

By the Committees on Fiscal Policy, Education and Senator  
Sullivan

309-2074-99

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Florida Bright Futures  
3           Scholarship Program; amending s. 240.40202,  
4           F.S.; providing that a student must be advised  
5           that additional funds for higher education may  
6           be available by submitting a Free Application  
7           for Federal Student Aid; amending s. 240.40203,  
8           F.S.; setting a time limit for the receipt of a  
9           scholarship; amending s. 240.40205, F.S.;  
10          requiring a test score and two levels of  
11          maximum annual award for a scholarship;  
12          amending s. 240.40206, F.S.; requiring a test  
13          score, to be raised in certain increments, and  
14          two levels of maximum annual award for a  
15          scholarship; amending s. 240.40207, F.S.;  
16          requiring the use of a scholarship at certain  
17          postsecondary educational institutions;  
18          amending s. 240.40208, F.S.; deleting a  
19          cross-reference; repealing s. 240.40209, F.S.;  
20          relating to awards used at nonpublic  
21          postsecondary educational institutions;  
22          providing an effective date.

23

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

25

26           Section 1. Subsection (5) is added to section  
27           240.40202, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, to read:  
28           240.40202 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
29           student eligibility requirements for initial awards.--  
30           (5) The student must be advised that additional funds  
31           for higher education may be available by submitting a Free

1 Application for Federal Student Aid. High school counselors  
2 shall provide the Free Application for Federal Student Aid  
3 forms to students and document to the Department of Education  
4 that the student has submitted the form or obtained a  
5 notarized statement from the student's parent or legal  
6 guardian which shall be retained in the student's permanent  
7 file attesting that the Free Application for Federal Student  
8 Aid form was provided and that the parent or guardian elected  
9 not to submit it.

10 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 240.40203,  
11 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

12 240.40203 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
13 student eligibility requirements for renewal awards.--

14 (2) A student who is enrolled in a program that  
15 requires 120 credit hours or more to complete ~~terminates in an~~  
16 ~~associate degree or a baccalaureate degree~~ may receive an  
17 award for a maximum of 132 semester credit hours or the  
18 equivalent ~~110 percent of the number of credit hours required~~  
19 ~~to complete the program.~~ A student who is enrolled in a  
20 program that terminates in an associate degree or a technical  
21 certificate may receive an award for a maximum of 110 percent  
22 of the credit hours or clock hours required to complete the  
23 program up to 90 credit hours. A student who transfers from  
24 one of these program levels to another becomes eligible for  
25 the higher of the two credit hour limits.

26 Section 3. Subsections (1) and (2) of section  
27 240.40205, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, are amended to  
28 read:

29 240.40205 Florida Academic Scholars award.--

30 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Academic  
31 Scholars award if the student meets the general eligibility

1 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship  
2 Program and the student:

3 (a) Has achieved a 3.5 weighted grade point average as  
4 calculated pursuant to s. 240.40202, or its equivalent, in  
5 high school courses that are adopted by the Board of Regents  
6 and recommended by the State Board of Community Colleges as  
7 college-preparatory academic courses~~and~~

8 ~~(b)~~ has attained at least a the score of 1270  
9 ~~identified by rules of the Department of Education on the~~  
10 combined verbal and quantitative parts of the ~~Scholastic~~  
11 ~~Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the~~  
12 recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance  
13 Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment  
14 Program or another test identified by the department ~~the~~  
15 ~~American College Testing Program; or~~

16 ~~(b)(c)~~ Has completed ~~attended~~ a college-preparatory  
17 curriculum through a registered home education program  
18 according to s. 232.0201 ~~during grades 11 and 12~~ or has  
19 completed the International Baccalaureate curriculum but  
20 failed to earn the International Baccalaureate Diploma, and  
21 has attained at least a the score of 1270 ~~identified by rules~~  
22 ~~of the Department of Education on the combined verbal and~~  
23 quantitative parts of the ~~Scholastic Aptitude Test, the~~  
24 ~~Scholastic Assessment Test, or the~~ recentered Scholastic  
25 Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an  
26 equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program or another test  
27 identified by the department ~~the American College Testing~~  
28 ~~Program; or~~

29 ~~(c)(d)~~ Has been awarded an International Baccalaureate  
30 Diploma from the International Baccalaureate Office; or

31

1           (d)~~(e)~~ Has been recognized by the merit or achievement  
2 programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a  
3 scholar or finalist.

