1	
2	An act relating to education; requiring the
3	Department of Education to develop a student
4	financial assistance database; providing a
5	definition; requiring a report; amending s.
б	228.502, F.S.; deleting requirement that the
7	Education Success Incentive Council serve as
8	the board of directors for a direct-support
9	organization; amending s. 232.2465, F.S.,
10	relating to the Florida Academic Scholars'
11	Certificate Program; changing an eligibility
12	date; amending s. 239.117, F.S.; allowing
13	children adopted from the Department of
14	Children and Family Services to be exempt from
15	certain student fees; amending s. 239.217,
16	F.S., relating to the Florida Gold Seal
17	Vocational Endorsement Program; changing an
18	eligibility date; amending s. 240.107, F.S.;
19	conforming provisions; amending ss. 240.235 and
20	240.35, F.S.; allowing children adopted from
21	the Department of Children and Family Services
22	to be exempt from certain student fees;
23	amending s. 240.404, F.S., relating to general
24	requirements for eligibility for state
25	financial aid; deleting a requirement for
26	participation in a testing program; deleting a
27	requirement regarding Selective Service System
28	registration; creating s. 240.4041, F.S.;
29	providing eligibility requirements for state
30	financial aid for a student with a disability;
31	amending s. 240.4069, F.S.; transferring
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1	administration of the Virgil Hawkins Fellows
2	Assistance Program to the Board of Regents;
3	revising program requirements; amending s.
4	240.408, F.S.; conforming provisions; amending
5	s. 240.412, F.S., relating to the Jose Marti
6	Scholarship Challenge Grant Program; revising
7	matching fund requirements; deleting a testing
8	requirement; amending s. 240.437, F.S.,
9	relating to a state student financial aid
10	program; deleting a testing requirement;
11	amending s. 240.6045, F.S., relating to a
12	limited access competitive grant program;
13	revising eligibility requirements; amending s.
14	240.606, F.S., relating to the Florida Work
15	Experience Program; changing eligibility
16	requirements; deleting a requirement that a
17	certain portion of funds be used for contracts
18	with public schools; repealing ss. 240.4025,
19	240.4045, 240.407, 240.4085, and 240.4093,
20	F.S., relating to the Florida Graduate
21	Scholars' Fund, compliance with Selective
22	Service System registration requirements,
23	general scholarship loans, the Florida Student
24	Tuition Scholarship Grant Program, and the
25	Vocational Student Assistance Grant Program;
26	providing an effective date.
27	
28	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
29	
30	Section 1. (1) The Department of Education, in
31	conjunction with the Florida Council of Student Financial Aid

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Advisors, staff of the Executive Office of the Governor, the 1 Legislature, the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission, 2 3 the Board of Regents, the State Board of Community Colleges, 4 and the three largest student loan lenders by volume serving 5 Florida students as of the effective date of this act, shall 6 design a student financial assistance database that can be 7 used to support all aspects of the administration and delivery 8 of state-funded student financial aid. In addition, the 9 database must have the capability of providing policymakers with comprehensive information regarding the various financial 10 assistance programs available to students attending Florida 11 12 postsecondary education institutions. 13 (2) For purposes of this section, financial assistance includes: 14 (a) For all students, any scholarship, grant, loan, 15 16 fee waiver, tuition assistance payment, or other form of 17 compensation provided from state or federal funds. 18 (b) For students attending public institutions, any 19 scholarship, grant, loan, fee waiver, tuition assistance 20 payment, or other form of compensation supported by 21 institutional funds. The database must include records on any student 22 (3) 23 receiving any form of financial assistance as described in subsection (2). Institutions participating in any state 24 25 financial assistance program shall annually submit such information to the Department of Education in a format 26 27 prescribed by the department and consistent with the provisions of s. 228.093, Florida Statutes. 28 29 (4) By December 1, 1997, the Department of Education shall provide to the President of the Senate and the Speaker 30 of the House of Representatives a progress report on the 31

