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A bill to be entitled An act relating to public postsecondary educational institutions; amending s. 1001.706, F.S.; requiring the Board of Governors to periodically review specified information relating to state universities and provide certain direction to such universities; revising the contents of the Board of Governor's strategic plan; authorizing state universities to initiate post-tenure reviews at any time for cause; amending s. 1001.7065, F.S.; revising the academic and research excellence standards for preeminent state research universities; creating s. 1001.725, F.S.; providing requirements for hiring state university faculty; authorizing state university boards of trustees to review the tenure status of faculty members; requiring such boards to confirm the selection and reappointment of specified personnel; providing requirements for certain employment contracts and responsibilities; requiring state university presidents to annually present specified information to such boards; amending s. 1004.06, F.S.; providing that certain entities may not expend funds for certain purposes relating to activities that violate a specified law; providing exceptions; amending s. 1004.6496, F.S.; conforming a provision to

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changes made by the act; amending s. 1004.6499, F.S.; renaming the "Florida Institute of Politics" as the "Florida Institute for Governance and Civics"; revising the goals of the institute; amending s. 1004.64991, F.S.; authorizing the Adam Smith Center for the Study of Economic Freedom within Florida International University to take specified actions; amending s. 1007.25, F.S.; revising the duties and responsibilities of specified faculty committees relating to general education core courses; deleting a provision authorizing certain course maximums to be exceeded; revising requirements for general education core courses; requiring public postsecondary educational institutions to offer and accept certain credits for certain general education core courses; creating s. 1007.55, F.S.; providing legislative findings; requiring the Articulation Coordinating Committee to submit certain courses to the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors; providing requirements for general education courses; providing requirements for public postsecondary educational institutions and their presidents and boards of trustees relating to general education courses; providing an effective date.

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Paragraphs (a) through (d) of subsection (5) and paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of section 1001.706, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.-

- (5) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO ACCOUNTABILITY. -
- The Legislature intends that the Board of Governors shall align the missions of each constituent university with the academic success of its students; the education for citizenship of the constitutional republic; the state's existing and emerging workforce needs; the national reputation of its faculty and its academic and research programs; the quantity of externally generated research, patents, and licenses; and the strategic and accountability plans required in paragraphs (b) and (c). The board shall periodically review the mission of each constituent university and provide updates or revisions to such mission as needed; examine existing academic programs at each constituent university for alignment with the university's mission; and provide direction to each constituent university on removing from its programs any major or minor in Critical Race Theory, Gender Studies, or Intersectionality, or any derivative major or minor of these belief systems, which is any major or minor that engenders beliefs in the concepts defined in s. 1000.05(4)(a). The mission alignment and strategic plan shall

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consider peer institutions at the constituent universities. The mission alignment and strategic plan shall acknowledge that universities that have a national and international impact have the greatest capacity to promote the state's economic development through: new discoveries, patents, licenses, and technologies that generate state businesses of global importance; research achievements through external grants and contracts that are comparable to nationally recognized and ranked universities; the creation of a resource rich academic environment that attracts high-technology business and venture capital to the state; and this generation's finest minds focusing on solving the state's economic, social, environmental, and legal problems in the areas of life sciences, water, sustainability, energy, and health care. A nationally recognized and ranked university that has a global perspective and impact shall be afforded the opportunity to enable and protect the university's competitiveness on the global stage in fair competition with other institutions of other states in the highest Carnegie Classification.

- (b) The Board of Governors shall develop a strategic plan specifying goals and objectives for the State University System and each constituent university, including each university's contribution to overall system goals and objectives. The strategic plan must:
 - 1. Include performance metrics and standards common for

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all institutions and metrics and standards unique to institutions depending on institutional core missions, including, but not limited to, student admission requirements, the education for citizenship of the constitutional republic, retention, graduation, percentage of graduates who have attained employment, percentage of graduates enrolled in continued education, licensure passage, industry certification attainment as specified in s. 445.004(4)(h), average wages of employed graduates, average cost per graduate, excess hours, student loan burden and default rates, faculty awards, total annual research expenditures, patents, licenses and royalties, intellectual property, startup companies, annual giving, endowments, and well-known, highly respected national rankings for institutional and program achievements.

