

The 40th Session of the Student Body Senate

Florida International University

Miami, Florida

S.B. 04 006

The Amendments Streamlining Act

IN THE SENATE

October 23, 2023

Nursing Senator Alyssa Andreus, Housing Senator Alexander Stone, Chief Justice Mia Rodriguez, Student Body President Alexander Sutton, and Constitutional Convention Chair Brian Levine
introduced the following bill, which was presented on the Senate floor

A BILL

To amend Article XII of the Student Body Constitution.

Be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University assembled,

Whereas, In accordance with Executive Order 4-01, the Constitutional Convention of FIU is meeting to revise and improve the Student Body Constitution,

Whereas, In order to most effectively revise the Constitution, the process of Constitutional Amendments itself must be updated,

Whereas, This bill would amend Article XII of the Constitution, which describes the process of Constitutional amendments,

Whereas, Constitutional amendments must be passed in the Senate with a 2/3 supermajority vote and then must be ratified by the student body in a general or special election,

Whereas, There is consensus among the members of the Constitutional Convention that this bill should be introduced in order to streamline the process of Constitutional amendments,

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved that this amendment shall be placed on the ballot for approval by the student body in a special election to be held on November 28th, 2023, from 7AM to 7PM. The ballot shall contain the question: “Shall the Constitution be amended to streamline SGA’s document revision and petition process?” with only two options: “yes” and “no”. Students will have the option of clicking a link to read the full text of the amendment,

Now Therefore, Be It Further Resolved that this amendment shall take effect immediately upon ratification,

Now Therefore, Be It Finally Resolved that the Senate of the Student Body submits the following amendment proposal:

Section 1. Article XII of the SGA Constitution is hereby repealed.

Section 2. A new Article XIII, which shall supersede the provisions of Article XII, is adopted as follows:

Article XIII



Constitutional Amendment Process

13.01 Constitutional Amendment Proposals

- 13.01.1 All constitutional amendment proposals shall be submitted to the Elections Board and shall then be put on the ballot for the next general or special election, as determined by the Senate. The Elections Board shall not have veto power over amendment proposals.
- 13.01.2 Amendment proposals may only be submitted to the Elections Board in two ways:
 - 13.01.2.1 A petition, signed by at least 250 students or by a number of students totaling at least fifteen (15) percent of the number of students that voted in the previous general election, whichever is lesser.
 - 13.01.2.2 A constitutional amendment bill initiated by the Senate. Such bills must acquire a two-thirds ($2/3$) vote of the Senate, after which it shall be presented to the Student Body President for approval or veto. Should the Student Body President veto the bill, the Senate may overturn the veto with a three-fourths ($3/4$) vote.
- 13.01.3 Constitutional amendment proposals must be ratified by the student body, either in a general election or in a special election scheduled by the Senate. They must pass by a three-fifths ($3/5$) majority of those voting in order to be enacted, and shall take effect at the time specified in the bill or petition.
- 13.01.4 This Constitution may not be substantively amended without a referendum election by the student body.
- 13.01.5 The only way that this Constitution may be repealed or replaced is with the approval of three-fifths ($3/5$) of the students voting in a referendum election scheduled by the Senate.
- 13.01.6 This Constitution shall be the supreme law of the Student Government Association. No statute, rule, policy, or action may conflict with the express will of this document.
- 13.01.7 Constitutional amendments may modify the text, body, and numbering of the document, and are not required to be added to the end of the document.
- 13.01.8 Changes made to the Statutes shall take effect immediately, unless otherwise specified.

Senate Bill Transmission Form

This bill is presented by the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University. It is presented by the Senate President Pro-Tempore and affixed with the signature of the Senate President. Both the Senate President and the Senate President Pro-Tempore affirm that the information presented below is accurate and that the bill has successfully passed in the Senate of the Student Body. The bill is presented on this day and at this hour for signature or veto.

<i>SB 04 006</i>			
Date Introduced:	<i>10/24/2023</i>		
Committees Assigned:	(1) University Sustainability and Innovation Committee (2) Rules and Administration Committee		
Vote in Committee 1: <i>10/24/2023</i>	4 <i>For</i>	0 <i>Against</i>	0 <i>Abstaining</i>
Vote in Committee 2: <i>10/30/2023</i>	5 <i>For</i>	0 <i>Against</i>	0 <i>Abstaining</i>
Vote on the Senate Floor: <i>11/6/2023</i>	30 <i>For</i>	0 <i>Against</i>	0 <i>Abstaining</i>
 _____ Signature of the Senate President	 _____ Signature of the Senate President Pro Tempore		

Presidential Signature of a Senate Bill

On this day, at this time, and in this place, the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University does hereby present this bill to the desk of the President of the Student Body for signature or veto. The Senate has passed this bill and all its accompaniments, in accordance with the Constitution and Statutes of the Student Government Association at Florida International University. It is presented in good faith, whereas the officers of the Senate have affixed their signatures to affirm that the bill has followed due procedure and is valid. The Senate will await your decision.

SB 04 006



Kaily LaChapelle, Senate President



Tiara Campbell, Senate President Pro-Tempore



Karina Hernandez, Senate Floor Leader



Alexander P. Sutton, Student Body President

