

By the Committee on Education and Senators Miller and Sullivan

21-1545C-01

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to student financial  
3           assistance; creating the Vocational Student  
4           Assistance Grant Program; providing eligibility  
5           criteria for students and educational  
6           institutions; establishing conditions for the  
7           amount of an award; providing program criteria;  
8           providing restrictions; providing  
9           administrative procedures; requiring certain  
10          reports; requiring recommendations of the  
11          Postsecondary Education Planning Commission,  
12          the State Board of Nonpublic Career Education,  
13          and the State Board of Independent Colleges and  
14          Universities; amending s. 231.621, F.S.;  
15          authorizing alternative payment procedures for  
16          a loan forgiveness program; amending s.  
17          240.40201, F.S.; extending and placing a limit  
18          upon the eligibility period for the Florida  
19          Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
20          redesignating the Florida Merit Scholarship as  
21          the Florida Medallion Scholarship; amending s.  
22          240.40202, F.S.; defining terms; revising  
23          application dates for the Florida Bright  
24          Futures Scholarship Program; amending s.  
25          240.40203, F.S.; defining terms; providing  
26          conditions for awards to students in programs  
27          that confer post-baccalaureate degrees;  
28          conforming provisions; amending s. 240.40204,  
29          F.S.; conforming provisions; amending s.  
30          240.40205, F.S.; eliminating obsolete  
31          provisions; amending s. 240.40206, s.

1 240.40207, F.S.; conforming provisions;  
2 amending s. 240.40209, F.S.; directing the  
3 Department of Education to define fee  
4 calculation; amending s. 240.404, F.S.;  
5 requiring an application process; providing  
6 conditions for maintaining status as a resident  
7 for tuition purposes; amending s. 240.4063,  
8 F.S.; conforming provisions; amending s.  
9 240.4064, F.S.; revising the tuition  
10 reimbursement rate; amending s. 240.409, F.S.;  
11 authorizing certain grants for part-time  
12 students; revising terms of eligibility for  
13 certain grants; amending ss. 240.4095,  
14 240.4097, F.S.; conforming provisions; amending  
15 s. 240.412, F.S.; conforming provisions;  
16 amending s. 240.4126, F.S.; establishing the  
17 amount of an award; conforming provisions;  
18 amending ss. 240.4128, 240.413, F.S.;  
19 conforming provisions; amending s. 240.437,  
20 F.S.; authorizing administration by the  
21 Department of Education for certain scholarship  
22 programs; amending ss. 240.472, 240.6073,  
23 240.6074, 240.6075, F.S.; conforming  
24 provisions; amending ss. 295.01, 295.02, F.S.;  
25 providing eligibility for students attending  
26 certain postsecondary institutions; repealing  
27 s. 240.40208, F.S., relating to the transition  
28 period for the Bright Futures Scholarship  
29 Program; repealing s. 240.40242, F.S., relating  
30 to criteria for use of certain scholarship  
31 funds by children of deceased or disabled

1 veterans; repealing s. 240.465(5), F.S.,  
2 relating to withholding the academic transcript  
3 of a borrower who is in default in repayment of  
4 student loans; providing effective dates.  
5

6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
7

8 Section 1. Vocational Student Assistance Grant  
9 Program; eligibility for grants.--

10 (1) The Vocational Student Assistance Grant Program is  
11 created to be administered by the participating institutions  
12 in accordance with rules of the Florida Board of Education.

13 (2) A vocational student assistance grant may be made  
14 only to a student who enrolls in at least 6 semester hours per  
15 term, or the equivalent in quarter hours or clock hours, and  
16 who meets the general requirements for student eligibility as  
17 provided in section 240.404, Florida Statutes, except as  
18 otherwise provided in this section. Such grants shall be  
19 awarded annually for the amount of demonstrated unmet need for  
20 the cost of education and may not exceed an amount equal to  
21 the average prior academic year cost of matriculation and fees  
22 for 30 credit hours at state universities or the amount  
23 specified in the General Appropriations Act, to any recipient.  
24 A demonstrated unmet need of less than \$200 renders the  
25 applicant ineligible for a Vocational Student Assistance  
26 Grant.

27 (3) A grant from the program may be awarded to a  
28 student who:

29 (a)1. Is enrolled in a public vocational-technical  
30 center, community college, or any nonpublic career education  
31 school or college accredited by an association that is

1 recognized by the United States Department of Education, which  
2 school or college has never had its accreditation removed for  
3 any reason, has been in continuous operation for at least 5  
4 years, has been issued a biennial license under section  
5 246.217, Florida Statutes, has not been the subject of a  
6 finding of probable cause and subsequent disciplinary action  
7 under section 246.226 or section 246.228, Florida Statutes, is  
8 not required by the Federal Government to apply for  
9 reimbursement for Title IV funding, and is located in and  
10 chartered by the state; or

11 2. Is enrolled in an institution that has been  
12 licensed continuously for the preceding 5 years by the State  
13 Board of Independent Colleges and Universities, or has met the  
14 requirements of section 246.085(1)(a), Florida Statutes, and  
15 is accredited by an association recognized by the United  
16 States Department of Education, and which college has not been  
17 the subject of a finding of probable cause and subsequent  
18 disciplinary action under section 246.111, section 246.226, or  
19 section 246.228, Florida Statutes, has been issued a license  
20 under section 246.217, Florida Statutes, is not required by  
21 the Federal Government to apply for reimbursement for Title IV  
22 funding, and is located in and chartered by the state.

23 (b) Is enrolled in a course or program that awards a  
24 certificate or diploma as defined in section 246.203(6),  
25 Florida Statutes.

26 1. A student enrolled in a nonpublic school must be  
27 enrolled in a program which is comparable and compatible, as  
28 determined by the State Board of Nonpublic Career Education,  
29 with a public job-preparatory vocational-technical program and  
30 the program standards, including curriculum framework and

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1 student performance standards, as provided by rule of the  
2 Florida Board of Education.

3 2. A student enrolled in a nonpublic school must meet  
4 the same basic skills requirements as a student enrolled in  
5 public certificate-level career education as provided by rules  
6 of the Florida Board of Education.

7 (4) A student applying for a Florida Vocational  
8 Student Assistance Grant must also complete an application for  
9 the Pell Grant and, if the student is enrolled in a program  
10 that meets the Pell Grant eligibility requirement for program  
11 length, the student shall apply for the Pell Grant. The Pell  
12 Grant entitlement shall be considered when conducting an  
13 assessment of the financial resources available to the  
14 student. The criteria and procedure for establishing standards  
15 of eligibility shall be determined by the department in  
16 consultation with the State Board of Nonpublic Career  
17 Education and the State Board of Independent Colleges and  
18 Universities. Priority in the distribution of grant moneys  
19 shall be given to students with the lowest total family  
20 resources, in accordance with a nationally recognized system  
21 of need analysis as determined pursuant to this subsection.  
22 Using the system of need analysis, the department shall  
23 establish a maximum expected family contribution. An  
24 institution may not make a grant from this program to a  
25 student whose expected family contribution exceeds the level  
26 established by the department. An institution may not impose  
27 additional criteria to determine a student's eligibility to  
28 receive a grant award.

