

By Senator Holzendorf

2-1239-99

See HB 179

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to community colleges;  
3           providing an appropriation to the Commissioner  
4           of Education to enter into an agreement with  
5           the Southern Regional Education Board to  
6           support a "Compact for Faculty Diversity  
7           Program" to increase the number of minority  
8           personnel holding doctoral degrees in selected  
9           Florida community colleges; providing for  
10          scholarships; establishing a process for  
11          selection of community college and minority  
12          participants; providing requirements of  
13          doctoral candidates; requiring service or  
14          repayment; requiring rules; providing an  
15          effective date.  
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17          WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature recognizes the  
18          underrepresentation of ethnic and gender minorities as faculty  
19          and executive, administrative, and managerial personnel in  
20          Florida community colleges, and  
21          WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature is interested in  
22          increasing the number of ethnic and gender minorities employed  
23          in these positions, and  
24          WHEREAS, national availability statistics indicate a  
25          severe shortage of minorities holding the requisite degrees to  
26          enter the pool as faculty senior-level employees in Florida  
27          community colleges, and  
28          WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature wishes to establish a  
29          means to develop, utilize, promote, and maintain human  
30          resources currently employed in the Florida Community College  
31          System, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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3           Section 1. The sum of \$240,000 is hereby appropriated  
4 for fiscal year 1999-2000 from the General Revenue Fund to the  
5 Florida Commissioner of Education to enter into an agreement  
6 with the Southern Regional Education Board to support a  
7 "Compact For Faculty Diversity Program." The agreement shall  
8 provide for 10 scholarships of \$8,000 per candidate, per year,  
9 as a means to increase the number of minority doctoral  
10 scholars in Florida community colleges. The funds shall be  
11 maintained in an account of the Office of the Commissioner of  
12 Education and shall be appropriated at an amount of \$80,000  
13 per year for 3 consecutive years. The Legislature intends  
14 that the Southern Regional Education Board will make  
15 arrangements with participating state boards, institutions,  
16 and foundations for tuition and fee waivers or scholarships  
17 for the candidates selected.

18           Section 2. The selection of participating institutions  
19 shall be based on the identification by the State Board of  
20 Community Colleges of institutions in the Florida Community  
21 College System which have demonstrated commitment to  
22 increasing diversity among faculty and senior-level personnel  
23 and willingness to grant its participants 3 years of release  
24 time for doctoral study. Minority employees holding the  
25 credentials to enter doctoral programs shall be nominated to  
26 the State Board of Community Colleges and provided support by  
27 their respective institutions. The sponsoring community  
28 college shall provide full benefits and may provide up to  
29 one-half of the annual salary earned by the candidate at the  
30 time of initial approval for program participation. Two  
31 ethnic and/or gender minority employees per region, among the

1 five regions identified by the Florida Association of  
2 Community Colleges, shall be selected by the State Board of  
3 Community Colleges to participate. Preference shall be given  
4 to ethnic minorities in the selection of candidates.

5 Section 3. Program participants must seek and attain  
6 admission to a doctoral program in a participating public  
7 institution identified by the Southern Regional Education  
8 Board. Participants also must attend school full time and  
9 pursue a doctoral degree in any field, with emphasis on  
10 mathematics, science, and fields other than education or  
11 professional areas.

12 Section 4. Upon completion of the program, doctoral  
13 scholars must agree to the following: provide at least 1 full  
14 academic year of service to the community college where he or  
15 she is employed for each year of funding in the program; or  
16 repay to the Office of the Commissioner of Education an amount  
17 equal to the total cost of state support provided by the  
18 program and repay to the sponsoring community college an  
19 amount equal to the total cost of salary support provided by  
20 the community college. The manner of repayment shall be  
21 established by the Office of the Commissioner of Education.

22 Section 5. The State Board of Community Colleges shall  
23 adopt rules for the implementation of this act, including  
24 provisions for the exemption of an individual from the  
25 requirements of section 4 based on a demonstration of  
26 hardship.

27 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.  
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HOUSE SUMMARY

Provides an appropriation from the General Revenue Fund to the Commissioner of Education to enter into an agreement with the Southern Regional Education Board to support a faculty diversity program. Provides for scholarships to increase the number of minority personnel holding doctoral degrees in the state's community colleges. Provides a selection process and repayment requirements.