

By the Committee on Appropriations; and Senator Sullivan

22-505B-02

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to student financial  
3           assistance; amending s. 240.40201, F.S.;  
4           revising the eligibility period for the Florida  
5           Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
6           redesignating the Florida Merit Scholarship as  
7           the Florida Medallion Scholarship; amending s.  
8           240.40202, F.S.; defining terms; revising  
9           application dates; providing for initial  
10          acceptance of a scholarship, to conform;  
11          amending s. 240.40203, F.S.; defining terms;  
12          providing conditions for awards to students in  
13          programs that confer postbaccalaureate degrees;  
14          conforming provisions; amending s. 240.40204,  
15          F.S.; eliminating obsolete provisions; amending  
16          s. 240.40205, F.S.; eliminating obsolete  
17          provisions; designating an award level for a  
18          Florida Academic Scholarship; amending s.  
19          240.40206, F.S.; conforming provisions;  
20          increasing requirements for earning a Florida  
21          Medallion Scholarship; designating award  
22          levels; eliminating obsolete provisions;  
23          amending s. 240.40207, F.S.; increasing the  
24          eligibility requirements for earning the  
25          Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship;  
26          designating award levels; eliminating obsolete  
27          provisions; amending s. 240.40209, F.S.;  
28          providing for the calculation of awards;  
29          amending s. 240.404, F.S.; requiring a report;  
30          providing certain limitations on eligibility  
31          for various state student grant programs;

1           repealing s. 240.40208, F.S., relating to a  
2           transition from certain scholarships to the  
3           Bright Futures Program; providing an effective  
4           date.

5  
6   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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8           Section 1. Subsections (1), (2), (5), and (7) of  
9           section 240.40201, Florida Statutes, are amended, and  
10          subsection (11) is added to that section, to read:

11           240.40201 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship  
12          Program.--

13           (1) The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is  
14          created to establish a lottery-funded scholarship program to  
15          reward any Florida high school graduate who merits recognition  
16          of high academic achievement and who enrolls in a degree  
17          program, certificate program, or applied technology diploma  
18          program at an eligible Florida public or private postsecondary  
19          education institution within 7 3 years after of graduation  
20          from high school. An award may not be provided to a student  
21          beyond 7 years after high school graduation, regardless of the  
22          year in which the student first receives scholarship funding.

23           (2) The Bright Futures Scholarship Program consists of  
24          three types of awards, the Florida Academic Scholarship, the  
25          Florida Medallion ~~Merit~~ Scholarship, and the Florida  
26          ~~Vocational~~ Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship.

27           (5) The department shall issue awards from the  
28          scholarship program annually. ~~Annual awards may be for up to~~  
29          ~~45 semester credit hours or the equivalent.~~ Before the  
30          registration period each semester, the department shall  
31          transmit payment for each award to the president or director

1 of the postsecondary education institution, or his or her  
2 representative, except that the department may withhold  
3 payment if the receiving institution fails to report or to  
4 make refunds to the department as required in this act.

5 (a) Within 30 days after the end of regular  
6 registration each semester, the educational institution shall  
7 certify to the department the eligibility status of each  
8 student who receives an award. After the end of the drop and  
9 add period, an institution is not required to reevaluate or  
10 revise a student's eligibility status, but must make a refund  
11 to the department if a student who receives an award  
12 disbursement terminates enrollment for any reason during an  
13 academic term and a refund is permitted by the institution's  
14 refund policy.

15 (b) An institution that receives funds from the  
16 program shall certify to the department the amount of funds  
17 disbursed to each student and shall remit to the department  
18 any undisbursed advances within 60 days after the end of  
19 regular registration.

20 (c) Each institution that receives moneys through this  
21 program shall prepare an annual report that includes an  
22 independent external audit or an audit prepared by the Office  
23 of the Auditor General. The report shall include an audit of  
24 the institution's administration of the program and a complete  
25 accounting of the moneys for the program. This report must be  
26 submitted to the department annually by March 1. The  
27 department may conduct its own annual audit of an  
28 institution's administration of the program. The department  
29 may request a refund of any moneys overpaid to the institution  
30 for the program. The department may suspend or revoke an  
31 institution's eligibility to receive future moneys for the

1 program if the department finds that an institution has not  
2 complied with this section. The institution must remit within  
3 60 days any refund requested in accordance with this  
4 subsection.

