By the Committee on Education

304-1786-04

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A bill to be entitled An act relating to education; amending s. 216.136, F.S.; requiring the Education Estimating Conference to determine the number of students qualified for the Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program; amending s. 1007.24, F.S.; providing for colleges and schools that are eligible to participate in the Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program to use the statewide course numbering system; amending s. 1009.21, F.S.; clarifying the definition of the term "dependent child" and defining the term "initial undergraduate enrollment" for purposes of determining a student's resident status for tuition purposes; requiring that a student maintain legal residence in the state for 12 months before initial undergraduate enrollment in order to qualify as a resident; requiring that an institution make certain determinations concerning a student's status as a dependent and state resident; clarifying requirements with respect to a dependent child living with an adult relative, to conform; providing requirements for reclassifying a student as a resident for tuition purposes; amending s. 1009.40, F.S.; providing residency requirements for eligibility for a grant under the Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program; limiting the tuition-assistance grants that may be awarded to students attending nonpublic

institutions; amending s. 1009.89, F.S.; revising requirements for the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules to administer accountability and performance requirements; amending s. 1009.891, F.S.; providing for nonprofit colleges and universities to participate in the Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program; providing requirements for an institution that has an articulation agreement with the State Board of Education; providing certain limitations on program participation; authorizing the State Board of Education to adopt rules to establish certain compliance timeframes and to administer accountability and performance requirements; requiring a person receiving an access grant to pay tuition; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 216.136, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

216.136 Consensus estimating conferences; duties and principals.--

- (4) EDUCATION ESTIMATING CONFERENCE. --
- (a) Duties.--The Education Estimating Conference shall develop such official information relating to the state public and private educational system, including forecasts of student enrollments: the number of students qualified for state

financial aid programs, and for the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program, and the Access to 3 Better Learning and Education Grant Program and the appropriation required to fund the full award amounts for each 4 5 program; fixed capital outlay needs; and Florida Education 6 Finance Program formula needs, which as the conference 7 determines is needed for the state planning and budgeting system. The conference's initial projections of enrollments in 9 public schools shall be forwarded by the conference to each 10 school district no later than 2 months prior to the start of 11 the regular session of the Legislature. Each school district may, in writing, request adjustments to the initial 12 13 projections. Any adjustment request shall be submitted to the conference no later than 1 month prior to the start of the 14 regular session of the Legislature and shall be considered by 15 the principals of the conference. A school district may amend 16 its adjustment request, in writing, during the first 3 weeks 17 of the legislative session, and such amended adjustment 18 request shall be considered by the principals of the 19 20 conference. For any adjustment so requested, the district 21 shall indicate and explain, using definitions adopted by the conference, the components of anticipated enrollment changes 22 that correspond to continuation of current programs with 23 24 workload changes; program improvement; program reduction or elimination; initiation of new programs; and any other 25 information that may be needed by the Legislature. For public 26 schools, the conference shall submit its full-time equivalent 27 28 student consensus estimate to the Legislature no later than 1 29 month after the start of the regular session of the 30 Legislature. No conference estimate may be changed without the 31 agreement of the full conference.

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Section 2. Subsection (6) of section 1007.24, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1007.24 Statewide course numbering system.--

(6) Nonpublic colleges and schools that are fully accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education and that are either eligible to participate in the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program or the Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program, or have been issued a regular license pursuant to s. 1005.31, may participate in the statewide course numbering system pursuant to this section. Participating colleges and schools shall bear the costs associated with inclusion in the system and shall meet the terms and conditions for institutional participation in the system. The department shall adopt a fee schedule that includes the expenses incurred through data processing, faculty task force travel and per diem, and staff and clerical support time. Such fee schedule may differentiate between the costs associated with initial course inclusion in the system and costs associated with subsequent course maintenance in the system. Decisions regarding initial course inclusion and subsequent course maintenance must be made within 360 days after submission of the required materials and fees by the institution. The Department of Education may select a date by which colleges must submit requests for new courses to be included, and may delay review of courses submitted after that date until the next year's cycle. Any college that currently participates in the system, and that participated in the system prior to July 1, 1986, shall not be required to pay the costs associated with initial course inclusion in the system. 31 | Fees collected for participation in the statewide course

