## Florida Senate - 2006

CS for SB 550

 ${\bf By}$  the Committee on Education; and Senators Baker, Diaz de la Portilla and Campbell

581-1950-06

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1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to scholarship programs;
3	renaming the Florida Prepaid College Program as
4	the "Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College
5	Program"; amending s. 1009.972, F.S.; providing
6	for the Florida Prepaid Tuition Scholarship
7	Program to be funded with moneys retained from
8	certain terminated or cancelled contracts under
9	the Florida Prepaid College Program; extending
10	the scholarship program to students with
11	disabilities; authorizing the Florida Prepaid
12	College Board and Prepaid College Foundation
13	Board to approve scholarship programs for such
14	funding; amending s. 1009.98, F.S.; deleting a
15	restriction on the types of postsecondary
16	educational institutions in which a qualified
17	beneficiary may use his or her benefits under
18	the Florida Prepaid College Program; requiring
19	certain advertisements to contain a disclaimer
20	regarding the program; conforming provisions to
21	changes made by the act; extending the
22	scholarship program to students with
23	disabilities; amending s. 1009.984, F.S.;
24	expanding the Florida Prepaid Tuition
25	Scholarship Program to provide scholarships to
26	students with disabilities and students
27	approved by the Florida Prepaid College Board
28	and the Prepaid College Foundation Board;
29	providing an effective date.
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31	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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1 Section 1. The Florida Prepaid College Program is 2 renamed and may be cited as the "Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program." 3 Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 1009.972, Florida 4 Statutes, is amended to read: 5 6 1009.972 Florida Prepaid College Trust Fund.--7 (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 717, 8 funds associated with terminated advance payment contracts pursuant to s. 1009.98(4)(k) and canceled contracts for which 9 no refunds have been claimed shall be retained by the board. 10 The board shall establish procedures for notifying purchasers 11 12 who subsequently cancel their advance payment contracts of any 13 unclaimed refund and shall establish a time period after which no refund may be claimed by a purchaser who canceled a 14 contract. The board may transfer funds retained from such 15 16 terminated advance payment contracts and canceled contracts to 17 the Florida Prepaid Tuition Scholarship Program to provide 18 matching funds for prepaid tuition scholarships for economically disadvantaged students or students with 19 disabilities youth who remain drug free and crime free or for 20 21 a scholarship program that is approved by the board and the 22 board of the direct-support organization established under s. 23 1009.983. Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) and 2.4 paragraph (k) of subsection (4) of section 1009.98, Florida 25 26 Statutes, are amended to read: 27 1009.98 Florida Prepaid College Program.--2.8 (3) TRANSFER OF BENEFITS TO PRIVATE AND OUT-OF-STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND TO CAREER CENTERS .-- A qualified 29 beneficiary may apply the benefits of an advance payment 30 31 contract toward:

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1	(a) An independent college or university that is
2	located and chartered in Florida, <del>that is not for profit,</del> that
3	is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern
4	Association of Colleges and Schools or the Accrediting Council
5	for Independent Colleges and Schools, and that confers degrees
6	as defined in s. 1005.02. Any advertisement disseminated by an
7	eligible for-profit independent college or university which
8	refers to the Florida Prepaid College Program must clearly
9	state: "While the benefits of a Florida Prepaid College
10	contract may be used at this institution, the Florida Prepaid
11	<u>College Board does not endorse any particular college or</u>
12	university."
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14	The board shall transfer or cause to be transferred to the
15	institution designated by the qualified beneficiary an amount
16	not to exceed the redemption value of the advance payment
17	contract at a state postsecondary institution. If the cost of
18	registration or housing fees at such institution is less than
19	the corresponding fees at a state postsecondary institution,
20	the amount transferred may not exceed the actual cost of
21	registration and housing fees. A transfer authorized under
22	this subsection may not exceed the number of semester credit
23	hours or semesters of dormitory residence contracted on behalf
24	of a qualified beneficiary. Notwithstanding any other
25	provision in this section, an institution must be an "eligible
26	educational institution" under s. 529 of the Internal Revenue
27	Code to be eligible for the transfer of advance payment
28	contract benefits.
29	(4) ADVANCE PAYMENT CONTRACTSThe board shall
30	develop advance payment contracts for registration and may
31	develop advance payment contracts for dormitory residence as
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1 provided in this section. Advance payment contracts shall be 2 exempt from chapter 517 and the Florida Insurance Code. Such contracts shall include, but not be limited to, the following: 3 (k) The period of time after which advance payment 4 5 contracts that have not been terminated or the benefits used 6 shall be considered terminated. Time expended by a qualified 7 beneficiary as an active duty member of any of the armed 8 services of the United States shall be added to the period of 9 time specified by the board. <u>A</u> No purchaser or qualified beneficiary whose advance payment contract is terminated 10 pursuant to this paragraph is not shall be entitled to a 11 12 refund. Notwithstanding chapter 717, the board shall retain 13 any moneys paid by the purchaser for an advance payment contract that has been terminated in accordance with this 14 paragraph. Such moneys may be transferred to the Florida 15 16 Prepaid Tuition Scholarship Program to provide matching funds 17 for prepaid tuition scholarships for economically 18 disadvantaged students or students with disabilities youths who remain drug free and crime free or for a scholarship 19 program that is approved by the board and the board of the 20 21 direct-support organization established under s. 1009.983. 22 Section 4. Section 1009.984, Florida Statutes, is 23 amended to read: 1009.984 Florida Prepaid Tuition Scholarship 2.4 Program.--The Florida Prepaid Tuition Scholarship Program is 25 established to provide economically disadvantaged students or 26 27 students with disabilities youth with prepaid postsecondary 2.8 tuition scholarships and to provide such scholarships to others as approved by the board and the board of the 29 direct-support organization established under s. 1009.983. The 30 direct-support organization established pursuant to s. 31

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1 1009.983 shall administer the program with the assistance and 2 cooperation of the Department of Education to: 3 (1) Provide an incentive for economically 4 disadvantaged students or students with disabilities youth to improve school attendance and academic performance in order to 5 6 graduate and pursue a postsecondary education. 7 (2) Obtain the commitment and involvement of private sector entities by virtue of funding matches with a ratio of 8 50 percent provided by the private sector and 50 percent 9 provided by the state. 10 (3) Purchase prepaid tuition scholarships for 11 12 economically disadvantaged students or students with 13 disabilities certified by the Department of Education to the direct-support organization who meet minimum economic and 14 school requirements and remain drug free and crime free. 15 (a) For the purpose of this subsection, "drug free" 16 17 means not being convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent for, any violation of chapter 893 after being designated a 18 recipient of a Florida prepaid tuition scholarship. 19 (b) For the purpose of this subsection, "crime free" 20 21 means not being convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent for, 22 any felony or first degree misdemeanor as defined in ss. 23 775.08 and 775.081 after being designated a recipient of a Florida prepaid tuition scholarship. 2.4 (4) Purchase prepaid tuition scholarships for students 25 who are eligible for a scholarship program that is approved by 26 27 the board and the board of the direct-support organization 2.8 established under s. 1009.983. 29 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006. 30 31

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1	STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
2 3	<u>Senate Bill 550</u>
4	This committee substitute:
5	Renames the Florida Prepaid College Program as the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program;
6 7	Authorizes the Florida Prepaid College Board and the board of the direct-support organization to approve prepaid tuition scholarship programs;
8 9	Extends prepaid tuition scholarships to students with disabilities; and
10	Requires advertisements disseminated by eligible for-profit colleges and universities to contain specified disclaimer
11 12	statements.
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