

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education Postsecondary

BILL: SB 1654

INTRODUCER: Senator Ingoglia

SUBJECT: Education

DATE: March 21, 2023

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Brick	Bouck	HE	Pre-meeting
2.			AED	
3.			FP	

I. Summary:

SB 1654 modifies the eligibility requirements for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program to authorize students to satisfy the qualifying service requirement through a combination of the required work or volunteer service hours. The bill also provides specifications for the application of Bright Futures Scholarship Program awards to credentials earned in career and technical education programs.

The bill provides that that the earning of two sufficiently rigorous computer science courses satisfies two credits of sequential foreign language instruction.

The provisions of the bill modifying eligibility for awards from the Bright Futures Scholarship Program may have an indeterminate negative fiscal impact.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.

II. Present Situation:

Computer Science Courses and Instruction

Florida law defines computer science as “the study of computers and algorithmic processes, including their principles, hardware and software designs, applications, and their impact on society.”¹ Computer science also includes computer coding and computer programming.

Foundational skills for computer science learning include problem solving, such as computational thinking, understanding and recognizing patterns, understanding and

¹ Section 1007.2616(1), F.S.

implementing sequencing, and understanding how computers represent data.² One application of these skills is computational thinking, which refers to the thought processes involved in expressing solutions as computational steps or algorithms that can be carried out by a computer.³ Although typically associated with computer science, computational thinking can be applied in the classroom setting through lessons in core subject areas. For example, in English language arts, students may be asked to analyze simple sentences and determine a framework for generating similar sentences, using pattern recognition and problem solving skills.⁴

Public schools are required to provide students in kindergarten through grade 12 opportunities for learning computer science, including computer coding and computer programming.⁵ Such opportunities may include:⁶

- Instruction on computer coding in elementary and middle school.
- Instruction to develop computer usage and digital literacy skills in middle school.
- Courses in computer science, computer coding, and computer programming in high school, including opportunities to earn industry certifications related to the courses.

Computer science courses must be offered to students in high school and middle school.⁷ The Florida Virtual School (FLVS) must offer computer science courses identified in the Course Code Directory. If a school district does not offer an identified course, the district must provide students access to the course through FLVS or through other means.⁸ There are 70 middle and high school computer science courses currently identified in the Course Code Directory.⁹

Postsecondary Foreign Language Requirements

The Board of Governors (BOG) of the State University System oversees the performance of state university boards of trustees in the enforcement of laws, rules, and regulations.¹⁰ The BOG specifies that state university admissions requirements include competency in a foreign language, which is satisfied by two credits in the same foreign language, American Sign Language, or through demonstration of competency through an examination.¹¹ The BOG provides that a limited number of first-time-in-college, degree-seeking students who do not meet the foreign language requirement may be admitted; however, these students must complete the foreign language requirement prior to receiving their baccalaureate degree.¹²

² K-12 Computer Instruction Framework Steering Committee, *K-12 Computer Instructional Framework*, pgs. 183-198, available at <https://k12cs.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/K%E2%80%9312-Computer-Science-Framework.pdf> (last visited Mar. 20, 2023).

³ *Id.* at 86.

⁴ Code.org, *Computational Thinking Lesson Assessment*, available at <https://code.org/curriculum/course3/1/Assessment1-CompThinking.pdf> (last visited Feb. 1, 2023). If provided the following sentences: “The triangle has three sides.” and “The square has four sides.” A student can determine a framework sentence of “The ____ has ____ sides.” This framework provides the student a basis for describing additional shapes. *Id.*

⁵ Section 1007.2616(2)(a), F.S.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Section 1007.2616(3), F.S.

⁹ Florida Department of Education, *Florida Course Code Directory Computer Science Course Information 2022-2023* (2023), available at <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7746/urlt/2223CompSci.pdf> (last visited Mar. 20, 2023).

¹⁰ Section 1008.322(1), F.S.

¹¹ BOG Regulation 6.002(1)(h).

