

Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Conforming Bill  
Relating to Higher Education

BILL

2026

1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to higher education; creating s. 1004.342,  
3 F.S.; transferring the assets and liabilities from the  
4 University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee to the New  
5 College of Florida; amending s. 1004.344, F.S.; removing  
6 the requirement for the Florida Center for the  
7 Partnerships for Arts Integrated Teaching to be physically  
8 housed at the University of South Florida  
9 Sarasota/Manatee; providing an effective date.

10  
11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

12  
13 **Section 1. Section 1004.342, Florida Statutes, is created**  
14 **to read:**

15 1004.342 Efficient use of state university system assets in  
16 Manatee and Sarasota counties.-

17 (1) DEFINITIONS.- As used in this section and in its  
18 applicability in contracts, leases, and other written vehicles  
19 involved in implementing this act:

20 (a) The following terms have the same meaning and should be  
21 interpreted and used interchangeably:

- 22 1. "University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee,"  
23 2. "University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee,"  
24 3. "USF Sarasota/Manatee," and  
25 4. "USF Sarasota-Manatee."

26 (b) "USF" means the University of South Florida.

27 (c) "New College" means the New College of Florida.

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28 (2) TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BETWEEN STATE  
29 UNIVERSITY INSTITUTIONS AND CAMPUSES.-

30 (a) Nothing in this act should be construed to require or  
31 suggest the transfer of any students, employees, fund balances,  
32 research contracts or grants, or any other human or monetary  
33 transfer away from the University of South Florida or its board  
34 of trustees. The transfers contained in this act relate only to  
35 the real property ownership or leaseholds, fixed capital  
36 facilities permanently constructed upon those parcels, certain  
37 equipment and furnishings within those facilities, and any  
38 outstanding debts or liabilities associated with the real  
39 property or facilities on the state-owned land presently known  
40 as the "University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee campus."

41 (b) The board of trustees of New College of Florida shall,  
42 as soon as reasonably practical, but no later than October 30,  
43 2026, complete all steps necessary or appropriate to assume,  
44 legally and financially, the full liability for any outstanding  
45 debt for any facilities constructed upon the properties that  
46 encompass the USF Sarasota/Manatee campus, including, but not  
47 limited to, any fees and costs associated with transferring,  
48 satisfying, retiring, defeasing, or repaying such debt  
49 obligations. The facilities contemplated in this paragraph  
50 include, but are not limited to, any dormitories or other campus  
51 facilities which were financed in whole or in part with debt  
52 payable by the board of trustees of the University of South  
53 Florida or the USF Financing Corporation, and where a balance of  
54 that debt remains outstanding on the effective date of this act.

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55        (c) Until such time as New College completes the  
56 obligations of paragraph (b), New College shall transfer to the  
57 University of South Florida monthly a payment equal to the  
58 outstanding debt service on the facilities contemplated in this  
59 act, which shall be \$166,617.00 per month. All payments  
60 described in this section shall be paid from sources available  
61 to New College of Florida and shall not be paid or funded from  
62 the University of South Florida or the University of South  
63 Florida Sarasota Manatee sources. The failure of the New College  
64 of Florida to transfer the amounts described in this section  
65 will invalidate the transfer of facilities contemplated in this  
66 act, which shall cause said facilities to revert to the  
67 University of South Florida.

68        (d) Subject to the requirements of paragraphs (c) and (e),  
69 all real property, and any existing contracts, leases,  
70 obligations, responsibilities, and liabilities of the board of  
71 trustees of the University of South Florida that are principally  
72 associated with the real property encompassing the University of  
73 South Florida Sarasota/Manatee campus or any facilities  
74 constructed upon those parcels, must be transferred to the board  
75 of trustees of New College of Florida by July 1, 2026. The New  
76 College of Florida shall be solely responsible for all costs of  
77 operating, repairing, replacing, renovating, and maintaining the  
78 facilities contemplated in this act as of the date of transfer.

79        (e)1. The determination of the specific assets and  
80 liabilities to be transferred under this paragraph must be made  
81 in a written joint transfer agreement, including the facility  
82 use agreement required by subsection (3), between the board of

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83 trustees of the University of South Florida and the board of  
84 July 1, 2026. The boards of trustees must jointly submit the  
85 signed agreements to the board of governors. When determining  
86 the specific assets and liabilities to be transferred between  
87 institutions, the boards of trustees of each institution must  
88 adhere to the following guiding principles:

89 a. Any academic, administrative, or residential buildings  
90 and other assets that should reasonably be considered permanent  
91 and immovable from the existing USF Sarasota/Manatee campus  
92 parcels, including general educational and classroom furnishings  
93 and fixtures located therein, should be transferred to the board  
94 of trustees of New College of Florida for the future use of New  
95 College of Florida students and faculty.

