By Senator Miller

43-1445A-03

1   A bill to be entitled

2   An act relating to the Florida Public Student

3   Assistance Grant Program; amending s. 1009.50,

4   F.S.; amending criteria for receiving a grant;

5   amending criteria for determining the minimum

6   and maximum amounts that may be awarded;

7   providing an appropriation; providing an

8   effective date.

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

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12   Section 1. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 1009.50,

13 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

14   1009.50 Florida Public Student Assistance Grant

15 Program; eligibility for grants.--

16   (2)(a) State student assistance grants through the

17 program may be made only to degree-seeking students who enroll

18 in at least 3 6 semester hours, or the equivalent per term,

19 and who meet the general requirements for student eligibility

20 as provided in s. 1009.40, except as otherwise provided in

21 this section. The grants shall be awarded annually for the

22 amount of demonstrated unmet need for the cost of education

23 and may not exceed an amount equal to the average prior

24 academic year cost of tuition fees, and other registration

25 fees, and assigned books and supplies for 40 30 credit hours

26 at state universities or such other amount as specified in the

27 General Appropriations Act, to any recipient. A demonstrated

28 unmet need of less than $100 $200 shall render the applicant

29 ineligible for a state student assistance grant. Recipients of

30 the grants must have been accepted at a state university or

31 community college authorized by Florida law. A student is

1 eligible for the award for 125 ~~110~~ percent of the number of

2 credit hours required to complete the program in which

3 enrolled, except as otherwise provided in s. 1009.40(3).

4   (b) A student applying for a Florida public student

5 assistance grant shall be required to apply for the Pell

6 Grant. The Pell Grant entitlement shall be considered when

7 conducting an assessment of the financial resources available

8 to each student.

9   (c) Priority in the distribution of grant moneys shall

10 be given to students with the lowest total family resources,

11 in accordance with a nationally recognized system of need

12 analysis. Using the system of need analysis, the department

13 shall establish a maximum expected family contribution. An

14 institution may not make a grant from this program to a

15 student whose expected family contribution exceeds the level

16 established by the department. An institution may not impose

17 additional criteria to determine a student's eligibility to

18 receive a grant award.

19   (d) Each participating institution shall report, to

20 the department by the established date, the eligible students

21 to whom grant moneys are disbursed each academic term. Each

22 institution shall also report to the department necessary

23 demographic and eligibility data for such students.

24   (3) Based on the unmet financial need of an eligible

25 applicant, the amount of a Florida public student assistance

26 grant must be between$100~~$200~~ and the weighted average of

27 the cost of tuition and other registration fees for 40 ~~30~~

28 credit hours at state universities per academic year or the

29 amount specified in the General Appropriations Act.

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1   Section 2. The sum of $30 million is appropriated from

2 the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Education for

3 the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act.

4   Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.

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7   SENATE SUMMARY

8 Amends the eligibility criteria for receiving a grant
under the Florida Public Student Assistance Grant

9 Program. Amends criteria for determining the minimum and
maximum amounts that may be awarded. Provides an

10 appropriation.

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