

By Representatives Kilmer, Melvin, Baxley, Bense, Stansel, Byrd, Barreiro, Bowen, Ball, Attkisson, Alexander, Murman, Fasano, Crow, Johnson, Haridopolos, Bilirakis, Wiles, Lynn and Maygarden

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Florida Bright Futures
3 Scholarship Program; amending ss. 240.40201 and
4 240.40202, F.S.; revising eligibility
5 requirements; creating s. 240.40215, F.S.;
6 providing for Florida Bright Futures
7 Scholarship awards for students attending
8 United States military service academies;
9 providing for the issuance of warrants;
10 providing that the receipt of awards shall be
11 retroactive under certain conditions; providing
12 for repeal; providing an effective date.

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

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16 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 240.40201,
17 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

18 240.40201 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship
19 Program.--

20 (1) The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is
21 created to establish a lottery-funded scholarship program to
22 reward any Florida high school graduate who merits recognition
23 of high academic achievement and who enrolls in an eligible
24 Florida public or private postsecondary education institution
25 within 7 3 years of graduation from high school. Regardless of
26 the year in which the student first receives scholarship
27 funding, all eligibility shall end 7 years after high school
28 graduation; however, students who enter the military service
29 within 7 years following high school graduation shall have
30 their Bright Futures Scholarship eligibility extended for 7
31 years after the student ends active military duty.

1 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 240.40202,
2 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3 240.40202 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;
4 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.--

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

15 Section 3. Section 240.40215, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 240.40215 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship
18 recipients attending United States military service
19 academies.--

20 (1)(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of ss.
21 240.40201-240.40209 relating to postsecondary education
22 institutions, a student who is otherwise eligible to receive
23 an award under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program,
24 who is accepted and enrolls as a student in the U.S. Air Force
25 Academy, the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, or
26 the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, shall receive a fixed award
27 calculated by using the average matriculation and fee
28 calculation for full-time attendance at a public postsecondary
29 education institution at the comparable level.

30 (b) Upon verification by the Florida Department of
31 Education that the student is enrolled in a United States

1 military service academy and meets the eligibility
2 requirements for receipt of an award, the Comptroller shall
3 issue an individual warrant made payable to the student and
4 mailed by the Department of Education to the United States
5 military service academy in which the student is enrolled.

6 (2)(a) Any student who met the criteria for a Florida
7 Bright Futures Scholarship award in the 1997-1998, 1998-1999,
8 1999-2000, 2000-2001, or 2001-2002 school year, and who
9 enrolled as a student in a United States military service
10 academy, shall retroactively receive the Florida Bright
11 Futures Scholarship award amounts calculated pursuant to
12 subsection (1) for each year the student was eligible.

13 Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 240.40202, students shall
14 be eligible for the retroactive receipt of this award by
15 applying to the Florida Department of Education by July 1,
16 2003.

17 (b) Upon verification by the Florida Department of
18 Education that a student was enrolled for any of the years
19 listed in paragraph (a) in a United States military service
20 academy and met the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship
21 eligibility requirements for receipt of an award, the
22 Comptroller shall issue an individual warrant made payable to
23 the student and mailed by the Florida Department of Education
24 to the student.

25 (c) This subsection is repealed effective July 1,
26 2003.

27 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
28 law.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

With respect to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, revises eligibility requirements and provides for awards to students attending United States military service academies.