

CHAPTER 98-300

House Bill No. 3799

An act relating to community colleges; amending ss. 239.117 and 240.35, F.S.; authorizing community colleges to bond capital improvement fees for financing or refinancing equipment, renovation, or remodeling of educational facilities; limiting terms; providing additional allowable uses; amending s. 240.319, F.S.; authorizing community college boards of trustees to issue revenue bonds for the purpose of equipment, renovation, or remodeling of educational facilities; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (17) of section 239.117, Florida Statutes, as amended by chapter 97-383, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

239.117 Postsecondary student fees.—

(17) Each school board and community college board of trustees may establish a separate fee for capital improvements, technology enhancements, or equipping buildings which may not exceed 5 percent of the matriculation fee for resident students or 5 percent of the matriculation and tuition fee for nonresident students. Funds collected by community colleges through these fees may be bonded only for the purpose of financing or refinancing new construction and equipment, renovation, or remodeling of educational facilities. The fee shall be collected as a component part of the registration and tuition fees, paid into a separate account, and expended only to construct and equip, maintain, improve, or enhance the certificate career education or adult education facilities of the school district or community college. Projects funded through the use of the capital improvement fee must meet the survey and construction requirements of chapter 235. Pursuant to s. 216.0158, each school board and community college board of trustees shall identify each project, including maintenance projects, proposed to be funded in whole or in part by such fee. Capital improvement fee revenues may be pledged by a board of trustees as a dedicated revenue source to the repayment of debt, including lease-purchase agreements and revenue bonds, with a term not to exceed 20 years, and not to exceed the useful life of the asset being financed, only for the new construction and equipment, renovation, or remodeling of educational facilities. Community colleges may use the services of the Division of Bond Finance of the State Board of Administration to issue any bonds authorized through the provisions of this subsection. Any such bonds issued by the Division of Bond Finance shall be in compliance with the provisions of the State Bond Act. Bonds issued pursuant to the State Bond Act shall be validated in the manner provided by chapter 75. The complaint for such validation shall be filed in the circuit court of the county where the seat of state government is situated, the notice required to be published by s. 75.06 shall be published only in the county where the complaint is filed, and the complaint and order of the circuit court shall be served only on the state attorney of the circuit in which the action is pending.

A maximum of 15 cents per credit hour may be allocated from the capital improvement fee for child care centers conducted by the school board or community college board of trustees.

Section 2. Paragraph (t) of subsection (4) of section 240.319, Florida Statutes, as created by chapter 97-383, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

240.319 Community college district boards of trustees; duties and powers.—

(4) Such rules, procedures, and policies for the boards of trustees include, but are not limited to, the following:

(t) Each board of trustees is authorized to borrow funds and incur debt, including the issuance of revenue bonds as specifically authorized in ss. 239.117(17) and 240.35(13), only for the new construction and equipment, renovation or remodeling of educational facilities. At the option of the board of trustees, bonds may be issued which are secured by a combination of revenues authorized to be pledged to bonds pursuant to ss. 239.117(17) and 240.35(13).

Section 3. Subsection (13) of section 240.35, Florida Statutes, as amended by chapter 97-383, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

240.35 Student fees.—Unless otherwise provided, the provisions of this section apply only to fees charged for college credit instruction leading to an associate degree, including college-preparatory courses defined in s. 239.105.

(13) Each community college board of trustees may establish a separate fee for capital improvements, technology enhancements, or equipping student buildings which may not exceed \$1 per credit hour or credit-hour equivalent for residents and which equals or exceeds \$3 per credit hour for nonresidents. Funds collected by community colleges through these fees may be bonded only for the purpose of financing or refinancing new construction and equipment, renovation, or remodeling of educational facilities. The fee shall be collected as a component part of the registration and tuition fees, paid into a separate account, and expended only to construct and equip, maintain, improve, or enhance the educational facilities of the community college. Projects funded through the use of the capital improvement fee shall meet the survey and construction requirements of chapter 235. Pursuant to s. 216.0158, each community college shall identify each project, including maintenance projects, proposed to be funded in whole or in part by such fee. Capital improvement fee revenues may be pledged by a board of trustees as a dedicated revenue source to the repayment of debt, including lease-purchase agreements and revenue bonds, with a term not to exceed 20 years, and not to exceed the useful life of the asset being financed, only for the new construction and equipment, renovation, or remodeling of educational facilities. Community colleges may use the services of the Division of Bond Finance of the State Board of Administration to issue any bonds authorized through the provisions of this subsection. Any such bonds issued by the Division of Bond Finance shall be in compliance with the provisions of the State Bond Act. Bonds issued pursuant to the State Bond Act shall be

validated in the manner provided by chapter 75. The complaint for such validation shall be filed in the circuit court of the county where the seat of state government is situated, the notice required to be published by s. 75.06 shall be published only in the county where the complaint is filed, and the complaint and order of the circuit court shall be served only on the state attorney of the circuit in which the action is pending. A maximum of 15 cents per credit hour may be allocated from the capital improvement fee for child care centers conducted by the community college.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1 of the year in which enacted.

Became a law without the Governor's approval May 29, 1998.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 28, 1998.