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CS/CS/HB 233

2021 Legislature

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2       An act relating to postsecondary education; amending  
3       ss. 1001.03 and 1001.706, F.S.; defining the terms  
4       "intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity" and  
5       "shield"; requiring the State Board of Education and  
6       the Board of Governors, respectively, to annually  
7       assess intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity at  
8       certain institutions; providing requirements for the  
9       assessment; authorizing the State Board of Education  
10      to adopt rules; prohibiting the State Board of  
11      Education and the Board of Governors, respectively,  
12      from shielding certain students, faculty, or staff  
13      from certain speech; amending s. 1004.097, F.S.;  
14      defining the term "shield"; providing that certain  
15      faculty communications are protected expressive  
16      activity; prohibiting specified entities from  
17      shielding students, faculty, or staff from certain  
18      speech; authorizing students at public postsecondary  
19      institutions to record video and audio in classrooms  
20      for specified purposes; prohibiting the publication of  
21      certain video or audio recordings; providing  
22      exception; revising available remedies for certain  
23      causes of action to include damages; providing that  
24      such damages and specified costs and fees must be paid  
25      from nonstate funds; providing a cause of action

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 233

2021 Legislature

26        against a person who publishes certain video or audio  
27        recordings; providing a limitation on the amount that  
28        can be recovered; amending s. 1004.26, F.S.; requiring  
29        university student governments to adopt certain  
30        internal procedures; providing requirements for such  
31        procedures; amending s. 1006.60, F.S.; requiring the  
32        State Board of Education and the Board of Governors to  
33        require certain institutions to adopt codes of  
34        conduct; providing requirements for such codes of  
35        conduct; providing that such codes of conduct include  
36        certain due process rights; providing an effective  
37        date.

38  
39    Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

40  
41        Section 1. Subsection (19) is added to section 1001.03,  
42        Florida Statutes, to read:

43        1001.03 Specific powers of State Board of Education.—

44        (19) INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AND VIEWPOINT DIVERSITY

45        ASSESSMENT.—

46        (a) For the purposes of this subsection, the term:

47        1. "Intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity" means  
48        the exposure of students, faculty, and staff to, and the  
49        encouragement of their exploration of, a variety of ideological  
50        and political perspectives.

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 233

2021 Legislature

51        2. "Shield" means to limit students', faculty members', or  
52 staff members' access to, or observation of, ideas and opinions  
53 that they may find uncomfortable, unwelcome, disagreeable, or  
54 offensive.

55        (b) The State Board of Education shall require each  
56 Florida College System institution to conduct an annual  
57 assessment of the intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity  
58 at that institution. The State Board of Education shall select  
59 or create an objective, nonpartisan, and statistically valid  
60 survey to be used by each institution which considers the extent  
61 to which competing ideas and perspectives are presented and  
62 members of the college community, including students, faculty,  
63 and staff, feel free to express their beliefs and viewpoints on  
64 campus and in the classroom. The State Board of Education shall  
65 annually compile and publish the assessments by September 1 of  
66 each year, beginning on September 1, 2022. The State Board of  
67 Education may adopt rules to implement this paragraph.

68        (c) The State Board of Education may not shield students,  
69 faculty, or staff at Florida College System institutions from  
70 free speech protected under the First Amendment to the United  
71 States Constitution, Art. I of the State Constitution, or s.  
72 1004.097.

73        Section 2. Subsection (13) is added to section 1001.706,  
74 Florida Statutes, to read:

75        1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 233

2021 Legislature

76        (13) INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AND VIEWPOINT DIVERSITY  
77        ASSESSMENT.—

78        (a) For the purposes of this subsection, the term:

79        1. "Intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity" means  
80        the exposure of students, faculty, and staff to, and the  
81        encouragement of their exploration of, a variety of ideological  
82        and political perspectives.

83        2. "Shield" means to limit students', faculty members', or  
84        staff members' access to, or observation of, ideas and opinions  
85        that they may find uncomfortable, unwelcome, disagreeable, or  
86        offensive.

87        (b) The Board of Governors shall require each state  
88        university to conduct an annual assessment of the intellectual  
89        freedom and viewpoint diversity at that institution. The Board  
90        of Governors shall select or create an objective, nonpartisan,  
91        and statistically valid survey to be used by each state  
92        university which considers the extent to which competing ideas  
93        and perspectives are presented and members of the university  
94        community, including students, faculty, and staff, feel free to  
95        express their beliefs and viewpoints on campus and in the  
96        classroom. The Board of Governors shall annually compile and  
97        publish the assessments by September 1 of each year, beginning  
98        on September 1, 2022.

99        (c) The Board of Governors may not shield students,  
100       faculty, or staff at state universities from free speech

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 233

2021 Legislature

protected under the First Amendment to the United States  
Constitution, Art. I of the State Constitution, or s. 1004.97.

Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) and subsection  
(4) of section 1004.097, Florida Statutes, are amended,  
paragraph (f) is added to subsection (2), and paragraphs (f) and  
(g) are added to subsection (3) of that section, to read:

1004.097 Free expression on campus.—

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(f) "Shield" means to limit students', faculty members',  
or staff members' access to, or observation of, ideas and  
opinions that they may find uncomfortable, unwelcome,  
disagreeable, or offensive.

(3) RIGHT TO FREE-SPEECH ACTIVITIES.—

(a) Expressive activities protected under the First  
Amendment to the United States Constitution and Art. I of the  
State Constitution include, but are not limited to, any lawful  
oral or written communication of ideas, including all forms of  
peaceful assembly, protests, and speeches; distributing  
literature; carrying signs; circulating petitions; faculty  
research, lectures, writings, and commentary, whether published  
or unpublished; and the recording and publication, including the  
Internet publication, of video or audio recorded in outdoor  
areas of campus. Expressive activities protected by this section  
do not include defamatory or commercial speech.

(f) A Florida College System institution or a state

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 233

2021 Legislature

126 university may not shield students, faculty, or staff from  
127 expressive activities.

128 (g) Notwithstanding s. 934.03 and subject to the  
129 protections provided in the Family Educational Rights and  
130 Privacy Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g and ss. 1002.22 and  
131 1002.225, a student may record video or audio of class lectures  
132 for their own personal educational use, in connection with a  
133 complaint to the public institution of higher education where  
134 the recording was made, or as evidence in, or in preparation  
135 for, a criminal or civil proceeding. A recorded lecture may not  
136 be published without the consent of the lecturer.

137 (4) CAUSE OF ACTION.—A person injured by a violation of  
138 ~~whose expressive rights are violated by an action prohibited~~  
139 ~~under~~ this section may bring an action:

140 (a) Against a public institution of higher education based  
141 on the violation of the individual's expressive rights in a  
142 court of competent jurisdiction to obtain declaratory and  
143 injunctive relief and may be entitled to damages plus court  
144 costs and reasonable attorney fees, which may only be paid from  
145 nonstate funds, ~~reasonable court costs, and attorney fees.~~

146 (b) Against a person who has published video or audio  
147 recorded in a classroom in violation of paragraph (3)(g) in a  
148 court of competent jurisdiction to obtain declaratory and  
149 injunctive relief and may be entitled to damages plus court  
150 costs and reasonable attorney fees, with the total recovery not

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 233

2021 Legislature

to exceed \$200,000.

Section 4. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (4) of section 1004.26, Florida Statutes, to read:

1004.26 University student governments.—

(4)

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each student government shall adopt internal procedures providing an elected or appointed officer of the student government who has been disciplined, suspended, or removed from office, the right to directly appeal such decision to the vice president of student affairs or other senior university administrator designated to hear such appeals. The internal procedures shall not condition the exercise of such right on the consideration or decision of any student panel, including, but not limited to, any student judiciary, or place any condition precedent on the exercise of such right granted by this paragraph.

Section 5. Section 1006.60, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1006.60 Codes of conduct; disciplinary measures; ~~authority~~ to adopt rules or regulations.—

(1) The State Board of Education and the Board of Governors, respectively, shall require, each Florida College System institution ~~to may~~ adopt, by rule, and each state university ~~to may~~ adopt, by regulation, codes of conduct and appropriate penalties for violations of rules or regulations by

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 233

2021 Legislature

176 students, to be administered by the institution. Such penalties,  
177 unless otherwise provided by law, may include: reprimand;  
178 restitution; fines; withholding of diplomas or transcripts  
179 pending compliance with rules or regulations, completion of any  
180 student judicial process or sanction, or payment of fines;  
181 restrictions on the use of or removal from campus facilities;  
182 community service; educational requirements; and the imposition  
183 of probation, suspension, dismissal, or expulsion.

184       (2) The State Board of Education and the Board of  
185 Governors, respectively, shall require, each Florida College  
186 System institution to ~~may~~ adopt, by rule, and each state  
187 university to ~~may~~ adopt, by regulation, a code of conduct and  
188 appropriate penalties for violations of rules or regulations by  
189 student organizations, to be administered by the institution.  
190 Such penalties, unless otherwise provided by law, may include:  
191 reprimand; restitution; suspension, cancellation, or revocation  
192 of the registration or official recognition of a student  
193 organization; and restrictions on the use of, or removal from,  
194 campus facilities.

