

By the Committees on Higher Education Appropriations; Higher Education; and Senator Wise

605-2453-07

1                                   A bill to be entitled

2           An act relating to public postsecondary

3           need-based student financial assistance;

4           amending s. 1009.77, F.S.; providing that the

5           Florida Work Experience Program is available to

6           students in specified career education programs

7           and educator preparation institutes; lowering

8           the percentage of student wages that must be

9           reimbursed to employers; providing that

10          participating postsecondary educational

11          institutions must pay for specified

12          preemployment expenses for students employed

13          with public schools; prescribing student

14          eligibility requirements; deleting provisions

15          requiring that the State Student Financial

16          Assistance Trust Fund be used for the program;

17          providing an effective date.

18

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

20

21           Section 1. Section 1009.77, Florida Statutes, is

22 amended to read:

23           1009.77 Florida Work Experience Program.--

24           (1) There is established the Florida Work Experience

25 Program to be administered by the Department of Education. The

26 purpose of the program is to introduce eligible students to

27 work experience that will complement and reinforce their

28 educational program and career goals and provide a self-help

29 student aid program. The ~~Such~~ program shall be available to:

30           (a) Any student attending a state university or

31 community college authorized by Florida law; ~~or~~

1 (b) Any student attending a nonprofit Florida  
2 postsecondary education institution that is eligible to  
3 participate in either of the student assistance grant programs  
4 established in ss. 1009.51 and 1009.52;~~;~~

5 (c) Any postsecondary student attending a career  
6 center operated by a district school board under s. 1001.44;  
7 or

8 (d) Any student attending an educator preparation  
9 institute established under s. 1004.85. The student may  
10 participate in this program despite having previously earned a  
11 baccalaureate degree.

12 (2)(a) A participating institution may use up to 25  
13 percent of its program allocation for student employment  
14 within the institution.

15 (b) A participating institution may use up to 10  
16 percent of its program allocation for program administration.

17 (3) Each participating institution is authorized to  
18 enter into contractual agreements with private or public  
19 employers for the purpose of establishing a Florida work  
20 experience program.

21 (4) The participating postsecondary educational  
22 institution shall be responsible for reimbursing employers for  
23 student wages from program allocation moneys it receives ~~from~~  
24 ~~the trust fund pursuant to subsection (8)~~. Public elementary  
25 or secondary school employers shall be reimbursed for 100  
26 percent of the student's wages by the participating  
27 institution. All other employers shall be reimbursed for up  
28 to 70 percent of the student's wages. When a college or  
29 university employs a student on campus through this program,  
30 other student financial aid funds may not be used to fund the  
31 institution's ~~30 percent~~ portion of the student's wages.

1           (5) The employer is responsible for furnishing the  
2 full cost of any mandatory benefits. Such benefits may not be  
3 considered part of the ~~30 percent~~ wage requirement total for  
4 matching purposes.

5           (6) Each participating postsecondary educational  
6 institution is responsible for furnishing the full cost of all  
7 preemployment requirements, including, but not limited to,  
8 background screenings and tuberculosis testing, which are  
9 necessary for a student to be employed by a public elementary  
10 or secondary school employer. Expenditures under this  
11 subsection shall be paid from the program allocation funds  
12 received by the participating postsecondary educational  
13 institution.

14           ~~(7)(6)~~ A student is eligible to participate in the  
15 Florida Work Experience Program if the student:

16           (a) Is enrolled:

17           1. At an eligible college or university as no less  
18 than a half-time undergraduate student in good standing;

19           2. In an eligible postsecondary career education  
20 program as no less than a half-time student in good standing.  
21 Eligible programs must be approved by the Department of  
22 Education and must consist of no less than 450 clock hours of  
23 instruction. Such programs must be offered by a career center  
24 operated by a district school board under s. 1001.44 or a  
25 community college; or

26           3. At an educator preparation institute established  
27 under s. 1004.85 as no less than a half-time student in good  
28 standing.

29  
30 However, a student may be employed during the break between  
31 two consecutive terms or employed, although not enrolled,

1 during a term if the student was enrolled at least half time  
2 during the preceding term and preregisters as no less than a  
3 half-time student for the subsequent academic term. A student  
4 who attends an institution that does not provide  
5 preregistration shall provide documentation of intent to  
6 enroll as no less than a half-time student for the subsequent  
7 academic term.

8 (b) Meets the general requirements for student  
9 eligibility as provided in s. 1009.40, except as otherwise  
10 provided in this section.

11 (c) Demonstrates financial need.

12 (d) Maintains a 2.0 cumulative grade point average on  
13 a 4.0 scale for all postsecondary ~~college~~ work.

14 ~~(8)(7)~~ The State Board of Education shall adopt  
15 ~~prescribe such~~ rules for the program as ~~are~~ necessary for its  
16 administration, for the determination of eligibility and  
17 selection of institutions to receive funds for students, to  
18 ensure the proper expenditure of funds, and to provide an  
19 equitable distribution of funds between students at public and  
20 independent colleges and universities.

21 ~~(8) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the~~  
22 ~~Florida Work Experience Program shall be deposited in the~~  
23 ~~State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund. The Chief~~  
24 ~~Financial Officer shall authorize expenditures from the trust~~  
25 ~~fund upon receipt of vouchers approved by the Department of~~  
26 ~~Education. Any balance therein at the end of any fiscal year~~  
27 ~~that has been allocated to the program shall remain therein~~  
28 ~~and shall be available for carrying out the purposes of the~~  
29 ~~program.~~

30 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.  
31

1                   STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
2                                   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
3                                   CS for Senate Bill 0918

4   The Committee Substitute for CS/SB 918 removes the expansion  
5   of the Florida Public Student Assistance Grant Program, while  
6   leaving the expansion of the Florida Work Experience Program  
7   (FWEP). The Committee Substitute eliminates the \$500,000  
8   appropriation for the FWEP expansion because funding is  
9   already provided in the Senate proposed General Appropriations  
10  Bill. Additionally, the Committee Substitute deletes the  
11  requirement for the FWEP to be budgeted through the State  
12  Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund.

9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31