 numbering system pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be deposited in the Institutional Assessment Trust Fund. Any nonpublic, nonprofit college or university that is eligible to participate in the statewide course numbering system shall not be required to pay the costs associated with participation in the system. No college or school shall record student transcripts or document courses offered by the college or school in accordance with this subsection unless the college or school is actually participating in the system pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education. Any college or school deemed to be in violation of this section shall be subject to the provisions of s. 1005.38.

Section 3. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section 1009.21, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1009.21 Determination of resident status for tuition purposes.—Students shall be classified as residents or nonresidents for the purpose of assessing tuition in community colleges and state universities.

- (1) As used in this section, the term:
- (a) The term "Dependent child" means any person, whether or not living with his or her parent, who is eligible to be claimed by his or her parent as a dependent under the federal income tax code and who receives at least 51 percent of the true cost-of-living expenses from his or her parent.
- (b) The term "Institution of higher education" means any public community college or state university.
- (c) A "Legal resident" or "resident" is a person who has maintained his or her residence in this state for the preceding year, has purchased a home which is occupied by him or her as his or her residence, or has established a domicile in this state pursuant to s. 222.17.

- (d) The term "Parent" means the natural or adoptive parent or legal guardian of a dependent child.
- (e) A "Resident for tuition purposes" is a person who qualifies as provided in subsection (2) for the in-state tuition rate; a "nonresident for tuition purposes" is a person who does not qualify for the in-state tuition rate.
- (f) "Initial undergraduate enrollment" means the first day of class at an institution of higher education.
 - (2)(a) To qualify as a resident for tuition purposes:
- 1. A person or, if that person is a dependent child, his or her parent or parents must have established legal residence in this state and must have maintained legal residence in this state for at least 12 months immediately prior to his or her <u>initial undergraduate enrollment at an</u> institution of higher education qualification.
- 2. Every applicant for admission to an institution of higher education shall be required to make a statement as to his or her length of residence in the state and, further, shall establish that his or her presence or, if the applicant is a dependent child, the presence of his or her parent or parents in the state currently is, and during the requisite 12-month qualifying period was, for the purpose of maintaining a bona fide domicile, rather than for the purpose of maintaining a mere temporary residence or abode incident to enrollment in an institution of higher education.
- 3. Each institution of higher education must determine whether an applicant granted admission to that institution is a dependent child.
- 4. Each institution of higher education must affirmatively determine that an applicant granted admission to that institution as a Florida resident meets the residency

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requirements of this section at the time of initial undergraduate enrollment.

- (b) However, with respect to a dependent child living with an adult relative other than the child's parent, such child may qualify as a resident for tuition purposes if the adult relative is a legal resident who has maintained legal residence in this state for at least 12 months immediately prior to the child's initial undergraduate enrollment at an institution of higher education qualification, provided the child has resided continuously with such relative for the 5 years immediately prior to the child's initial undergraduate enrollment at an institution of higher education qualification, during which time the adult relative has exercised day-to-day care, supervision, and control of the child.
- The legal residence of a dependent child whose parents are divorced, separated, or otherwise living apart will be deemed to be this state if either parent is a legal resident of this state, regardless of which parent is entitled to claim, and does in fact claim, the minor as a dependent pursuant to federal individual income tax provisions.
- (d) An undergraduate individual who is classified as a nonresident for tuition purposes may become eligible for reclassification as a resident for tuition purposes only if that individual, or his or her parent if that individual is a dependent child, supports permanent residency in this state by presenting documentation of nontemporary, full-time employment in this state and domicile in this state for 12 months while not enrolled at an institution of higher education.
- (3) An individual may shall not be classified as a 31 resident for tuition purposes and, thus, is shall not be

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eligible to receive the in-state tuition rate until he or she has provided such evidence related to legal residence and its duration or, if that person is a dependent child, documentation of his or her parent's legal residence and its duration, as well as documentation confirming his or her status as a dependent child, as may be required by law and by officials of the institution of higher education from which he or she seeks the in-state tuition rate.

Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 1009.40, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

1009.40 General requirements for student eligibility for state financial aid. --

- (1)(a) The general requirements for eligibility of students for state financial aid awards consist of the following:
- 1. Achievement of the academic requirements of and acceptance at a state university or community college; a nursing diploma school approved by the Florida Board of Nursing; a Florida college, university, or community college which is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the State Board of Education; any Florida institution the credits of which are acceptable for transfer to state universities; any technical center; or any private technical institution accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the State Board of Education.
- Residency in this state for no less than 1 year preceding the award of aid for a program established pursuant to s. 1009.50, s. 1009.51, s. 1009.52, s. 1009.53, s. 1009.54, s. 1009.56, s. 1009.57, s. 1009.60, s. 1009.62, s. 1009.63, s. 31 | 1009.68, s. 1009.72, s. 1009.73, s. 1009.76, s. 1009.77, or s.

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1009.89, or s. 1009.891. Residency in this state must be for purposes other than to obtain an education. Resident status for purposes of receiving state financial aid awards or tuition assistance grants shall be determined in the same manner as resident status for tuition purposes pursuant to s. 1009.21 and rules of the State Board of Education implementing s. 1009.21.

- 3. Submission of certification attesting to the accuracy, completeness, and correctness of information provided to demonstrate a student's eligibility to receive state financial aid awards. Falsification of such information shall result in the denial of any pending application and revocation of any award currently held to the extent that no further payments shall be made. Additionally, students who knowingly make false statements in order to receive state financial aid awards shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree subject to the provisions of s. 837.06 and shall be required to return all state financial aid awards wrongfully obtained.
- (b)1. Eligibility for the renewal of undergraduate financial aid awards shall be evaluated at the end of the second semester or third quarter of each academic year. condition for renewal, a student shall:
- a. Have earned a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale; and
- b. Have earned, for full-time study, 12 credits per term or the equivalent for the number of terms for which aid was received.
- 2. A student who earns the minimum number of credits required for renewal, but who fails to meet the minimum 2.0 31 cumulative grade point average, may be granted a probationary

 award for up to the equivalent of 1 academic year and shall be required to earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale by the end of the probationary period to be eligible for subsequent renewal. A student who receives a probationary award and who fails to meet the conditions for renewal by the end of his or her probationary period shall be ineligible to receive additional awards for the equivalent of 1 academic year following his or her probationary period. Each such student may, however, reapply for assistance during a subsequent application period and may be eligible for an award if he or she has earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

- 3. A student who fails to earn the minimum number of credits required for renewal shall lose his or her eligibility for renewal for a period equivalent to 1 academic year. However, the student may reapply during a subsequent application period and may be eligible for an award if he or she has earned a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- 4. Students who receive state student aid and subsequently fail to meet state academic progress requirements due to verifiable illness or other emergencies may be granted an exception from the academic requirements. Such students shall make a written appeal to the institution. The appeal shall include a description and verification of the circumstances. Verification of illness or other emergencies may include but not be limited to a physician's statement or written statement of a parent or college official. The institution shall recommend exceptions with necessary documentation to the department. The department may accept or deny such recommendations for exception from the institution.

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1 (5) A student attending a nonpublic for-profit or nonprofit institution is not eligible to receive more than one 2 3 state award that is a tuition-assistance grant.

