

By Representative Weissman

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to students in community
3 college aviation programs; creating a low
4 interest rate loan program; providing maximum
5 loan amounts and the interest rate on loans;
6 providing eligibility criteria; providing for
7 loan repayment; providing an effective date.
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9 WHEREAS, vocational programs offered through community
10 colleges are intended to be cost-effective preparations for
11 participants to receive training that will enable them to
12 become productive members of the workforce, and
13 WHEREAS, students in aviation programs such as pilot
14 training and aviation maintenance incur high expenses not
15 customarily experienced by students in other programs, and
16 WHEREAS, the high cost of aviation programs denies
17 access to these programs to qualified individuals who are
18 economically disadvantaged, and
19 WHEREAS, minorities and women are underrepresented in
20 community college aviation programs, and
21 WHEREAS, low interest rate loans would provide equal
22 opportunities for participants, and
23 WHEREAS, there is a great need for additional workers
24 trained in aviation programs and it is a benefit to the
25 aviation industry to have a qualified workforce representing
26 the people of Florida, and
27 WHEREAS, aviation is vital to sustaining Florida's
28 economy, NOW, THEREFORE,
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30 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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1 Section 1. There is created a low interest rate loan
2 program for students enrolled in aviation programs in
3 community colleges. Funds shall be made available to such
4 students according to the following criteria:
5 (1) A student is eligible for a loan as
6 follows: during a student's first term in an aviation
7 program, an amount equal to 30 percent of tuition, fees, and
8 costs; during a student's second term in an aviation program,
9 an amount up to 50 percent of tuition, fees, and costs; during
10 a student's third term in an aviation program, an amount up to
11 70 percent of tuition, fees, and costs; and during a student's
12 fourth and any subsequent term in an aviation program, an
13 amount up to 90 percent of tuition, fees, and costs. A loan
14 must be repaid beginning no later than 6 months after the
15 student leaves the program, and interest on the loan shall be
16 at the rate of 3 percent. Loans shall be subject to
17 availability of funds. If funds are insufficient to make loans
18 available to students in the full amount authorized by this
19 act, a community college shall make loans to all eligible
20 students on a pro rata basis.
21 (2) In order to maintain eligibility for a low
22 interest rate loan following the first term in an aviation
23 program, a student must:
24 (a) Be enrolled for at least 6 semester credit hours
25 or the equivalent per term.
26 (b) Maintain a grade point average of no less than 3.0
27 in aviation classes, including flight classes.
28 (c) Be making satisfactory progress, as determined by
29 standards of the respective community college, toward
30 successful completion of the aviation program.
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1 (d) If enrolled in a pilot training program, be able
2 to hold a second-class medical certificate issued by an
3 aviation medical examiner.

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

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7 HOUSE SUMMARY

8 Creates a low interest rate loan program for aviation
9 students in community colleges. Prescribes maximum loan
10 amounts and the interest rate on loans. Requires certain
11 academic and other criteria to be met for continued
12 eligibility.
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