5 (7) A student may receive only one type of award from  
6 the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program at a time, but  
7 may transfer from one type of award to another through the  
8 renewal application process, if the student's eligibility  
9 status changes. However, a student is not eligible to transfer  
10 from a Florida Medallion Merit Scholarship or a Florida  
11 ~~Vocational~~ Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship to a Florida  
12 Academic Scholarship. A student who receives an award from the  
13 program may also receive a federal family education loan or a  
14 federal direct loan, and the value of the award must be  
15 considered in the certification or calculation of the  
16 student's loan eligibility.

17 (11) A student who graduated from high school in 1997  
18 or earlier and who is eligible for the Florida Undergraduate  
19 Scholar's Program pursuant to s. 240.402, Florida Statutes,  
20 1996 Supplement, is eligible for the Florida Academic Scholars  
21 award as provided in this chapter. A student who graduated  
22 from high school in 1997 or earlier and who is eligible for  
23 the Florida Vocational Gold Seal Endorsement Scholarship award  
24 pursuant to s. 240.40201, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement,  
25 is eligible for the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship  
26 award as provided in this chapter. Award eligibility ends 7  
27 years after high school graduation.

28 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and  
29 subsection (2) of section 240.40202, Florida Statutes, are  
30 amended to read:

31

1           240.40202 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
2 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.--

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

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

8           1. The student is enrolled full time in the early  
9 admission program of an eligible postsecondary education  
10 institution or completes a home education program according to  
11 s. 232.0201; or

12           2. The student earns a high school diploma from a  
13 non-Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who  
14 is on military or public service assignment away from Florida.  
15 The term "public service assignment," as used in this  
16 subparagraph, means the occupational assignment outside this  
17 state of a person who is a permanent resident of this state  
18 and who is employed by the United States Government or the  
19 State of Florida conditioned upon assignment outside this  
20 state.

21           ~~(2) A student is eligible to accept an initial award~~  
22 ~~for 3 years following high school graduation and to accept a~~  
23 ~~renewal award for 7 years following high school graduation.~~A  
24 student who applies for an award ~~by April 1~~ and who meets all  
25 ~~other~~ eligibility requirements, but who does not accept his or  
26 her award during the first year of eligibility after high  
27 school graduation, may apply for reinstatement of the award  
28 for use within 7 reapply during subsequent application periods  
29 ~~up to 3 years after high school graduation.~~ Reinstatement  
30 applications must be received by the deadline established by  
31 the Department of Education.

1           Section 3. Section 240.40203, Florida Statutes, is  
2 amended to read:

3           240.40203 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
4 student eligibility requirements for renewal, reinstatement,  
5 and restoration awards.--

6           (1) After the first year of eligibility, if a student  
7 wishes to receive ~~To be eligible to renew~~ a scholarship from  
8 any of the three types of scholarships under the Florida  
9 Bright Futures Scholarship Program, the a student must meet  
10 the following requirements for either renewal, reinstatement,  
11 or restoration:

12           (a) Renewal applies to a student who received an award  
13 for at least one term during the previous academic year. For  
14 renewal, a student must complete at least 12 semester credit  
15 hours or the equivalent in the last academic year in which the  
16 student earned a scholarship and:-

17           ~~(b)~~ maintain the cumulative grade point average  
18 required by the scholarship program, except that:

19           1. If a recipient's grades fall beneath the average  
20 required to renew a Florida Academic Scholarship, but are  
21 sufficient to renew a Florida Medallion ~~Merit~~ Scholarship ~~or a~~  
22 ~~Florida Vocational Gold Seal Scholarship~~, the Department of  
23 Education may grant a renewal from the Florida Medallion  
24 Scholarship Program ~~one of those other scholarship programs,~~  
25 ~~if the student meets the renewal eligibility requirements;~~ or

26           2. If, upon renewal evaluation ~~at any time during the~~  
27 ~~eligibility period~~, a student's grades or hours, or both, are  
28 not sufficient ~~insufficient~~ to renew the scholarship, the  
29 student may use the cumulative grades or hours, or both,  
30 earned during the following summer to renew the scholarship  
31 ~~restore eligibility by improving the grade point average to~~

