

By Senator Sullivan

22-566-02

See HB 69

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to student financial  
3           assistance; creating s. 240.4061, F.S.;  
4           creating the Jumping on the Educational  
5           Bandwagon Scholarship Loan Program; providing a  
6           purpose; defining eligible institutions and  
7           programs of study; authorizing summer term  
8           receipt of funds; authorizing part-time  
9           enrollment; specifying summer institutes to be  
10          developed by the Department of Education;  
11          providing eligibility criteria; providing for  
12          repayment of a scholarship loan; providing a  
13          definition; providing renewal and restoration  
14          requirements; setting a limit upon repayment  
15          authority; providing for an annual  
16          appropriation; authorizing the Department of  
17          Education to adopt rules; providing an  
18          effective date.

19  
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21  
22           Section 1. Section 240.4061, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24           240.4061 Jumping on the Educational Bandwagon  
25 Scholarship Loan Program.--The Jumping on the Educational  
26 Bandwagon (JEB) Scholarship Loan Program is created to be  
27 administered by the Department of Education. The primary  
28 purpose of the program is to attract capable and promising  
29 high school and college students to the teaching profession by  
30 offering scholarship loans and to provide an academically and

31

1 culturally enriched program that extends beyond the regular  
2 college program.

3 (1) To the extent that funds are provided annually by  
4 the Legislature in the General Appropriations Act specifically  
5 for the purposes of this section, the Department of Education  
6 shall:

7 (a) Provide JEB Scholarship Loan Program participants  
8 with a scholarship loan to be used at a state postsecondary  
9 education institution or an independent postsecondary  
10 education institution as defined by s. 240.605 for enrollment  
11 in a course of study leading to a degree from a state-approved  
12 teacher preparation program.

13 1. A recipient of a scholarship loan under the JEB  
14 Scholarship Loan Program who enrolls in an eligible program of  
15 study at a state university or eligible independent  
16 postsecondary education institution is eligible for an annual  
17 award equal to the amount required to pay the average cost of  
18 full-time tuition and fees at a state university, plus an  
19 education allowance.

20 2. A recipient of a scholarship loan under the JEB  
21 Scholarship Loan Program who enrolls in an associate in arts  
22 degree program at a community college which is transferable to  
23 a state-approved teacher preparation program is eligible for  
24 an annual award equal to the amount required to pay the  
25 average cost of full-time tuition and fees at a community  
26 college, plus an education allowance.

27 3. A student may use an award for summer-term  
28 enrollment if funds are available.

29 4. An award recipient who is enrolled less than  
30 full-time shall be awarded a prorated amount.

31

1           5. A student may participate in the program for up to  
2 110 percent of the number of college credit hours required for  
3 completion of the teacher preparation program.

4           (b) Conduct the following summer institutes, developed  
5 and coordinated by the Department of Education, to enhance the  
6 campus program and give insights into the challenges facing  
7 these students when they enter the classroom:

8           1. Rising sophomore participants shall participate in  
9 a "discovery trip" across Florida, with seminars that focus on  
10 multicultural education and diversity.

11           2. Rising junior participants shall participate in a  
12 seminar on classroom management and teacher leadership which  
13 shall be staffed by outstanding teachers, identified by the  
14 Department of Education, who shall work with small groups of  
15 JEB Scholarship Loan Program participants.

16           3. Rising senior participants shall participate in an  
17 orientation week designed to give participants an introduction  
18 to the school system community and an understanding of the  
19 overall operation of a school district. The orientation week  
20 may be followed by a paid internship provided by the school  
21 district.

22           4. The department may compensate school district staff  
23 who serve as staff in summer institute programs.

24           (2) To be eligible to receive an award from the JEB  
25 Scholarship Loan Program, an applicant must:

26           (a) Meet the general requirements for student  
27 eligibility for state financial aid pursuant to s. 240.404,  
28 except as otherwise provided in this section.

