

hbd-38

Amendment No. 5 (for drafter's use only)

	<u>Senate</u>	CHAMBER ACTION	<u>House</u>
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Representative(s) Byrd, Attkisson, Melvin, and Kilmer offered the following:

Amendment

On page 1018, between lines 2 and 3, of the bill

insert:

Section 469. Section 1009.895, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1009.895 Access to Better Learning and Education Grants.--

(1) The Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program is established to provide tuition assistance to eligible Florida residents attending eligible independent postsecondary educational institutions in the state.

(2) The Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program shall be administered by the Department of Education. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for the administration of the program.

(3) The department shall issue through the program an Access to Better Learning and Education Grant to any full-time

1 degree-seeking undergraduate student registered at an
 2 independent college or university, which is located in and
 3 chartered by the state; which is accredited by the Commission
 4 on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and
 5 Schools; which grants baccalaureate degrees; and which is not
 6 a state university or public community college or an
 7 institution the students of which are eligible to receive a
 8 William L. Boyd, IV, Florida resident access grant pursuant to
 9 s. 1009.89; provided that the receipt of state aid by students
 10 at the institution would not have the primary effect of
 11 advancing or impeding religion or result in an excessive
 12 entanglement between the state and any religious sect.

13 (4) A person is eligible to receive an Access to
 14 Better Learning and Education Grant if:

15 (a) He or she meets the general requirements,
 16 including residency, for student eligibility as provided in s.
 17 1009.40, except as otherwise provided in this section.

18 (b)1. He or she is enrolled as a full-time
 19 undergraduate student at an eligible college or university.

20 2. He or she is not enrolled in a program of study
 21 leading to a degree in theology or divinity.

22 3. He or she is making satisfactory academic progress
 23 as defined by the college or university in which he or she is
 24 enrolled.

25 (5)(a) Funding for the Access to Better Learning and
 26 Education Grant Program shall be based on a formula composed
 27 of planned enrollment and the state cost of funding
 28 undergraduate enrollment at public educational institutions
 29 pursuant to s. 1011.90. The amount of the Access to Better
 30 Learning and Education Grant issued to a full-time student
 31 shall be an amount as specified in the General Appropriations

1 Act. The access grant may be paid on a prorated basis in
2 advance of the registration period. The department shall make
3 such payments to the college or university in which the
4 student is enrolled for credit to the student's account for
5 payment of tuition and fees. Institutions shall certify to the
6 department the amount of funds disbursed to each student and
7 shall remit to the department any undisbursed advances or
8 refunds within 60 days of the end of regular registration.
9 Students shall not be eligible to receive the award for more
10 than 9 semesters or 14 quarters, except as otherwise provided
11 in s. 1009.40(3).

12 (b) If the combined amount of the Access to Better
13 Learning and Education Grant issued pursuant to this section
14 and all other scholarships and grants for tuition or fees
15 exceeds the amount charged to the student for tuition and
16 fees, the department shall reduce the grant issued pursuant to
17 this section by an amount equal to such excess.

18 (6) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the
19 Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program shall be
20 deposited in the State Student Financial Assistance Trust
21 Fund. Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301 and
22 pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the
23 end of any fiscal year which has been allocated to the Access
24 to Better Learning and Education Grant Program shall remain
25 therein and shall be available for carrying out the purposes
26 of this section. If the number of eligible students exceeds
27 the total authorized in the General Appropriations Act, an
28 institution may use its own resources to ensure that each
29 eligible student receives the full benefit of the grant amount
30 authorized.

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