

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to scholarship programs;
3 amending s. 240.40202, F.S.; modifying student
4 eligibility requirements for initial awards;
5 amending s. 240.40203, F.S.; revising student
6 eligibility requirements for renewal awards;
7 amending s. 240.40205, F.S.; revising initial
8 eligibility requirements for the Florida
9 Academic Scholars award; amending s. 240.40206,
10 F.S.; revising initial eligibility requirements
11 for the Florida Merit Scholars award; amending
12 s. 240.40207, F.S.; revising provisions
13 relating to the Florida Gold Seal Vocational
14 Scholars award; amending s. 240.40208, F.S.;
15 correcting a cross reference; repealing s.
16 240.40209, F.S., relating to calculation of
17 awards for Florida Bright Futures Scholarship
18 recipients attending nonpublic institutions;
19 providing an effective date.

20
21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

22
23 Section 1. Subsections (5) and (6) are added to
24 section 240.40202, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, to read:

25 240.40202 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;
26 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.--

27 (5) Beginning with year 2000 high school graduates,
28 the Department of Education shall collect family socioeconomic
29 data from Bright Futures Scholarship applicants.

30 (6) A student who is determined to be ineligible for
31 an initial award for failure to meet the high school grade

1 point average requirement may appeal the determination to the
2 department and request a recalculation of the grade point
3 average to include the grades earned in up to three credits of
4 advanced fine arts courses. The department shall make a
5 description of the appeals process available to individuals
6 upon request. The department shall recalculate the student's
7 grade point average using the additional courses and advise
8 the student of any changes in the student's eligibility
9 status. For purposes of this section, fine arts courses
10 include courses in music, drama, painting, sculpture, speech,
11 debate, or a course in any art form that requires manual
12 dexterity. "Advanced level fine arts courses" include fine
13 arts courses identified in the course code directory as
14 Advanced Placement, pre-International Baccalaureate or
15 International Baccalaureate, and fine arts courses taken in
16 the third or fourth year of a fine arts curriculum.

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

19 240.40203 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;
20 student eligibility requirements for renewal awards.--

21 (2) A student who is enrolled in a program that
22 terminates in ~~an associate degree or a baccalaureate~~ degree
23 may receive an award for a maximum of 132 semester credit
24 hours or the equivalent ~~110 percent of the number of credit~~
25 ~~hours required to complete the program.~~ A student who is
26 enrolled in a program that terminates in a technical
27 certificate may receive an award for a maximum of 110 percent
28 of the credit hours or clock hours required to complete the
29 program up to 90 credit hours. A student who transfers from
30 one of these program levels to another becomes eligible for
31 the higher of the two credit hour limits.

1 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 240.40205,
2 Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, is amended, subsection (2)
3 is renumbered and amended, subsections (3) and (4) are
4 renumbered as subsections (5) and (6), respectively, and a new
5 subsection (2) is added to said section, to read:

6 240.40205 Florida Academic Scholars award.--

7 (1) A student who graduates from high school by the
8 end of the 2002-2003 school year is eligible for a Florida
9 Academic Scholars award if the student meets the general
10 eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures
11 Scholarship Program and the student:

12 (a) Has achieved a 3.5 weighted grade point average as
13 calculated pursuant to s. 240.40202, or its equivalent, in
14 high school courses that are required as a condition of
15 admission to a State University System institution as set
16 forth in rules of the Board of Regents adopted by the Board of
17 Regents and recommended by the State Board of Community
18 Colleges as college preparatory academic courses; and

19 ~~(b)~~ has attained at least a score of 1270 ~~the score~~
20 ~~identified by rules of the Department of Education on the~~
21 ~~combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic~~
22 ~~Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the~~
23 ~~recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance~~
24 ~~Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment~~
25 ~~American College Testing Program, or its equivalent as~~
26 determined by the Department of Education; or

27 ~~(b)(c)~~ Has attended a home education program according
28 to s. 232.0201 during grades 11 and 12 or has completed the
29 International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the
30 International Baccalaureate Diploma, and has attained at least
31 a score of 1270 ~~the score identified by rules of the~~