4  
5 Effective with the 1998-1999 school year, a student must  
6 complete a program of community service work, as approved by  
7 the district school board or the administrators of a nonpublic  
8 school, which shall include a minimum of 75 hours of service  
9 work and require the student to identify a social problem that  
10 interests him or her, develop a plan for his or her personal  
11 involvement in addressing the problem, and, through papers or  
12 other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her  
13 experience.

14           (2) A Florida Academic Scholar who is enrolled in a  
15 baccalaureate-degree-granting public postsecondary education  
16 institution is eligible for a maximum award of \$2,800 ~~an award~~  
17 ~~equal to the amount required to pay matriculation, fees, and~~  
18 ~~\$600 for college-related expenses~~ annually. A Florida Academic  
19 Scholar who is enrolled in an institution that does not award  
20 baccalaureate degrees is eligible for a maximum annual award  
21 of \$2,000. The maximum award amount must be prorated each  
22 semester as provided in s. 240.4021(6). ~~student who is~~  
23 ~~enrolled in a nonpublic postsecondary education institution is~~  
24 ~~eligible for an award equal to the amount that would be~~  
25 ~~required to pay for the average matriculation and fees of a~~  
26 ~~public postsecondary education institution at the comparable~~  
27 ~~level, plus the annual \$600.~~

28           Section 4. Section 240.40206, Florida Statutes, 1998  
29 Supplement, is amended to read:

30           240.40206 Florida Merit Scholars award.--

1           (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Merit Scholars  
2 award if the student meets the general eligibility  
3 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship  
4 Program and also meets one of the following criteria ~~the~~  
5 ~~student~~:

6           (a) The student has achieved a weighted grade point  
7 average of 3.0 as calculated pursuant to s. 240.40202, or the  
8 equivalent, in high school courses that are adopted by the  
9 Board of Regents and recommended by the State Board of  
10 Community Colleges as college-preparatory academic courses~~+~~  
11 and

12           ~~(b)~~ has attained at least the applicable score listed  
13 in subsection (2)~~identified by rules of the Department of~~  
14 ~~Education~~ on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the  
15 ~~Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or~~  
16 ~~the~~ recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College  
17 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT  
18 Assessment Program or another test identified by the  
19 department.~~the American College Testing Program; or~~

20           ~~(b)(c)~~ The student has completed ~~attended~~ a  
21 college-preparatory curriculum through a registered home  
22 education program according to s. 232.0201 ~~during grades 11~~  
23 ~~and 12 or has completed the International Baccalaureate~~  
24 ~~curriculum but failed to earn the International Baccalaureate~~  
25 ~~Diploma,~~ and has attained at least the applicable score listed  
26 in subsection (2)~~identified by rules of the Department of~~  
27 ~~Education~~ on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the  
28 ~~Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or~~  
29 ~~the~~ recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College  
30 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT  
31

1 Assessment Program or another test identified by the  
2 department ~~the American College Testing Program.~~

3 (c) The student has completed the International  
4 Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the International  
5 Baccalaureate Diploma, and has attained at least the  
6 applicable score listed in subsection (2) on the combined  
7 verbal and quantitative parts of the recentered Scholastic  
8 Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an  
9 equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program or another test  
10 identified by the department.

11 (2) The test score required for a student to earn a  
12 Florida Merit Scholars award must be raised annually in the  
13 following increments:

14 (a) A student who graduates from high school by the  
15 end of the 2001-2002 school year must earn a score of 970 or  
16 above on the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test or its  
17 equivalent on the ACT Assessment Program or another test  
18 identified by the department. A student who wishes to earn an  
19 award through a home-education program but whose parents  
20 cannot document a college preparatory curriculum must earn a  
21 score of 1020 or above.

22 (b) A student who graduates from high school in the  
23 2002-2003 school year must earn a score of 1020 or above on  
24 the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test or its equivalent on  
25 the ACT Assessment Program or another test identified by the  
26 department. A student who wishes to earn an award through a  
27 home-education program but whose parents cannot document a  
28 college preparatory curriculum must earn a score of 1070 or  
29 above.