29 (5)(a) A student may not receive simultaneously a  
30 vocational student assistance grant and any other form of  
31

1 student assistance grant provided pursuant to section 240.409,  
2 section 240.4095, or section 240.4097, Florida Statutes.

3 (b) The amount of the vocational student assistance  
4 grant may not exceed \$1,000 and may not exceed the amount of  
5 demonstrated unmet need for matriculation and other fees.

6 (c) A student may not receive a vocational student  
7 assistance grant for more than 90 semester credit hours of  
8 enrollment, or the equivalent in quarter hours or clock hours.

9 (d) As a condition of renewal of a vocational student  
10 assistance grant, a student must be in compliance with the  
11 institutional definition of satisfactory progress for the  
12 receipt of federal Title IV programs and be eligible for  
13 continuous enrollment in the institution.

14 (6) Each participating institution shall report to the  
15 department by the established date the eligible students to  
16 whom grant moneys are disbursed each academic term. Each  
17 institution shall also report to the department necessary  
18 demographic and eligibility data for such students.

19 (7)(a) The funds appropriated for the Florida  
20 Vocational Student Assistance Grant shall be distributed to  
21 eligible institutions in accordance with a formula recommended  
22 by the Department of Education's Florida Council of Student  
23 Financial Aid Advisors and reviewed by the Postsecondary  
24 Education Planning Commission, the State Board of Nonpublic  
25 Career Education, and the State Board of Independent Colleges  
26 and Universities.

27 (b) Payment of Florida vocational student assistance  
28 grants shall be transmitted to the chief executive officer of  
29 the educational institution or to his or her representative in  
30 advance of the registration period. Institutions shall notify  
31 students of the amount of their awards.

1           (c) Institutions shall certify to the Department of  
2 Education the amount of funds disbursed to each student and  
3 shall remit to the department any undisbursed advances by  
4 April 1 of each year for preliminary allocation, and June 1 of  
5 each year for reallocation.

6           (d) Each institution that receives moneys through the  
7 Vocational Student Assistance Grant Program shall prepare an  
8 annual report that includes an independent external audit of  
9 the institution's administration of the program and a complete  
10 accounting of the moneys in the State Student Financial  
11 Assistance Trust Fund allocated to the institution for the  
12 program. Such report shall be submitted to the department on  
13 or before March 1 every year. The department may conduct its  
14 own annual audit of an institution's administration of the  
15 program and its allocated funds. The department may suspend or  
16 revoke an institution's eligibility to receive future moneys  
17 from the trust fund for the program or request a refund of any  
18 moneys overpaid to the institution through the trust fund for  
19 the program if the department finds that an institution has  
20 not complied with the provisions of this section. Any refund  
21 requested pursuant to this paragraph shall be remitted within  
22 60 days.

23           (8) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for  
24 vocational student assistance grants shall be deposited in the  
25 State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund. Notwithstanding  
26 the provisions of section 216.301, Florida Statutes, and  
27 pursuant to section 216.351, Florida Statutes, any balance in  
28 the trust fund at the end of any fiscal year that has been  
29 allocated to the Vocational Student Assistance Grant Program  
30 shall remain therein and shall be available for carrying out  
31 the purposes of this section.

1           Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section  
2 231.621, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3           231.621 Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan  
4 Forgiveness Program.--

5           (2) From the funds available, the Department of  
6 Education may make loan principal repayments as follows:

7           (c) All repayments shall be contingent on continued  
8 proof of employment in the designated subject areas in this  
9 state and shall be made directly to the holder of the loan or,  
10 if the loan is paid in full, directly to the teacher. The  
11 state shall not bear responsibility for the collection of any  
12 interest charges or other remaining balance. In the event  
13 that designated critical teacher shortage subject areas are  
14 changed by the State Board of Education, a teacher shall  
15 continue to be eligible for loan forgiveness as long as he or  
16 she continues to teach in the subject area for which the  
17 original loan repayment was made and otherwise meets all  
18 conditions of eligibility.

19           Section 3. Subsections (1), (2), (5), and (7) of  
20 section 240.40201, Florida Statutes, are amended, and  
21 subsection (11) is added to that section, to read:

22           240.40201 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship  
23 Program.--

24           (1) The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is  
25 created to establish a lottery-funded scholarship program to  
26 reward any Florida high school graduate who merits recognition  
27 of high academic achievement and who enrolls in a degree  
28 program, certificate program, or applied technology diploma  
29 program at an eligible Florida public or private postsecondary  
30 education institution within 7 ~~3~~ years of graduation from high  
31 school. An award may not be provided to a student beyond 7



1 years after high school graduation, regardless of the year in  
2 which the student first receives scholarship funding.

3 (2) The Bright Futures Scholarship Program consists of  
4 three types of awards, the Florida Academic Scholarship, the  
5 Florida Medallion ~~Merit~~ Scholarship, and the Florida  
6 Vocational Gold Seal Scholarship.

7 (5) The department shall issue awards from the  
8 scholarship program annually. ~~Annual awards may be for up to~~  
9 ~~45 semester credit hours or the equivalent.~~ Before the  
10 registration period each semester, the department shall  
11 transmit payment for each award to the president or director  
12 of the postsecondary education institution, or his or her  
13 representative, except that the department may withhold  
14 payment if the receiving institution fails to report or to  
15 make refunds to the department as required in this act.

16 (a) Within 30 days after the end of regular  
17 registration each semester, the educational institution shall  
18 certify to the department the eligibility status of each  
19 student who receives an award. After the end of the drop and  
20 add period, an institution is not required to reevaluate or  
21 revise a student's eligibility status, but must make a refund  
22 to the department if a student who receives an award  
23 disbursement terminates enrollment for any reason during an  
24 academic term and a refund is permitted by the institution's  
25 refund policy.

26 (b) An institution that receives funds from the  
27 program shall certify to the department the amount of funds  
28 disbursed to each student and shall remit to the department  
29 any undisbursed advances within 60 days after the end of  
30 regular registration.

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1           (c) Each institution that receives moneys through this  
2 program shall prepare an annual report that includes an  
3 independent external audit or an audit prepared by the Office  
4 of the Auditor General. The report shall include an audit of  
5 the institution's administration of the program and a complete  
6 accounting of the moneys for the program. This report must be  
7 submitted to the department annually by March 1. The  
8 department may conduct its own annual audit of an  
9 institution's administration of the program. The department  
10 may request a refund of any moneys overpaid to the institution  
11 for the program. The department may suspend or revoke an  
12 institution's eligibility to receive future moneys for the  
13 program if the department finds that an institution has not  
14 complied with this section. The institution must remit within  
15 60 days any refund requested in accordance with this  
16 subsection.

