

By the Committee on Colleges & Universities and  
Representatives Rubio and Arza

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Florida Bright Futures  
3           Scholarship Program; amending s. 240.4015,  
4           F.S., relating to the Florida Bright Futures  
5           Scholarship Testing Program; revising  
6           provisions relating to the use of specified  
7           examinations for purposes of awarding college  
8           credit; expanding the testing program to  
9           include Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars;  
10          clarifying provisions relating to the award of  
11          credit; deleting obsolete provisions; revising  
12          provisions relating to payment for  
13          examinations; requiring the Department of  
14          Education to provide a financial incentive to  
15          students for passing examinations; requiring  
16          the department to contract for centralized  
17          administrative services; amending s. 240.40203,  
18          F.S.; revising provisions relating to the  
19          maximum number of credit hours for which a  
20          student may receive a Florida Bright Futures  
21          Scholarship; amending ss. 240.40205, 240.40206,  
22          and 240.40207, F.S.; requiring Florida Academic  
23          Scholar, Florida Merit Scholar, and Florida  
24          Gold Seal Vocational Scholar award recipients  
25          to have taken examinations or the equivalent  
26          required by the Florida Bright Futures  
27          Scholarship Testing Program; conforming  
28          provisions; providing an effective date.

29  
30 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
31

1 Section 1. Section 240.4015, Florida Statutes, is  
2 amended to read:

3 240.4015 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Testing  
4 Program.--

5 (1) ~~By January 1, 2002,~~The Articulation Coordinating  
6 Committee shall identify the minimum scores, maximum credit,  
7 and course or courses for which credit is to be awarded for  
8 each ~~College Level Examination Program (CLEP) general~~  
9 ~~examination, CLEP subject examination, College Board Advanced~~  
10 ~~Placement Program examination, and International Baccalaureate~~  
11 ~~examination, or other examination approved by a state~~  
12 university or community college. In addition, the Articulation  
13 Coordinating Committee shall identify such courses in the  
14 general education core curriculum of each state university and  
15 community college.

16 (2) Each community college and state university must  
17 award credit for specific courses for which competency has  
18 been demonstrated by successful passage of one of these  
19 examinations unless the award of credit duplicates credit  
20 already awarded. Community colleges and universities may not  
21 exempt students from courses without the award of credit if  
22 competencies have been so demonstrated. If a student achieves  
23 a passing score as identified by the Articulation Coordinating  
24 Committee on an examination required by this section, the  
25 student shall receive credit equivalent to successfully  
26 completing the equivalent course as identified by the  
27 Articulation Coordinating Committee in a state university or  
28 community college, provided that such credit is not  
29 duplicative of credit already earned by the student.

30 (3) Beginning with initial award recipients for the  
31 2002-2003 academic year and continuing thereafter, in order to

1 receive a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, a student  
2 ~~students eligible for a Florida Academic Scholars award or a~~  
3 ~~Florida Merit Scholars award who are admitted to and enroll in~~  
4 ~~a community college or state university~~ shall, prior to  
5 registering for courses that may be earned through an approved  
6 ~~a CLEP examination and no later than registration for the~~  
7 ~~their second term, complete at least five examinations from~~  
8 ~~those specified in subsection (1) in~~ any of the following  
9 areas: English; humanities; mathematics; natural sciences; and  
10 social sciences. Successful completion of dual enrollment  
11 courses, Advanced Placement examinations, and International  
12 Baccalaureate examinations in these areas may be used to ~~taken~~  
13 ~~prior to high school graduation~~ satisfy this requirement. The  
14 Articulation Coordinating Committee shall identify the  
15 examinations that satisfy each component of this requirement.

