

By Senator Wise

5-540A-06

See HB 387

1                                   A bill to be entitled

2           An act relating to student financial

3           assistance; creating s. 1009.893, F.S.;

4           providing legislative intent; creating the

5           Florida Independent Collegiate Assistance Grant

6           Program to provide grants to certain students

7           who attend nonpublic institutions of higher

8           education and are enrolled in programs leading

9           to specified occupations; requiring the

10          Department of Education to administer the

11          program; providing eligibility requirements;

12          providing requirements for the criteria and

13          priorities for funding; defining the term

14          "eligible nonpublic institution of higher

15          education"; requiring the adoption of rules;

16          providing an effective date.

17

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

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20           Section 1. Section 1009.893, Florida Statutes, is

21 created to read:

22           1009.893 Florida Independent Collegiate Assistance

23 Grant Program.--

24           (1) The Legislature finds and declares that nonpublic

25 institutions eligible to participate in the Florida

26 Independent Collegiate Assistance Grant Program are an

27 integral part of the higher education system in this state.

28 The Legislature finds that a significant number of state

29 residents choose to pursue higher education at these

30 institutions and that these institutions and the students they

31 educate and train make a substantial contribution to the

1 development of the state's economy. The Legislature intends to  
2 create a grant program that is not based on a student's  
3 financial need or other criteria upon which most financial aid  
4 programs are based, but to create a tuition assistance program  
5 for state residents.

6 (2) There is created the Florida Independent  
7 Collegiate Assistance Grant Program, or FICA Grant Program, to  
8 be administered by the Department of Education.

9 (3) Subject to legislative appropriation, the  
10 department shall issue an access grant under the FICA Grant  
11 Program to any full-time student who:

12 (a) Meets the residency requirement as provided in s.  
13 1009.40.

14 (b) Is enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student  
15 in a Florida campus-based program at an eligible nonpublic  
16 institution of higher education and is seeking an associate or  
17 higher degree.

18 (c) Is enrolled in an undergraduate degree program  
19 that leads to employment in one of the top 15 occupations, in  
20 numbers of annual openings, as listed on the Agency for  
21 Workforce Innovation's Florida Statewide Targeted Occupations  
22 List at the time of initial enrollment.

23 (d) Is making satisfactory academic progress as  
24 defined by the nonpublic institution of higher education in  
25 which the student is enrolled.

26 (4) The criteria and priorities for funding shall be  
27 adopted annually by State Board of Education rule for the top  
28 15 occupations listed and shall match standard occupational  
29 classification titles on the Agency for Workforce Innovation's  
30 lists with Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP)  
31 codes for licensed training programs.

1           (5) As used in this section, the term "eligible  
2 nonpublic institution of higher education" means an  
3 institution:

4           (a) That is licensed by the Commission for Independent  
5 Education under chapter 1005, is accredited by an accrediting  
6 agency that is recognized by the United States Secretary of  
7 Education as a reliable authority as to the quality of  
8 education or training offered at its accredited institutions,  
9 and has established performance requirements for student  
10 achievement that include minimum objective quantitative  
11 standards, including completion rates and placement rates as  
12 determined by its accrediting agency.

13           (b) Whose students are ineligible to participate in  
14 the Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program and  
15 the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant  
16 Program.

17           (6) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
18 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 for implementation of  
19 the FICA Grant Program.

20           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.  
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