17           (7) A student may receive only one type of award from  
18 the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program at a time, but  
19 may transfer from one type of award to another through the  
20 renewal application process, if the student's eligibility  
21 status changes. However, a student is not eligible to transfer  
22 from a Florida Medallion ~~Merit~~ Scholarship or a Florida  
23 Vocational Gold Seal Scholarship to a Florida Academic  
24 Scholarship. A student who receives an award from the program  
25 may also receive a federal family education loan or a federal  
26 direct loan, and the value of the award must be considered in  
27 the certification or calculation of the student's loan  
28 eligibility.

29           (11) A student who graduates from high school in 1997  
30 or earlier and who is eligible for the Florida Undergraduate  
31 Scholar's Program pursuant to s. 240.402, Florida Statutes,

1 1996 Supplement, is eligible for the Florida Academic Scholars  
2 award as provided in this chapter. A student who graduates  
3 from high school in 1997 or earlier and who is eligible for  
4 the Florida Vocational Gold Seal Endorsement Scholarship award  
5 pursuant to s. 240.40201, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement,  
6 is eligible for the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars  
7 award as provided in this chapter. Award eligibility ends 7  
8 years after high school graduation.

9 Section 4. Paragraphs (b) and (f) of subsection (1)  
10 and subsection (2) of section 240.40202, Florida Statutes, are  
11 amended to read:

12 240.40202 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
13 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.--

14 (1) To be eligible for an initial award from any of  
15 the three types of scholarships under the Florida Bright  
16 Futures Scholarship Program, a student must:

17 (b) Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its  
18 equivalent as described in s. 232.246 or s. 229.814 unless:

19 1. The student is enrolled full time in the early  
20 admission program of an eligible postsecondary education  
21 institution or completes a home education program according to  
22 s. 232.0201; or

23 2. The student earns a high school diploma from a  
24 non-Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who  
25 is on military or public service assignment away from Florida.  
26 The term, "public service assignment," as used in this  
27 subparagraph, means the occupational assignment outside  
28 Florida of a person who is a permanent resident of Florida and  
29 who is employed by the United States Government or the State  
30 of Florida, a condition of which employment is assignment  
31 outside Florida.

1           (f) Apply for a scholarship from the program by ~~April~~  
2 ~~1 of the last semester before~~ high school graduation. Requests  
3 for exceptions to this deadline may be accepted by the high  
4 school or district through December 31 following high school  
5 graduation. There is no application deadline for a student who  
6 graduates from a non-Florida high school pursuant to  
7 subparagraph (b)2.

8           (2) ~~A student is eligible to accept an initial award~~  
9 ~~for 3 years following high school graduation and to accept a~~  
10 ~~renewal award for 7 years following high school graduation. A~~  
11 ~~student who applies for an award by April 1 and who meets all~~  
12 ~~other~~ eligibility requirements, but who does not accept his or  
13 her award during the first year of eligibility after high  
14 school graduation, may apply for reinstatement of the award  
15 for use within 7 reapply during subsequent application periods  
16 ~~up to 3 years~~ after high school graduation. Reinstatement  
17 applications must be received by the deadline established by  
18 the Department of Education.

19           Section 5. Section 240.40203, Florida Statutes, is  
20 amended to read:

21           240.40203 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
22 student eligibility requirements for renewal, reinstatement,  
23 and restoration awards.--

24           (1) After the first year of eligibility, a student who  
25 wishes to receive ~~To be eligible to renew~~ a scholarship from  
26 any of the three types of scholarships under the Florida  
27 Bright Futures Scholarship Program, a student must meet the  
28 following requirements for either renewal, reinstatement, or  
29 restoration:

30           (a) Renewal applies to a student who received an award  
31 for at least one term during the previous academic year. For

1 renewal, a student must complete at least 12 semester credit  
2 hours or the equivalent in the last academic year in which the  
3 student earned a scholarship and—  
4       ~~(b)~~ maintain the cumulative grade point average  
5 required by the scholarship program, except that:  
6           1. If a recipient's grades fall beneath the average  
7 required to renew a Florida Academic Scholarship, but are  
8 sufficient to renew a Florida Medallion Merit Scholarship ~~or a~~  
9 ~~Florida Vocational Gold Seal Scholarship~~, the Department of  
10 Education may grant a renewal from the Florida Medallion  
11 Scholarship Program ~~one of those other scholarship programs,~~  
12 ~~if the student meets the renewal eligibility requirements;~~ or  
13           2. If upon renewal evaluation, ~~at any time during the~~  
14 ~~eligibility period,~~ a student's grades or hours, or both, are  
15 not sufficient ~~insufficient~~ to renew the scholarship, the  
16 student may use the cumulative grades or hours, or both,  
17 earned through the following summer to renew the scholarship  
18 ~~restore eligibility by improving the grade point average to~~  
19 ~~the required level. A student is eligible for such a~~  
20 ~~reinstatement only once.~~ The Legislature encourages  
21 educational ~~education~~ institutions to assist students to  
22 calculate whether or not it is possible to raise the grade  
23 point average during the summer term. ~~if the institution~~  
24 ~~determines that it is possible, the education institution may~~  
25 ~~so inform the department, which may reserve the student's~~  
26 ~~award if funds are available.~~ The renewal, however, must not  
27 be granted until the student achieves the required cumulative  
28 grade point average and earns the required number of credit  
29 hours. If during the summer term the student does not earn ~~is~~  
30 ~~not sufficient~~ hours or ~~to~~ raise the grade point average to  
31 the required renewal level, the student is not eligible for an

1 ~~award student's next opportunity for renewal is the fall~~  
2 ~~semester of the following academic year.~~

3 (b) Reinstatement applies to a student who was  
4 eligible but did not receive an award during the previous  
5 academic year or years, and who may apply to reestablish use  
6 of the scholarship. For reinstatement, a student must have  
7 been eligible at the time of the student's most recent Bright  
8 Futures eligibility determination. The student must apply for  
9 reinstatement by submitting a reinstatement application by the  
10 deadline established by the Department of Education.

11 (c) Restoration applies to a student who did not meet  
12 renewal grade-point average or hours-earned requirements at a  
13 prior evaluation period. A student may restore eligibility by  
14 meeting the required renewal grade-point average at a  
15 subsequent renewal evaluation period. A student is eligible  
16 for restoration only once. The student must submit a  
17 restoration application by the deadlines established by the  
18 Department of Education.