1 ~~the required level. A student is eligible for such a~~  
2 ~~reinstatement only once.~~The Legislature encourages education  
3 institutions to assist students to calculate whether or not it  
4 is possible to raise the grade point average during the summer  
5 term. ~~If the institution determines that it is possible, the~~  
6 ~~education institution may so inform the department, which may~~  
7 ~~reserve the student's award if funds are available.~~The  
8 renewal, however, must not be granted until the student  
9 achieves the required cumulative grade point average and earns  
10 the required number of credit hours. If during the summer term  
11 the student does not earn is not sufficient hours or to raise  
12 the grade point average to the required renewal level, the  
13 student is not eligible for an award student's next  
14 ~~opportunity for renewal is the fall semester of the following~~  
15 academic year.

16 (b) Reinstatement applies to a student who was  
17 eligible for, but did not receive, an award during the  
18 previous academic year or years and who may apply to  
19 reestablish use of the scholarship. For reinstatement, a  
20 student must have been eligible at the time of the student's  
21 most recent Bright Futures eligibility determination. The  
22 student must apply for reinstatement by submitting a  
23 reinstatement application by the deadline established by the  
24 Department of Education.

25 (c) Restoration applies to a student who did not meet  
26 renewal grade-point-average or hours-earned requirements at a  
27 prior evaluation period. A student may restore eligibility by  
28 meeting the required renewal grade-point average at a  
29 subsequent renewal evaluation period. A student is eligible  
30 for restoration only once. The student must submit a  
31

1 restoration application by the deadlines established by the  
2 Department of Education.

3 (2) A student who is enrolled in a program that  
4 terminates in an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree  
5 may receive an award for a maximum of 110 percent of the  
6 number of credit hours required to complete the program. A  
7 student who is enrolled in a program that terminates in a  
8 technical certificate may receive an award for a maximum of  
9 110 percent of the credit hours or clock hours required to  
10 complete the program up to 90 credit hours. A student who  
11 transfers from one of these program levels to another becomes  
12 eligible for the higher of the two credit hour limits.

13 (3) A Florida Academic Scholar or a Florida Medallion  
14 Scholar who is enrolled in a combined undergraduate and  
15 graduate program that terminates in the award of a  
16 post-baccalaureate degree or the simultaneous award of  
17 baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate degrees may receive an  
18 award for a maximum of 110 percent of the number of credit  
19 hours required to complete a standard undergraduate program at  
20 the institution attended, at the undergraduate rate.

21 Section 4. Section 240.40204, Florida Statutes, is  
22 amended to read:

23 240.40204 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
24 eligible postsecondary education institutions.--A student is  
25 eligible for an award or the renewal of an award from the  
26 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program if the student  
27 meets the requirements for the program as described in this  
28 act and is enrolled in a postsecondary education institution  
29 that meets the description in any one of the following  
30 subsections:  
31



1           (1) A Florida public university, community college, or  
2 technical center.

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

8           (3) An independent Florida postsecondary education  
9 institution that is licensed by the Commission on Independent  
10 Education ~~State Board of Independent Colleges and Universities~~  
11 and that which:

12           (a) Is authorized to grant degrees;

13           (b)~~(a)~~ Shows evidence of sound financial condition;

14 and

15           (c)~~(b)~~ Has operated in the state for at least 3 years  
16 without having its approval, accreditation, or license placed  
17 on probation.

18           (4) A Florida independent postsecondary education  
19 institution that offers a nursing diploma approved by the  
20 Board of Nursing.

21           (5) A Florida independent postsecondary education  
22 institution that is licensed by the Commission on Independent  
23 Education ~~State Board of Nonpublic Career Education~~ and that  
24 which:

25           (a) Is authorized to award certificates or credentials  
26 other than degrees;

27           (b)~~(a)~~ Has a program completion and placement rate of  
28 at least the rate required by the current Florida Statutes,  
29 the Florida Administrative Code, or the Department of  
30 Education for an institution at its level; and

31

1           (c)(b) Shows evidence of sound financial condition;  
2 and either:

3           1. Is accredited at the institutional level by an  
4 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department  
5 of Education and has operated in the state for at least 3  
6 years during which there has been no complaint for which  
7 probable cause has been found; or

8           2. Has operated in Florida for 5 years during which  
9 there has been no complaint for which probable cause has been  
10 found.