Section 5. Section 1009.89, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.89 The William L. Boyd, IV, Florida resident access grants. --

- (1) The Legislature finds and declares that independent nonprofit colleges and universities eligible to participate in the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program are an integral part of the higher education system in this state and that a significant number of state residents choose this form of higher education. The Legislature further finds that a strong and viable system of independent nonprofit colleges and universities reduces the tax burden on the citizens of the state. Because the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program is not related to a student's financial need or other criteria upon which financial aid programs are based, it is the intent of the Legislature that the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program not be considered a financial aid program but rather a tuition assistance program for its citizens.
- (2) The William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program shall be administered by the Department of Education. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for the administration of the program.
- (3) The department shall issue through the program a William L. Boyd, IV, Florida resident access grant to any full-time degree-seeking undergraduate student registered at an independent nonprofit college or university which is 31 | located in and chartered by the state; which is accredited by

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the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; which grants baccalaureate degrees; which is not a Florida state university or Florida state community college; and which has a secular purpose, so long as the receipt of state aid by students at the institution would not have the primary effect of advancing or impeding religion or result in an excessive entanglement between the state and any religious sect; and which is an active participant in the statewide course numbering system as provided in s. 1007.24 or is a party to the articulation agreement between the independent colleges and universities in Florida and the State Board of Education. Any independent college or university that was eligible to receive tuition vouchers on January 1, 1989, and which continues to meet the criteria under which its eligibility was established, shall remain eligible to receive William L. Boyd, IV, Florida resident access grant payments.

- (4) The Legislature may place accountability and performance requirements in the General Appropriations Act, an act implementing the General Appropriations Act, or other legislation deemed appropriate as a condition for continued participation by an institution or individual student in the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement such requirements and may require the submission of data to the Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program.
- (5) (4) A person is eliqible to receive such William L. Boyd, IV, Florida resident access grant if:
- (a) He or she meets the general requirements, including residency, for student eligibility as provided in s. 31 | 1009.40, except as otherwise provided in this section; and

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- (b)1. He or she is enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student at an eligible college or university;
- 2. He or she is not enrolled in a program of study leading to a degree in theology or divinity; and
- 3. He or she is making satisfactory academic progress as defined by the college or university in which he or she is enrolled.
- (6)(5)(a) Funding for the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program shall be based on a formula composed of planned enrollment and the state cost of funding undergraduate enrollment at public institutions pursuant to s. 1011.90. The amount of the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida resident access grant issued to a full-time student shall be an amount as specified in the General Appropriations Act. The William L. Boyd, IV, Florida resident access grant may be paid on a prorated basis in advance of the registration period. The department shall make such payments to the college or university in which the student is enrolled for credit to the student's account for payment of tuition and fees. Institutions shall certify to the department the amount of funds disbursed to each student and shall remit to the department any undisbursed advances or refunds within 60 days of the end of regular registration. Students shall not be eligible to receive the award for more than 9 semesters or 14
- (b) If the combined amount of the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida resident access grant issued pursuant to this act and all other scholarships and grants for tuition or fees exceeds the amount charged to the student for tuition and fees, the department shall reduce the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida

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

resident access grant issued pursuant to this act by an amount equal to such excess.

(7)(6) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program shall be deposited in the State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund. Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the end of any fiscal year which has been allocated to the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program shall remain therein and shall be available for carrying out the purposes of this section. If the number of eligible students exceeds the total authorized in the General Appropriations Act, an institution may use its own resources to assure that each eligible student receives the full benefit of the grant amount authorized.

Section 6. Section 1009.891, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.891 The Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program.--

independent for-profit and nonprofit colleges and universities eligible to participate in the Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program are an integral part of the higher education system in this state and that a significant number of state residents choose this form of higher education. The Legislature further finds that strong, viable independent for-profit and nonprofit colleges and universities reduce the tax burden on the residents of the state. Because the Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program is not related to a student's financial need or other criteria upon which financial aid programs are based, it is the intent of the

Legislature that the Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program not be considered a financial aid program but rather a tuition assistance program for state residents.