- 2. Consider reports and recommendations of the Florida Talent Development Council under s. 1004.015 and the Articulation Coordinating Committee under s. 1007.01.
- 3. Include student enrollment and performance data delineated by method of instruction, including, but not limited to, traditional, online, and distance learning instruction.
- 4. Include criteria for designating baccalaureate degree and master's degree programs at specified universities as high-demand programs of emphasis. The programs of emphasis list adopted by the Board of Governors before July 1, 2021, shall be used for the 2021-2022 academic year. Beginning in the 2022-2023

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academic year, the Board of Governors shall adopt the criteria to determine value for and prioritization of degree credentials and degree programs established by the Credentials Review Committee under s. 445.004 for designating high-demand programs of emphasis. The Board of Governors must review designated programs of emphasis, at a minimum, every 3 years to ensure alignment with the prioritization of degree credentials and degree programs identified by the Credentials Review Committee.

- 5. Include criteria for designating the prioritization of nondegree credentials as specified in s. 445.004(4)(h).
- (c) The Board of Governors shall develop an accountability plan for the State University System and each constituent university. The accountability plan must address institutional and system achievement of goals and objectives specified in the strategic plan adopted pursuant to paragraph (b) and must be submitted as part of its legislative budget request. Each university shall submit, as a component of the university's annual accountability plan:
- $\underline{\text{1.}}$ Information on the effectiveness of its plan for improving 4-year graduation rates. $\underline{\text{and}}$
- $\underline{2.}$ Information on the level of financial assistance provided to students pursuant to paragraph (h).
- 3. Documentation of its efforts to promote the education for citizenship of the constitutional republic and the cultivation of the intellectual autonomy of its undergraduate

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students.

- (d) Beginning in the 2014-2015 academic year and annually thereafter, The Board of Governors shall annually require a state university before prior to registration to provide each enrolled student electronic access to the economic security report of employment and earning outcomes prepared by the Department of Economic Opportunity pursuant to s. 445.07. In addition, the Board of Governors shall require a state university to provide each student electronic access to the following information each year before prior to registration using the data described in s. 1008.39:
- 1. The top 25 percent of degrees reported by the university in terms of highest full-time job placement and highest average annualized earnings in the year after earning the degree.
- 2. The bottom 10 percent of degrees reported by the university in terms of lowest full-time job placement and lowest average annualized earnings in the year after earning the degree.
 - (6) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO PERSONNEL.-
- (b) The Board of Governors may adopt a regulation requiring each tenured state university faculty member to undergo a comprehensive post-tenure review every 5 years. Each constituent university may initiate a post-tenure review of a faculty member at any time with cause. The board may include

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other considerations in the regulation, but the regulation must address:

1. Accomplishments and productivity;

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- 2. Assigned duties in research, teaching, and service;
- 3. Performance metrics, evaluations, and ratings; and
- 4. Recognition and compensation considerations, as well as improvement plans and consequences for underperformance.

Section 2. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 1001.7065, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (m) is added to subsection (2) of that section, to read:

1001.7065 Preeminent state research universities program.-

- (2) ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE STANDARDS.—The following academic and research excellence standards are established for the preeminent state research universities program and shall be reported annually in the Board of Governors Accountability Plan:
- (m) Total annual research expenditures of \$50 million or more benefiting STEM-related occupations, businesses, or industry partners located in the state and currently employing or seeking to employ Florida residents.
 - (3) PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY DESIGNATION. -
- (a) The Board of Governors shall designate each state university that annually meets at least $\underline{12}$ $\underline{11}$ of the $\underline{13}$ $\underline{12}$ academic and research excellence standards identified in subsection (2) as a "preeminent state research university."

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(b) The Board of Governors shall designate each state university that annually meets at least $\frac{7}{6}$ of the $\frac{13}{12}$ academic and research excellence standards identified in subsection (2) as an "emerging preeminent state research university."

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- (4) PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE FOR ONLINE LEARNING.—A state research university that, as of July 1, 2013, meets all 13 12 of the academic and research excellence standards identified in subsection (2), as verified by the Board of Governors, shall establish an institute for online learning. The institute shall establish a robust offering of high-quality, fully online baccalaureate degree programs at an affordable cost in accordance with this subsection.
- (a) Beginning in January 2014, The university shall offer high-quality, fully online baccalaureate degree programs that:
 - 1. Accept full-time, first-time-in-college students.
- 2. Have the same rigorous admissions criteria as equivalent on-campus degree programs.
- 3. Offer curriculum of equivalent rigor to on-campus degree programs.
- 4. Offer rolling enrollment or multiple opportunities for enrollment throughout the year.
- 5. Do not require any on-campus courses. However, for courses or programs that require clinical training or laboratories that cannot be delivered online, the university

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shall offer convenient locational options to the student, which may include, but are not limited to, the option to complete such requirements at a summer-in-residence on the university campus. The university may provide a network of sites at convenient locations and contract with commercial testing centers or identify other secure testing services for the purpose of proctoring assessments or testing.