11           Section 5. Section 240.40205, Florida Statutes, is  
12 amended to read:

13           240.40205 Florida Academic Scholars award.--

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

18           (a) Has achieved a 3.5 weighted grade point average as  
19 calculated pursuant to s. 240.40202, or its equivalent, in  
20 high school courses that are designated by the Department of  
21 Education ~~adopted by the Board of Regents and recommended by~~  
22 ~~the State Board of Community Colleges~~ as college-preparatory  
23 academic courses; and

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

30           (b)(c) Has attended a home education program according  
31 to s. 232.0201 during grades 11 and 12 or has completed the

1 International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the  
2 International Baccalaureate Diploma, and has attained at least  
3 the score identified by rules of the Department of Education  
4 on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the  
5 Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or  
6 the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College  
7 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the American  
8 College Testing Program; or

9        (c)~~(d)~~ Has been awarded an International Baccalaureate  
10 Diploma from the International Baccalaureate Office; or

11        (d)~~(e)~~ Has been recognized by the merit or achievement  
12 programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a  
13 scholar or finalist; or

14        (e)~~(f)~~ Has been recognized by the National Hispanic  
15 Recognition Program as a scholar recipient.

16  
17 ~~Effective with the 1998-1999 school year,~~A student must  
18 complete a program of community service work, as approved by  
19 the district school board or the administrators of a nonpublic  
20 school, which shall include a minimum of 75 hours of service  
21 work and require the student to identify a social problem that  
22 interests him or her, develop a plan for his or her personal  
23 involvement in addressing the problem, and, through papers or  
24 other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her  
25 experience.

26        (2) Until July 1, 2006,a Florida Academic Scholar who  
27 is enrolled in a public postsecondary education institution is  
28 eligible for an award equal to the amount required to pay  
29 matriculation, fees, and \$600 for college-related expenses  
30 annually. Until July 1, 2006,a student who is enrolled in a  
31 nonpublic postsecondary education institution is eligible for

1 an award equal to the amount that would be required to pay for  
2 the average matriculation and fees of a public postsecondary  
3 education institution at the comparable level, plus the annual  
4 \$600. Effective July 1, 2006, a student is eligible to receive  
5 a maximum annual award of \$3,200 or the amount established in  
6 the General Appropriations Act.

7 (3) To be eligible for a renewal award as a Florida  
8 Academic Scholar, a student must maintain the equivalent of a  
9 grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for all  
10 postsecondary education work attempted, with an opportunity  
11 for one restoration reinstatement as provided in this chapter  
12 act.

13 (4) In each school district, the Florida Academic  
14 Scholar with the highest academic ranking shall be designated  
15 as an Academic Top Scholar and shall be entitled to receive an  
16 additional award of \$1,500 for college-related expenses. This  
17 award must be funded from the Florida Bright Futures  
18 Scholarship Program.

19 Section 6. Section 240.40206, Florida Statutes, is  
20 amended to read:

21 240.40206 Florida Medallion ~~Merit~~ Scholars award.--

22 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Medallion  
23 ~~Merit~~ Scholars award if the student meets the general  
24 eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures  
25 Scholarship Program and the student:

26 (a) Until July 1, 2006, has achieved a weighted grade  
27 point average of 3.0, or on or after July 1, 2006, has  
28 achieved a weighted grade point average of 3.25, as calculated  
29 pursuant to s. 240.40202, or the equivalent, in high school  
30 courses that are designated by the Department of Education  
31 ~~adopted by the Board of Regents and recommended by the State~~

1 ~~Board of Community Colleges~~ as college-preparatory academic  
2 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       (b)(c) Has attended a home education program according  
10 to 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;  
19       (c) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement  
20 programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a  
21 scholar or finalist but has not completed a program of  
22 community service as provided in s. 240.40205; or  
23       (d) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic  
24 Recognition Program as a scholar, but has not completed a  
25 program of community service as provided in s. 240.40205.  
26       (2) Until July 1, 2006, a Florida Medallion Merit  
27 Scholar is eligible for an award equal to the amount required  
28 to pay 75 percent of matriculation and fees, if the student is  
29 enrolled in a public postsecondary education institution.  
30 Until July 1, 2006, a student who is enrolled in a nonpublic  
31 postsecondary education institution is eligible for an award

