

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. 240.40202, F.S.;  
21          requiring a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship  
22          Evaluation Report and Key; requiring student  
23          report cards to contain certain information;  
24          amending s. 240.40203, F.S.; revising  
25          provisions relating to the maximum number of  
26          credit hours for which a student may receive a  
27          Florida Bright Futures Scholarship; requiring  
28          Florida Academic Scholars and Florida Merit  
29          Scholars award recipients to meet certain  
30          requirements in order to renew scholarships;  
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1           amending s. 240.40207, F.S.; conforming  
2           provisions; providing an effective date.

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

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

8           240.4015 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Testing  
9 Program.--

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

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

1 Articulation Coordinating Committee in a state university or  
 2 community college, provided that such credit is not  
 3 duplicative of credit already earned by the student.

4 (3) Beginning with initial award recipients for the  
 5 2002-2003 academic year and continuing thereafter, students  
 6 eligible for a Florida Academic Scholars award or a Florida  
 7 Merit Scholars award ~~who are admitted to and enroll in a~~  
 8 ~~community college or state university~~ shall, prior to  
 9 registering for courses that may be earned through a CLEP  
 10 examination or an approved examination and no later than  
 11 registration for the ~~their~~ second term, complete at least five  
 12 examinations ~~from those specified in subsection (1) in any of~~  
 13 the following areas: English; humanities; mathematics; natural  
 14 sciences; and social sciences. Successful completion of dual  
 15 enrollment courses, Advanced Placement examinations, and  
 16 International Baccalaureate examinations in these areas may be  
 17 used to ~~taken prior to high school graduation~~ satisfy this  
 18 requirement. The Articulation Coordinating Committee shall  
 19 identify the examinations that satisfy each component of this  
 20 requirement.

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

30 ~~(5) Each community college and state university shall~~  
 31 ~~pay for the CLEP examinations required pursuant to this~~

1 ~~section from the funds appropriated from the Educational~~  
 2 ~~Enhancement Trust Fund. Institutions shall pay no more than~~  
 3 ~~\$46 per examination for the program, which shall include~~  
 4 ~~access to a student guide to prepare for the test. The~~  
 5 ~~Department of Education shall negotiate with the College Board~~  
 6 ~~for a reduced rate for the examinations. The institution shall~~  
 7 ~~not charge the student for preparation and administration of~~  
 8 ~~the test, access to a student guide to prepare for the test,~~  
 9 ~~or recordkeeping and reporting of each student's test results~~  
 10 ~~to the department.~~

11 (4)(6) The credit awarded pursuant to this section to to  
 12 students who are enrolled in associate or baccalaureate degree  
 13 level programs shall apply toward the 120 hours of college  
 14 credit required pursuant to s. 240.115(6).

15 (5) The Department of Education shall negotiate with  
 16 examination providers to provide for examinations and test  
 17 administration services on a cost-effective, lowest cost per  
 18 test available basis.

19 (6) The Department of Education shall provide a \$50  
 20 incentive to each student for each CLEP examination or  
 21 approved examination passed that is required in this section.

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

1 approved examination shall also receive the \$50 per test  
2 incentive provided in subsection (6).

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

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

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

28 (10) Funding for the Florida Bright Futures  
29 Scholarship Testing Program as set forth in this section must  
30 be allocated from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund and  
31 must be provided for after allocations to the Classrooms First

1 Program and the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program but  
2 prior to the calculation of allocations for disbursement to  
3 other educational entities. Such funding shall include, but  
4 is not limited to, payment for the required examinations,  
5 payment for the optional examinations, payment of the  
6 incentives, and payment for the contracted administrative  
7 services.

8 Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 240.40202,  
9 Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (5) and a new  
10 subsection (4) is added to said section to read:

11 240.40202 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
12 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.--

13 (4) Each school district shall annually provide to  
14 each high school student a complete and accurate Florida  
15 Bright Futures Scholarship Evaluation Report and Key. The  
16 report shall be disseminated at the beginning of each school  
17 year. The report must include all high school coursework  
18 attempted, the number of credits earned toward each type of  
19 award, and the calculation of the grade point average for each  
20 award. The report must also identify all requirements not met  
21 per award, including the grade point average requirement, as  
22 well as identify the awards for which the student has met the  
23 academic requirements. The student report cards must contain a  
24 disclosure that the grade point average calculated for  
25 purposes of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program may  
26 differ from the grade point average on the report card.

27 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 240.40203,  
28 Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (3) is added to  
29 said section, to read:

30 240.40203 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
31 student eligibility requirements for renewal awards.--

1           (2) A student who is enrolled in an associate or  
 2 baccalaureate degree level ~~a~~ program that terminates in ~~an~~  
 3 ~~associate degree or~~ a baccalaureate degree may receive an  
 4 award for not more than the ~~a~~ maximum of ~~110 percent of the~~  
 5 number of credit hours required to complete the program. A  
 6 student who is enrolled in a program that terminates in a  
 7 technical certificate may receive an award for ~~a maximum of~~  
 8 ~~110 percent of the credit hours or clock hours required to~~  
 9 ~~complete the program~~ up to 90 credit hours. A student who  
 10 transfers from one of these program levels to another becomes  
 11 eligible for the higher of the two credit hour limits.

12           (3) Beginning with the initial award recipients for  
 13 the 2002-2003 academic year and continuing thereafter, Florida  
 14 Academic Scholars and Florida Merit Scholars award recipients  
 15 must also have met the required test requirements in s.  
 16 240.4015(3) in order to renew the scholarship.

17           Section 4. Subsection (4) of section 240.40207,  
 18 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

19           240.40207 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars  
 20 award.--The Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award is  
 21 created within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program  
 22 to recognize and reward academic achievement and vocational  
 23 preparation by high school students who wish to continue their  
 24 education.

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

1 apply, and the credit-hour limitation must be calculated by  
2 subtracting from the student's total eligibility the number of  
3 credit hours the student attempted while earning the Gold Seal  
4 Vocational Scholarship.

5 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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