

By Representative Atwater

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to postsecondary education;
3 creating s. 240.401, F.S.; creating the Florida
4 Public Student Assistance Grant program for
5 part-time students; providing for rulemaking by
6 the State Board of Education; providing
7 purpose; providing eligibility criteria;
8 requiring participating institutions to report
9 certain information to the Department of
10 Education; requiring the department to allocate
11 to public postsecondary institutions funds to
12 be distributed under this program; providing an
13 effective date.

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

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17 Section 1. Section 240.401, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 240.401 Florida Public Student Assistance Grant
20 program; creation; purpose; funding.--

21 (1) There is created the Florida Public Student
22 Assistance Grant program for part-time students. The program
23 shall be administered in accordance with rules of the state
24 board.

25 (2) The purpose of the program is to provide financial
26 assistance to part-time students who need such assistance.
27 State student-assistance grants may be awarded under the
28 program to part-time degree-seeking students who meet the
29 general requirements for student eligibility. Grants are to be
30 awarded annually in the amount of demonstrated unmet need for
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1 the cost of education. Recipients of such grants must have
2 been accepted at a state university or community college.
3 (a) Priority in the distribution of grant moneys must
4 be given to students who have the lowest total family
5 resources.
6 (b) Each participating institution shall report to the
7 department, by a date established by rule of the state board,
8 the number of eligible students to whom grant moneys will be
9 disbursed during each academic term. Each institution shall
10 report demographic and eligibility data for such students.
11 (3) The Department of Education shall allocate to
12 public postsecondary institutions funds for disbursement to
13 part-time students. The funds appropriated for the program
14 must be allocated to eligible institutions.

15 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
16 law.

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19 SENATE SUMMARY

20 Creates the Florida Public Student Assistance Grant
21 program for part-time postsecondary students who are
22 pursuing degrees. Provides eligibility criteria. Requires
23 participating institutions to report certain information
24 to the Department of Education. Requires the department
25 to allocate to public postsecondary institutions funds to
26 be distributed under this program.
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