

HB 387

2006
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CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Community Colleges & Workforce Committee recommends the
2 following:

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4 **Council/Committee Substitute**

5 Remove the entire bill and insert:

6 A bill to be entitled

7 An act relating to student financial assistance; creating
8 s. 1009.893, F.S.; providing legislative intent; creating
9 the Florida Independent Collegiate Assistance Grant
10 Program to provide grants to certain students who attend
11 nonpublic institutions of higher education and are
12 enrolled in programs leading to specified occupations;
13 requiring the Department of Education to administer the
14 program; providing eligibility requirements; providing a
15 percentage cap on the number of required credit hours for
16 which a grant may be received; providing requirements for
17 the criteria and priorities for funding; defining the term
18 "eligible nonpublic institution of higher education";
19 requiring the adoption of rules; providing an effective
20 date.

21
22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
23

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

26 1009.893 Florida Independent Collegiate Assistance Grant
27 Program.--

28 (1) The Legislature finds and declares that nonpublic
29 institutions eligible to participate in the Florida Independent
30 Collegiate Assistance Grant Program are an integral part of the
31 higher education system in this state. The Legislature finds
32 that a significant number of state residents choose to pursue
33 higher education at these institutions and that these
34 institutions and the students they educate and train make a
35 substantial contribution to the development of the state's
36 economy. The Legislature intends to create a grant program that
37 is not based on a student's financial need or other criteria
38 upon which most financial aid programs are based, but to create
39 a tuition assistance program for state residents.

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

43 (3) Subject to legislative appropriation, the department
44 shall issue a grant under the FICA Grant Program to any full-
45 time student who:

46 (a) Meets the residency requirement as provided in s.
47 1009.40.

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

52 (c) Is enrolled in an undergraduate degree program that
53 leads to employment in an occupation that meets the following
54 requirements:

55 1. The occupation is one of the top 15 occupations in
56 number of annual openings as listed on the Agency for Workforce
57 Innovation's Florida Statewide Targeted Occupations List at the
58 time of the student's initial enrollment.

59 2. The occupation requires a minimum of an associate
60 degree as indicated on the Florida Statewide Targeted
61 Occupations List.

62 (d) Is making satisfactory academic progress as defined by
63 the nonpublic institution of higher education in which the
64 student is enrolled.

65 (4) A student who is enrolled in a program that terminates
66 in an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree may receive a
67 Florida Independent Collegiate Assistance grant for 110 percent
68 of the number of required credit hours.

69 (5) The criteria and priorities for funding shall be
70 adopted annually by State Board of Education rule for the top 15
71 occupations listed and shall match standard occupational
72 classification titles on the Agency for Workforce Innovation's
73 lists with Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes
74 for licensed training programs.

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

77 (a) That is licensed by the Commission for Independent
78 Education under chapter 1005 and is accredited by an accrediting
79 agency:

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80 1. That is recognized by the United States Secretary of
81 Education as a reliable authority as to the quality of education
82 or training offered at its accredited institutions.

83 2. That has established performance requirements for
84 student achievement that include minimum objective quantitative
85 standards, including completion rates and placement rates as
86 determined by its accrediting agency.

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

90 (7) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
91 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 for implementation of the
92 FICA Grant Program.

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