1 equal to the amount that would be required to pay 75 percent  
2 of the matriculation and fees of a public postsecondary  
3 education institution at the comparable level. Effective July  
4 1, 2006, a student is eligible to receive a maximum annual  
5 award of \$1,900 or the amount established in the General  
6 Appropriations Act, if the student is enrolled in a public  
7 university or other eligible 4-year college or university that  
8 grants baccalaureate degrees or higher. Effective July 1,  
9 2006, a student who is enrolled in a public community college,  
10 a nonpublic 2-year college, or a public technical center or  
11 eligible nonpublic school is eligible to receive a maximum  
12 annual award of \$1,500 or the amount established in the  
13 General Appropriations Act.

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

20 Section 7. Section 240.40207, Florida Statutes, is  
21 amended to read:

22 240.40207 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars  
23 award.--The Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award is  
24 created within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program  
25 to recognize and reward academic achievement and vocational  
26 preparation by high school students who wish to continue their  
27 education.

28 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal  
29 Vocational Scholars award if the student meets the general  
30 eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures  
31 Scholarship Program and the student:

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

13           (b) Demonstrates readiness for postsecondary education  
14 by earning a passing score on the Florida College Entry Level  
15 Placement Test or its equivalent as identified by the  
16 Department of Education.

17           (c) Until July 1, 2006, earns a minimum cumulative  
18 weighted grade point average of 3.0, or on or after July 1,  
19 2006, earns a minimum cumulative weighted grade point average  
20 of 3.25, as calculated pursuant to s. 240.40202, on all  
21 subjects required for a standard high school diploma,  
22 excluding elective courses.

23           (d) Earns a minimum unweighted grade point average of  
24 3.5 on a 4.0 scale for secondary vocational courses comprising  
25 the vocational program.

26           ~~(e) Completes the requirements of a vocational-ready~~  
27 ~~diploma program, as defined by rules of the State Board of~~  
28 ~~Education.~~

29           (2) Until July 1, 2006, a Florida Gold Seal Vocational  
30 Scholar is eligible for an award equal to the amount required  
31 to pay 75 percent of matriculation and fees, if the student is

1 enrolled in a public postsecondary education institution.  
2 Until July 1, 2006, a student who is enrolled in a nonpublic  
3 postsecondary education institution is eligible for an award  
4 equal to the amount that would be required to pay 75 percent  
5 of the matriculation and mandatory fees of a public  
6 postsecondary education institution at the comparable level.  
7 Effective July 1, 2006, a student is eligible to receive a  
8 maximum annual award of \$1,900 or the amount established in  
9 the General Appropriations Act, if the student is enrolled in  
10 a public university or other eligible 4-year college or  
11 university that grants baccalaureate degrees or higher.  
12 Effective July 1, 2006, a student who is enrolled in a public  
13 community college, a nonpublic 2-year college, or a public  
14 technical center or eligible nonpublic school is eligible to  
15 receive a maximum annual award of \$1,500 or the amount  
16 established in the General Appropriations Act.

17 (3) To be eligible for a renewal or restoration award  
18 as a Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholar, a student must meet  
19 the requirements of s. 240.40203 and the ~~maintain the~~  
20 ~~equivalent of a~~ grade point average requirement of 2.75 on a  
21 4.0 scale for all postsecondary education work attempted. A  
22 student has, ~~with an opportunity for~~ restoration reinstatement  
23 ~~one time~~ as provided in this chapter ~~act~~.

24 (4) A student may earn a Florida Gold Seal Vocational  
25 Scholarship for 110 percent of the number of credit hours  
26 required to complete the program, up to 90 credit hours or the  
27 equivalent. A Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholar who meets  
28 all renewal requirements for a Florida Medallion Scholars  
29 award has a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 in all  
30 ~~postsecondary education work attempted~~ may apply for a Florida  
31 Medallion ~~Merit~~ Scholars award at any renewal period, or the



1 department may transfer the student to the Florida Medallion  
2 Scholars award during any renewal period. All other provisions  
3 of that program apply, and the credit-hour limitation must be  
4 calculated by subtracting from the student's total eligibility  
5 the number of credit hours the student attempted while earning  
6 the Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship.