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

29 (3) A Florida Academic Scholar or a Florida Medallion  
30 Scholar who is enrolled in a combined undergraduate and  
31 graduate program that terminates in the award of a

1 post-baccalaureate degree or the simultaneous award of  
2 baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate degrees may receive an  
3 award for a maximum of 110 percent of the number of credit  
4 hours required to complete a standard undergraduate program at  
5 the institution attended, at the undergraduate rate.

6 Section 6. Subsection (2) of section 240.40204,  
7 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

8 240.40204 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
9 eligible postsecondary education institutions.--A student is  
10 eligible for an award or the renewal of an award from the  
11 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program if the student  
12 meets the requirements for the program as described in this  
13 act and is enrolled in a postsecondary education institution  
14 that meets the description in any one of the following  
15 subsections:

16 (2) An independent Florida college or university that  
17 is accredited by an accrediting agency that is recognized by  
18 the United States Department of Education ~~a member of the~~  
19 ~~Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation~~ and  
20 which has operated in the state for at least 3 years.

21 Section 7. Subsections (1) and (4) of section  
22 240.40205, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

23 240.40205 Florida Academic Scholars award.--

24 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Academic  
25 Scholars award if the student meets the general eligibility  
26 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship  
27 Program and the student:

28 (a) Has achieved a 3.5 weighted grade point average as  
29 calculated pursuant to s. 240.40202, or its equivalent, in  
30 high school courses that are adopted by the Board of Regents

31

1 and recommended by the State Board of Community Colleges as  
2 college-preparatory academic courses; and

3 (b) Has attained at least the score identified by  
4 rules of the Department of Education on the combined verbal  
5 and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the  
6 Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic  
7 Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an  
8 equivalent score on the American College Testing Program; or

9 (c) Has attended a home education program according to  
10 s. 232.0201 during grades 11 and 12 or has completed the  
11 International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the  
12 International Baccalaureate Diploma, and has attained at least  
13 the score identified by rules of the Department of Education  
14 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 American  
18 College Testing Program; or

19 (d) Has been awarded an International Baccalaureate  
20 Diploma from the International Baccalaureate Office; or

21 (e) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement  
22 programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a  
23 scholar or finalist; or

24 (f) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic  
25 Recognition Program as a scholar recipient.

26  
27 ~~Effective with the 1998-1999 school year,~~A student must  
28 complete a program of community service work, as approved by  
29 the district school board or the administrators of a nonpublic  
30 school, which shall include a minimum of 75 hours of service  
31 work and require the student to identify a social problem that



1 interests him or her, develop a plan for his or her personal  
2 involvement in addressing the problem, and, through papers or  
3 other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her  
4 experience.

5 (4) In each school district, the Florida Academic  
6 Scholar with the highest academic ranking shall be designated  
7 as an Academic Top Scholar and shall receive an additional  
8 award of \$1,500 for college-related expenses. This award must  
9 be funded from the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

10 Section 8. Section 240.40206, Florida Statutes, is  
11 amended to read:

12 240.40206 Florida Medallion ~~Merit~~ Scholars award.--

13 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Medallion  
14 ~~Merit~~ Scholars award if the student meets the general  
15 eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures  
16 Scholarship Program and the student:

17 (a)1. Has achieved a weighted grade point average of  
18 3.0 as calculated pursuant to s. 240.40202, or the equivalent,  
19 in high school courses that are adopted by the Board of  
20 Regents and recommended by the State Board of Community  
21 Colleges as college-preparatory academic courses; and

22 2.(b) Has attained at least the score identified by  
23 rules of the Department of Education on the combined verbal  
24 and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the  
25 Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic  
26 Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an  
27 equivalent score on the American College Testing Program; ~~or~~

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

1 the score identified by rules of the Department of Education  
2 on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the  
3 Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or  
4 the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College  
5 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the American  
6 College Testing Program;—

7 (c) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement  
8 programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a  
9 scholar or finalist but has not completed a program of  
10 community service as provided in s. 240.40205; or

11 (d) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic  
12 Recognition Program as a scholar, but has not completed a  
13 program of community service as provided in s. 240.40205.

14 (2) A Florida Medallion ~~Merit~~ Scholar is eligible for  
15 an award equal to the amount required to pay 75 percent of  
16 matriculation and fees, if the student is enrolled in a public  
17 postsecondary education institution. A student who is enrolled  
18 in a nonpublic postsecondary education institution is eligible  
19 for an award equal to the amount that would be required to pay  
20 75 percent of the matriculation and fees of a public  
21 postsecondary education institution at the comparable level.

22 (3) To be eligible for a renewal award as a Florida  
23 Medallion ~~Merit~~ Scholar, a student must maintain the  
24 equivalent of a grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale for  
25 all postsecondary education work attempted, with an  
26 opportunity for restoration ~~reinstatement~~ one time as provided  
27 in this act.

28 Section 9. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (1)  
29 and subsections (3) and (4) of section 240.40207, Florida  
30 Statutes, are amended to read:

31

1           240.40207 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars  
2 award.--The Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award is  
3 created within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program  
4 to recognize and reward academic achievement and vocational  
5 preparation by high school students who wish to continue their  
6 education.

7           (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal  
8 Vocational Scholars award if the student meets the general  
9 eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures  
10 Scholarship Program and the student:

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

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

27           (3) To be eligible for a renewal or restoration award  
28 as a Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholar, a student must meet  
29 the requirements of s. 240.40203 and the maintain the  
30 equivalent of a grade point average requirement of 2.75 on a  
31 4.0 scale for all postsecondary education work attempted. A

1 student has,~~with~~ an opportunity for one restoration  
2 ~~reinstatement one time~~ as provided in this act.

3 (4) A student may earn a Florida Gold Seal Vocational  
4 Scholarship for 110 percent of the number of credit hours  
5 required to complete the program, up to 90 credit hours or the  
6 equivalent. A Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholar who meets  
7 all renewal requirements for the Florida Medallion Scholars  
8 award,~~has a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 in all~~  
9 ~~postsecondary education work attempted~~ may apply for a Florida  
10 Medallion Merit Scholars award at any renewal period or the  
11 department may transfer the student to the Florida Medallion  
12 Scholars Award during any renewal period. All other provisions  
13 of that program apply, and the credit-hour limitation must be  
14 calculated by subtracting from the student's total eligibility  
15 the number of credit hours the student attempted while earning  
16 the Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship.