96 b. Any intellectual property, intangible property,  
97 educational and research equipment that is not permanently  
98 affixed to the facilities, computers and other equipment  
99 previously assigned to personnel remaining in employment with  
100 USF, funds or fund balances, records, and any institutional  
101 insignia or items that have historical significance to the  
102 University of South Florida that are not specifically associated  
103 with the parcels of land or facilities that will be transferred,  
104 should remain the property of the board of trustees of the  
105 University of South Florida.

106 c. Contracts for the lease of a temporary residence on the  
107 USF Sarasota/Manatee campus between the University of South  
108 Florida and a student, or someone acting on the student's  
109 behalf, which are in place prior to the transfer of ownership of  
110 a residential facility on that campus must be:

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111 I. Transferred from the University of South Florida to New  
112 College of Florida.

113 II. Fully honored in terms, duration, and price by the  
114 board of trustees of New College of Florida until at least  
115 August 15, 2027, unless the student or lessee voluntarily opts  
116 to vacate the residential contract before its expiration date,  
117 which New College of Florida must allow the lessee to do free  
118 of any cancellation fee or remaining rental charge.

119 2. In the event of a dispute on the transfer of any  
120 specific assets and liabilities required by this act before July  
121 1, 2026, the boards must jointly notify the board of governors  
122 of the remaining points of disagreement. The board of governors,  
123 by majority vote, must resolve any remaining disputed issues and  
124 terms and order the specific transfers no later than September  
125 30, 2026. When determining and ordering any disputed transfers,  
126 the board of governors must adhere to the guiding principles in  
127 paragraph (2) (e).

128 (3) FACILITY USE AGREEMENT.-

129 (a) The University of South Florida students who were  
130 admitted to the university prior to the effective date of this  
131 act and who remain continuously enrolled must receive the  
132 highest priority for space utilization for classroom instruction  
133 and associated educational needs in any transferred space until  
134 those students have been provided the opportunity to graduate  
135 from USF within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed four  
136 full academic years from the date of a student's initial  
137 enrollment at USF, as determined by the board of trustees of the  
138 University of South Florida.

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139        (b) The board of trustees of New College of Florida must  
140 enter into a facility use agreement with the board of trustees  
141 of the University of South Florida which makes available, free  
142 of any charge to USF, sufficient academic and student support  
143 space in the transferred facilities so that the students  
144 reference in paragraph (a) have the reasonable opportunity to  
145 complete their USF degree programs on their local education of  
146 any remaining USF students and to ensure that New College of  
147 Florida student, faculty, and staff have access to the  
148 educational and administrative space, when feasible, during and  
149 throughout the USF teach-out process.

150        (c) The University of South Florida may not allow a newly  
151 enrolled student whose initial offer of admission to the  
152 university came after the effective date of this act to  
153 designate the USF Sarasota/Manatee campus as the student's home  
154 campus of USF.

155        (d) This subsection does not limit the University of South  
156 Florida and New College of Florida from jointly entering into  
157 any other mutual agreement to share or use space in any of the  
158 transferred properties or facilities when it is in the best  
159 interest of both institutions or their students.

160        (4) IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY.- The board of trustees of the  
161 University of South Florida and the board of trustees of New  
162 College of Florida, and their respective officers, trustees,  
163 employees, attorneys, and agents, are immune from any and all  
164 civil liability pertaining to or arising from compliance with  
165 this act, including the transfers required by, or those made as  
166 a direct result of, this act.

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167        (5) REPEAL.- This section is repealed effective July 1,  
168 2028, but after that date the asset transfers ordered herein  
169 must not be impacted solely by the repeal of this section.

170        **Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 1004.344, Florida**  
171 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

172        1004.344 The Florida Center for the Partnerships for Arts  
173 Integrated Teaching.-

174        (1) The Florida Center for the Partnerships for Art  
175 Integrated Teaching is created within the University of South  
176 Florida and shall be physically headquartered at the University  
177 of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee.

178        **Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming law.**