

By the Committee on Education; and Senators Aronberg and Bullard

304-2139-04

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to student financial  
3           assistance; creating s. 1009.892, F.S.;  
4           creating the Innovation Florida Scholarships  
5           for Developing High-Tech Jobs Program;  
6           authorizing need-based scholarships for  
7           students enrolled in certified degree programs  
8           in targeted employment areas at Florida  
9           postsecondary educational institutions;  
10          providing for administration and funding of the  
11          program; providing student eligibility  
12          requirements for initial and renewal awards;  
13          providing for the adoption of rules; providing  
14          an appropriation; providing an effective date.

15  
16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

17  
18           Section 1. Section 1009.892, Florida Statutes, is  
19 created to read:

20           1009.892 Innovation Florida Scholarships for  
21 Developing High-Tech Jobs Program.--

22           (1) This section may be cited as the "Innovation  
23 Florida Scholarships for Developing High-Tech Jobs Act."

24           (2) The Innovation Florida Scholarships for Developing  
25 High-Tech Jobs Program is created to provide need-based  
26 financial assistance to any graduate of a high school in this  
27 state who merits recognition of high academic achievement and  
28 who enrolls in a certified degree program at an eligible  
29 postsecondary educational institution within 3 years after  
30 graduation from high school.

31           (3) As used in this section, the term:

- 1           (a) "Certified degree program" means a degree program  
2 that:  
3           1. Is certified by the Department of Education.  
4           2. Addresses the need for support of degree programs  
5 in targeted employment areas.  
6           3. Includes an internship component as described in  
7 this section.  
8           (b) "Targeted employment" means employment in any of  
9 the following business areas:  
10           1. Advanced manufacturing, including the following:  
11           a. Automotive and electronics.  
12           b. Aerospace technology.  
13           c. Robotics.  
14           d. Engineering design technology.  
15           2. Life sciences, including the following:  
16           a. Orthopedics or medical devices.  
17           b. Biomedical research or development.  
18           c. Pharmaceutical manufacturing.  
19           d. Agribusiness.  
20           e. Nanotechnology or molecular manufacturing.  
21           3. Information technology, including the following:  
22           a. Informatics.  
23           b. Certified network administration.  
24           c. Software development.  
25           d. Fiber optics.  
26           4. High-technology logistics, including the following:  
27           a. High-technology distribution.  
28           b. Efficient and effective flow and storage of goods,  
29 services, or information.  
30           c. Intermodal ports.  
31

1           (4) The Department of Education shall administer the  
2 Innovation Florida Scholarships for Developing High-Tech Jobs  
3 Program according to rules and procedures established by the  
4 State Board of Education. The department must advertise the  
5 availability of the scholarship program and must notify  
6 students, teachers, parents, guidance counselors, and  
7 principals or other relevant school administrators of the  
8 criteria and application procedures. The department must begin  
9 this process of notification no later than January 1 of each  
10 year.

11           (5) Funds for the Innovation Florida Scholarships for  
12 Developing High-Tech Jobs Program shall be appropriated  
13 annually in the General Appropriations Act.

14           (a) If funds appropriated are not adequate to provide  
15 the maximum allowable award to each eligible applicant, awards  
16 must be prorated to each eligible applicant using the same  
17 percentage reduction.

18           (b) Notwithstanding s. 216.301, if all funds allocated  
19 to the Innovative Florida Scholarships for Developing  
20 High-Tech Jobs Program are not used in any fiscal year, up to  
21 20 percent of the total allocation may be carried forward and  
22 used for awards in the following year.

23           (6) The department shall issue awards from the  
24 scholarship program annually. Annual awards may be for up to  
25 45 semester credit hours or the equivalent for the amount of  
26 demonstrated unmet need for the cost of education, not to  
27 exceed an amount equal to the average cost of tuition, fees,  
28 and assigned books and supplies for the prior academic year at  
29 state universities or such other amount as specified in the  
30 General Appropriations Act. A demonstrated unmet need of less  
31 than \$100 shall render the applicant ineligible for a

1 scholarship. Before the registration period each semester, the  
2 department shall transmit payment for each award to the  
3 president or director of the postsecondary educational  
4 institution, or his or her representative, except that the  
5 department may withhold payment if the receiving institution  
6 fails to report or to make refunds to the department as  
7 required in this section.

8 (a) Within 30 days after the end of regular  
9 registration each semester, the educational institution shall  
10 certify to the department the eligibility status of each  
11 student who receives an award. After the end of the drop and  
12 add period, an institution is not required to reevaluate or  
13 revise a student's eligibility status, but must make a refund  
14 to the department if a student who receives an award  
15 disbursement terminates enrollment for any reason during an  
16 academic term and a refund is permitted by the institution's  
17 refund policy.

18 (b) An institution that receives funds from the  
19 program shall certify to the department the amount of funds  
20 disbursed to each student and shall remit to the department  
21 any undisbursed advances within 60 days after the end of  
22 regular registration.