17 Section 10. Section 240.40209, Florida Statutes, is  
18 amended to read:

19 240.40209 Bright Futures Scholarship recipients  
20 attending nonpublic institutions; calculation of  
21 awards.--Notwithstanding ss. 240.40201, 240.40205, 240.40206,  
22 and 240.40207, a student who receives any award under the  
23 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, who is enrolled in  
24 a nonpublic postsecondary education institution, and who is  
25 assessed tuition and fees that are the same as those of a  
26 full-time student at that institution, shall receive a fixed  
27 award calculated by using the average matriculation and fee  
28 calculation as defined by the Department of Education for  
29 full-time attendance at a public postsecondary education  
30 institution at the comparable level. If the student is  
31 enrolled part-time and is assessed tuition and fees at a

1 reduced level, the award shall be either one-half of the  
2 maximum award or three-fourths of the maximum award, depending  
3 on the level of fees assessed.

4 Section 11. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and  
5 subsection (3) of section 240.404, Florida Statutes, are  
6 amended to read:

7 240.404 General requirements for student eligibility  
8 for state financial aid.--

9 (1)(a) The general requirements for eligibility of  
10 students for state financial aid awards consist of the  
11 following:

12 1. Achievement of the academic requirements of and  
13 acceptance at a state university or community college; a  
14 nursing diploma school approved by the Florida Board of  
15 Nursing; a Florida college, university, or community college  
16 which is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the  
17 United States Department of Education ~~a member of the~~  
18 ~~Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation~~; any  
19 Florida institution the credits of which are acceptable for  
20 transfer to state universities; any area technical center; or  
21 any private vocational-technical institution accredited by an  
22 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department  
23 of Education ~~a member of the Commission on Recognition of~~  
24 ~~Postsecondary Accreditation~~.

25 2. Residency in this state for no less than 1 year  
26 preceding the award of aid for a program established pursuant  
27 to s. 240.409, s. 240.4095, s. 240.4097, s. 240.412, s.  
28 240.4125, s. 240.413, s. 240.4987, s. 240.605, or s. 240.606.  
29 Residency in this state must be for purposes other than to  
30 obtain an education. Resident status for purposes of receiving  
31 state financial aid awards shall be determined in the same

1 manner as resident status for tuition purposes pursuant to s.  
2 240.1201 and rules of the State Board of Education. A person  
3 who has been properly classified as a resident by a  
4 postsecondary education institution for initial receipt of  
5 state-funded student financial assistance and found to be  
6 eligible to participate in a financial assistance program may  
7 continue to qualify as a resident for state-funded financial  
8 aid programs if the student maintains continuous enrollment at  
9 the postsecondary education institution, with no break in  
10 enrollment greater than 12 consecutive months.

11           3. Submission of certification attesting to the  
12 accuracy, completeness, and correctness of information  
13 provided to demonstrate a student's eligibility to receive  
14 state financial aid awards. Falsification of such information  
15 shall result in the denial of any pending application and  
16 revocation of any award currently held to the extent that no  
17 further payments shall be made. Additionally, students who  
18 knowingly make false statements in order to receive state  
19 financial aid awards shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the  
20 second degree subject to the provisions of s. 837.06 and shall  
21 be required to return all state financial aid awards  
22 wrongfully obtained.

23           4. Completion of the Free Application for Federal  
24 Student Aid provided by the U.S. Department of Education and  
25 submitted as required by the Florida Department of Education.

26           (3) Undergraduate students shall be eligible to  
27 receive financial aid for a maximum of 110 percent of the  
28 number of credit hours required to complete the program &  
29 ~~semesters or 12 quarters. However, undergraduate students~~  
30 ~~participating in college-preparatory instruction, students~~  
31 ~~requiring additional time to complete the college-level~~

1 ~~communication and computation skills testing programs, or~~  
2 ~~students enrolled in a 5-year undergraduate degree program~~  
3 ~~shall be eligible to receive financial aid for a maximum of 10~~  
4 ~~semesters or 15 quarters.~~

5 Section 12. Subsection (2) of section 240.4063,  
6 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7 240.4063 Florida Teacher Scholarship and Forgivable  
8 Loan Program.--

9 (2) Within the Florida Teacher Scholarship and  
10 Forgivable Loan Program shall be established the "Chappie"  
11 James Most Promising Teacher Scholarship which shall be  
12 offered to a top graduating senior from each publicly funded  
13 ~~public~~ secondary school in the state. An additional number of  
14 "Chappie" James Most Promising Teacher Scholarship awards  
15 shall be offered annually to graduating seniors from nonpublic  
16 secondary schools in the state which are listed with the  
17 Department of Education and accredited by the Southern  
18 Association of Colleges and Schools or any other private  
19 statewide accrediting agency which makes public its standards,  
20 procedures, and member schools. The nonpublic secondary  
21 schools shall be in compliance with regulations of the Office  
22 for Civil Rights. The number of awards to nonpublic secondary  
23 school students shall be proportional to the number of awards  
24 available to public secondary school students and shall be  
25 calculated as the ratio of the number of nonpublic to public  
26 secondary school seniors in the state multiplied by the number  
27 of public secondary schools in the state.

28 (a) The scholarship may be used for attendance at a  
29 state university, a community college, or an independent  
30 institution as defined in s. 240.605.

31

1           (b) The amount of the scholarship is \$1,500 and may be  
2 renewed for 1 year if the student earns a 2.5 cumulative grade  
3 point average and 12 credit hours per term and meets the  
4 eligibility requirements for renewal of the award.

5           (c) To be eligible for the scholarship, a student  
6 shall: be ranked within the top quartile of the senior class;  
7 have been an active member of a high school future teacher  
8 organization, if such organization exists in the student's  
9 school; have earned a minimum unweighted cumulative grade  
10 point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale; file an application  
11 within the application period; meet the general requirements  
12 for student eligibility as provided in s. 240.404, except as  
13 otherwise provided in this section; and have the intent to  
14 enter the public teaching profession in Florida.

15           (d) Three candidates from each publicly funded ~~public~~  
16 secondary school and one candidate from each nonpublic  
17 secondary school in the state shall be nominated by the  
18 principal and a committee of teachers, based on criteria which  
19 shall include, but need not be limited to, rank in class,  
20 standardized test scores, cumulative grade point average,  
21 extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, an  
22 essay, and a declaration of intention to teach in a public  
23 school in the state.

24           (e) From public secondary school nominees, the  
25 Commissioner of Education shall select a graduating senior  
26 from each publicly funded ~~public~~ high school to receive a  
27 scholarship. Selection of recipients from nonpublic secondary  
28 schools shall be made by a committee appointed by the  
29 Commissioner of Education comprised of representatives from  
30 nonpublic secondary schools and the Department of Education.

31



1           (f) Fifteen percent of scholarships awarded shall be  
2 to minority students. However, in the event that fewer than  
3 15 percent of the total eligible nominees are minority  
4 students, the commissioner may allocate all award funds as  
5 long as a scholarship loan is reserved for each eligible  
6 minority nominee.

