

1 residents choose to pursue higher education at these
2 institutions and that these institutions and the students they
3 educate and train make a substantial contribution to the
4 development of the state's economy. The Legislature intends to
5 create a grant program that is not based on a student's
6 financial need or other criteria upon which most financial aid
7 programs are based, but to create a tuition assistance program
8 for state residents.

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

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

15 (a) Meets the residency requirement as provided in s.
16 1009.40.

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

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

26 (d) Is making satisfactory academic progress as
27 defined by the nonpublic institution of higher education in
28 which the student is enrolled.

29 (4) The criteria and priorities for funding shall be
30 adopted annually by State Board of Education rule for the top
31 15 occupations listed and shall match standard occupational

1 classification titles on the Agency for Workforce Innovation's
2 lists with Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP)
3 codes for licensed training programs.

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

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

16 (b) That uses an assessment required in s.
17 1005.04(1)(b) and that has been recommended by the State Board
18 of Education.

19 (c) That participates in the Florida Education and
20 Training Placement Information Program pursuant to s. 1008.39.

21 (d) Whose students are ineligible to participate in
22 the Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program and
23 the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant
24 Program.

25 (e) That participates in the statewide course
26 numbering system under s. 1007.24.

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

30 (7) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and
31 Government Accountability shall assess methods used to

1 evaluate a student's ability to successfully complete the
2 course of study for which the student has applied before
3 accepting the student into the program, completion rates,
4 job-placement rates, and the method used by institutions to
5 assure the accuracy of the reported data. By December 31,
6 2007, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
7 Accountability shall submit an initial report to the President
8 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

10
11 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
12 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
13 Senate Bill 1016

14 This committee substitute provides:

15 Revises eligibility for participating private institutions of
16 higher education to add:

- 17 - The use of a reliable method of assessment
18 identified pursuant to s. 1005.04(1)(b) that the
19 State Board of Education has recommended;
- 20 - Participation in the Florida Education and Training
21 Placement Information Program; and
- 22 - Participation in the statewide course numbering
23 system.

24 Requires OPPAGA to assess methods used to evaluation student
25 success, completion rates, and job placement rates; and to
26 submit an initial report to the Senate President and House of
27 Representatives Speaker by December 31, 2007.
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