7 Section 8. Section 240.40209, Florida Statutes, is  
8 amended to read:

9 240.40209 Bright Futures Scholarship recipients  
10 attending nonpublic institutions; calculation of  
11 awards.--Notwithstanding ss. 240.40201, 240.40205, 240.40206,  
12 and 240.40207, a student who receives any award under the  
13 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, who is enrolled in  
14 a nonpublic postsecondary education institution, and who is  
15 assessed tuition and fees that are the same as those of a  
16 full-time student at that institution, shall receive a fixed  
17 award calculated by using the average matriculation and fee  
18 calculation as prescribed by the Department of Education for  
19 full-time attendance at a public postsecondary education  
20 institution at the comparable level. If the student is  
21 enrolled part-time and is assessed tuition and fees at a  
22 reduced level, the award shall be either one-half of the  
23 maximum award or three-fourths of the maximum award, depending  
24 on the level of fees assessed.

25 Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and  
26 subsection (4) of section 240.404, Florida Statutes, are  
27 amended to read:

28 240.404 General requirements for student eligibility  
29 for state financial aid.--

30  
31

1           (1)(a) The general requirements for eligibility of  
2 students for state financial aid awards consist of the  
3 following:

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

17           2. Residency in this state for no less than 1 year  
18 preceding the award of aid for a program established pursuant  
19 to s. 240.409, s. 240.4095, s. 240.4097, s. 240.412, s.  
20 240.4125, s. 240.413, s. 240.4987, s. 240.605, or s. 240.606.  
21 Residency in this state must be for purposes other than to  
22 obtain an education. Resident status for purposes of receiving  
23 state financial aid awards shall be determined in the same  
24 manner as resident status for tuition purposes pursuant to s.  
25 240.1201 and rules of the State Board of Education. A person  
26 who has been properly classified as a resident by a  
27 postsecondary education institution for initial receipt of  
28 state-funded student financial assistance and found to be  
29 eligible to participate in a financial assistance program may  
30 continue to qualify as a resident for state-funded financial  
31 aid programs if the student maintains continuous enrollment at

1 the postsecondary education institution, with no break in  
2 enrollment greater than 12 consecutive months.

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

15 4. Completion of the Free Application for Federal  
16 Student Aid provided by the U.S. Department of Education and  
17 submitted as required by the Florida Department of Education.

18 (4) Effective July 1, 2006, a student is not eligible  
19 to receive more than one state scholarship or state grant,  
20 except that a student who qualifies for both a merit-based  
21 scholarship and a need-based grant may receive both types of  
22 awards. A ~~No~~ student is not ~~shall be~~ eligible to receive more  
23 than one state scholarship that is based on academic merit.  
24 Students who qualify for more than one such scholarship shall  
25 be notified of all awards for which they qualify and shall be  
26 provided the opportunity to accept one of their choosing.

27 Section 10. Section 240.40208, Florida Statutes, is  
28 repealed.

29 Section 11. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
30 law.

31

1                   STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
2                   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
3                   Senate Bill 18-B

4 The Proposed Committee Substitute differs from the bill in  
5 that it establishes two levels of award for the Bright Futures  
6 Gold Seal Vocational and Medallion Scholarship Programs

- 6 .       For a full-time student at a 4-year college or  
7       university, an annual award of \$1,900.
- 8 .       For a full-time student at a 2-year community college or  
9       technical center, an annual award of \$1,500.

9 Makes several technical or administrative changes to the  
10 Bright Futures Scholarship Program. The technical changes have  
11 no fiscal impact.

- 11 .       The Merit Scholarship is renamed the Medallion  
12       Scholarship.
- 13 .       Application deadlines are less restrictive: a student  
14       may apply by high school graduation, with exceptions  
15       allowed up to December 31.
- 16 .       The terms "renewal, reinstatement, restoration, and  
17       public service assignment" are defined and used  
18       consistently.
- 19 .       A student will be eligible for the equivalent of a  
20       4-year scholarship for enrollment in a 5-year program  
21       that includes some graduate school.
- 22 .       A student will be eligible for the Medallion Scholarship  
23       as well as the Academic Scholarship for achievement in  
24       the National Merit and National Hispanic Scholarship  
25       programs.
- 26 .       The high school vocational courses required for the Gold  
27       Seal Scholarship are simplified.
- 28 .       An obsolete statute relating to transition is repealed.