

By the Committees on Education Appropriations, 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; clarifying provisions relating to the  
9           award of credit; deleting obsolete provisions;  
10          revising provisions relating to payment for  
11          examinations; requiring the Department of  
12          Education to provide a financial incentive to  
13          students for passing examinations; authorizing  
14          Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars to take  
15          up to five approved examinations; requiring the  
16          department to contract for centralized  
17          administrative services; providing a limitation  
18          to the cost associated with contracting for  
19          centralized administrative services; providing  
20          for funding; amending s. 240.40203, F.S.;  
21          revising provisions relating to the maximum  
22          number of credit hours for which a student may  
23          receive a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship;  
24          requiring Florida Academic Scholars and Florida  
25          Merit Scholars award recipients to meet certain  
26          requirements in order to renew scholarships;  
27          amending s. 240.40207, F.S.; conforming  
28          provisions; providing an effective date.

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

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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 nationally recognized examination  
12 approved by the Florida Board of Education. In addition, the  
13 Articulation Coordinating Committee shall identify such  
14 courses in the general education core curriculum of each state  
15 university and 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, students

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

17 (7) Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award  
18 recipients may choose, prior to registering for courses in  
19 which credit may be earned through an approved examination, to  
20 complete up to five approved examinations in any of the  
21 following areas: English; humanities; mathematics; natural  
22 sciences; and social sciences. Such students who achieve a  
23 passing score on a CLEP examination or an approved examination  
24 shall receive credit equivalent to successfully completing the  
25 equivalent course as provided in subsection (2). Florida Gold  
26 Seal Vocational Scholars who achieve a passing score on an  
27 approved examination shall also receive the \$50 per test  
28 incentive provided in subsection (6).

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

3 (8) ~~Beginning with the 2002-2003 award recipients, The~~  
4 ~~Department of Education shall~~ administer this testing program  
5 for all students in the state in order to track and annually  
6 report on the effectiveness of the program., and These reports  
7 shall include information on the number of students  
8 participating in the program; the number of CLEP examinations  
9 taken and the passage rate of Florida Academic Scholars, and  
10 Florida Merit Scholars, and Florida Gold Seal Vocational  
11 Scholars award recipients; the use of Advanced Placement and  
12 International Baccalaureate examinations and dual enrollment  
13 courses to satisfy the requirements of the program; and the  
14 course credit provided.

15 (9) The Department of Education shall contract for  
16 centralized administrative services for this program, to  
17 include a website with appropriate links for student  
18 registration; delivery of online test preparation, study  
19 guides, and practice tests; recordkeeping; and technical  
20 support. The cost per student associated with contracting for  
21 centralized administrative services shall not exceed the cost  
22 incurred to administer the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship  
23 Testing Program in the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

24 (10) Funding for the Florida Bright Futures  
25 Scholarship Testing Program as set forth in this section must  
26 be allocated from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund and  
27 must be provided for after allocations to the Classrooms First  
28 Program and the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program but  
29 prior to the calculation of allocations for disbursement to  
30 other educational entities. Such funding shall include, but  
31 is not limited to, payment for the required examinations,

1 payment for the optional examinations, payment of the  
2 incentives, and payment for the contracted administrative  
3 services.

4 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 240.40203,  
5 Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (3) is added to  
6 said section, to read:

7 240.40203 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
8 student eligibility requirements for renewal awards.--

9 (2) A student who is enrolled in an associate or  
10 baccalaureate degree level ~~a~~ program that terminates in ~~an~~  
11 ~~associate degree or~~ a baccalaureate degree may receive an  
12 award for not more than the ~~a maximum of 110 percent of the~~  
13 number of credit hours required to complete the program. A  
14 student who is enrolled in a program that terminates in a  
15 technical certificate may receive an award for ~~a maximum of~~  
16 ~~110 percent of the credit hours or clock hours required to~~  
17 ~~complete the program~~ up to 90 credit hours. A student who  
18 transfers from one of these program levels to another becomes  
19 eligible for the higher of the two credit hour limits.

20 (3) Beginning with the initial award recipients for  
21 the 2002-2003 academic year and continuing thereafter, Florida  
22 Academic Scholars and Florida Merit Scholars award recipients  
23 must also have met the required test requirements in s.  
24 240.4015(3) in order to renew the scholarship.

25 Section 3. Subsection (4) of section 240.40207,  
26 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

27 240.40207 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars  
28 award.--The Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award is  
29 created within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program  
30 to recognize and reward academic achievement and vocational  
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1 preparation by high school students who wish to continue their  
2 education.

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 Scholar who has a cumulative  
7 grade point average of 2.75 in all postsecondary education  
8 work attempted may apply for a Florida Merit Scholars award at  
9 any renewal period. All other provisions of that program  
10 apply, and the credit-hour limitation must be calculated by  
11 subtracting from the student's total eligibility the number of  
12 credit hours the student attempted while earning the Gold Seal  
13 Vocational Scholarship.

14 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.  
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