

HB 475

2008

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to student financial assistance; providing
3 legislative intent to expand access to postsecondary
4 education and reduce student indebtedness; requiring each
5 state university and community college to report
6 information relating to certain funds used to provide
7 financial assistance to certain students; prohibiting the
8 use of such funds to provide financial assistance to
9 specified foreign students; defining the term "eligible
10 Florida resident"; providing for the redirection of funds
11 to provide additional need-based financial assistance to
12 eligible Florida residents; requiring a report by state
13 universities and community colleges; providing an
14 effective date.

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

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18 Section 1. (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to use
19 a portion of the state's limited resources to expand access to
20 postsecondary education and to reduce student indebtedness by
21 increasing need-based financial assistance for Florida
22 residents. Expanding access and increasing financial assistance
23 will encourage Florida residents to pursue postsecondary
24 education, which will produce economic benefits for the state by
25 increasing the levels of higher educational attainment and
26 earning potential of Florida's citizenry.

27 (2) By December 31, 2008, each state university and
28 community college shall report to the President of the Senate

29 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

30 (a) The total amount of state funds appropriated directly
31 or indirectly to the institution and tuition and fee revenues
32 generated by Florida residents that was used to provide
33 financial assistance during the 2006-2007 academic year to
34 students holding F-1 or M-1 visas.

35 (b) The total amount of state funds appropriated directly
36 or indirectly to the institution and tuition and fee revenues
37 generated by Florida residents that was used to provide need-
38 based financial assistance during the 2006-2007 academic year to
39 students classified as residents for tuition purposes pursuant
40 to s. 1009.21, Florida Statutes.

41 (3) Effective for the 2009-2010 academic year and each
42 year thereafter:

43 (a) A state university or community college shall not use
44 state funds appropriated directly or indirectly to the
45 institution or tuition or fee revenues generated by Florida
46 residents to provide financial assistance to any student holding
47 an F-1 or M-1 visa.

48 (b) The amount of funds reported pursuant to paragraph
49 (2) (a) shall be used by an institution to provide additional
50 need-based financial assistance to eligible Florida residents.
51 If the unmet need for eligible Florida residents is fully
52 satisfied without reliance on loans, any remaining funds shall
53 be used to provide merit-based financial assistance to eligible
54 Florida residents.

55 (4) For purposes of this section, "eligible Florida
56 resident" means a student classified at the time of initial

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57 enrollment at a state university or community college as a
58 resident for tuition purposes pursuant to s. 1009.21, Florida
59 Statutes.

60 (5) Funds redirected pursuant to this section shall be
61 additional funds for need-based financial assistance for
62 eligible Florida residents and shall not be used to reduce or
63 supplant the level of funding for need-based financial
64 assistance for such students.

65 (6) For purposes of this section, financial assistance
66 does not include compensation paid to students for
67 assistantships or participation in work-study programs.

68 (7) Each state university and community college shall
69 report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
70 House of Representatives by July 1, 2010, the number of Florida
71 residents benefiting from the use of financial assistance
72 provided from the funds redirected pursuant to this section.

73 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.