

By Senator Miller

18-1853-04

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, 2004.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Amends the eligibility criteria for receiving a grant  
under the Florida Public Student Assistance Grant  
Program. Amends criteria for determining the minimum and  
maximum amounts that may be awarded. Provides an  
appropriation.