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development of the database. The progress report must identify 1 2 components of the database and provide a timeframe for 3 implementation. 4 Section 2. Subsection (12) of section 228.502, Florida 5 Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read: 6 228.502 The Education Success Incentive Program .--7 (12) The Commissioner of Education may establish a 8 direct-support organization which is: 9 (a) A Florida corporation, not for profit, incorporated under the provisions of chapter 617 and approved 10 by the Secretary of State. 11 12 (b) Organized and operated exclusively to receive, hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures 13 14 to or for the benefit of the Education Success Incentive The board of directors of the direct-support 15 Program. organization shall establish policies and procedures which 16 17 enable private contributors to designate the name of the student, school, or geographic area for which contributions 18 19 are being provided. 20 (c) Subject to an annual postaudit by an independent certified public accountant in accordance with rules 21 promulgated by the board. The annual audit shall be submitted 22 to the Department of Insurance and the Auditor General for 23 review. The Department of Insurance and Auditor General shall 24 have the authority to require and receive from the 25 26 organization or its independent auditor any detail or supplemental data relative to the operation of the 27 organization. The identity of a donor or prospective donor 28 29 who desires to remain anonymous and all information identifying such donor or prospective donor are confidential 30 and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), 31

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Art. I of the State Constitution. Such anonymity shall be 1 maintained in the auditor's report. 2 3 4 The Education Success Incentive Council shall be the board of 5 directors of the direct-support organization. Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 6 7 232.2465, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 232.2465 Florida Academic Scholars' Certificate 8 9 Program. -- For the purpose of recognizing and rewarding outstanding performance and academic achievement on the part 10 of public school students and nonpublic school students, the 11 Commissioner of Education shall award to each high school 12 graduate who meets the requirements specified herein, and as 13 14 further specified by the State Board of Education, a special 15 certificate recognizing and designating the graduate as a Florida Academic Scholar. 16 17 (1) In order to qualify as a Florida Academic Scholar, 18 a student must: 19 (a) At the time of application or by the second half 20 of the senior year, have been enrolled in and intend to complete a program of at least 24 credits in advanced-level 21 22 studies as prescribed by the State Board of Education, 23 including as a minimum: 1. Four years of progressively advanced instruction in 24 25 language arts, including courses in English composition and 26 literature; 27 2. Four years of progressively advanced instruction in science, including laboratory courses in biology, chemistry, 28 29 and physics where laboratory facilities are available; 30 31

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1 3. Four years of progressively advanced instruction in 2 mathematics, including courses in algebra and geometry and 3 calculus or trigonometry; 4 4. Two years of sequential foreign language; 5 5. One year of instruction in art and music or in 6 either art or music; 7 Three years of instruction in social studies, 6. 8 including courses in American history and government, world 9 history, and comparative political and economic systems; and 7. One year of instruction in health and physical 10 education to include assessment, improvement, and maintenance 11 12 of personal fitness. Section 4. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section 13 14 239.117, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to 15 read: 16 239.117 Postsecondary student fees.--(2) The following students are exempt from any 17 18 requirement for the payment of registration, matriculation, 19 and laboratory fees for instruction: 20 (e) A student for whom the state is paying a foster 21 care board payment pursuant to s. 409.145(3) or pursuant to parts III and V of chapter 39, for whom the permanency 22 23 planning goal pursuant to part V of chapter 39 is long-term foster care or independent living, or who is adopted from the 24 25 Department of Children and Family Services after December 31, 26 1997. Such exemption includes fees associated with enrollment in college-preparatory instruction and completion of the 27 college-level communication and computation skills testing 28 29 program. Such exemption shall be available to any student 30 adopted from the Department of Children and Family Services after December 31, 1997; however, the exemption shall be valid 31

