the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund to the Florida Catastrophic Storm Risk Management Center at Florida State will be offered to the bill. A similar bill in the House, **HB 391 by Representative Bill Hager (R - Boca Raton)** is scheduled for a hearing later

today in the Governmental Operations Appropriations Subcommittee.

HB 1053 --Teacher Education by Representative Karen Castor Dentel (D – Maitland), revises the eligibility criteria for receipt of the minority teacher education scholarship. Additionally, the bill revises the funding for administration and training program carried out by board of directors of Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc. It also revises the criteria for eligibility and issuance of temporary certificates. The bill will be heard in the Higher Education and Workforce Subcommittee tomorrow. The identical bill in the Senate, **SB 1456 by Senator Geraldine Thompson (D – Orlando, FSU Alum)** has been referred to the Education Committee, the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education and the Appropriations Committee.

CS HB 993 -- Animal Research by Representative Travis Cummings (R – Orange Park), creates a public records exemption for a person employed by, under contract with, or volunteering for a public research facility, including a state university, that conducts animal research or is engaged in activities related to animal research.

The bill provides a public records exemption for personal identifying information when such information is contained in the following records:

- Animal records, including animal care and treatment records.
- Research protocols and approvals.
- Purchase and billing records related to animal research or activities.
- Animal care and committee records.
- Facility and laboratory records related to animal research or activities.

An amendment last week in the Higher Education and Workforce Subcommittee included:

- A public records exemption for a person employed by, under contract with, or volunteering for a public research facility, including a state university, that conducts animal research or is engaged in activities related to animal research.
- A public records exemption for personal identifying information when such information is contained in certain records.
- A retroactive applicability of the public records exemption.
- A future legislative review and repeal of the public records exemption.
- A statement of public necessity as required by the State Constitution.

The exemption is retroactive, applying to personal identifying information collected before, on, or after the effective date.

A similar bill in the Senate, **SB 414 by Senator Charles Dean (R – Inverness, FSU Alum)** will be heard tomorrow in the Education Committee.

SB 566 -- Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program by Senator Tom Lee (R – Brandon), requires a student, as a prerequisite for the Florida Academic Scholars award, the Florida Medallion Scholars award, or the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award, to identify a social or civic issue or a professional area of interest and develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area. The bill prohibits the student from receiving remuneration or academic credit for the volunteer service work performed, etc. The bill will be heard in the Education Committee tomorrow. The identical bill in the House, **HB 557 by Representative Pat Rooney (R – Palm Beach Gardens)** is now in the Higher Education and Workforce Subcommittee.

UPDATE ON BILLS

HB 851 –Postsecondary Education, Tuition and Fees by Representative Jeannette Nunez (R – Miami), the bill that provides that a United States citizen who is a dependent child may not be denied classification as a resident for tuition purposes based solely upon the immigration status of his or her parent. It amends the definitions of “dependent child” and “parent” regarding establishing residency for tuition purposes, etc. Additionally, the bill eliminates the automatic annual rate of inflation increases currently authorized for state universities, Florida colleges, and workforce education programs. The bill also reduces the rate at which an institution may request to increase their tuition differential to the Board of Governors from 15 percent to 6 percent. The bill passed the House of Representatives last week. A Senate companion, **SB 1400 by Senator Jack Latvala (R – Clearwater)** was amended by the Education Committee last week to:

- Extend an in-state tuition benefit to students who are undocumented aliens through an out-of-state fee waiver approach rather than a residency classification for tuition purposes approach, and clarifies that such students are not eligible for state financial aid.
- Expand tuition waiver benefit for Purple Heart and other combat decoration recipients enrolled at a state university or a FCS institution to also apply to Purple Heart and other combat decoration recipients enrolled at a career center operated by a school district or charter technical career center.
- Clarify that the cap on the aggregate sum the Prepaid Program pays state universities for registration, tuition differential, local fees, and dormitory fees, under the bill, apply to advance payment contracts purchased before July 1, 2024.