16 ~~(4) Initial award recipients for the 2001-2002~~  
17 ~~academic year who are eligible for a Florida Academic Scholars~~  
18 ~~award or a Florida Merit Scholars award and who are admitted~~  
19 ~~to and enroll in a community college or state university may~~  
20 ~~choose, prior to registering for courses that may be earned~~  
21 ~~through CLEP examination, to complete up to five CLEP~~  
22 ~~examinations, one in each of the following areas: English;~~  
23 ~~humanities; mathematics; natural sciences; and social~~  
24 ~~sciences.~~

25 ~~(5) Each community college and state university shall~~  
26 ~~pay for the CLEP examinations required pursuant to this~~  
27 ~~section from the funds appropriated from the Educational~~  
28 ~~Enhancement Trust Fund. Institutions shall pay no more than~~  
29 ~~\$46 per examination for the program, which shall include~~  
30 ~~access to a student guide to prepare for the test. The~~  
31 ~~Department of Education shall negotiate with the College Board~~

1 ~~for a reduced rate for the examinations. The institution shall~~  
2 ~~not charge the student for preparation and administration of~~  
3 ~~the test, access to a student guide to prepare for the test,~~  
4 ~~or recordkeeping and reporting of each student's test results~~  
5 ~~to the department.~~

6 (4)(6) The credit awarded pursuant to this section to  
7 students who are enrolled in associate or baccalaureate degree  
8 level programs shall apply toward the 120 hours of college  
9 credit required pursuant to s. 240.115(6).

10 (5) The Department of Education shall negotiate with  
11 examination providers to provide for examinations and test  
12 administration services on a cost effective, lowest cost per  
13 test available basis.

14 (6) The Department of Education shall provide a \$50  
15 incentive to each student for each approved examination passed  
16 that is required in this section.

17 ~~(7)~~ ~~The maximum number of credit hours for which a~~  
18 ~~student is eligible to receive a Florida Bright Futures~~  
19 ~~Scholarship Program award shall be reduced by the number of~~  
20 ~~hours for which credit is awarded pursuant to this section.~~

21 (7)(8) Beginning with the 2002-2003 award recipients,  
22 The Department of Education shall administer this testing  
23 program for all students in the state in order to track and  
24 annually report on the effectiveness of the program, and in  
25 order to determine eligibility for scholarship programs. These  
26 reports shall include information on the number of students  
27 participating in the program; the number of approved CLEP  
28 examinations taken and the passage rate of Florida Academic  
29 Scholars, and Florida Merit Scholars, and Florida Gold Seal  
30 Vocational Scholars award recipients; the use of Advanced  
31 Placement and International Baccalaureate examinations and

1 dual enrollment courses to satisfy the requirements of the  
2 program; and the course credit provided.

3 (8) The Department of Education shall contract for  
4 centralized administrative services for this program, to  
5 include: a website with appropriate links for student  
6 registration; delivery of on-line test preparation, study  
7 guides, and practice tests; recordkeeping; and technical  
8 support.

9 (9) Funding for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship  
10 Testing Program as set forth in this section must be allocated  
11 from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund and must be  
12 provided for after allocations to the Classrooms First Program  
13 and the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program but prior  
14 to the calculation of allocations for disbursement to other  
15 educational entities. Such funding shall include, but is not  
16 limited to, payment for the required examinations, payment of  
17 the incentives, and payment for the contracted administrative  
18 services.

19 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 240.40203,  
20 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

21 240.40203 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
22 student eligibility requirements for renewal awards.--

23 (2) A student who is enrolled in an associate or  
24 baccalaureate degree level ~~a~~ program that terminates in ~~an~~  
25 ~~associate degree~~ or a baccalaureate degree may receive an  
26 award for not more than 120 credit hours. If the ~~a~~ maximum ~~of~~  
27 ~~110 percent of the~~ number of credit hours required to complete  
28 the program exceeds 120 credit hours, the student may receive  
29 an award up to the maximum number of credit hours required to  
30 complete the program. A student who is enrolled in a program  
31 that terminates in a technical certificate may receive an

1 ~~award for a maximum of 110 percent of the credit hours or~~  
2 ~~clock hours required to complete the program~~ up to 90 credit  
3 hours. A student who transfers from one of these program  
4 levels to another becomes eligible for the higher of the two  
5 credit hour limits.

