

By the Committee on Education and Senators Klein, Sanderson, Sullivan and Dawson

304-1870-01

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.

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

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

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

21           (1) There is created the Florida Public Part-time  
22 Student Assistance Grant program for part-time students. The  
23 program shall be administered in accordance with rules of the  
24 state board. For purposes of this section, a part-time student  
25 is a student who is enrolled in at least 6 semester hours or  
26 the equivalent.

27           (2) The purpose of the program is to provide financial  
28 assistance to part-time students who need such assistance.  
29 State student-assistance grants may be awarded under the  
30 program to part-time degree-seeking students who meet the  
31 general requirements for student eligibility in s. 240.404.

1 Grants are to be awarded annually in the amount of  
2 demonstrated unmet need for the cost of education. Recipients  
3 of such grants must have been accepted at a state university  
4 or community college.

5 (a) Priority in the distribution of grant moneys must  
6 be given to students who have the lowest total family  
7 resources, in accordance with a nationally recognized system  
8 of need analysis.

9 (b) Each participating institution shall report to the  
10 department, by a date established by rule of the state board,  
11 the number of eligible students to whom grant moneys will be  
12 disbursed during each academic term. Each institution shall  
13 report demographic and eligibility data for such students.

14 (3) The Department of Education shall allocate to  
15 public postsecondary institutions funds for disbursement to  
16 part-time students. The funds appropriated for the program  
17 must be allocated to eligible institutions.

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
19 law.

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21 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
22 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
23 SB 1342

24 The Committee Substitute adds the word "Part-time" to the name  
25 of the new grant program, provides a definition of "part-time  
26 student," and clarifies that unmet need will be determined by  
the same methodology that is required for other need-based  
programs.