¹² Board of Governor’s Regulation 6.002(1)(h)

All Florida College System (FCS) institutions require a student in an associate in arts degree program to demonstrate competency in a foreign language prior to degree award.¹³ and state universities require two credits of sequential foreign language instruction at the secondary level. A student whose first language is not English is exempt from this requirement if he or she demonstrates proficiency in his or her native language.¹⁴ The foreign language requirement can be satisfied by secondary foreign language credits and with two credits of American Sign Language.¹⁵

Some states allow computer science to satisfy university admissions requirements. For example, the University System of Georgia allows 2 units of computer science to satisfy the requirement of 2 units of the same foreign language.¹⁶ Texas allows two credits in computer programming languages to satisfy the two credit Languages other than English requirement for its Foundation high school program.¹⁷

Career and Technical Education Credentials

Public career, technical and adult education programs are primarily found in public school districts and FCS institutions.¹⁸ There are several different type of career and technical credential offered in Florida.¹⁹

The Career Certificate signifies a student has successfully completed a clock hour postsecondary career education program and is ready for employment in a field that requires non-college credit postsecondary training.²⁰ The program varies in length from 40 hours or more to more than 1,500 hours.²¹

The Applied Technology Diploma (ATD) signifies a student has successfully completed a (clock hour or college credit) postsecondary career education program and is ready for employment in a field. The program has embedded statewide articulation leading to the award of an AS degree.²² This pathway is offered by colleges or in school districts as non-college credit. An ATD program is a course of study that is part of an Associate in Science (AS) degree or an Associate in

¹³ Section 1007.25(9), F.S.

¹⁴ Section 1007.262, F.S.

¹⁵ Rule 6A-10.02412, F.A.C.

¹⁶ University System of Georgia, *Required High School Curriculum*,

https://www.usg.edu/student_affairs/prospective_students/hs_curriculum_requirements (last visited Mar. 21, 2023).

¹⁷ Rule §74.12, Texas Administrative Code.

¹⁸ Kathy Hebda, Florida Department of Education, *Workforce Education System Overview*, presentation to the House Postsecondary Education & Employment Committee (Jan. 24, 2023) at 3, available at

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=3247&Session=2023&DocumentType=Meeting+Packets&FileName=pew+1-24-23.pdf>.

¹⁹ *Id.* at 6.

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ Florida Department of Education, *The Florida College System Transparency, Accountability, Progress, and Performance*, at 2, available at <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7724/urlt/0083531-fcsawardtypestapp.pdf>.

²² Kathy Hebda, Florida Department of Education, *Workforce Education System Overview*, presentation to the House Postsecondary Education & Employment Committee (Jan. 24, 2023) at 6, available at <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=3247&Session=2023&DocumentType=Meeting+Packets&FileName=pew+1-24-23.pdf>.

Applied Science (AAS) degree. The AS and AAS prepares students for occupations that require a two-year technical degree.²³

The College Credit Certificate prepares students for entry into employment in a field that requires some college credit but less than a degree and signifies a student has successfully completed part of an AS degree.²⁴

The Advanced Technical Certificate (ATC) prepares students who already have earned an AS, AAS, or baccalaureate degree with an advanced specialized program of instruction.²⁵

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

In 1997,²⁶ the Florida Legislature created the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program (Bright Futures Program), a lottery-funded scholarship program, to reward any Florida high school graduate who merits recognition of high academic achievement and who enrolls in a degree program, certificate program, or applied technology program at an eligible Florida public or private postsecondary education institution.²⁷

The Bright Futures Program consists of the:

- Florida Academic Scholarship (FAS);
- Florida Medallion Scholarship (FMS);
- Florida Gold Seal Career and Professional Education Scholarship (CAPE); and
- Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship (FGSV).²⁸

Florida Academic Scholarship and Florida Medallion Scholarship

A Florida high school student who wishes to qualify for the FAS award or the FMS award must graduate from a Florida public high school with a standard high school diploma, graduate from a registered Florida Department of Education (DOE) private high school, earn a general education diploma (GED), complete a home education program, or graduate from a non-Florida high school as an eligible student.²⁹

²³ Florida Department of Education, *The Florida College System Transparency, Accountability, Progress, and Performance*, at 2, available at <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7724/urlt/0083531-fcsawardtypestapp.pdf>.

²⁴ Kathy Hebda, Florida Department of Education, *Workforce Education System Overview*, presentation to the House Postsecondary Education & Employment Committee (Jan. 24, 2023) at 6, available at <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=3247&Session=2023&DocumentType=Meeting+Packets&FileName=pew+1-24-23.pdf>.

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ Chapter 97-379, L.O.F.

²⁷ Section 1009.53(1), F.S.

²⁸ Section 1009.53(2), F.S.