6 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 240.40205,  
7 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

8 240.40205 Florida Academic Scholars award.--

9 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Academic  
10 Scholars award if the student meets the general eligibility  
11 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship  
12 Program and the student:

13 (a) Has achieved a 3.5 weighted grade point average as  
14 calculated pursuant to s. 240.40202, or its equivalent, in  
15 high school courses that are adopted by the Board of Regents  
16 and recommended by the State Board of Community Colleges as  
17 college-preparatory academic courses; and

18 (b) Has attained at least the score identified by  
19 rules of the Department of Education on the combined verbal  
20 and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the  
21 Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic  
22 Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an  
23 equivalent score on the American College Testing Program; or

24 (c) Has attended a home education program according to  
25 s. 232.0201 during grades 11 and 12 or has completed the  
26 International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the  
27 International Baccalaureate Diploma, and has attained at least  
28 the score identified by rules of the Department of Education  
29 on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the  
30 Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or  
31 the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College

1 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the American  
2 College Testing Program; or

3 (d) Has been awarded an International Baccalaureate  
4 Diploma from the International Baccalaureate Office; or

5 (e) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement  
6 programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a  
7 scholar or finalist; or

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

10

11 ~~Effective with the 1998-1999 school year,~~A student must  
12 complete a program of community service work, as approved by  
13 the district school board or the administrators of a nonpublic  
14 school, which shall include a minimum of 75 hours of service  
15 work and require the student to identify a social problem that  
16 interests him or her, develop a plan for his or her personal  
17 involvement in addressing the problem, and, through papers or  
18 other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her  
19 experience. Beginning with initial award recipients for the  
20 2002-2003 academic year and continuing thereafter, in order to  
21 receive a Florida Academic Scholars award, a student must have  
22 taken five approved examinations or the equivalent as required  
23 in s. 240.4015.

24 Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 240.40206,  
25 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

26 240.40206 Florida Merit Scholars award.--

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

31

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

6 (b) Has attained at least the score identified by  
7 rules of the Department of Education on the combined verbal  
8 and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the  
9 Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic  
10 Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an

11 equivalent score on the American College Testing Program; or

12 (c) Has attended a home education program according to  
13 s. 232.0201 during grades 11 and 12 or has completed the  
14 International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the  
15 International Baccalaureate Diploma, and has attained at least  
16 the score identified by rules of the Department of Education  
17 on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the  
18 Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or  
19 the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College  
20 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the American  
21 College Testing Program.

22  
23 Beginning with the initial award recipients for the 2002-2003  
24 academic year and continuing thereafter, in order to receive a  
25 Florida Merit Scholars award, a student must have taken five  
26 approved examinations or the equivalent as required in s.  
27 240.4015.

28 Section 5. Subsections (1) and (4) of section  
29 240.40207, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

30 240.40207 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars  
31 award.--The Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award is



1 created within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program  
2 to recognize and reward academic achievement and vocational  
3 preparation by high school students who wish to continue their  
4 education.

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

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

21 (b) Demonstrates readiness for postsecondary education  
22 by earning a passing score on the Florida College Entry Level  
23 Placement Test or its equivalent as identified by the  
24 Department of Education.

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

29 (d) Earns a minimum unweighted grade point average of  
30 3.5 on a 4.0 scale for secondary vocational courses comprising  
31 the vocational program.

1           (e) Completes the requirements of a vocational-ready  
2 diploma program, as defined by rules of the State Board of  
3 Education.

4           (f) Beginning with initial award recipients for the  
5 2002-2003 academic year and continuing thereafter, has taken  
6 five approved examinations or the equivalent as required in s.  
7 240.4015.

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

19           Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31