- 6. Apply the university's existing policy for accepting credits for both freshman applicants and transfer applicants.
- (b) The university may offer a fully online Master's in Business Administration degree program and other master's degree programs.
- (c) The university may develop and offer degree programs and courses that are competency based as appropriate for the quality and success of the program.
- (d) The university shall periodically expand its offering of online baccalaureate degree programs to meet student and market demands.
- (e) The university shall establish a tuition structure for its online institute in accordance with this paragraph, notwithstanding any other provision of law.
- 1. For students classified as residents for tuition purposes, tuition for an online baccalaureate degree program shall be set at no more than 75 percent of the tuition rate as specified in the General Appropriations Act pursuant to s.

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251 1009.24(4) and 75 percent of the tuition differential pursuant to s. 1009.24(16). No distance learning fee, fee for campus 253 facilities, or fee for on-campus services may be assessed, except that online students shall pay the university's technology fee, financial aid fee, and Capital Improvement Trust Fund fee. The revenues generated from the Capital Improvement Trust Fund fee shall be dedicated to the university's institute for online learning.

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- 2. For students classified as nonresidents for tuition purposes, tuition may be set at market rates in accordance with the business plan.
- Tuition for an online degree program shall include all costs associated with instruction, materials, and enrollment, excluding costs associated with the provision of textbooks and instructional materials pursuant to s. 1004.085 and physical laboratory supplies.
- Subject to the limitations in subparagraph 1., tuition may be differentiated by degree program as appropriate to the instructional and other costs of the program in accordance with the business plan. Pricing must incorporate innovative approaches that incentivize persistence and completion, including, but not limited to, a fee for assessment, a bundled or all-inclusive rate, and sliding scale features.
- The university must accept advance payment contracts and student financial aid.

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6. Fifty percent of the net revenues generated from the online institute of the university shall be used to enhance and enrich the online institute offerings, and 50 percent of the net revenues generated from the online institute shall be used to enhance and enrich the university's campus state-of-the-art research programs and facilities.

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- 7. The institute may charge additional local user fees pursuant to s. $1009.24\,(14)$ upon the approval of the Board of Governors.
- 8. The institute shall submit a proposal to the president of the university authorizing additional user fees for the provision of voluntary student participation in activities and additional student services.
- Section 3. Section 1001.725, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
 - 1001.725 State university boards of trustees; personnel.—
- (1) Each state university board of trustees is responsible for hiring faculty for the university. The president of the university may provide hiring recommendations to the board. The president and the board are not required to consider recommendations or opinions of faculty of the university or other individuals or groups.
- (a) The board of trustees may delegate its hiring authority to the president; however, the president may not delegate such hiring authority and the board must approve or

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deny any selection by the president.

- (b) A state university is prohibited from using diversity, equity, and inclusion statements, Critical Race Theory rhetoric, or other forms of political identity filters as part of the hiring process, including as part of applications for employment, promotion and tenure, conditions of employment, or reviewing qualifications for employment. This paragraph applies to the hiring process for any position at the university, including the position of president of the university.
- (2) Each state university board of trustees may, at the request of its chair, review any faculty member's tenure status.
- its president's selection and reappointment of each member of the university's executive management team, and his or her respective contract and annual salary, in accordance with the university's personnel program established by the Board of Governors. Contracts and responsibilities of the president and executive management team members, including, but not limited to, the provost, must explicitly delineate that the responsibilities of such positions, other than the president, are limited to administrative oversight and operational supervision of curricular, instructional, and research affairs, as applicable to the position.
- (4) Each state university president shall annually present to the state university board of trustees for review the results

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326 of performance evaluations and associated salaries for all 327 evaluated personnel earning an annual salary of \$100,000 or 328 more, regardless of the funding source for such salaries. 329 Section 4. Section 1004.06, Florida Statutes, is amended 330 to read: 331 1004.06 Prohibited expenditures.-332 (1) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, a No 333 Florida College System institution, state university, Florida 334 College System institution direct-support organization, or state 335 university direct-support organization may not, directly or through a contract, grant, or agreement that provides services, 336 337 shall expend any funds, regardless of source, to: 338 Purchase membership in, or goods and services from, 339 any organization that discriminates on the basis of race, 340 national origin, gender, or religion. 341 (b) Promote, support, or maintain any programs or campus 342 activities that violate s. 1000.05(4)(a) or that espouse 343 diversity, equity, and inclusion or Critical Race Theory 344 rhetoric. 345 (2) Programs required for compliance with federal 346 regulations, or access programs for military veterans, Pell 347 Grant recipients, first generation college students, nontraditional students, "2+2" transfer students from the 348 349 Florida College System, students from low-income families, or students with unique abilities are not prohibited by this 350