²⁹ Department of Education, *2022-23 Bright Futures Student Handbook, Chapter 1: Initial Eligibility Requirements* (Oct. 2022), at 2, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/BFHandbookChapter1.pdf>. An out-of-state student may qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship if the student earned a high school diploma from a non-Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who is a Florida resident and on military or public service assignment away from Florida during the student's last year of high school. Florida Department of Education, *Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and the Out-Of-State Student* (2022-23), at 2, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/BFOOSGuide.pdf>.

A student must also meet the following initial eligibility requirements:³⁰

Scholarship Type	16 High School Course Credits ³¹	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams (ACT/SAT) ³²	Volunteer or Work Service ³³
FAS ³⁴	4 - English <i>(three must include substantial writing)</i> 4 - Mathematics <i>(at or above the Algebra I level)</i>	3.50	2022-23 Graduates 29/1330 2023-24 Graduates 29/1340	100 hours
FMS ³⁵	3 - Natural Science <i>(two must have substantial laboratory)</i> 3 - Social Science 2 - World Language <i>(sequential, in same language)</i>	3.00	2022-23 Graduates 25/1210 2023-24 Graduates 25/1210	75 hours

A student who has demonstrated academic merit through a recognition program may be eligible for an FAS or FMS award without having to meet one or more of the requirements identified in the table above. These merit recognition programs include:³⁶

- National Merit Finalists and Scholars;
- National Hispanic Scholars;
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Diploma;
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma;
- AICE Curriculum; and IB Curriculum.

³⁰ Department of Education, *2022-23 Bright Futures Student Handbook, Chapter 1: Initial Eligibility Requirements* (Oct., 2022), at 2, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/BFHandbookChapter1.pdf>.

³¹ The required coursework aligns with the State University System admission requirements found in Florida Board of Governor’s Regulation 6.002, *Admission of Undergraduate First-Time-in-College, Degree-Seeking Freshmen*, available at https://www.flbog.edu/wp-content/uploads/6_002FINAL_FTIC_03252020.pdf.

³² Section 1009.531(6)(b)-(d), F.S. To ensure the required exam scores represent top student performance and are equivalent between the ACT and SAT, the DOE determines the score for the academic scholarship as no lower than the 89th national percentile on the SAT, for medallion scholarship no lower than 75th national percentile on the SAT, and the required ACT score must be made concordant. The DOE must publish any changes to the exam requirements that apply to students graduating in the next 2 years.

³³ Section 1009.534(1), F.S. Beginning with a high school student graduating in the 2022-23 academic year and thereafter, 100 hours may be in either volunteer work or paid work. *Id.*

³⁴ Section 1009.534, F.S.

³⁵ Section 1009.535, F.S.

³⁶ Section 1009.534(1)(b)-(e), F.S.

An FAS award recipient is eligible for an award equal to the amount necessary to pay 100 percent of tuition and applicable fees and an additional stipend for textbooks as specified in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).³⁷ An FMS award recipient is eligible for an award equal to the amount necessary to pay 75 percent of tuition and fees,³⁸ however, an eligible FMS recipient enrolled at a Florida College System (FCS) institution is eligible for an award amount equal to the amount necessary to pay 100 percent of tuition and fees.³⁹

A student may receive an FAS or FMS award for a maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours required to complete an associate degree, baccalaureate degree, or postsecondary career certificate program.⁴⁰

For the 2021-2022 academic year, a total of \$396,650,804⁴¹ was disbursed to 68,585 students⁴² receiving an FAS award and \$207,279,974⁴³ to 50,355 students⁴⁴ receiving an FMS award.

Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship

A Florida high school student who wishes to qualify for the FGSV award must:⁴⁵

- Achieve a minimum 3.0 weighted GPA in the non-elective high school courses.
- Take at least three full credits in a single career and technical education program.
- Achieve a minimum 3.5 unweighted GPA in the career education courses.
- Complete 30 service hours or 100 hours of paid work (beginning with 2022-2023 graduates).
- Achieve the required minimum score on the ACT, SAT, or Florida Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.) exams depicted in the table below:⁴⁶

Exam Type	Sub-test	Required Score
ACT	Reading	19
	English	17
	Mathematics	19
SAT	Reading Test	24
	Writing and Language Test	25
	Math Test	24
P.E.R.T.	Reading	106
	Writing	103
	Mathematics	114

³⁷ Section 1009.534(2), F.S.

