

2009 LEGISLATIVE ISSUE FORM

BOG ISSUE: Minor Projects Increase \$1 million to \$2 million



PROPOSED STATUTORY LANGUAGE:

F.S. 1013.64 Funds for comprehensive educational plant needs; construction costs maximums for school district capital projects. -- Allocations from the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund to the various boards for capital outlay projects shall be determined as follows:

(1)(h) University boards of trustees may utilize funds appropriated pursuant to this section for replacement of minor facilities provided that such projects do not exceed ~~\$1~~ \$2 million in cost or 10,000 gross square feet in size. Minor facilities may not be replaced from funds provided pursuant to this section unless the board determines that the cost of repair or renovation is greater than or equal to the cost of replacement.

F.S. 1013.78 Approval required for certain university-related facility acquisitions. -(2) Legislative approval shall not be required for renovations, remodeling, replacement of existing facilities or construction of minor ~~projects~~ facilities as defined in s. 1013.64.

1. **Need for Change:** Increasing the threshold would provide acceleration of fixed capital projects to stimulate Florida's economy.
2. **Current Condition:** Currently, Universities must go through the same procurement and approval process for an \$80 million project as for a \$1.2 million project. The minor projects threshold should be increased in statute, while still providing for competitive procurement. The universities have consistently suggested that the limit be raised from \$1 million to \$2 million. Most of these projects are for basic maintenance items, such as roofs, repairs to electrical systems, utility infrastructure, and the like, and could be rapidly completed, if authorized.

3. Effect of the Change: The proposed policy change would allow universities to construct facilities of less than \$2 million dollars cost without specific project designation by BOG or the Legislature.

4. Fiscal Impact:

None

5. Justification for BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S Priority (if applicable):

Not applicable.

6. Link to BOG Strategic Plan: This issue improves the ability of the Board of Governors in addressing the goals of its strategic plan by increasing the potential to provide adequate facilities for students, faculty, and staff.