29           (b) Be enrolled in an associate in arts degree program  
30 that is transferable to a state-approved teacher preparation  
31 program or be enrolled in a state-approved teacher preparation

1 program for a minimum of 6 semester hours or the equivalent  
2 per term.  
3 (c) If applying as a high school senior:  
4 1. Have earned a minimum cumulative grade point  
5 average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or the equivalent, in high  
6 school courses recommended by the State Board of Community  
7 Colleges and adopted by the Board of Regents as  
8 college-preparatory courses.  
9 2. Have received a score of at least 970 on the  
10 combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic  
11 Assessment Test or an equivalent score on the American College  
12 Test.  
13 (d) If applying as a college student, have earned the  
14 equivalent of a grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale for  
15 all postsecondary education work attempted.  
16 (e) Declare the intent to complete one-half year of  
17 teaching service in a publicly funded school for each  
18 semester, or its equivalent, for which a scholarship loan is  
19 received pursuant to this section. For purposes of this  
20 section, the term "publicly funded school" means a school that  
21 receives at least 75 percent of its operating costs from  
22 governmental agencies, including schools that operate  
23 educational programs under contract with a public school  
24 district or the Department of Education.  
25 (f) Declare the intent to repay the scholarship loan  
26 with teaching service within 7 years after completion of an  
27 approved teacher preparation program.  
28 (g) To receive a renewal award:  
29 1. Have earned the equivalent of a grade point average  
30 of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale for all postsecondary education work  
31 attempted.

1           2. Have completed annually, during the terms for which  
2 a scholarship loan was received, a minimum of 12 credits per  
3 term for full-time assistance or a minimum of 6 credits per  
4 term for part-time assistance, or the equivalent.

5  
6 If, at any time during the eligibility period, a student's  
7 grades are insufficient to renew the scholarship, the student  
8 may restore eligibility by improving the grade point average  
9 to the required level. A student is eligible for such a  
10 restoration only once.

11           (3) A scholarship loan recipient may receive loan  
12 repayment credit for teaching service rendered at any time  
13 during the scheduled repayment period. However, such repayment  
14 credit applies only to the current principal and accrued  
15 interest balance that remains at the time the repayment credit  
16 is earned. A scholarship loan recipient shall not be  
17 reimbursed for previous cash payments of principal and  
18 interest. Any scholarship loan recipient who fails to teach in  
19 a Florida publicly funded school as specified in paragraph  
20 (2)(e) is responsible for repaying the loan plus accrued  
21 interest.

22           (a) A scholarship loan must be repaid within 10 years  
23 after completion of a program of study.

24           (b) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
25 regarding repayment schedules and applicable interest rates  
26 under ss. 240.451 and 240.465.

27           (c) An award recipient who is unable to fulfill the  
28 teaching requirement due to his or her death or permanent  
29 disability is not required to repay the funds awarded pursuant  
30 to this section.

31

1           (d) Funds repaid according to this section shall be  
2 deposited in the State Student Financial Assistance Trust  
3 Fund.

4           (4) The Legislature shall annually appropriate an  
5 amount sufficient to carry out the provisions of this section  
6 which shall include funds for the participation of 500  
7 students annually. Funds appropriated specifically for the JEB  
8 Scholarship Loan Program shall be deposited in the State  
9 Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund.

10           (5) The Department of Education may adopt rules  
11 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 necessary to administer  
12 this section.

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

14  
15           \*\*\*\*\*

16           LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

17           Creates the Jumping on the Educational Bandwagon (JEB)  
18           Scholarship Loan Program to attract high school and  
19           college students to the teaching profession by offering  
20           scholarship loans. Provides for summer institutes to  
21           enhance teacher preparation programs. Provides for  
22           administration of the program by the Department of  
23           Education. Provides student eligibility and scholarship  
24           loan repayment criteria. Provides for an annual  
25           appropriation.