

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.; providing eligibility  
5           requirements for students who enter the  
6           military service; providing for reinstatement  
7           of awards; creating s. 240.40215, F.S.;  
8           providing for Florida Bright Futures  
9           Scholarship awards for students attending  
10          United States military service academies;  
11          providing for the issuance of warrants;  
12          providing an effective date.

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

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

18           240.40201 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship  
19 Program.--

20           (1) The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is  
21 created to establish a lottery-funded scholarship program to  
22 reward any Florida high school graduate who merits recognition  
23 of high academic achievement and who enrolls in an eligible  
24 Florida public or private postsecondary education institution  
25 within 3 years of graduation from high school. However,  
26 students who enter the military service within 7 years  
27 following high school graduation shall have their Bright  
28 Futures Scholarship eligibility extended for 7 years after the  
29 student ends active military duty, provided the student was  
30 discharged or released from active duty under conditions other  
31 than dishonorable.

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

3 240.40202 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
4 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.--

5 (2) ~~A student is eligible to accept an initial award~~  
6 ~~for 3 years following high school graduation and to accept a~~  
7 ~~renewal award for 7 years following high school graduation.~~A  
8 student who applies for an award by April 1 and who meets all  
9 ~~other~~ eligibility requirements, but who does not accept his or  
10 her award, may apply for reinstatement of the award.

11 Reinstatement applications must be received by the deadline  
12 established by the Department of Education ~~reapply during~~  
13 ~~subsequent application periods up to 3 years after high school~~  
14 ~~graduation.~~

15 Section 3. Section 240.40215, Florida Statutes, is  
16 created to read:

17 240.40215 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship  
18 recipients attending United States military service  
19 academies.--

20 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of ss.  
21 240.40201-240.40209 relating to postsecondary education  
22 institutions, a student who is otherwise eligible to receive  
23 an award under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program  
24 and who is accepted and enrolls as a student in the U.S. Air  
25 Force Academy, the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval  
26 Academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, or the U.S. Merchant  
27 Marine Academy shall receive a fixed award calculated by using  
28 the average matriculation and fee calculation for full-time  
29 attendance at a public postsecondary education institution at  
30 the comparable level.

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

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

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