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for no more than 4 years after the date of graduation from 1 2 high school. 3 Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 4 239.217, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 5 239.217 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Endorsement 6 Program.--7 Each school district may award the Florida gold (2) 8 seal vocational endorsement to a high school student who meets the requirements of this section. To be eligible for award of 9 the Florida gold seal vocational endorsement, a student must: 10 At the time of application or by the second half 11 (a) 12 of the senior year, have been enrolled in and intend to complete Meet all requirements for graduation as specified in 13 14 s. 232.246, including number of credits, courses, grade point 15 average, and mastery of minimum performance standards and 16 basic skills. 17 18 If a student does not meet the requirements of this subsection 19 as a result of inaccurate or incomplete information provided by a high school guidance counselor, teacher, or school 20 district personnel, the student may, nevertheless, be eligible 21 for the Florida gold seal vocational endorsement if the 22 principal of the school or the district superintendent 23 verifies that such inaccuracies or misinformation caused the 24 deficiencies. The school district must provide a means for 25 26 the student to correct deficiencies resulting from such misinformation. The student must correct the deficiencies no 27 later than December 31 immediately following high school 28 29 graduation, either by completing comparable work at the postsecondary institution or by completing a directed 30 individualized study program that is developed and 31

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administered by the school district. If the student does not 1 2 complete the requirements necessary to correct the 3 deficiencies by December 31 immediately following high school 4 graduation, the student is ineligible to participate in the 5 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Endorsement Program. Section 6. Subsection (7) of section 240.107, Florida б 7 Statutes, is amended to read: 8 240.107 College-level communication and computation 9 skills examination .--(7) The State Board of Education, by rule, shall 10 establish fees for the administration of the examination to 11 12 private postsecondary students. The examination may be 13 administered to students other than those receiving financial 14 aid as required in s. 240.404(1)(a)2., provided that the 15 appropriate fees are paid. Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section 16 17 240.235, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 240.235 Fees.--18 19 (5)(a) Any student for whom the state is paying a 20 foster care board payment pursuant to s. 409.145(3) or parts III and V of chapter 39, for whom the permanency planning goal 21 22 pursuant to part V of chapter 39 is long-term foster care or 23 independent living, or who is adopted from the Department of Children and Family Services after December 31, 1997, shall be 24 exempt from the payment of all undergraduate fees, including 25 fees associated with enrollment in college-preparatory 26 instruction or completion of college-level communication and 27 computation skills testing programs. Before a fee exemption 28 29 can be given, the student shall have applied for and been denied financial aid, pursuant to s. 240.404, which would have 30 provided, at a minimum, payment of all undergraduate fees. 31

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Such exemption shall be available to any student adopted from 1 2 the Department of Children and Family Services after December 3 31, 1997; however, the exemption shall be valid for no more 4 than 4 years after the date of graduation from high school. 5 Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 6 240.35, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read: 7 240.35 Student fees.--Unless otherwise provided, the 8 provisions of this section apply only to fees charged for 9 college credit instruction. (2)(a) Any student for whom the state is paying a 10 foster care board payment pursuant to s. 409.145(3) or parts 11 12 III and V of chapter 39, for whom the permanency planning goal 13 pursuant to part V of chapter 39 is long-term foster care or 14 independent living, or who is adopted from the Department of Children and Family Services after December 31, 1997, is 15 16 exempt from the payment of all undergraduate fees, including 17 fees associated with enrollment in college-preparatory instruction or completion of the college-level communication 18 19 and computation skills testing program. Before a fee exemption can be given, the student shall have applied for and 20 been denied financial aid, pursuant to s. 240.404, which would 21 have provided, at a minimum, payment of all student fees. Such 22 23 exemption shall be available to any student adopted from the Department of Children and Family Services after December 31, 24 1997; however, the exemption shall be valid for no more than 4 25 26 years after graduation from high school. 27 Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 240.404, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 28 29 240.404 General requirements for student eligibility 30 for state financial aid.--31