7           Section 13. Subsections (2) and (3) of section  
8 240.4064, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

9           240.4064 Critical teacher shortage tuition  
10 reimbursement program.--

11           (2) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
12 implement the critical teacher shortage tuition reimbursement  
13 program. Any full-time certified teacher in a Florida publicly  
14 funded school or developmental research school ~~public school~~  
15 ~~employee or developmental research school employee certified~~  
16 ~~to teach in this state~~ is eligible for the program. For the  
17 purposes of this program, tuition reimbursement shall be  
18 limited to courses in critical teacher shortage areas as  
19 determined by the State Board of Education. Such courses  
20 shall be:

21           (a) Graduate-level courses leading to a master's,  
22 specialist, or doctoral degree;

23           (b) Graduate-level courses leading to a new  
24 certification area; or

25           (c) State-approved undergraduate courses leading to an  
26 advanced degree or new certification area.

27           (3) Participants may receive tuition reimbursement  
28 payments for up to 9 semester hours, or the equivalent in  
29 quarter hours, per year, at a rate not to exceed \$115~~\$78~~ per  
30 semester hour, up to a total of 36 semester hours. All tuition  
31

1 reimbursements shall be contingent on passing an approved  
2 course with a minimum grade of 3.0 or its equivalent.

3 Section 14. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
4 240.409, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

5 240.409 Florida Public Student Assistance Grant  
6 Program; eligibility for grants.--

7 (2)(a) State student assistance grants through the  
8 program may be made only to ~~full-time~~ degree-seeking students  
9 who enroll in at least 6 semester hours or the equivalent, per  
10 term and who meet the general requirements for student  
11 eligibility as provided in s. 240.404, except as otherwise  
12 provided in this section. Such grants shall be awarded  
13 annually for the amount of demonstrated unmet need for the  
14 cost of education and may not exceed an amount equal to the  
15 average prior academic year cost of matriculation fees and  
16 other registration fees for 30 credit hours at state  
17 universities or such other amount as specified in the General  
18 Appropriations Act, to any recipient. A demonstrated unmet  
19 need of less than \$200 shall render the applicant ineligible  
20 for a state student assistance grant. Recipients of such  
21 grants must have been accepted at a state university or  
22 community college authorized by Florida law. ~~A No~~ student is  
23 eligible for the award for 110 percent of the number of credit  
24 hours required to complete the program ~~may receive an award~~  
25 for more than the equivalent of 9 semesters or 14 quarters of  
26 full-time enrollment, except as otherwise provided in s.  
27 240.404(3).

28 Section 15. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
29 240.4095, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

30 240.4095 Florida Private Student Assistance Grant  
31 Program; eligibility for grants.--

1           (2)(a) Florida private student assistance grants from  
2 the State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund may be made  
3 only to full-time degree-seeking students who meet the general  
4 requirements for student eligibility as provided in s.  
5 240.404, except as otherwise provided in this section. Such  
6 grants shall be awarded for the amount of demonstrated unmet  
7 need for tuition and fees and may not exceed an amount equal  
8 to the average matriculation and other registration fees for  
9 30 credit hours at state universities plus \$1,000 per academic  
10 year, or as specified in the General Appropriations Act, to  
11 any applicant. A demonstrated unmet need of less than \$200  
12 shall render the applicant ineligible for a Florida private  
13 student assistance grant. Recipients of such grants must have  
14 been accepted at a baccalaureate-degree-granting independent  
15 nonprofit college or university, which is accredited by the  
16 Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges  
17 and Schools and which is located in and chartered as a  
18 domestic corporation by the state. A No student is eligible  
19 for the award for 110 percent of credit hours required to  
20 complete the program may receive an award for more than the  
21 equivalent of 9 semesters or 14 quarters of full-time  
22 enrollment, except as otherwise provided in s. 240.404(3).

23           Section 16. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
24 240.4097, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

25           240.4097 Florida Postsecondary Student Assistance  
26 Grant Program; eligibility for grants.--

27           (2)(a) Florida postsecondary student assistance grants  
28 through the State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund may  
29 be made only to full time degree-seeking students who meet the  
30 general requirements for student eligibility as provided in s.  
31 240.404, except as otherwise provided in this section. Such

1 grants shall be awarded for the amount of demonstrated unmet  
2 need for tuition and fees and may not exceed an amount equal  
3 to the average prior academic year cost of matriculation and  
4 other registration fees for 30 credit hours at state  
5 universities plus \$1,000 per academic year, or as specified in  
6 the General Appropriations Act, to any applicant. A  
7 demonstrated unmet need of less than \$200 shall render the  
8 applicant ineligible for a Florida postsecondary student  
9 assistance grant. Recipients of such grants must have been  
10 accepted at a postsecondary institution that is located in the  
11 state and that is:

12 1. A private nursing diploma school approved by the  
13 Florida Board of Nursing; or

14 2. An institution either licensed by the State Board  
15 of Independent Colleges and Universities or exempt from  
16 licensure pursuant to s. 246.085(1)(a), excluding those  
17 institutions the students of which are eligible to receive a  
18 Florida private student assistance grant pursuant to s.  
19 240.4095.

20  
21 A No student is eligible for the award for 110 percent of the  
22 number of credit hours required to complete the program may  
23 ~~receive an award for more than the equivalent of 9 semesters~~  
24 ~~or 14 quarters of full-time enrollment~~, except as otherwise  
25 provided in s. 240.404(3).

26 Section 17. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) and  
27 subsection (6) of section 240.412, Florida Statutes, are  
28 amended to read:

29 240.412 Jose Marti Scholarship Challenge Grant  
30 Program.--

31

1           (5)(a) In order to be eligible to receive a  
2 scholarship pursuant to this section, an applicant shall:

3           1. Be a Hispanic-American, or a person of Spanish  
4 culture with origins in Mexico, South America, Central  
5 America, or the Caribbean, regardless of race.

6           2. Be a citizen of the United States and meet the  
7 general requirements for student eligibility as provided in s.  
8 240.404, except as otherwise provided in this section.

9           3. Be accepted at a state university or community  
10 college or any Florida college or university accredited by an  
11 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department  
12 of Education ~~a member of the Commission on Recognition of~~  
13 ~~Postsecondary Accreditation the credits of which are~~  
14 ~~acceptable without qualification for transfer to state~~  
15 ~~universities.~~

16           4. Enroll as a full-time undergraduate ~~or graduate~~  
17 student.

