

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to student financial assistance; creating
 3 s. 1009.893, F.S.; providing legislative intent; creating
 4 the Florida Independent Collegiate Assistance Grant
 5 Program to provide grants to certain students who attend
 6 nonpublic institutions of higher education and are
 7 enrolled in programs leading to specified occupations;
 8 requiring the Department of Education to administer the
 9 program; providing eligibility requirements; providing
 10 requirements for the criteria and priorities for funding;
 11 defining the term "eligible nonpublic institution of
 12 higher education"; requiring the adoption of rules;
 13 providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1009.893, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1009.893 Florida Independent Collegiate Assistance Grant Program.--

(1) The Legislature finds and declares that nonpublic institutions eligible to participate in the Florida Independent Collegiate Assistance Grant Program are an integral part of the higher education system in this state. The Legislature finds that a significant number of state residents choose to pursue higher education at these institutions and that these institutions and the students they educate and train make a substantial contribution to the development of the state's

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

29 economy. The Legislature intends to create a grant program that
 30 is not based on a student's financial need or other criteria
 31 upon which most financial aid programs are based, but to create
 32 a tuition assistance program for state residents.

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

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

39 (a) Meets the residency requirement as provided in s.
 40 1009.40.

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

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

50 (d) Is making satisfactory academic progress as defined by
 51 the nonpublic institution of higher education in which the
 52 student is enrolled.

53 (4) The criteria and priorities for funding shall be
 54 adopted annually by State Board of Education rule for the top 15
 55 occupations listed and shall match standard occupational
 56 classification titles on the Agency for Workforce Innovation's

57 lists with Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes
 58 for licensed training programs.

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

61 (a) That is licensed by the Commission for Independent
 62 Education under chapter 1005, is accredited by an accrediting
 63 agency that is recognized by the United States Secretary of
 64 Education as a reliable authority as to the quality of education
 65 or training offered at its accredited institutions, and has
 66 established performance requirements for student achievement
 67 that include minimum objective quantitative standards, including
 68 completion rates and placement rates as determined by its
 69 accrediting agency.

70 (b) Whose students are ineligible to participate in the
 71 Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program and the
 72 William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program.

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

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