30 ~~(3)~~(2) A Florida Merit Scholar who is enrolled in a  
31 baccalaureate-degree-granting postsecondary education

1 institution is eligible for a maximum ~~an~~ award of \$1,700  
2 annually. A Florida Merit Scholar who is enrolled in an  
3 institution that does not award baccalaureate degrees is  
4 eligible for a maximum annual award of \$1,100. The maximum  
5 award must be prorated each semester as provided in s.  
6 240.40201(6). ~~equal to the amount required to pay 75 percent~~  
7 ~~of matriculation and fees, if the student is enrolled in a~~  
8 ~~public postsecondary education institution. A student who is~~  
9 ~~enrolled in a nonpublic postsecondary education institution is~~  
10 ~~eligible for an award equal to the amount that would be~~  
11 ~~required to pay 75 percent of the matriculation and fees of a~~  
12 ~~public postsecondary education institution at the comparable~~  
13 ~~level.~~

14 (4)(3) To be eligible for a renewal award as a Florida  
15 Merit Scholar, a student must maintain the equivalent of a  
16 grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale for all  
17 postsecondary education work attempted, with an opportunity  
18 for reinstatement one time as provided in this act.

19 Section 5. Section 240.40207, Florida Statutes, is  
20 amended to read:

21 240.40207 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars  
22 award.--The Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award is  
23 created within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program  
24 to recognize and reward academic achievement and vocational  
25 preparation by high school students who wish to continue their  
26 education. Beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, a student  
27 may not use a Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award to  
28 enroll in a baccalaureate-degree-granting institution, except  
29 that a student may renew an initial award issued before the  
30 2001-2002 school year.

31

1           (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal  
2 Vocational Scholars award if the student meets the general  
3 eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures  
4 Scholarship Program and the student:

5           (a) Completes the secondary school portion of a  
6 sequential program of studies that requires at least three  
7 secondary school vocational credits taken over at least 2  
8 academic years, and is continued in a planned, related  
9 postsecondary education program. If the student's school does  
10 not offer such a two-plus-two or tech-prep program, the  
11 student must complete a job-preparatory career education  
12 program selected by the Occupational Forecasting Conference or  
13 the Workforce Development Board of Enterprise Florida for its  
14 ability to provide high-wage employment in an occupation with  
15 high potential for employment opportunities. On-the-job  
16 training may not be substituted for any of the three required  
17 vocational credits.

18           (b) Demonstrates readiness for postsecondary education  
19 by earning a passing score on the Florida College Entry Level  
20 Placement Test or its equivalent as identified by the  
21 Department of Education.

22           (c) Earns a minimum cumulative weighted grade point  
23 average of 3.0, as calculated pursuant to s. 240.40202, on all  
24 subjects required for a standard high school diploma,  
25 excluding elective courses.

26           (d) Earns a minimum unweighted grade point average of  
27 3.5 on a 4.0 scale for secondary vocational courses comprising  
28 the vocational program.

29           (e) Completes the requirements of a vocational-ready  
30 diploma program, as defined by rules of the State Board of  
31 Education.



1           (2) A Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholar is eligible  
2 for a maximum annual award of \$1,100. The maximum award amount  
3 must be prorated each semester as provided in s. 240.40201(6)  
4 ~~an award equal to the amount required to pay 75 percent of~~  
5 ~~matriculation and fees, if the student is enrolled in a public~~  
6 ~~postsecondary education institution. A student who is enrolled~~  
7 ~~in a nonpublic postsecondary education institution is eligible~~  
8 ~~for an award equal to the amount that would be required to pay~~  
9 ~~75 percent of the matriculation and mandatory fees of a public~~  
10 ~~postsecondary education institution at the comparable level.~~

11           (3) To be eligible for a renewal award as a Florida  
12 Gold Seal Vocational Scholar, a student must maintain the  
13 equivalent of a grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale for  
14 all postsecondary education work attempted, with an  
15 opportunity for reinstatement one time as provided in this  
16 act.