³⁸ Section 1009.535(2), F.S. and BOG Regulation

³⁹ *Id.* Beginning with the fall 2021 semester, an FMS who is enrolled in an associate degree program at an FCS institution is eligible for the award.

⁴⁰ Section 1009.532(3)(a), F.S.

⁴¹ Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, *Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Disbursement History* (as of Sep. 2022), available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/BFReportsD2.pdf>.

⁴² *Id.*

⁴³ Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, *Florida Medallion Scholars Disbursement History* (as of Sep. 2022), available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/BFReportsD3.pdf>.

⁴⁴ *Id.*

⁴⁵ Section 1009.532(1), F.S.; see also 2022-23 Bright Futures Student Handbook, *Chapter 1: Initial Eligibility Requirements*, at 6, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/BFHandbookChapter1.pdf>.

⁴⁶ *Id.*

A student may receive an FGSV award for a maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours or equivalent clock hours required to complete an applied technology diploma, associate in applied science or associate in science degree, or a postsecondary career certificate program.⁴⁷

An FGSV award recipient is eligible for an award equal to the amount specified in the GAA.⁴⁸ The award amount in the GAA for FY 2022-23 is:⁴⁹

- For a career certificate program, \$39 per credit hour or equivalent.
- For an applied technology diploma program, \$39 per credit hour.
- For an associate in applied science or associate in science degree program, \$48 per credit hour.

For the 2021-2022 academic year, a total of \$549,221⁵⁰ was disbursed to 655 students⁵¹ receiving an FGSV award.

Florida Gold Seal Career and Professional Education Scholarship (CAPE)

A Florida high school student who wishes to qualify for the CAPE must:⁵²

- Earn a minimum of five postsecondary credit hours through CAPE industry certifications which articulate for college credit.
- Complete 30 service hours.

A student may receive a CAPE award for a maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours or equivalent clock hours required to complete an applied technology diploma, associate in applied science or associate in science degree, or a postsecondary career certificate program.⁵³

A CAPE award recipient is eligible for an award equal to the amount specified in the GAA.⁵⁴ The award amount in the GAA for FY 2022-23 is:⁵⁵

- For a career certificate program, \$39 per credit hour or equivalent.
- For an applied technology diploma program, \$39 per credit hour.
- For an associate in applied science or associate in science degree program, \$48 per credit hour.

⁴⁷ Section 1009.532(5)(a)1., F.S.; *see also* 2021-22 Bright Futures Student Handbook, *Chapter 2: What You Need to Know Now That You Are Eligible* (July 1, 2021), at 3, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/BFHandbookChapter2.pdf>.

⁴⁸ Section 1009.536(3), F.S.

⁴⁹ Specific Appropriation 3, s.1, ch. 2022-156, L.O.F.

⁵⁰ Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, *Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Disbursement History* (as of Sep. 2022), available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/BFReportsD4.pdf>.

⁵¹ *Id.*

⁵² Section 1009.536(2)(a)-(b), F.S.

⁵³ Section 1009.532(5)(b)1., F.S.; *see also* Department of Education, *2022-23 Bright Futures Student Handbook, Chapter 2: What You Need to Know Now That You Are Eligible* (July 1, 2021), at 3, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/BFHandbookChapter2.pdf>.

⁵⁴ Section 1009.536(3), F.S.

⁵⁵ Ch. 2022-156, s. 1, specific appropriation 3, Laws of Fla.

Upon completion of an eligible associate in science degree program, an FGSC scholar may also receive an award for a maximum of 60 credit hours toward the baccalaureate degree.⁵⁶ The award amount specified in the GAA for FY 2021-22 is:⁵⁷

- For a Bachelor of Science program for which there is a statewide articulation agreement, \$48 per credit hour.
- For a bachelor of applied science program at an FCS institution, \$48 per credit hour.

For the 2021-2022 academic year, a total of \$202,657⁵⁸ was disbursed to 242 students⁵⁹ receiving a CAPE award.

