

By Representative Kilmer

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Florida Bright Futures
3 Scholarship Program; amending ss. 240.40201 and
4 240.40202, F.S.; revising eligibility
5 requirements; providing eligibility
6 requirements for students who enter the
7 military service; providing for reinstatement
8 of awards; creating s. 240.40215, F.S.;
9 providing for Florida Bright Futures
10 Scholarship awards for students attending
11 United States military service academies;
12 providing for the issuance of warrants;
13 providing that the receipt of awards shall be
14 retroactive under certain conditions; providing
15 for repeal; providing an effective date.

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

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19 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 240.40201,
20 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

21 240.40201 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship
22 Program.--

23 (1) The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is
24 created to establish a lottery-funded scholarship program to
25 reward any Florida high school graduate who merits recognition
26 of high academic achievement and who enrolls in an eligible
27 Florida public or private postsecondary education institution
28 within 7 ~~3~~ years of graduation from high school. Regardless of
29 the year in which the student first receives scholarship
30 funding, all eligibility shall end 7 years after high school
31 graduation; however, students who enter the military service

1 within 7 years following high school graduation shall have
2 their Bright Futures Scholarship eligibility extended for 7
3 years after the student ends active military duty.

4 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 240.40202,
5 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

6 240.40202 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;
7 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.--

8 ~~(2) A student is eligible to accept an initial award~~
9 ~~for 3 years following high school graduation and to accept a~~
10 ~~renewal award for 7 years following high school graduation.~~~~A~~
11 ~~student who applies for an award by April 1 and who meets all~~
12 ~~other eligibility requirements, but who does not accept his or~~
13 ~~her award, may apply for reinstatement of the award.~~
14 Reinstatement applications must be received by the deadline
15 established by the Department of Education ~~reapply during~~
16 ~~subsequent application periods up to 3 years after high school~~
17 ~~graduation.~~

18 Section 3. Section 240.40215, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 240.40215 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship
21 recipients attending United States military service
22 academies.--

23 (1)(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of ss.
24 240.40201-240.40209 relating to postsecondary education
25 institutions, a student who is otherwise eligible to receive
26 an award under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program,
27 who is accepted and enrolls as a student in the U.S. Air Force
28 Academy, the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy,
29 the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, or the U.S. Merchant Marine
30 Academy, shall receive a fixed award calculated by using the
31 average matriculation and fee calculation for full-time

1 attendance at a public postsecondary education institution at
2 the comparable level.

3 (b) Upon verification by the Florida Department of
4 Education that the student is enrolled in a United States
5 military service academy and meets the eligibility
6 requirements for receipt of an award, the Comptroller shall
7 issue an individual warrant made payable to the student and
8 mailed by the Department of Education to the United States
9 military service academy in which the student is enrolled.

10 (2)(a) Any student who met the criteria for a Florida
11 Bright Futures Scholarship award in the 1997-1998, 1998-1999,
12 1999-2000, 2000-2001, or 2001-2002 school year, and who
13 enrolled as a student in a United States military service
14 academy, shall retroactively receive the Florida Bright
15 Futures Scholarship award amounts calculated pursuant to
16 subsection (1) for each year the student was eligible.
17 Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 240.40202, students shall
18 be eligible for the retroactive receipt of this award by
19 applying to the Florida Department of Education by July 1,
20 2003.

21 (b) Upon verification by the Florida Department of
22 Education that a student was enrolled for any of the years
23 listed in paragraph (a) in a United States military service
24 academy and met the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship
25 eligibility requirements for receipt of an award, the
26 Comptroller shall issue an individual warrant made payable to
27 the student and mailed by the Florida Department of Education
28 to the student.

29 (c) This subsection is repealed effective July 1,
30 2003.

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

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HOUSE SUMMARY

With respect to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, revises eligibility requirements and provides for awards to students attending United States military service academies.