18           5. Earn a 3.0 unweighted grade point average on a 4.0  
19 scale, or the equivalent for high school subjects creditable  
20 toward a diploma. ~~If an applicant applies as a graduate~~  
21 ~~student, he or she shall have earned a 3.0 cumulative grade~~  
22 ~~point average for undergraduate college-level courses.~~

23           (6) The annual scholarship to each recipient shall be  
24 \$2,000. Priority in the distribution of scholarships shall be  
25 given to students with the lowest total family resources.  
26 Renewal scholarships shall take precedence over new awards in  
27 any year in which funds are not sufficient to meet the total  
28 need. No undergraduate student shall receive an award for  
29 more than the equivalent of 8 semesters or 12 quarters over a  
30 period of no more than 6 consecutive years, except as  
31 otherwise provided in s. 240.404(3). ~~No graduate student shall~~

1 ~~receive an award for more than the equivalent of 4 semesters~~  
2 ~~or 6 quarters.~~

3 Section 18. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
4 240.4126, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

5 240.4126 Rosewood Family Scholarship Program.--

6 (2) The Rosewood Family Scholarship Program shall be  
7 administered by the Department of Education. The State Board  
8 of Education shall adopt rules for administering this program  
9 which shall at a minimum provide for the following:

10 (a) The annual award to a student shall be up to  
11 ~~\$4,000 but should not exceed an amount in excess of tuition~~  
12 ~~and registration fees.~~

13 Section 19. Subsection (3) of section 240.4128,  
14 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

15 240.4128 Minority teacher education scholars  
16 program.--There is created the minority teacher education  
17 scholars program, which is a collaborative performance-based  
18 scholarship program for African-American, Hispanic-American,  
19 Asian-American, and Native American students. The participants  
20 in the program include Florida's public community colleges and  
21 its public and private universities that have teacher  
22 education programs.

23 (3) The total amount appropriated annually for new  
24 scholarships in the program must be divided by \$4,000 and by  
25 the number of participating colleges and universities. Each  
26 participating institution has access to the same number of  
27 scholarships and may award all of them to eligible minority  
28 students. If a college or university does not award all of its  
29 scholarships by the date set by the program administration at  
30 the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc., the remaining  
31 scholarships must be transferred to another institution that

1 has eligible students. Each participating institution shall  
2 report to the department by the established date the eligible  
3 students to whom grant moneys are disbursed each academic  
4 term. Each institution shall also report to the department  
5 demographic and eligibility data for the recipient.

6 Section 20. Subsection (2) of section 240.413, Florida  
7 Statutes, is amended to read:

8 240.413 Seminole and Miccosukee Indian Scholarships.--

9 (2) Scholarships shall be awarded by the department to  
10 students who:

11 (a) Have graduated from high school, have earned an  
12 equivalency diploma issued by the Department of Education  
13 pursuant to s. 229.814, have earned an equivalency diploma  
14 issued by the United States Armed Forces Institute, or have  
15 been accepted through an early admission program;

16 (b) Are enrolled at a state university or community  
17 college authorized by Florida law; a nursing diploma school  
18 approved by the Board of Nursing; any Florida college,  
19 university, or community college which is accredited by an  
20 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department  
21 of Education ~~a member of the Commission on Recognition of~~  
22 ~~Postsecondary Accreditation; or any Florida institution the~~  
23 ~~credits of which are acceptable for transfer to state~~  
24 ~~universities;~~

25 (c) Are enrolled as either full-time or part-time  
26 undergraduate or graduate students and make satisfactory  
27 academic progress as defined by the college or university;

28 (d) Have been recommended by the Seminole Tribe of  
29 Florida or the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida; and

30  
31

1 (e) Meet the general requirements for student  
2 eligibility as provided in s. 240.404, except as otherwise  
3 provided in this section.

4 Section 21. Subsection (6) of section 240.437, Florida  
5 Statutes, is amended to read:

6 240.437 Student financial aid planning and  
7 development.--

8 (6) ~~Effective July 1, 1992,~~All new and existing  
9 financial assistance programs authorized under this part, and  
10 those programs in other parts of the Florida Statutes which  
11 are administered by the Florida Department of Education,  
12 Bureau of Student Financial Assistance,which are not funded  
13 for 3 consecutive years after enactment shall stand repealed.  
14 Financial aid programs provided under this part on July 1,  
15 1992, which lose funding for 3 consecutive years shall stand  
16 repealed. The Bureau ~~Office~~ of Student Financial Assistance of  
17 the Department of Education shall annually review the  
18 legislative appropriation of financial aid to identify such  
19 programs.

20 Section 22. Subsection (13) of section 240.472,  
21 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

22 240.472 Definitions.--As used in this act:

23 (13) "Institution" means any college or university  
24 which, by virtue of law or charter, is accredited by an  
25 accrediting agency that is recognized by the United States  
26 Department of Education ~~and holds membership in the Commission~~  
27 ~~on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation;~~ which grants  
28 baccalaureate or associate degrees; which is not a pervasively  
29 sectarian institution; and which does not discriminate in the  
30 admission of students on the basis of race, color, religion,  
31 sex, or creed.



1           Section 23. Subsection (1) and paragraph (d) of  
2 subsection (2) of section 240.6073, Florida Statutes, are  
3 amended to read:

4           240.6073 Critical Occupational Therapist or Physical  
5 Therapist Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness Program.--

6           (1) There is established the Critical Occupational  
7 Therapist or Physical Therapist Shortage Student Loan  
8 Forgiveness Program. The primary function of the program is  
9 to make repayments toward loans received by students from  
10 institutions for the support of postsecondary study of  
11 occupational therapy or physical therapy. Repayments shall be  
12 made to qualified applicants who initiate employment in the  
13 publicly funded ~~public~~ schools of this state and who apply  
14 during their first year of employment in a public school  
15 setting.

16           (2) From the funds available, the Department of  
17 Education is authorized to make loan principal repayments as  
18 follows:

19           (d) All repayments shall be contingent on continued  
20 proof of employment for 3 years as a therapist or therapy  
21 assistant by the publicly funded ~~public~~ schools in this state  
22 and shall be made directly to the holder of the loan or, if  
23 the loan is paid in full, directly to the therapist. The state  
24 shall not bear the responsibility for the collection of any  
25 interest charges or other remaining balance. In the event  
26 that a critical shortage is no longer verified, a therapist or  
27 therapy assistant shall continue to be eligible for loan  
28 forgiveness as long as the therapist or therapy assistant  
29 continues to be employed by the public schools of this state  
30 and otherwise meets all conditions of eligibility.

31

1           Section 24. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) and  
2 subsection (4) of section 240.6074, Florida Statutes, are  
3 amended to read:

4           240.6074 Critical Occupational Therapist or Physical  
5 Therapist Shortage Scholarship Loan Program.--

6           (2) To be eligible, a candidate shall:

7           (b) Have declared an intention to be employed by the  
8 publicly funded ~~public~~ schools of this state for 3 years  
9 following completion of the requirements. In the event  
10 critical shortage areas are changed by the State Board of  
11 Education, a student shall continue to be eligible for an  
12 award as long as the student continues in the therapist  
13 educational program for which the initial award was made and  
14 the student otherwise meets all other conditions of  
15 eligibility.