195       (3) The codes of conduct shall be published on the Florida  
196 College System institution's or state university's website,  
197 protect the rights of all students, and, at minimum, provide the  
198 following due process protections to students and student  
199 organizations:

200       (a) The right to timely written notice. The code must



ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 233

2021 Legislature

201 require that the institution or university provide a student or  
202 student organization with timely written notice of the student's  
203 or student organization's alleged violation of the code of  
204 conduct. The notice must include sufficient detail and be  
205 provided with sufficient time to prepare for any disciplinary  
206 proceeding.

207 1. The written notice must include the allegations to be  
208 investigated, the citation to the specific provision of the code  
209 of conduct at issue, the process to be used in determining  
210 whether a violation has occurred and associated rights, and the  
211 date, time, and location of the disciplinary proceeding.

212 2. The written notice is considered timely if it is  
213 provided at least 7 business days before the disciplinary  
214 proceeding and may be provided by delivery to the student's  
215 institutional e-mail address, and if the student is under 18  
216 years of age, to the student's parent or to the student  
217 organization's e-mail address.

218 3. At least 5 business days before the disciplinary  
219 proceeding, the institution or university must provide the  
220 student or student organization with:

221 a. A listing of all known witnesses that have provided, or  
222 will provide, information against the student or student  
223 organization.

224 b. All known information relating to the allegation,  
225 including inculpatory and exculpatory information.

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 233

2021 Legislature

226        (b) The right to a presumption that no violation occurred.  
227        The institution has the burden to prove, by a preponderance of  
228        the evidence, that a violation has taken place. Preponderance of  
229        the evidence means that the information presented supports the  
230        finding that it is more likely than not that the violation of  
231        the code of conduct was committed by the student or student  
232        organization.

233        (c) The right to an impartial hearing officer.

234        (d) The right against self-incrimination and the right to  
235        remain silent. Such silence may not be used against the student  
236        or student organization.

237        (e) The right to present relevant information and question  
238        witnesses.

239        (f) The right to an advisor or advocate who may not serve  
240        in any other role, including as an investigator, decider of  
241        fact, hearing officer, member of a committee or panel convened  
242        to hear or decide the charge, or any appeal.

243        (g) The right to have an advisor, advocate, or legal  
244        representative, at the student's or student organization's own  
245        expense, present at any proceeding, whether formal or informal.  
246        Such person may directly participate in all aspects of the  
247        proceeding, including the presentation of relevant information  
248        and questioning of witnesses.

249        (h) The right to appeal the final decision of the hearing  
250        officer, or any committee or panel, directly to the vice

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 233

2021 Legislature

251 president of student affairs, or any other senior administrator  
252 designated by the code of conduct, who must hear the appeal and  
253 render a final decision. The vice president of student affairs  
254 or person designated by the code of conduct to hear the appeal  
255 may not have directly participated in any other proceeding  
256 related to the charged violation.

257 (i) The right to an accurate and complete record of every  
258 disciplinary proceeding relating to the charged violation of the  
259 code, including record of any appeal, to be made, preserved, and  
260 available for copying upon request by the charged student or  
261 student organization.

262 (j) A provision setting a time limit for charging a  
263 student or student organization with a violation of the code of  
264 conduct, and a description of those circumstances in which that  
265 time limit may be extended or waived.

266 (4)~~(3)~~ Sanctions authorized by such codes of conduct may  
267 be imposed only for acts or omissions in violation of rules or  
268 regulations adopted by the institution, including rules or  
269 regulations adopted under this section, rules of the State Board  
270 of Education, rules or regulations of the Board of Governors  
271 regarding the State University System, county and municipal  
272 ordinances, and the laws of this state, the United States, or  
273 any other state.

274 (5)~~(4)~~ Each Florida College System institution may  
275 establish and adopt, by rule, and each state university may

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 233

2021 Legislature

276 establish and adopt, by regulation, codes of appropriate  
277 penalties for violations of rules or regulations governing  
278 student academic honesty. Such penalties, unless otherwise  
279 provided by law, may include: reprimand; reduction of grade;  
280 denial of academic credit; invalidation of university credit or  
281 of the degree based upon such credit; probation; suspension;  
282 dismissal; or expulsion. In addition to any other penalties that  
283 may be imposed, an individual may be denied admission or further  
284 registration, and the institution may invalidate academic credit  
285 for work done by a student and may invalidate or revoke the  
286 degree based upon such credit if it is determined that the  
287 student has made false, fraudulent, or incomplete statements in  
288 the application, residence affidavit, or accompanying documents  
289 or statements in connection with, or supplemental to, the  
290 application for admission to or graduation from the institution.

291 (6)~~(5)~~ Each Florida College System institution shall adopt  
292 rules and each state university shall adopt regulations for the  
293 lawful discipline of any student who intentionally acts to  
294 impair, interfere with, or obstruct the orderly conduct,  
295 processes, and functions of the institution. Said rules or  
296 regulations may apply to acts conducted on or off campus when  
297 relevant to such orderly conduct, processes, and functions.

298 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.