

By Senator Gruters

23-00874C-22

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective  
3 Access to Student Education Grant Program; amending s.  
4 1009.89, F.S.; revising the institutions a student  
5 must attend to receive a William L. Boyd, IV,  
6 Effective Access to Student Education grant to include  
7 certain for-profit independent colleges and  
8 universities; providing an effective date.

9  
10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

11  
12 Section 1. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1009.89,  
13 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

14 1009.89 The William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to  
15 Student Education grants.—

16 (1) The Legislature finds and declares that independent  
17 ~~nonprofit~~ colleges and universities eligible to participate in  
18 the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education  
19 Grant Program are an integral part of the higher education  
20 system in this state and that a significant number of state  
21 residents choose this form of higher education. The Legislature  
22 further finds that a strong and viable system of independent  
23 ~~nonprofit~~ colleges and universities reduces the tax burden on  
24 the citizens of the state. Because the William L. Boyd, IV,  
25 Effective Access to Student Education Grant Program is not  
26 related to a student's financial need or other criteria upon  
27 which financial aid programs are based, it is the intent of the  
28 Legislature that the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to  
29 Student Education Grant Program not be considered a financial

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30 aid program but rather a tuition assistance program for its  
31 citizens.

32 (3) The department shall issue through the program a  
33 William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education grant  
34 to any full-time degree-seeking undergraduate student registered  
35 at an independent ~~nonprofit~~ college or university which is  
36 located in and chartered by the state; which is accredited by  
37 the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of  
38 Colleges and Schools; which grants baccalaureate degrees; which  
39 is not a state university or Florida College System institution;  
40 and which has a secular purpose, so long as the receipt of state  
41 aid by students at the institution would not have the primary  
42 effect of advancing or impeding religion or result in an  
43 excessive entanglement between the state and any religious sect.  
44 A for-profit college or university must have Level 5  
45 accreditation from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern  
46 Association of College and Schools in addition to the foregoing  
47 requirements.

48 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.