

By Senator Sullivan

22-1410-02

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the William L. Boyd, IV,
3 Florida Resident Access Grant Program;
4 reenacting and amending s. 240.605, F.S.;
5 revising criteria for institutional
6 participation in the grant program; providing
7 an effective date.

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

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11 Section 1. Notwithstanding section 3(7) of chapter
12 2000-321, Laws of Florida, section 240.605, Florida Statutes,
13 shall not stand repealed on January 7, 2003, but that section
14 is reenacted and amended to read:

15 240.605 The William L. Boyd, IV, Florida resident
16 access grants.--

17 (1) The Legislature finds and declares that
18 independent ~~nonprofit~~ colleges and universities eligible to
19 participate in the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident
20 Access Grant Program are an integral part of the higher
21 education system in this state and that a significant number
22 of state residents choose this form of higher education. The
23 Legislature further finds that a strong and viable system of
24 independent ~~nonprofit~~ colleges and universities reduces the
25 tax burden on the citizens of the state. Because the William
26 L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program is not
27 related to a student's financial need or other criteria upon
28 which financial aid programs are based, it is the intent of
29 the Legislature that the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident
30 Access Grant Program not be considered a financial aid program
31 but rather a tuition assistance program for its citizens.

1 (2) The William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access
2 Grant Program shall be administered by the Department of
3 Education. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for
4 the administration of the program.

5 (3) The department shall issue through the program a
6 William L. Boyd, IV, Florida resident access grant to any
7 full-time degree-seeking undergraduate student registered at
8 an independent ~~nonprofit~~ college or university which is
9 located in and chartered by the state; which is accredited by
10 the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of
11 Colleges and Schools; which grants baccalaureate degrees;
12 which is not a state university or state community college;
13 and which has a secular purpose, so long as the receipt of
14 state aid by students at the institution would not have the
15 primary effect of advancing or impeding religion or result in
16 an excessive entanglement between the state and any religious
17 sect. Any independent college or university that was eligible
18 to receive tuition vouchers on January 1, 1989, and which
19 continues to meet the criteria under which its eligibility was
20 established, shall remain eligible to receive William L. Boyd,
21 IV, Florida resident access grant payments.

22 (4) A person is eligible to receive such William L.
23 Boyd, IV, Florida resident access grant if:

24 (a) He or she meets the general requirements,
25 including residency, for student eligibility as provided in s.
26 240.404, except as otherwise provided in this section; and

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

29 2. He or she is not enrolled in a program of study
30 leading to a degree in theology or divinity; and

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

4 (5)(a) Funding for the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida
5 Resident Access Grant Program shall be based on a formula
6 composed of planned enrollment and the state cost of funding
7 undergraduate enrollment at public institutions pursuant to s.
8 240.271. The amount of the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida
9 resident access grant issued to a full-time student shall be
10 an amount as specified in the General Appropriations Act. The
11 William L. Boyd, IV, Florida resident access grant may be paid
12 on a prorated basis in advance of the registration period. The
13 department shall make such payments to the college or
14 university in which the student is enrolled for credit to the
15 student's account for payment of tuition and fees.
16 Institutions shall certify to the department the amount of
17 funds disbursed to each student and shall remit to the
18 department any undisbursed advances or refunds within 60 days
19 of the end of regular registration. Students are ineligible
20 ~~shall not be eligible~~ to receive the award for more than 9
21 semesters or 14 quarters, except as otherwise provided in s.
22 240.404(3).

23 (b) If the combined amount of the William L. Boyd, IV,
24 Florida resident access grant issued pursuant to this act and
25 all other scholarships and grants for tuition or fees exceeds
26 the amount charged to the student for tuition and fees, the
27 department shall reduce the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida
28 resident access grant issued pursuant to this act by an amount
29 equal to such excess.

30 (6) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the
31 William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program

1 shall be deposited in the State Student Financial Assistance
2 Trust Fund. Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301 and
3 pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the
4 end of any fiscal year which has been allocated to the William
5 L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program shall
6 remain therein and shall be available for carrying out the
7 purposes of this section. If the number of eligible students
8 exceeds the total authorized in the General Appropriations
9 Act, an institution may use its own resources to assure that
10 each eligible student receives the full benefit of the grant
11 amount authorized.

12 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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15 SENATE SUMMARY

16 Expands eligibility for participation in the William L.
17 Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program to
18 include certain independent colleges and universities
19 other than nonprofit entities.

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