

By Senator Atwater

25-1354-05

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the Opportunity Scholarship

3 Program; amending s. 1002.38, F.S.; changing

4 the deadline by which a parent must notify the

5 Department of Education of the student's

6 acceptance into an eligible private school from

7 July 1 to September 15 of the first year in

8 which the student intends to use the

9 Opportunity Scholarship Program; providing an

10 effective date.

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

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14 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section

15 1002.38, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16 1002.38 Opportunity Scholarship Program.--

17 (2) OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.--A public

18 school student's parent may request and receive from the state

19 an opportunity scholarship for the student to enroll in and

20 attend a private school in accordance with the provisions of

21 this section if:

22 (b) The parent has obtained acceptance for admission

23 of the student to a private school eligible for the program

24 pursuant to subsection (4), and has notified the Department of

25 Education and the school district of the request for an

26 opportunity scholarship no later than September 15 ~~July 1~~ of

27 the first year in which the student intends to use the

28 scholarship.

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30 The provisions of this section shall not apply to a student

31 who is enrolled in a school operating for the purpose of

1 providing educational services to youth in Department of
2 Juvenile Justice commitment programs. For purposes of
3 continuity of educational choice, the opportunity scholarship
4 shall remain in force until the student returns to a public
5 school or, if the student chooses to attend a private school
6 the highest grade of which is grade 8, until the student
7 matriculates to high school and the public high school to
8 which the student is assigned is an accredited school with a
9 performance grade category designation of "C" or better.
10 However, at any time upon reasonable notice to the Department
11 of Education and the school district, the student's parent may
12 remove the student from the private school and place the
13 student in a public school, as provided in subparagraph
14 (3)(a)2.

15 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
16 law.

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19 SENATE SUMMARY

20 For purposes of receiving an Opportunity Scholarship,
21 changes the deadline by which a parent must notify the
22 Department of Education of a student's acceptance into an
23 eligible private school.
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