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(1)(a) The general requirements for eligibility of 1 2 students for state financial aid awards consist of the 3 following: 4 1. Acceptance at a state university or community 5 college; a nursing diploma school approved by the Florida Board of Nursing; a Florida college, university, or community 6 7 college which is accredited by a member of the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation; any Florida 8 9 institution the credits of which are acceptable for transfer to state universities; any area technical center; or any 10 private vocational-technical institution accredited by a 11 12 member of the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation. 13 14 2. Participation in the college-level communication 15 and computation skills testing program. This requirement is limited to students seeking associate's or bachelor's degrees. 16 17 2.3. Residency in this state for no less than 1 year preceding the award of aid for a program established pursuant 18 19 to s. 240.402, s. 240.4021, <del>s. 240.4085,</del>s. 240.409, <del>s.</del> <del>240.4093,</del>s. 240.4095, s. 240.4097, s. 240.412, s. 240.4125, 20 s. 240.413, s. 240.4987, s. 240.605, or s. 240.606. Residency 21 in this state must be for purposes other than to obtain an 22 23 education. Resident status for purposes of receiving state financial aid awards shall be determined in the same manner as 24 resident status for tuition purposes pursuant to s. 240.1201 25 26 and rules of the State Board of Education. 4. Compliance with Selective Service System 27 registration requirements pursuant to s. 240.4045. 28 29 3.5. Submission of certification attesting to the accuracy, completeness, and correctness of information 30 provided to demonstrate a student's eligibility to receive 31

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state financial aid awards. Falsification of such information 1 2 shall result in the denial of any pending application and 3 revocation of any award currently held to the extent that no 4 further payments shall be made. Additionally, students who 5 knowingly make false statements in order to receive state financial aid awards shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the 6 7 second degree subject to the provisions of s. 837.06 and shall 8 be required to return all state financial aid awards 9 wrongfully obtained. Section 10. Section 240.4041, Florida Statutes, is 10 created to read: 11 12 240.4041 State financial aid; students with a disability. -- Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 13 14 240.404(1)(b)1.b. regarding the number of credits earned per 15 term, or other financial aid eligibility requirements related 16 to the number of required credits earned per term, a student 17 with a documented disability, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, shall be eligible to be considered for state 18 19 financial aid while attending an eligible postsecondary 20 institution on a part-time basis. The State Board of Education shall establish the necessary criteria for documentation of 21 the student's disability and the postsecondary institution 22 23 shall make the determination as to whether or not the 24 disability is such that part-time status is a necessary accommodation. For the purposes of this section, financial aid 25 26 funds may be prorated based on the number of credit hours 27 taken. Section 11. Section 240.4069, Florida Statutes, is 28 29 amended to read: 30 240.4069 Virgil Hawkins Fellows Assistance Program Scholarships.--31

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The Virgil Hawkins Fellows Assistance Program 1 (1)Scholarships, established by the General Appropriations Act, 2 3 shall provide financial assistance be provided for study in 4 law to each of 10 minority first-year students in law at the 5 Florida State University College of Law and to each of 10 minority first-year students in law at the University of 6 7 Florida College of Law. For the purposes of this section a minority student qualified to receive assistance from the a 8 9 Virgil Hawkins Fellows Assistance Program shall be identified pursuant to policies adopted by the Board of Regents 10 Scholarship is a person who is a member of an ethnic group 11 12 that was by law and custom previously denied access to a law school at a predominantly white institution in Florida. 13 14 (2) The balance of any funds remaining after the 10 15 scholarships for each law school have been allocated shall be 16 used to provide state matching of grants from private sources that raise money for additional fellowships to be awarded to 17 minority students. Matching funds shall be generated through 18 19 contributions made after July 1, 1993, and pledged for the purposes of this section. Pledged contributions shall be for 20 21 a minimum of 2 years and shall not be eligible for matching prior to the actual collection of the total funds. 22 (2) (3) Each student who is awarded a fellowship Virgil 23 Hawkins Fellows Scholarship shall be entitled to receive an 24 award a scholarship under this act for each academic term year 25 26 that the student is in good standing as approved by the Board of Regents' Office for Equal Opportunity Programs and the dean 27 and continues studies toward completion of the Juris Doctor 28 29 degree at the Florida State University College of Law or at 30 the University of Florida College of Law. 31