1 ~~Department of Education~~ on the combined verbal and
2 quantitative parts of the ~~Scholastic Aptitude Test, the~~
3 ~~Scholastic Assessment Test, or the~~ recentered Scholastic
4 Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an
5 equivalent score on the ACT Assessment ~~American College~~
6 ~~Testing~~ Program; or
7 (c)~~(d)~~ Has been awarded an International Baccalaureate
8 Diploma from the International Baccalaureate Office; or
9 (d)~~(e)~~ Has been recognized by the merit or achievement
10 programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a
11 scholar or finalist.
12 (2) A student who graduates from high school during
13 the 2003-2004 school year or thereafter is eligible for a
14 Florida Academic Scholars award if the student meets the
15 general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright
16 Futures Scholarship Program and the student:
17 (a) Has attained a score of at least 1270 on the
18 recentered Scholastic Assessment Test, an equivalent score on
19 the ACT Assessment Program, or the equivalent as determined by
20 the Department of Education and achieved a weighted grade
21 point average of 3.0 as calculated pursuant to s. 240.40202
22 using grades earned in the following courses:
23 1. Four years of progressively advanced instruction in
24 language arts, including courses in English composition and
25 literature.
26 2. Four years of progressively advanced instruction in
27 science, including laboratory courses in biology, chemistry,
28 and physics where laboratory facilities are available.
29 3. Four years of progressively advanced instruction in
30 mathematics, including courses in algebra, geometry, and
31 calculus or trigonometry.

- 1 4. Two years of sequential foreign language.
- 2 5. One year of instruction in fine arts courses as
3 defined in s. 240.40202.
- 4 6. Three years of instruction in social studies,
5 including courses in American history and government, world
6 history, and comparative political and economic systems;
- 7 (b) Has attended a home education program according to
8 s. 232.0201 during grades 11 and 12 or has completed the
9 International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the
10 International Baccalaureate Diploma, and has attained at least
11 a score of 1270 on the combined verbal and quantitative parts
12 of the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College
13 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the Act
14 Assessment Program;
- 15 (c) Has been awarded an International Baccalaureate
16 Diploma from the International Baccalaureate Office; or
- 17 (d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement
18 programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a
19 scholar or finalist.
- 20 (3) Effective with the 1998-1999 school year, a
21 student must complete a program of community service work, as
22 approved by the district school board or the administrators of
23 a nonpublic school, which shall include a minimum of 75 hours
24 of service work and require the student to identify a social
25 problem that interests him or her, develop a plan for his or
26 her personal involvement in addressing the problem, and,
27 through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect
28 upon his or her experience.
- 29 (4)(2) A Florida Academic Scholar who is enrolled in a
30 baccalaureate-degree-granting public postsecondary education
31 institution is eligible for a maximum award of \$2,800 ~~an award~~

1 ~~equal to the amount required to pay matriculation, fees, and~~
2 ~~\$600 for college-related expenses annually. A Florida Academic~~
3 ~~Scholar who is enrolled in an institution that does not award~~
4 ~~baccalaureate degrees is eligible for a maximum annual award~~
5 ~~of \$2,000. The maximum award amount must be prorated each~~
6 ~~semester as provided in s. 240.40201(6)~~ ~~student who is~~
7 ~~enrolled in a nonpublic postsecondary education institution is~~
8 ~~eligible for an award equal to the amount that would be~~
9 ~~required to pay for the average matriculation and fees of a~~
10 ~~public postsecondary education institution at the comparable~~
11 ~~level, plus the annual \$600.~~

12 Section 4. Section 240.40206, Florida Statutes, 1998
13 Supplement, is amended to read:

14 (Substantial rewording of section. See
15 s. 240.40206, F.S., 1998 Supp., for present
16 text.)
17 240.40206 Florida Merit Scholars award.--

18 (1) A student who graduates from high school by the
19 end of the 2002-2003 school year is eligible for a Florida
20 Merit Scholars award if the student meets the general
21 eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures
22 Scholarship Program and the student:

23 (a) Has achieved a weighted grade point average of 3.0
24 as calculated pursuant to s. 240.40202, or the equivalent, in
25 high school courses that are required as a condition of
26 admission to a State University System institution, as set
27 forth in rules of the Board of Regents, and has attained a
28 score of at least 970 on the recentered Scholastic Assessment
29 Test, an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program, or
30 its equivalent as determined by the Department of Education;
31 or

1 (b) Has completed the International Baccalaureate
2 curriculum but failed to earn the International Baccalaureate
3 Diploma and has attained a score of at least 970 on the
4 combined verbal and quantitative parts of the recentered
5 Scholastic Assessment Test, an equivalent score on the ACT
6 Assessment Program, or its equivalent as determined by the
7 Department of Education; or

8 (c) Has completed a college-preparatory curriculum
9 through a registered home education program and has attained a
10 score of at least 970 on the combined verbal and quantitative
11 parts of the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test, an
12 equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program, or its
13 equivalent as determined by the Department of Education.