17           (4) A student may earn a Florida Gold Seal Vocational  
18 Scholarship for 110 percent of the number of credit hours  
19 required to complete the program, up to 90 credit hours or the  
20 equivalent. ~~A Florida Gold Seal Scholar who has a cumulative~~  
21 ~~grade point average of 2.75 in all postsecondary education~~  
22 ~~work attempted may apply for a Florida Merit Scholars award at~~  
23 ~~any renewal period. All other provisions of that program~~  
24 ~~apply, and the credit-hour limitation must be calculated by~~  
25 ~~subtracting from the student's total eligibility the number of~~  
26 ~~credit hours the student attempted while earning the Gold Seal~~  
27 ~~Vocational Scholarship.~~

28           (5) If an award recipient successfully completes the  
29 postsecondary education component of the education program  
30 described in paragraph (1)(a) and wishes to continue in  
31 postsecondary education, the student may transfer to the

1 Florida Merit Scholars award component of the Bright Futures  
2 Scholarship Program. To transfer the scholarship, the student  
3 must meet all requirements to renew a Merit Scholarship.

4 Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 240.40208,  
5 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

6 240.40208 Eligibility for the Florida Bright Futures  
7 Scholarship Program; transition.--

8 (1) A student who graduates from high school in 1997  
9 or earlier and who is eligible for the Florida Undergraduate  
10 Scholar's Program ~~pursuant to s. 240.402~~ is eligible for the  
11 Florida Academic Scholars award as provided in this act. A  
12 student who graduates from high school in 1998 or 1999 is  
13 eligible for the Florida Academic Scholars award if the  
14 student meets the criteria in s. 240.40205. However, in lieu  
15 of satisfying the requirements set forth in s. 240.40205(1)(a)  
16 ~~and (b)~~, a student may meet the following criteria:

17 (a) Complete a program of at least 24 credits in  
18 advanced-level studies as prescribed by the State Board of  
19 Education, including as a minimum:

20 1. Four years of progressively advanced instruction in  
21 language arts, including courses in English composition and  
22 literature.

23 2. Four years of progressively advanced instruction in  
24 science, including laboratory courses in biology, chemistry,  
25 and physics where laboratory facilities are available.

26 3. Four years of progressively advanced instruction in  
27 mathematics, including courses in algebra, geometry, and  
28 calculus or trigonometry.

29 4. Two years of sequential foreign language.

30 5. One year of instruction in art and music or in  
31 either art or music.

1           6. Three years of instruction in social studies,  
2 including courses in American history and government, world  
3 history, and comparative political and economic systems.

4           7. One year of instruction in health and physical  
5 education to include assessment, improvement, and maintenance  
6 of personal fitness.

7           (b) Obtain at least the equivalent of an unweighted  
8 grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for all courses  
9 taken for which high school credit may be granted.

10          (c) Achieve a score of 1180 on the combined verbal and  
11 quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the  
12 Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic  
13 Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an  
14 equivalent score on the ACT Assessment ~~American College~~  
15 ~~Testing~~ Program or an equivalent program.

16          (d) Complete a program of community service work, as  
17 approved by the district school board or the administrators of  
18 a nonpublic school, which shall include a minimum of 75 hours  
19 of service work and require the student to identify a social  
20 problem that interests him or her, develop a plan for his or  
21 her personal involvement in addressing the problem, and,  
22 through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect  
23 upon his or her experience.

24  
25 Students who graduate from high school after 1999 must meet  
26 the eligibility criteria pursuant to s. 240.40205.

27          Section 7. Section 240.40209, Florida Statutes, as  
28 created by section 6 of chapter 97-379, Laws of Florida, is  
29 repealed.

30          Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

31

1                   STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
2                   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
3                   CS/SB 1380  
4     The committee substitute for the committee substitute contains  
5     the following provisions:  
6     Requires the high school counselor to provide each applicant  
7     for any of the three scholarships with a Free Application for  
8     Federal Student Aid form, submit it to the Department of  
9     Education or get a notarized statement from the parent or  
10    guardian that they elected not to submit the form.  
11    Authorizes the Department of Education to identify all tests  
12    that have a score equivalent to that of the SAT.  
13    Identifies, by name, the ACT Assessment Program as an eligible  
14    test for students to take to qualify for the Bright Futures  
15    Scholarship.  
16    Establishes the highest level of SAT score to receive the  
17    merit scholarship at 1020 rather than 1050.  
18    Requires a home education student to make 50 points higher  
19    rather than 100 points higher.  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31