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351	section.
352	Section 5. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section
353	1004.6496, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
354	1004.6496 Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic
355	Education
356	(2) The goals of the center are to:
357	(e) Coordinate with the Florida Institute for Governance
358	and Civics of Politics created pursuant to s. 1004.6499 and the
359	Adam Smith Center for the Study of Economic Freedom created
860	pursuant to s. 1004.64991 and assist in the curation and
861	implementation of Portraits in Patriotism created pursuant to s.
862	1003.44.
363	Section 6. Section 1004.6499, Florida Statutes, is amended
864	to read:
865	1004.6499 Florida Institute for Governance and Civics of
366	Politics
867	(1) The Florida Institute for Governance and Civics $\frac{1}{2}$
368	Politics is established at the Florida State University within
369	the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy. The purpose of
370	the institute is to provide the southeastern region of the
371	United States with a world class, bipartisan, nationally
372	renowned institute of politics.
373	(2) The goals of the institute are to:
374	(a) Provide students with access to an interdisciplinary
375	hub that will develop academically rigorous scholarship and

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coursework on the origins of the American system of government, its foundational documents, its subsequent political traditions and evolutions, and its impact on comparative political systems

Motivate students throughout the Florida State University to become aware of the significance of government and civic engagement at all levels and politics in general.

- (b) Encourage civic literacy in the state through the development of educational tools and resources for K-12 and postsecondary students that foster an understanding of how individual rights, constitutionalism, separation of powers, and federalism function within the American system of government Provide students with an opportunity to be politically active and civically engaged.
- of viewpoint diversity, intellectual rigor, and an evidence-based approach to history Nurture a greater awareness of and passion for public service and politics.
- (d) Plan and host forums to allow students and guests to hear from exceptional individuals who have excelled in a wide range of sectors of American life to highlight the possibilities created by individual achievement and entrepreneurial vision and interact with experts from government, politics, policy, and journalism on a frequent basis.
- (e) Become a national and state resource on polling instruments and other assessments to measure civic literacy and

make recommendations for improving civic education information
and survey methodology.

- (f) Provide fellowships and internship opportunities to students in government, nonprofit organizations, and community organizations.
- (g) Create through scholarship, original research, publications, symposia, testimonials, and other means a body of resources that can be accessed by students, scholars, and government officials to understand the innovations in public policy in the state over a rolling 30-year time period Provide training sessions for newly elected state and local public officials.
- (h) Organize and sponsor conferences, symposia, and workshops throughout this state to educate and inform citizens, elected officials, and appointed policymakers regarding effective policymaking techniques and processes.
- (i) Create and promote research and awareness regarding politics, citizen involvement, and public service.
- (j) Collaborate with related policy institutes and research activities at the Florida State University and other institutions of higher education to motivate, increase, and sustain citizen involvement in public affairs.
- Section 7. Subsection (3) is added to section 1004.64991, Florida Statutes, to read:
 - 1004.64991 The Adam Smith Center for the Study of Economic

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126	Freedom.—
127	(3) In order to carry out the goals outlined in subsection
128	(2), the center is authorized to:
129	(a) Hire the necessary faculty and staff.
130	(b) Enroll students.
131	(c) Develop curriculum and offer new courses, including
132	honors courses, certificates, and major and minor programs.
133	(d) Award degrees.
134	(e) Hold events, including fundraisers.
135	(f) Fulfill other actions approved by the president of the
136	university.
137	(g) Generate resources based on student credit hour
138	enrollment in the same manner as a college within the
139	university.
440	Section 8. Subsection (3) of section 1007.25, Florida
441	Statutes, is amended to read:
442	1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;
443	other degree requirements.—
144	(3) The chair of the State Board of Education and the
445	chair of the Board of Governors, or their designees, shall
446	jointly appoint faculty committees to review and recommend to
147	the Articulation Coordinating Committee for approval by the
448	Commissioner of Education and the Chancellor of the State
449	University System identify statewide general education core
150	course options for inclusion in the statewide course numbering

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system established in s. 1007.24. Faculty committees shall, by
July 1, 2024, and by July 1 every 3 years thereafter, review and
submit recommendations to the Articulation Coordinating

Committee, the commissioner, and the Chancellor of the State
University System for the removal, alignment, realignment, or
addition of general education core courses that satisfy the
requirements of this subsection.