- (2) The Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program shall be administered by the Department of Education. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for administering the program.
- (3)(a) The department shall issue an access grant to any full-time student seeking a baccalaureate degree who:
- 1. Is registered at a for-profit college or university that is located in and chartered by the state and that is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; or who
- 2. Is registered at a nonprofit college or university that is chartered out of the state, that has been located in the state for 10 years or more, and that is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, or the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, the Northwest Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities, or the Western Association of Schools and Colleges; or
- 3. Is registered at an institution that is licensed by the Commission for Independent Education, offers secular degrees, and is an active participant in an articulation agreement with the State Board of Education or has been an active participant in the statewide common course numbering system in s. 1007.24 for 5 years. The articulation agreement must ensure the uniform transferability of course credit between public and participating nonpublic institutions.

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Active participation in the statewide common course numbering system is defined as all of the institution's courses related to a secular baccalaureate degree, including the general education component, electives, and courses required for the secular degree, have been properly evaluated and approved and are currently listed in the statewide common course numbering system. Calculation of the 5 years of participation begins when the institution is listed by the Department of Education as a participating institution, but awards may be made only to students in secular baccalaureate degree programs having courses that comply with this subparagraph. The State Board of Education may establish by rule an appropriate timeframe for the courses associated with a new secular baccalaureate degree program at a participating institution to be brought into compliance with this subparagraph without affecting the eligibility of students in other degree programs.

- (b) Each institution qualifying under paragraph (a) must grant and Schools; that grants baccalaureate degrees; that is not be a Florida state university or Florida state community college; and have that has a secular purpose, if the receipt of state aid by students at the institution would not have the primary effect of advancing or impeding religion or result in an excessive entanglement between the state and any religious sect.
- (c) Institutions participating in the Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program may not participate in the Florida Resident Access Grant Program.
- (d) Institutions eligible for the Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program in the initial year of funding shall include only those for-profit colleges or 31 universities identified in this subsection. Nonprofit colleges

or universities identified in this subsection shall be eligible for financial support in the second year of funding.

- erformance requirements in the General Appropriations Act, an act implementing the General Appropriations Act, or other legislation deemed appropriate as a condition for continued participation by an institution or individual student in the Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement such requirements and may require the submission of data to the Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program.
- (5)(4) A person is eligible to receive an access grant if:
- (a) He or she meets the general requirements, including residency, for student eligibility as provided in s. 1009.40 and Rule 6c-7.005, Florida Administrative Code, except as otherwise provided in this section; and
- (b)1. He or she is enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student at an eligible college or university in a program of study leading to a baccalaureate degree;
- 2. He or she is not enrolled in a program of study leading to a degree in theology or divinity; and
- 3. He or she is making satisfactory academic progress as defined by the college or university in which he or she is enrolled.

The person must pay tuition and is not eligible to receive reimbursement for tuition from any government or private source.

(6)(5)(a) The amount of the access grant issued to a full-time student shall be an amount specified in the General

Appropriations Act. The access grant may be paid on a prorated basis in advance of the registration period. The department shall make payments to the college or university in which the student is enrolled for credit to the student's account for payment of tuition and fees. Institutions shall certify to the department the amount of funds disbursed to each student and shall remit to the department any undisbursed advances or refunds within 60 days after the end of regular registration. A student may not receive the award for more than 9 semesters or 14 quarters, except as otherwise provided in s. 1009.40(3).

(b) If the combined amount of the access grant issued pursuant to this section and all other scholarships and grants for tuition or fees exceeds the amount charged to the student for tuition and fees, the department shall reduce the grant issued under this section by an amount equal to the excess.

(7)(6) If the number of eligible students exceeds the total authorized in the General Appropriations Act, an institution may use its own resources to assure that each eligible student receives the full benefit of the grant amount authorized.

(8) (7) This section shall be implemented only to the extent specifically funded and authorized by law.

Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.

SENATE SUMMARY

Revises various eligibility requirements of the Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program and authorizes additional institutions to participate in the program. Clarifies provisions for determining a student's status as a dependent and as a state resident. Revises requirements of the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program. Authorizes the State Board of Education to adopt rules. (See bill for details.)