

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to workforce education; amending s.  
 3           1009.895, F.S.; prohibiting institutions from imposing  
 4           additional criteria to determine student eligibility;  
 5           revising student eligibility requirements; increasing  
 6           the amount the Department of Education may reimburse  
 7           an institution through the Open Door Grant Program for  
 8           a completed workforce training program; providing an  
 9           effective date.

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

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13           Section 1. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 1009.895,  
 14 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

15           1009.895 Open Door Grant Program.—

16           (4) Subject to the availability of funds:

17           (a) A student who enrolls in an eligible program offered  
 18 by an institution and who does not receive state or federal  
 19 financial aid may apply for and be awarded a grant to cover two-  
 20 thirds of the cost of the program, if at the time of enrollment  
 21 the student pays one-third of the cost of the program and signs  
 22 an agreement to either complete the program or pay an additional  
 23 one-third of the cost of the program in the event of  
 24 noncompletion. The department shall reimburse the institution in  
 25 an amount equal to one-third of the cost of the program upon a

26 student's completion of the program. An additional one-third  
27 shall be provided upon attainment of a workforce credential or  
28 certificate by the student. Grant funds may be used to cover the  
29 student's one-third of the cost of the program for students in  
30 integrated education and training programs and students who do  
31 not have a high school diploma and meet the requirements  
32 established by the department. An institution may cover the  
33 student's one-third of the cost of the program based on student  
34 need, as determined by the institution.

35 (b) A student receiving state or federal financial aid who  
36 enrolls in an eligible program offered by an institution may  
37 apply for and be awarded a grant to cover the unmet need of the  
38 cost of the program after the application of all eligible  
39 financial aid. Financial aid and grants received by the student  
40 shall be credited first to the student's costs before the award  
41 of an open door grant. After a student is enrolled in an  
42 eligible program, the department shall award the grant to the  
43 institution for the amount of unmet need for the eligible  
44 student.

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46 An institution may not impose additional criteria to determine a  
47 student's eligibility to receive a grant under this section. A  
48 student is eligible to receive an award after all other federal  
49 and state financial aid or any other private or public financial  
50 assistance is applied.

CS/HB 465

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51           (5) The department may not reimburse any institution more  
52 than \$9,000 ~~\$3,000~~ per completed workforce training program by  
53 an eligible student.

54           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.