Registered Apprenticeship Programs

The Department of Education (DOE) serves as the registering entity for apprenticeship programs to ensure compliance with federal and state apprenticeship standards, provide technical assistance, and conduct quality assurance assessments.⁶⁰

Florida law defines an apprentice as a person at least 16 years of age who has entered into a written apprentice agreement with an employer, an association of employers, or a local joint apprenticeship committee, to learn a recognized skilled trade through actual work experience under the supervision of another worker who has completed an apprenticeship program or has worked in the field for a minimum number of years established by industry standard. Training for an apprentice should be combined with properly coordinated studies of related technical and supplementary subjects.⁶¹

An apprenticeship program must be registered and approved by the DOE,⁶² which is responsible for establishing minimum standards for registered apprenticeship programs and facilitating and supervising registered apprenticeship programs.⁶³ A student enrolled in a registered apprenticeship program is exempt from the payment of tuition and fees, including lab fees, at a school district that provides workforce education programs, Florida College System institution, or state university.⁶⁴

In the 2021-2022 program year, the DOE registered 27 new apprenticeship programs for a total of 275 programs training 15,479 apprentices. Of these apprentices, 1,917 completed a program and received an apprenticeship certificate and an average exit annual salary of \$49,629.⁶⁵

⁵⁶ Section 1009.536(5)(b)2., F.S.

⁵⁷ Ch. 2022-156, s. 1, specific appropriation 3, Laws of Fla.

⁵⁸ Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, *Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars Disbursement History* (as of Sep. 2022), available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/BFReportsD5.pdf>.

⁵⁹ *Id.*

⁶⁰ 29 C.F.R. s. 29.2.

⁶¹ Section 446.021(2), F.S.

⁶² Section 446.021(6), F.S.

⁶³ Section 446.041, F.S.

⁶⁴ Section 1009.25(1)(b), F.S.

⁶⁵ Florida Department of Education, *Florida's Annual Apprenticeship and Preapprenticeship Report* (2022), available at <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/9904/urlt/2122ApprenticeshipReport.pdf>, at 7.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 1654 modifies the eligibility requirements for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program to authorize students to satisfy the qualifying service requirement through a combination of the required work or volunteer service hours. The bill also provides specifications for the application of Bright Futures Scholarship Program awards to credentials earned in career and technical education programs.

The bill provides that that the earning of two sufficiently rigorous computer science courses satisfies two credits of sequential foreign language instruction.

Computer Science

The bill modifies s. 1007.2616, F.S., to require the Commissioner of Education (commissioner) to identify computer science courses meeting certain criteria that high schools must provide to students. The bill:

- Provides that completion of two computer science courses of sufficient rigor, as determined by the commissioner, coupled with completion of a related industry certification or career certificate satisfies two credits of sequential foreign language instruction.
- Requires Florida postsecondary institutions to recognize the credits as foreign language credits.
- Requires the computer science courses identified by the commissioner and computer science courses taken to earn the related industry certification or technical certificate to be included in the course code directory.

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

The bill modifies s. 1009.53, F.S., to add to the list of programs that are eligible for students to receive a reward of a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship registered apprenticeship programs at eligible Florida public or private institutions. The bill:

- Adds a list of approved apprenticeship programs, eligible postsecondary educational institutions, high-demand jobs and critical skill sets in the state, and a wage breakdown of jobs in the state to the required notification by the DOE of the availability of the Bright Futures scholarship program to students, teachers, parents, certified school counselors, and principals or other relevant school administrators of the criteria and application procedures.
- Clarifies that notification to the school community by the DOE of the Bright Futures Scholarship Program must begin with a student's freshman year.
- Adds alternative clock-hour equivalents to the provision of law specifying the percentage of the Bright Futures program award a student receives for various levels of semester credit-hour enrollment.

The bill modifies s. 1009.532, F.S., to add clock hours as an alternative to credit hours for requirements for student eligibility to renew a Bright Futures Scholarship award. The bill also provides flexibility for student eligibility to renew a Bright Futures Scholarship award by providing that a student is eligible to renew a scholarship for alternative scores or grades that are equivalent to cumulative grade point averages and grades that are currently required for a student to renew an award.

The bill adds, beginning with students who are initially eligible in the 2023-24 school year, to the list of programs students may receive a Bright Futures Scholarship award to complete:

- An industry certification, up to the number of hours required for a specific certificate not to exceed 36 credit hours or equivalent clock hours;
- A technical certificate, up to the number of hours required for a specific certificate not to exceed 15 credit hours or equivalent clock hours;
- An applied technology diploma, up to the number of hours required for a specific diploma not to exceed 50 credit hours or equivalent clock hours;
- A career and technical certificate, up to the number of hours required for a specific certificate not to exceed 19 credit hours or equivalent clock hours;
- A registered apprenticeship program, up to the number of credit hours or equivalent clock hours required for a registered apprenticeship certificate of completion if the student is not exempt from paying tuition and fees, including lab fees and 100 percent of the tools, books, and materials necessary to complete the apprenticeship program not to exceed \$2,000.