Another similar bill in the Senate, **SB 732 -- Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program by Senator Bill Galvano (R – Bradenton)**, redefines the term “tuition differential” and prohibits the amount of the aggregate sum of registration fees, the tuition differential fee, and local fees paid by the board to a state university on behalf of a qualified beneficiary of an advance payment contract from exceeding 6 percent of the amount charged by the state university for the aggregate sum of those fees.

CS HB 433 – Educator Certification by Representative Ross Spano (R – Riverview, FSU Alum), restates the methods by which a candidate for educator certification may demonstrate mastery of subject area knowledge, including passage of a Florida-developed subject area examination or a standardized examination specified by rule. The bill also allows a candidate to demonstrate mastery of general knowledge by achieving passing scores, as identified by the State Board of Education (SBE) in rule, on a national or international examination that tests comparable content and relevant standards in verbal, analytical writing, and quantitative reasoning skills. In addition, the bill specifies certain requirements regarding demonstration of mastery of professional preparation and education competence.

The bill was amended to clarify that scientifically based reading instruction must be included in the professional education preparation content knowledge provided by a district competency-based professional development certification and education competency program.

The bill was further amended to:

- Restore language specifying that certain provisions of the bill apply to individuals in postsecondary teacher preparation programs

who instruct or supervise pre-service field experience courses or internships in which candidates demonstrate impact on student learning growth,

- Provide requirements for instructional personnel who supervise or direct teacher preparation students during field experience courses or internships, in which candidates demonstrate impact on student learning growth, on a U.S. military base outside the U.S. through a Florida online or distance program. Such instructional personnel must have received “clinical educator” training or its equivalent in the state in which the field experience takes place, hold a valid professional certificate issued by a U.S. state or territory or the Department of Defense, and have at least three years of teaching experience in prekindergarten through grade 12.

The bill is waiting to be heard by the full House. A comparable bill in the Senate, **SB 950 by Senator Kelli Stargel (R – Lakeland)** is now in the Appropriations subcommittee on Education.

CS/CS SB 1036 – Nursing Education Programs by Senator Denise Grimsley (R – Sebring), establishes a schedule a schedule for all RN pre-licensure programs approved by the Board of Nursing (BON) to become accredited by a specialized nursing accrediting agency that is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. The bill:

- Revises the definition of “clinical training” to include clinical simulation and the definition of “practice of professional nursing” to include “the teaching of general principles of health and wellness to the public and to students other than nursing students.”
- Increases the percentage of clinical training that may consist of simulation from 25 percent to 50 percent.

- Requires the BON to adopt rules to administer the documentation of the accreditation of nursing education programs.
- Exempts a nurse who is certified by a health care specialty program that is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) or Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC) from the biennial continuing education requirement.
- Provides an exemption from the nursing education program accreditation requirement for an institution exempted from licensure by the Commission for Independent Education.

The Health Policy Committee amended the bill to:

- Specify the type of certification a nurse must have to qualify for exemption from the CE requirements to be certification by a health care specialty program accredited by the NCCA or ABSNC.
- Require clinical training to be at a health care facility within the U.S., the District of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United States.
- Reinstate and increase the limit on clinical training that can be by simulation to 50 percent from 25 percent.
- Extend the study of the implementation of the nursing program approval process from a five-year review ending with a report released on or before January 30, 2015, to an ongoing annual review and report.

The bill was further amended last week by the Education Committee to: Authorizes clinical simulation to occur in a “facility” as opposed to only in a “health care facility.”

A hearing before the full Senate is scheduled for later this week.

The House companion, CS HB 1059 by Representative Cary Pigman (R – Sebring), was amended last week to:

- Add the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification to the named entities for nursing specialty certification accreditation for the purpose of the

continuing education exemption in the bill;

- Require the clinical training portion of a nursing major curriculum to occur in the United States, the District of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United States;

- Increase from 25 percent to 50 percent the amount of clinical training that may be provided through clinical simulation; and
- Require the education policy area of OPPAGA to continue submitting annual implementation reports through January 30, 2020.

SESSION SCHEDULE

SENATE SESSION

WEDNESDAY, **MARCH 26**, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

REUNION SESSION

WEDNESDAY, **MARCH 26**, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

HOUSE SESSION

WEDNESDAY, **MARCH 26**, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

FRIDAY, **MARCH 28**, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon



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GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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