23 (c) Each institution that receives moneys through this  
24 program shall prepare an annual report that includes an annual  
25 financial audit conducted by an independent certified public  
26 accountant or the Auditor General. The report must include an  
27 audit of the institution's administration of the program and a  
28 complete accounting of the moneys for the program. This report  
29 must be submitted to the department annually by March 31. The  
30 department may conduct its own annual audit of an  
31 institution's administration of the program. The department

1 may request a refund of any moneys overpaid to the institution  
2 for the program. The department may suspend or revoke an  
3 institution's eligibility to receive future moneys for the  
4 program if the department finds that an institution has not  
5 complied with this section. The institution must remit within  
6 60 days any refund requested in accordance with this  
7 subsection.

8 (7)(a) A student enrolled in 6 to 8 semester credit  
9 hours may receive up to one-half of the maximum award; a  
10 student enrolled in 9 to 11 credit hours may receive up to  
11 three-fourths of the maximum award; and a student enrolled in  
12 12 or more credit hours may receive up to the full award.

13 (b) If a recipient transfers from one eligible  
14 institution to another and continues to meet eligibility  
15 requirements, the award must be transferred with the student.

16 (c) A student may use an award for summer term  
17 enrollment if funds are available.

18 (d) Funds from a scholarship may not be used to pay  
19 for remedial or college-preparatory coursework.

20 (8) To be eligible for an initial award, a student  
21 must:

22 (a) Be a resident of this state as defined in s.  
23 1009.40 and rules of the State Board of Education.

24 (b) Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its  
25 equivalent as described in s. 1003.43 or s. 1003.45 unless:

26 1. The student is enrolled full-time in the early  
27 admission program of an eligible postsecondary educational  
28 institution or completes a home education program according to  
29 s. 1002.41; or

1           2. The student earns a high school diploma from an  
2 out-of-state school while living with a parent who is on  
3 military or public service assignment away from Florida.

4           (c) Have achieved a cumulative grade point average of  
5 at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent in high school  
6 courses designated by the Department of Education, unless the  
7 student has attended a home education program according to s.  
8 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12, in which case the student  
9 must have attained at least the score identified by rules of  
10 the Department of Education on the combined verbal and  
11 quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the  
12 Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic  
13 Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an  
14 equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program.

15           (d) Be accepted by and enroll in a Florida public or  
16 independent postsecondary educational institution identified  
17 by the Department of Education.

18           (e) Be enrolled for at least 6 semester credit hours  
19 or the equivalent in quarter hours or clock hours.

20           (f) Have not been convicted of a felony offense,  
21 unless the student's civil rights have been restored by the  
22 Governor and Cabinet sitting as the Board of Executive  
23 Clemency. This paragraph does not apply to an offense for  
24 which adjudication of guilt is withheld.

25           (g) Apply for a Pell Grant, the entitlement to which  
26 shall be considered when conducting an assessment of the  
27 financial resources available to each student.

28           (h) Apply for a scholarship from the program by the  
29 time of high school graduation.

30           (9) A student is eligible to accept an initial award  
31 for 3 years following high school graduation and to accept a

1 renewal award for 7 years following high school graduation. A  
2 student who applies for an award by the time of high school  
3 graduation and who meets all other eligibility requirements,  
4 but who does not accept his or her award, may reapply during  
5 subsequent application periods for 3 years after high school  
6 graduation. For a student who enlists in the United States  
7 Armed Forces immediately after completion of high school, the  
8 3-year eligibility period for his or her initial award shall  
9 begin upon the date of separation from active duty. For a  
10 student who is receiving an Innovation Florida Scholarship and  
11 discontinues his or her education to enlist in the United  
12 States Armed Forces, the remainder of his or her 7-year  
13 renewal period shall commence upon the date of separation from  
14 active duty.

15 (10) Eligibility for renewal awards shall be based on  
16 continued academic achievement of a cumulative grade point  
17 average of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent by  
18 the student at the eligible institution, continued eligibility  
19 for financial assistance pursuant to this section, and  
20 participation of the student for at least one summer during  
21 the course of the student's postsecondary education in an  
22 internship program that is relevant to at least one of the  
23 areas of targeted employment as defined in this section. A  
24 student must work a minimum of 160 hours during the summer  
25 internship and the internship must be completed before the  
26 start of the student's senior year.

27 (11) A postsecondary educational institution with a  
28 certified degree program may provide a grant to an employer  
29 that hires a student in the certified degree program to work  
30 in an area of targeted employment as part of a summer  
31 internship program approved by the institution for wages paid

1 to the student, not to exceed \$500 per student per summer. An  
2 employer that receives a grant under this subsection must pay  
3 each student in the internship program wages at a rate that is  
4 at least 120 percent of the federal minimum wage.

5 (12) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
6 under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this section.

7 Section 2. There is appropriated from the General  
8 Revenue Fund to the Department of Education for fiscal year  
9 2004-2005 the sum of \$30 million to implement the provisions  
10 of this act.

11 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.

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13 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
14 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
15 Senate Bill 1580

16 The Committee Substitute changed the date by which the annual  
17 audit must be submitted to March 31 to comply with Florida's  
single audit date.

18 The Committee Substitute requires students to apply for a Pell  
19 Grant as part of the determination of financial need for  
participation in the Innovation Florida Scholarship Program.

20 The Committee Substitute extends the time period for initial  
21 use and for renewal for students who enlist in the military.

22 The Committee Substitute clarifies the date by which a  
23 recipient of the Innovation Florida Scholarship must have  
completed the required internship.

24 The Committee Substitute amends the fiscal year of the  
25 appropriation to the 2004-2005 fiscal year.