The bill modifies s. 1009.533, F.S., to add an entity that operates a registered apprenticeship program to the list of institutions at which a student may receive a Bright Futures Scholarship award for enrollment.

Florida Academic Scholarship

The bill modifies s. 1009.534, F.S., to allow a student, beginning with a high school student graduating in the 2022-2023 academic year and thereafter, to satisfy the program of 100 hours of volunteer service or paid work required for eligibility for a Florida Academic Scholars award if the student performs a combination of volunteer service and paid work and includes as eligible paid work beginning on or after June 27, 2022.

Florida Medallion Scholarship

The bill modifies s. 1009.535, F.S., to amend the volunteer and work program requirements for student eligibility for a Florida Medallion Scholar award by authorizing a student, beginning with a high school student graduating in the 2022-2023 academic year and thereafter, to complete a combination of 100 hours of paid work hours and volunteer service to be eligible for a Florida Medallion Scholar award and includes as eligible paid work beginning on or after June 27, 2022.

Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship and Florida Gold Seal Career and Professional Education Scholarship (CAPE)

The bill modifies s. 1009.536, F.S., to provide an alternative to the Florida College Entry Level Placement Test by authorizing students to be eligible for a Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award if the student earns a passing score on other aptitude tests identified by the department, including, but not limited to, the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery and ACT WorkKeys Assessments.

The bill modifies the volunteer and work program requirements for student eligibility for a CAPE or Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award by authorizing a student, beginning with a high school student graduating in the 2022-2023 academic year and thereafter, to complete a

combination of 100 hours of paid work hours and volunteer service to be eligible for a CAPE or Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award and includes as eligible paid work beginning on or after June 27, 2022.

The bill adds, beginning with students who are initially eligible in the 2023-24 school year, to the list of programs students may receive a Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship award to complete:

- An industry certification, up to the number of hours required for a specific certificate not to exceed 36 credit hours or equivalent clock hours;
- A technical certificate, up to the number of hours required for a specific certificate not to exceed 15 credit hours or equivalent clock hours;
- An applied technology diploma, up to the number of hours required for a specific diploma not to exceed 50 credit hours or equivalent clock hours;
- A career and technical certificate, up to the number of hours required for a specific certificate not to exceed 19 credit hours or equivalent clock hours;
- A registered apprenticeship program up to the number of credit hours or equivalent clock hours required for a registered apprenticeship certificate of completion if the student is not exempt from paying tuition and fees, including lab fees, and 100 percent of the tools, books, and materials necessary to complete the apprenticeship program not to exceed \$2,000.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The provisions of the bill modifying eligibility for awards from the Bright Futures Scholarship Program may have an indeterminate negative fiscal impact.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

The bill specifies that earning two credits in a foreign language through completion of a computer science courses and earning a certification or certificate will satisfy public postsecondary institution requirements. However, the bill does not extend the satisfaction of foreign language requirements to:

- The Scholar designation for a standard high school diploma, which requires the student to earn two credits in the same foreign language.⁶⁶
- Qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship Program award under the Florida Academic Scholars and Florida Medallion Scholars programs, which require satisfaction of the same foreign language requirement as for the Scholar diploma designation.⁶⁷
- The Florida Seal of Biliteracy, which requires four foreign language courses in the same foreign language with a specified grade point average.⁶⁸

In addition, it will be important to advise students and parents who complete foreign language requirements under the bill that out-of-state colleges and universities may not accept computer science and certification completion in lieu of foreign language admissions requirements.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 1007.2616, 1009.53, 1009.532, 1009.533, 1009.534, 1009.535, and 1009.536.

⁶⁶ Section 1003.4285(1)(a)4., F.S.

⁶⁷ Rule 6A-20.028(g)1., F.A.C. *See also* ss. 1009.534(1)(a) and 1009.535(1)(a), F.S.

⁶⁸ Section 1003.432(4)(a), F.S.

IX. Additional Information:

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