14 Eligibility shall be determined in the same manner as for
15 public school students. For students whose parents do not
16 document a college-preparatory curriculum, a score of at least
17 1070 on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the
18 recentered Scholastic Assessment Test, an equivalent score on
19 the ACT Assessment Program, or its equivalent as determined by
20 the Department of Education, shall be required for award
21 eligibility.

22 (2) A student who graduates from high school in the
23 2003-2004 school year or thereafter is eligible for a Florida
24 Merit Scholars award if the student meets the general
25 eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures
26 Scholarship Program and the student:

27 (a) Has attained a score of at least 970 on the
28 recentered Scholastic Assessment Test, an equivalent score on
29 the ACT Assessment Program, or the equivalent as determined by
30 the Department of Education and achieved a weighted grade
31

- 1 point average of 3.0 as calculated pursuant to s. 240.40202
2 using grades earned in the following courses:
- 3 1. Four years of progressively advanced instruction in
4 language arts, including courses in English composition and
5 literature.
 - 6 2. Four years of progressively advanced instruction in
7 science, including laboratory courses in biology, chemistry,
8 and physics where laboratory facilities are available.
 - 9 3. Four years of progressively advanced instruction in
10 mathematics, including courses in algebra, geometry, and
11 calculus or trigonometry.
 - 12 4. Two years of sequential foreign language.
 - 13 5. One year of instruction in fine arts courses as
14 defined in s. 240.40202.
 - 15 6. Three years of instruction in social studies,
16 including courses in American history and government, world
17 history, and comparative political and economic systems; or
 - 18 (b) Has completed the International Baccalaureate
19 curriculum but failed to earn the International Baccalaureate
20 Diploma and has attained a score of at least 970 on the
21 combined verbal and quantitative parts of the recentered
22 Scholastic Assessment Test, an equivalent score on the ACT
23 Assessment Program, or its equivalent as determined by the
24 Department of Education; or
 - 25 (c) Has completed the curriculum prescribed in
26 paragraph (a) through a registered home education program or
27 has documented competency in each of the prescribed subject
28 areas and has attained a score of at least 970 on the combined
29 verbal and quantitative parts of the recentered Scholastic
30 Assessment Test, an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment
31 Program, or its equivalent as determined by the Department of

1 Education. For students whose parents do not document
2 completion of the prescribed curriculum or competencies in
3 each of the prescribed subject areas, a score of at least 1070
4 on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the
5 recentered Scholastic Assessment Test, an equivalent score on
6 the ACT Assessment Program, or its equivalent as determined by
7 the Department of Education, shall be required.

8 (3) A Florida Merit Scholar who is enrolled in a
9 baccalaureate-degree-granting postsecondary education
10 institution is eligible for a maximum award of \$1,700
11 annually. A Florida Merit Scholar who is enrolled in an
12 institution that does not award baccalaureate degrees is
13 eligible for a maximum annual award of \$1,100. The maximum
14 award must be prorated each semester as provided in s.
15 240.40201(6).

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

21 Section 5. Section 240.40207, Florida Statutes, 1998
22 Supplement, is amended to read:

23 240.40207 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars
24 award.--The Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award is
25 created within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
26 to recognize and reward academic achievement and vocational
27 preparation by high school students who wish to continue their
28 education. Beginning fall semester 2001, a Florida Gold Seal
29 Vocational Scholars award may not be used at a baccalaureate
30 degree-granting institution unless the award is a renewal of
31 an initial award issued prior to fall semester 2001.

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 by 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) Upon successful completion of an associate degree
29 program, an award recipient who meets the renewal criteria in
30 subsection (3) and enrolls in an associate or baccalaureate
31 degree program at an eligible postsecondary education

1 institution is eligible to transfer to the Florida Merit
2 Scholars award component of the Bright Futures Scholarship
3 Program. Other than initial eligibility criteria, all other
4 provisions of that component apply.

5 Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 240.40208,
6 Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 4. Two years of sequential foreign language.

31

1 5. One year of instruction in art and music or in
2 either art or music.

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 Section 7. Section 240.40209, Florida Statutes, is
30 repealed.

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