- (a) General education core course options shall consist of a maximum of five courses within each of the subject areas of communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences. The core courses may be revised, or the five-course maximum within each subject area may be exceeded, if approved by the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors, as recommended by the subject area faculty committee and approved by the Articulation Coordinating Committee as necessary for a subject area.
- (b) Each general education core course option must contain high-level academic and critical thinking skills and common competencies that students must demonstrate to successfully complete the course.
- (c) General education core courses may not suppress or distort significant historical events or include a curriculum that teaches identity politics, such as Critical Race Theory, or defines American history as contrary to the creation of a new nation based on universal principles stated in the Declaration

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476 of Independence.

- (d) General education core courses must meet the following standards:
- 1. Communication courses must afford students the ability to communicate effectively, including the ability to write clearly and engage in public speaking, through engagement with the Western literary tradition.
- 2. Humanities courses must afford students the ability to think critically through the mastering of subjects concerned with human culture, especially literature, history, art, music, and philosophy.
- 3. Social science courses must afford students an understanding of the basic social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavior and social, political, and economic issues, including issues from the past and present.
- 4. Natural science courses must afford students the ability to critically examine and evaluate the principles of the scientific method, model construction, and use the scientific method to explain natural experiences and phenomena.
- 5. Mathematics courses must afford students a mastery of foundational mathematical and computation models and methods by applying such models and methods in problem solving.
- (e) Beginning with students initially entering a Florida College System institution or state university in 2015-2016 and

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thereafter, each student must complete at least one identified core course in each subject area as part of the general education course requirements. Beginning in the 2022-2023 academic year and thereafter, students entering a technical degree education program as defined in s. 1004.02(13) must complete at least one identified core course in each subject area as part of the general education course requirements before a degree is awarded.

- (f) All public postsecondary educational institutions shall offer at least one general education core course in each of the identified subject areas and accept these courses as meeting general education core course requirements upon the transfer of credit for such course regardless of whether the receiving institution offers the identical general education core course. The remaining general education course requirements shall be identified by each institution as approved in accordance with s. 1007.55 and listed in the and reported to the department by their statewide course numbering system number.
- (g) The general education core course options shall be adopted in rule by the State Board of Education and in regulation by the Board of Governors.
- Section 9. Section 1007.55, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
- 1007.55 General education course principles, standards, and content.—

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526	(1) The Legislature finds it necessary that every
527	undergraduate student of a public postsecondary educational
528	institution in the state graduates as an informed citizen
529	through participation in rigorous general education courses that
530	promote the values necessary to preserve the constitutional
531	republic through traditional, historically accurate, and high-
532	quality coursework. Courses with a curriculum based on unproven,
533	theoretical, or exploratory content are best suited to fulfill
534	elective or specific program prerequisite credit requirements,
535	rather than general education credit requirements.
536	(2) In performing its duties under ss. 1007.24 and
537	1007.25, by December 1, 2024, and each December 1 thereafter,
538	the Articulation Coordinating Committee shall submit to the
539	State of Board of Education and the Board of Governors courses
540	that have been approved to be used by public postsecondary
541	educational institutions as meeting general education
542	requirements.
543	(3) General education courses must:
544	(a) Be in the general education core subject areas and
545	meet the course standards as provided in s. 1007.25.
546	(b) Be offered by at least half of all public
547	postsecondary educational institutions.
548	(c) Be identified as lower level in the statewide course
549	numbering system.
550	(d) Whenever applicable, promote the philosophical

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underpinnings of Western civilization and include studies of
this nation's historical documents, including the United States
Constitution, the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments
thereto, and the Federalist Papers.

- (4) If a course is approved as a general education course, that course must be accepted as a general education course in the same subject area by all public postsecondary educational institutions regardless of whether it is offered by the institution.
- (5) Each public postsecondary educational institution's board of trustees and president are responsible for annually reviewing and approving, at a public meeting, general education course requirements, as authorized and approved in accordance with s. 1007.24, s. 1007.25, and this section, at their institution. A public postsecondary educational institution that fails to comply with the requirements of this section is not eligible to receive performance-based funding.
- (6) Each public postsecondary educational institution must report courses meeting general education requirements to the department by their statewide course number.
 - Section 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.