16           (4) The State Board of Education shall adopt by rule  
17 repayment schedules and applicable interest rates under ss.  
18 240.451 and 240.465. A scholarship loan must be paid back  
19 within 10 years of completion of a program of studies.

20           (a) Credit for repayment of a scholarship loan shall  
21 be in an amount not to exceed \$2,000 plus applicable accrued  
22 interest for each full year of employment by the publicly  
23 funded ~~public~~ schools of this state.

24           (b) Any therapist or therapy assistant who fails to be  
25 employed by a publicly funded ~~public~~ school in this state as  
26 specified in this subsection is responsible for repaying the  
27 loan plus interest. Repayment schedules and applicable  
28 interest rates shall be determined by the rules of the State  
29 Board of Education under ss. 240.451 and 240.465.

30           Section 25. Subsections (1), (2), and (4) of section  
31 240.6075, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1           240.6075 Critical Occupational Therapist or Physical  
2 Therapist Shortage Tuition Reimbursement Program.--

3           (1) There is established the Critical Occupational  
4 Therapist or Physical Therapist Shortage Tuition Reimbursement  
5 Program to improve the skills and knowledge of current  
6 therapists and therapy assistants who are employed by a  
7 publicly funded school in this state ~~the public school system~~.

8           (2) Any full-time ~~public school~~ employee in a publicly  
9 funded school in this state who is licensed to practice  
10 occupational therapy or physical therapy in this state is  
11 eligible for the program.

12           (4) The participant shall be employed by a publicly  
13 funded school ~~the public schools~~ of this state for 3 years  
14 following completion of the requirements.

15           Section 26. Section 295.01, Florida Statutes, is  
16 amended to read:

17           295.01 Children of deceased or disabled veterans;  
18 education.--

19           (1) It is ~~hereby~~ declared to be the policy of the  
20 state to provide educational opportunity at state expense for  
21 dependent children either of whose parents was a resident of  
22 the state at the time such parent entered the Armed Forces  
23 and:

24           (a) Died in that service or from injuries sustained or  
25 disease contracted during a period of wartime service as  
26 defined in s. 1.01(14) or has died since or may hereafter die  
27 from diseases or disability resulting from such war service,  
28 or

29           (b) Has been:

30           1. Determined by the United States Department of  
31 Veterans Affairs or its predecessor to have a

1 service-connected 100-percent total and permanent disability  
2 rating for compensation,

3 2. Determined to have a service-connected total and  
4 permanent disability rating of 100 percent and is in receipt  
5 of disability retirement pay from any branch of the United  
6 States Armed Services, or

7 3. Issued a valid identification card by the  
8 Department of Veterans' Affairs in accordance with s. 295.17.7

9 (2) ~~when~~ The parents of such children must have been  
10 bona fide residents of the state for 5 years ~~next~~ preceding  
11 their application for the benefits under this section hereof,  
12 ~~and subject to the rules, restrictions, and limitations~~  
13 ~~hereof.~~

14 (3)~~(2)~~ The provisions of ss. 240.404, 295.03, 295.04,  
15 and 295.05 shall apply.

16 (4)~~(3)~~ The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
17 for administering this section.

18 Section 27. Section 295.02, Florida Statutes, is  
19 amended to read:

20 295.02 Use of funds; age, etc.--

21 (1) All sums appropriated and expended under this  
22 chapter shall be used to pay matriculation ~~tuition~~ and  
23 registration fees as defined by the Department of Education,  
24 board, and room rent and to buy books and supplies for the  
25 children of:

26 (a) Deceased or disabled veterans or service members,  
27 as defined and limited in s. 295.01, s. 295.016, s. 295.017,  
28 s. 295.018, or s. 295.0195;7~~or of~~

29 (b) Parents classified as prisoners of war or missing  
30 in action, as defined and limited in s. 295.015.7

31

1           (2) Such children must be ~~who are~~ between the ages of  
2 16 and 22 years and attend ~~who are in attendance at~~ a  
3 state-supported institution of higher learning, including a  
4 community college or vocational-technical school or attend any  
5 postsecondary institution eligible to participate in the  
6 Florida Bright Futures Program. A student attending an  
7 eligible nonpublic institution may receive an award equivalent  
8 to the average matriculation and fees calculated for full-time  
9 enrollment at a public postsecondary institution at the  
10 comparable level. Any child having entered upon a course of  
11 training or education under the provisions of this chapter,  
12 consisting of a course of not more than 4 years, and arriving  
13 at the age of 22 years before the completion of such course  
14 may continue the course and receive all benefits of the  
15 provisions of this chapter until the course is completed. The  
16 Department of Education shall administer this educational  
17 program subject to regulations of the department.

18           Section 28. Sections 240.40208, 240.40242, and  
19 subsection (5) of section 240.465, Florida Statutes, are  
20 repealed.

21           Section 29. Except as otherwise provided in this act,  
22 this act shall take effect July 1, 2001.  
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1 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
2 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
3 SB 1330

4 The Committee Substitute does not create a need-based aid  
5 program to distribute grants to universities. Instead, it  
6 creates a new need-based grant program for students in  
7 technical education, authorizes part-time students to be  
8 eligible for the Florida Public Student Assistance Grant, and  
9 makes a number of changes to statutes relating to student  
10 financial assistance. Most of the changes are technical or  
11 administrative:

12 All applicants for state financial assistance programs will  
13 fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA),  
14 which demonstrates the level of need for financial assistance.

15 The Rosewood Family Scholarship will pay \$4,000 to each  
16 recipient.

17 Authorized payments for recipients of the Critical Teacher  
18 Shortage Tuition Reimbursement Program are increased from \$78  
19 to \$115 per credit hour.

20 The following changes are made to the Bright Futures  
21 Scholarship program:

22 Awards are available for 7 years after high school graduation.

23 The Merit Scholarship is renamed the Medallion Scholarship.

24 Students who graduate from an out-of-state high school are  
25 eligible for a scholarship only if their parents are required  
26 to live out of state because of a clearly defined public  
27 service assignment.

28 Application deadlines are less restrictive: a student may  
29 apply by high school graduation, with exceptions allowed up to  
30 December 31.

31 The terms "renewal, reinstatement, and restoration" are  
defined and used consistently.

A student in a 5-year undergraduate and graduate-level program  
will earn a scholarship worth the same amount as a student in  
a 4-year undergraduate program.

A student will be eligible for the Medallion Scholarship  
without earning a GPA of 3.0 and without completing a  
community service project, if the student is a National Merit  
Scholar, a National Merit Finalist, or a National Hispanic  
Scholar.

The vocational courses required for the Gold Seal Scholarship  
are simplified. They must be three consecutive vocational  
credits.

In addition, the bill makes technical and administrative  
changes to various programs as recommended by Department of  
Education.