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(3)(4) If a fellowship scholarship vacancy occurs, and 1 2 has not been assigned or utilized by second-year or third-year 3 law students, permission will be granted for the Dean of the 4 College of Law to identify and assign that scholarship slot 5 shall be reassigned and funded fund it as a continuing 6 fellowship scholarship for the remainder of the period for 7 which the award scholarship was originally designated. 8 (4) (4) (5) The Board of Regents shall adopt policies and 9 shall administer the Virgil Hawkins Fellows Assistance Program Scholarships shall be administered by the Department of 10 Education. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to 11 12 implement the Virgil Hawkins Fellows Scholarships. Section 12. Subsection (1) of section 240.408, Florida 13 14 Statutes, is amended to read: 15 240.408 Challenger Astronauts Memorial Undergraduate 16 Scholarship Trust Fund. --(1) There is created the Challenger Astronauts 17 Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship Trust Fund which shall 18 19 receive distributions as provided by s. 320.08058. The 20 Comptroller shall authorize expenditures from this fund for Challenger Astronauts Memorial awards pursuant to s. 240.402, 21 and any remaining balances may be expended for graduate 22 23 fellowships in space science, space commerce, or space policy research pursuant to s. 240.4025, and for education/business 24 partnership programs which involve teacher development 25 26 strategies pursuant to s. 229.602, upon receipt of vouchers approved by the Department of Education. The Comptroller 27 shall also authorize expenditures from this fund for 28 29 Challenger Astronauts Memorial Undergraduate Scholarships for students who participated in this program prior to July 1, 30 1993, provided that such students continue to meet the renewal 31

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eligibility requirements that were in effect at the time that 1 2 their original awards were made. Any balance therein at the 3 end of any fiscal year shall remain therein and shall be 4 available for carrying out the purposes of these programs. 5 Section 13. Subsection (4) and paragraph (b) of 6 subsection (5) of section 240.412, Florida Statutes, are 7 amended to read: 240.412 Jose Marti Scholarship Challenge Grant 8 9 Program.--(4) The amount appropriated to the trust fund for the 10 program shall be allocated by the department on the basis of 11 12 one \$5,000 challenge grant for each\$2,500<del>\$5,000</del> raised from private sources. Matching funds shall be generated through 13 14 contributions made after July 1, 1986, and pledged for the purposes of this section. Pledged contributions shall not be 15 eligible for matching prior to the actual collection of the 16 17 total funds. 18 (5) 19 (b) In order to renew a scholarship awarded pursuant to this section, a student must shall: 20 21 1. Earn a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for the previous term, maintain at least a 3.0 average 22 23 for college work, or have an average below 3.0 only for the previous term and be eligible for continued enrollment at the 24 25 institution. 26 2. Maintain full-time enrollment. 27 3. Participate in the college-level communication and computation skills testing program. Graduate recipients shall 28 29 be exempt from this requirement. 30 Section 14. Subsection (2) of section 240.437, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 31

