

By Representative Brooks

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to education; authorizing a
3 scholarship program for high school students
4 graduating at the end of the eleventh grade;
5 providing additional eligibility requirements;
6 providing for allocation of a portion of funds
7 to high schools and school districts; providing
8 for transmission of funds to state community
9 colleges and universities; authorizing adoption
10 of rules; providing an effective date.

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12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14 Section 1. Scholarship program for early high school
15 graduates.--

16 (1)(a) For the purpose of recognizing and rewarding
17 outstanding performance and academic achievement on the part
18 of public school students and the high schools from which they
19 graduate, the Commissioner of Education may annually award to
20 up to 5 percent of the qualified high school population a full
21 scholarship to any state community college or a scholarship
22 for tuition and materials at any state university. To qualify
23 for such award, a student shall:

24 1. Graduate from high school by the end of the
25 eleventh grade.

26 2. Graduate with a 3.2 grade point average, on a 4.0
27 scale, in courses which meet the entrance requirements to
28 state universities.

29 3. Attain a score of 26 or higher on the Enhanced ACT
30 or a composite score of 1180 or higher on the SAT 1.

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1 (b) Any student who is hearing impaired, visually
2 impaired, or dyslexic or who has a specific learning
3 disability shall be eligible for reasonable substitution for
4 any requirement of this scholarship program where
5 documentation can be provided that the student's failure to
6 meet the requirement is related to the disability.

7 (2) Any student who meets the requirements for the
8 Florida Academic Scholars' Certificate Program shall receive
9 all recognition and rewards of such program in addition to
10 awards provided pursuant to this section.

11 (3) A dollar amount equal to 15 percent of the base
12 student allocation which a student would have received if such
13 student had remained in high school shall be allocated
14 directly to the school from which the student graduates,
15 provided that such student utilizes the award granted pursuant
16 to this section.

17 (4) Each school district which has a high school
18 student participating in the scholarship program of this
19 section shall receive 10 percent of the base student
20 allocation which such student would have received if he or she
21 had remained in school, if the school district provides the
22 following information to the commissioner:

23 (a) A description of the changes made in the
24 curriculum offerings in middle school which allow selected
25 students to take high school courses for credit.

26 (b) A description of the changes made in the
27 curriculum offerings in high school which allow selected
28 students to progress at a faster rate and graduate by the end
29 of the eleventh grade.

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1 (c) A description of other changes made in the school
2 district which allow students to progress through school at a
3 faster pace.

4 (5) The full scholarship value for each participating
5 student shall be transmitted to the state community college or
6 university.

7 (6) The State Board of Education is authorized to
8 adopt rules necessary for the implementation and
9 administration of the provisions of this section.

10 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997.

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13 HOUSE SUMMARY

14 Authorizes the Commissioner of Education to annually
15 award scholarships to students who graduate from high
16 school by the end of the eleventh grade and meet certain
17 other academic requirements. Provides for allocation to
18 the high school and school district of a portion of the
19 public school funding such a student would have received
20 if such student had remained in high school. Provides
21 for transmission of scholarship funds to a selected state
22 community college or university.
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