

# SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: Education Committee

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BILL: SB 1782

SPONSOR: Senator Clary

SUBJECT: Florida Bright Futures Scholarships

DATE: April 1, 2005

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Woodruff	O'Farrell	ED	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
2.	_____	_____	EA	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

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## I. Summary:

Beginning with students who enter the ninth grade in the 2005-2006 school year and thereafter, the bill would preclude a student who otherwise qualifies for a Bright Futures scholarship and enrolls in an early admissions program from receiving a Bright Futures scholarship payment until the student has earned a standard high school diploma or its equivalent. Students enrolled in grade nine or above in the 2004-2005 school year, who otherwise qualify for a Bright Futures scholarship and choose to enroll in an early admissions program, are not affected by the bill and may continue to receive payments from a Bright Futures scholarship.

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 1009.531, 1007.27, 1007.271, and 1011.62.

## II. Present Situation:

Section 1009.531, F.S., provides the student eligibility requirements for an initial Bright Futures scholarship award. To be eligible for any of the three types of award, a student must:

- Be a Florida resident
- Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its equivalent or:
  - Be enrolled full time in the early admission program of an eligible postsecondary institution or
  - Complete a home education program or
- Be accepted by and enroll in an eligible Florida institution for at least six semester hours
- Not have been found guilty of or entered a plea of nolo contendere to a felony charge
- Apply for a scholarship from the program by high school graduation.

Section 1007.27 (5), F.S., identifies early admission as a form of dual enrollment. Eligible students for early admission must enroll in a postsecondary institution on a full time basis in courses that are creditable toward the high school diploma and the associate or baccalaureate degree. Students so enrolled are exempt from the payment of registration, tuition, and laboratory fees. A student who is eligible for a Bright Futures scholarship may receive payment from Bright Futures. A school district may, but does not always, report dual enrolled students for FTE funding. Participating colleges and universities waive the tuition and fees but may receive FTE funding from the state.

Section 1007.271, F.S., establishes the dual enrollment program and defines early admission as a form of dual enrollment. Dual enrollment is the enrollment of an eligible secondary student or home education student in a postsecondary course(s) creditable toward a career certificate or an associate or baccalaureate degree. A student enrolled in a dual enrollment course (s) is exempt from the payment of registration, tuition, and laboratory fees. In addition, instructional materials assigned for use with dual enrollment courses are to be made available to public high school students free of charge. A student who is eligible for a Bright Futures scholarship may receive payment from Bright Futures, if the student is enrolled in an early admission program. A school district may, but does not always, report dual enrolled students for FTE funding. Participating colleges and universities waive the tuition and fees but may receive FTE funding from the state.

Section 1011.62, F.S., identifies how funds for the operation of public schools are to be allocated if the annual allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each district is not determined in the annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing the annual appropriations act. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of that section provides that students enrolled in dual enrollment instruction may be included in calculations of full-time equivalent student memberships for basic programs for grades 9 through 12 by a district school board. Such students may also be calculated as the proportional shares of full-time equivalent enrollments they generate for the community college or university conducting the dual enrollment instruction. Early admission students are considered dual enrollments for funding purposes. This paragraph also restates that dual enrolled students are exempt from the payment of registration, tuition, and laboratory fees.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

**Section 1:** The bill amends s. 1009.531 (1), F.S., to remove Bright Futures early admissions eligibility for students entering ninth grade in the 2005-06 academic year and thereafter.

**Section 2:** The bill amends s. 1007.27 (5), F.S. to remove Bright Futures early admissions eligibility for students entering ninth grade in the 2005-06 academic year and thereafter. These students will need to comply with the amended provisions of s. 1009.531(1) (b), F.S., which require that they receive a high school diploma or the equivalent prior to becoming eligible for Bright Futures. Early admission students would still be exempt from the payment of registration, tuition, and laboratory fees.

**Section 3:** The bill amends s. 1007.271 (2), (7), (8) and (13), F.S. to remove Bright Futures early admissions eligibility for students entering ninth grade in the 2005-06 academic year and thereafter. These students will need to comply with the amended provisions of s. 1009.531(1) (b), F.S., which require that they receive a high school diploma or its equivalent prior to becoming eligible for Bright Futures. Early admission students would still be exempt from the payment of registration, tuition, and laboratory fees.

**Section 4:** The bill amends s. 1011.62, F.S., to remove Bright Futures early admissions eligibility for students entering ninth grade in the 2005-06 academic year and thereafter. These students will need to comply with the amended provisions of s. 1009.531(1) (b), F.S., which require that they receive a high school diploma or its equivalent prior to becoming eligible for Bright Futures. Early admission students would still be exempt from the payment of registration, tuition, and laboratory fees.

The bill's effective date is July 1, 2005.

#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

#### **V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Currently, students may have a school district, community college, or university pay for the costs associated with being an early admission student and may also receive a Bright Futures scholarship, if the student qualifies. Beginning with students entering the ninth grade in 2005-2006, the bill would preclude students from receiving a Bright Futures scholarship until after the student has received a high school diploma or its equivalent.

It is not known what impact the bill would have on a student's decision to enter an early admission program.

This bill could have an impact on dual enrollments in private colleges because a student would not have the Bright Futures scholarship to pay for tuition; however, currently there is only one student dually enrolled in a public high school and a private college.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

According to the Department of Education, for the last five years of the program, out of 204,039 initial students receiving Bright Futures scholarships, 724 students were early admission students. This represents one-third of one percent of the total population of initial students receiving Bright Futures scholarships. Of these 724 students, only 21 received Bright Futures funds and were reported by the districts for FTE funding. Approximately \$34,500 was disbursed to those 21 students.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

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This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

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## **VIII. Summary of Amendments:**

None.

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