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240.437 Student financial aid planning and 1 2 development. --3 (2) The objective of a state program is the 4 maintenance of a state student financial aid program to 5 supplement a basic national program which will provide equal 6 access to postsecondary education to citizens of this state 7 who have the ability and motivation to benefit from a postsecondary education. In the development of a state program 8 9 to achieve this objective, it shall be the policy that: (a) State student financial aid be provided primarily 10 on the basis of financial need; 11 12 (b) Students receiving need-based financial aid be expected to contribute toward their cost of education through 13 14 self-help resources such as savings, work, and loans; (c) Student financial aid be available to state 15 residents for attendance at accredited public or private 16 institutions of higher education in this state; 17 (d) Student financial aid be provided for all levels 18 19 of postsecondary education; and 20 (e) State student financial aid be administered by a 21 central state agency. 22 (f) Effective August 1, 1985, students enrolled in associate in arts degree programs and bachelor's degree 23 programs in independent institutions in this state who receive 24 state aid pursuant to s. 240.402, s. 240.4063, s. 240.4085, s. 25 26 240.4095, s. 240.4097, s. 240.412, s. 240.605, or s. 240.606 participate in the college-level communication and computation 27 skills testing program provided in s. 229.551. The department 28 29 and the eligible institutions shall negotiate an agreement that will assure that the test is available to students either 30 directly through the independent institutions or on a 31

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contractual basis with a state community college or 1 university. Before August 1, 1985, all independent 2 3 institutions subject to this provision shall have an 4 opportunity to participate in preliminary testing activities 5 similar to those afforded the public institutions before the initiation of formal testing; and the independent sector shall 6 7 be afforded appropriate representation on all committees and 8 commissions charged with responsibilities for developing, 9 administering, and evaluating the tests. 10 Planning and development must shall be in accordance with the 11 12 foregoing objective and policies. Section 15. Subsections (1), (2), (3), and (4) of 13 section 240.6045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 14 240.6045 Limited access competitive grant program.--15 (1) There is established a limited access competitive 16 grant program which shall be administered by the Department of 17 18 Education. The purpose of the program shall be to provide 19 enrollment opportunities for qualified applicants in unable to obtain admission to selected state university limited access 20 programs or equivalent academic tracks. 21 (2) The Postsecondary Education Planning Commission 22 23 shall annually identify for the State Board of Education selected high priority employment fields that are designated, 24 commonly referred to as limited access programs, which require 25 26 a baccalaureate degree and for which one or more state 27 universities have insufficient capacity to serve all qualified 28 applicants. 29 (3) Program applicants shall be Florida residents, either community college graduates or state university 30 students, who are qualified for admission to a selected 31

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independent college or university because of lack of space are 1 denied admission to a state university program directly 2 3 related to a high priority employment field identified by the 4 State Board of Education. 5 (4) A limited access competitive grant may be awarded 6 in a competitive grant which equals 50 percent of the cost to 7 the state per academic year of funding an undergraduate 8 student in public postsecondary education if the recipient 9 chooses to enroll in a comparable program provided by an eligible independent college or university in Florida. 10 Eligible independent institutions shall be designated by the 11 12 Department of Education and shall be selected from among institutions accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the 13 14 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Priority shall 15 be given to state residents who graduate from a Florida high school or community college. 16 17 Section 16. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection (3) of section 240.606, Florida Statutes, are 18 19 amended to read: 20 240.606 Florida Work Experience Program. --21 (1) There is established the Florida Work Experience 22 Program to be administered by the Department of Education. The 23 purpose of the program is to introduce eligible students to work experience that will complement and reinforce their 24 25 educational program and career goals and provide a self-help 26 student aid program. Such program shall be available to: 27 (b) Any student attending a nonprofit Florida 28 postsecondary education institution that is eligible to 29 participate in either of the student assistance grant programs established in ss. 240.4095 and 240.4097. college or 30 university which: is accredited by a member of the Commission 31

on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation, the credits of which are acceptable, without qualification, for transfer to a state university; grants baccalaureate or associate degrees; is not a pervasively sectarian institution; and is located in and chartered by the state. (3) Each participating institution is authorized to enter into contractual agreements with private or public employers for the purpose of establishing a Florida work experience program. A minimum of 25 percent of the funds for the Florida Work Experience Program shall be used to contract with public schools for student work experience opportunities. Section 17. Sections 240.4025, 240.4045, 240.407, 240.4085, and 240.4093, Florida Statutes, are repealed. Section 18. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.