

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Fiscal Policy

BILL: SB 960

INTRODUCER: Senator Lee

SUBJECT: Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

DATE: April 1, 2015

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Bailey	Klebacha	HE	Favorable
2.	Sikes	Elwell	AED	Favorable
3.	Pace	Hrdlicka	FP	Pre-meeting

I. Summary:

SB 960 modifies student community service requirements for Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program awards by clarifying that community service work means volunteer service work, expanding the permissible activities that students can participate in to meet the volunteer service work requirement to include civic or professional areas, and placing parameters on such activities.

II. Present Situation:

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program (program) is a lottery-funded scholarship program to reward a Florida high school graduate who merits recognition for high academic achievement and who enrolls in a degree program, certificate program, or applied technology program at an eligible public or private postsecondary institution in Florida after graduating from high school.¹ The Department of Education (DOE) administers the program in accordance with rules and procedures adopted by the State Board of Education.²

The program consists of three types of awards:³

- Florida Academic Scholarship (FAS);⁴

¹ Sections 1009.53(1), F.S. and 1009.531(2)(a-c), F.S., specify that a student graduating from high school prior to the 2010-2011 academic year is eligible to accept an initial award for 3 years following high school graduation and to accept a renewal award for 7 years following high school graduation. Each student graduating in the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 academic school years is eligible to accept an initial award for 3 years following high school graduation and to accept a renewal award for 5 years following high school graduation. In the 2012-2013 academic school year, and thereafter, a student graduating from high school is able to accept an initial award for 2 years following high school and to accept a renewal award for 5 years following high school graduation.

² Section 1009.53(3), F.S.

³ Section 1009.53(2), F.S.

⁴ Section 1009.534, F.S.

- Florida Medallion Scholarship (FMS);⁵ and
- Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship (FGSV).⁶

To be eligible to receive a program award, students must meet the general eligibility criteria⁷ and specific academic and community service work requirements.⁸ The community service work must be approved by the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the DOE for home education program students.⁹

To fulfill the community service work requirements, students graduating in the 2011-2012 academic year and thereafter must complete community service work, identify a social problem of interest, develop a plan for personal involvement in addressing the problem, and reflect on such experience through papers or presentations.¹⁰ The number of community service work hours required differ among the three programs. For FAS, students must perform a minimum of 100 hours of community service work, FMS students must perform a minimum of 75 hours of community service work¹¹, and FGSV students must perform a minimum of 30 hours of community service work.¹²

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill modifies student community service requirements affecting student eligibility for the Florida Academic Scholarship (Section 1), Florida Medallion Scholarship (Section 2), and Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship (Section 3) awards and clarifies that “community” service work means “volunteer” service work. Specifically, the bill:

- Expands volunteer service work areas to include a civic issue or a professional area of interest;
- Requires students to develop a plan for personal involvement in addressing the social or civic issue or learning about the professional area, as well as to reflecting on such experience through papers or presentations;
- Provides accountability requirements for a student’s service work; and
- Prohibits a student from receiving compensation or academic credit for the volunteer service work.

The bill specifies that volunteer service work may include, but is not limited to, the following activities:

- Internship with a business or government entity;
- Work for a nonprofit community service organization; or
- Activity on behalf of a candidate for public office.

⁵ Section 1009.535, F.S.

⁶ Section 1009.536, F.S.

⁷ Section 1009.531, F.S.

⁸ Sections 1009.534(1), 1009.535(1), and 1009.536(1)(e), F.S.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Sections 1009.534(1), F.S.

¹¹ Section 1009.535(1), F.S.

¹² Section 1009.536(1)(e), F.S.

The volunteer service hours must be documented in writing and signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization where the student volunteered.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2015 (Section 4).

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

The mandate restrictions do not apply because the bill does not require counties and municipalities to spend funds, reduce counties' or municipalities ability to raise revenue, or reduce the percentage of state tax shares with counties and municipalities.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None known.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None known.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 1009.534, 1009.535, and 1009.536.

IX. Additional Information:

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
