

CHAPTER 98-398

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 3065

An act relating to the designation of facilities and programs; designating the Florida Department of Transportation District Five headquarters building located in Volusia County as the "Ben G. Watts Building"; designating a specified bridge in Pasco County as the "Father Felix Ullrich Bridge"; designating Fiske Boulevard overpass at Interstate Highway 95 in Rockledge as the "Jack I. Korenblit Overpass"; directing the Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers; providing for the transfer of ownership of specified property; designating the Jacksonville Children's Medical Services Building as the "Richard G. Skinner, Jr., M.D., Children's Medical Services Building"; designating the tennis court complex at the University of West Florida the "Harold 'Skeeter' Carson Tennis Complex"; designating the Lifelong Learning Center on the Boca Raton Campus of Florida Atlantic University the "Barry and Florence Friedberg Lifelong Learning Center"; designating the swim/dive office and training facility at the University of Florida the "Wayne and Jimmie Carse Swimming and Diving Complex"; renaming Flint Hall at the University of Florida as "Keene-Flint Hall"; designating the residence hall known as 2nd Court, Pei Residence Halls, located at New College of the University of South Florida the "Peggy Bates Residence Hall"; designating the library tower on the campus of Florida International University the "Steven and Dorothea Green Library"; designating the recording facility donated to Florida State University as "Critchfield Hall"; authorizing the respective universities to erect suitable markers; amending s. 240.605, F.S.; renaming the Florida Resident Access Grant Program as the William L. Boyd, IV Florida Resident Access Grant Program; naming the Rodman Dam in Putnam County the "Senator George Kirkpatrick Dam"; providing for the erection of markers; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, Ben G. Watts dedicated 23 years of his life to public service with the Florida Department of Transportation, and

WHEREAS, Ben G. Watts served a vital role in development of Central Florida's transportation planning and funding from 1984 to 1989, first as Director of Production and then as District Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation's District Five, and

WHEREAS, Ben G. Watts served from 1989 to 1997 as Secretary of Transportation for the State of Florida, and

WHEREAS, Ben G. Watts has been a leader in efforts to address the transportation needs of the State of Florida, and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Ben G. Watts, the State of Florida doubled the annual expenditures on road and bridge improvements while maintaining low administrative costs and high efficiency in Department of Transportation operations, and

WHEREAS, Ben G. Watts has advocated and cultivated an atmosphere of cooperation between municipal, county, and state governments as they address transportation needs and issues, and

WHEREAS, Ben G. Watts has been a visionary in supporting alternative forms of transportation while preserving and expanding Florida's vital road and bridge infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, Ben G. Watts has demonstrated a standard of integrity toward which all public servants should strive, and

WHEREAS, Ben G. Watts is among the State of Florida's most respected leaders in the transportation field, and

WHEREAS, Father Felix Ullrich was an early pioneer of Christian activity in Pasco County, and

WHEREAS, Father Felix Ullrich said his first Mass in Pasco County in 1913, and

WHEREAS, Father Felix Ullrich founded Queen of Peace Catholic Church of Pasco County in 1919 and became its first resident priest in 1922, and

WHEREAS, Father Felix Ullrich has had a positive influence on Pasco County through his economic and social activities, and

WHEREAS, honoring Father Felix Ullrich would be a means of recognizing the pioneering spirit of all who came before us, while recognizing the contributions made by this humble man for his tireless labor for the community, and

WHEREAS, Jack I. Korenblit came to Florida as a persecuted Jewish immigrant in search of freedom, and

WHEREAS, Jack I. Korenblit, through hard work and dedication, became a community leader as president of the Brevard County Chamber of Commerce and as president of the Florida Association of Realtors, and

WHEREAS, Jack I. Korenblit served his community in leadership positions with the Cancer Society and United Way, and

WHEREAS, Jack I. Korenblit improved his community by donating properties used for area parks, and

WHEREAS, Jack I. Korenblit donated the property used for the Fiske Boulevard overpass at Interstate Highway 95, and,

WHEREAS, Richard G. Skinner, Jr., M.D., dedicated 48 years of his life to serving children who have chronic diseases and multihandicapping conditions, and

WHEREAS, Richard G. Skinner, Jr., M.D., served a vital role in developing Florida's Children's Medical Services programs as Medical Director of Children's Medical Services, District IV, from 1965 until 1990, and

WHEREAS, Richard G. Skinner, Jr., M.D., served children with special needs through his life of work in medicine and in the community, and

WHEREAS, the Rodman Dam has been in existence since 1968, constructed as part of the former Cross Florida Barge Canal, and

WHEREAS, Senator George Kirkpatrick seems to have a keen interest in the final disposition of Rodman Dam, and

WHEREAS, Senator George Kirkpatrick is an avid bass fisherman, naturalist, and outdoorsman, and

WHEREAS, Senator George Kirkpatrick has led the opposition to the removal of the dam throughout his Senate career, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. Designation of "Ben G. Watts Building"; Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers.—

(1) The Florida Department of Transportation District Five headquarters building, which is located at 719 South Woodland Boulevard in DeLand, Florida, in Volusia County, is designated as the "Ben G. Watts Building."

(2) The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable markers designating the "Ben G. Watts Building" as described in subsection (1).

Section 2. State bridge 140067 designated "Father Felix Ullrich Bridge"; Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers.—

(1) State bridge 140067 located on State Road 54 in Pasco County is hereby designated the "Father Felix Ullrich Bridge."

(2) The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable markers designating the "Father Felix Ullrich Bridge" as described in subsection (1).

Section 3. Fiske Boulevard overpass at Interstate Highway 95 designated "Jack I. Korenblit Overpass"; Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers.—

(1) Fiske Boulevard overpass located at Interstate Highway 95 in Rockledge is hereby designated the "Jack I. Korenblit Overpass."

(2) The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable markers designating the "Jack I. Korenblit Overpass" as described in subsection (1).

Section 4. In recognition of the circumstances that the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission can no longer utilize its property at 551 N. Military Trail in West Palm Beach, the commission is directed to transfer its ownership interest in the land and facilities at this site to the County of Palm Beach. Transfer of ownership is contingent upon the commission making a determination that the transfer will not result in an ineligibility for future

federal funds from the U.S. Department of Interior since federal funds have been used to construct facilities at this location.

Section 5. The Jacksonville Children's Medical Services Building is designated as the "Richard G. Skinner, Jr., M.D., Children's Medical Services Building."

Section 6. The tennis court complex at the University of West Florida is hereby designated the "Harold 'Skeeter' Carson Tennis Complex" in honor of the university's first tennis coach and his untiring and extraordinary contribution to the community and to his profession.

Section 7. The Lifelong Learning Center on the Boca Raton Campus of Florida Atlantic University, the first lifelong learning center to be constructed on any of the university's seven campuses for use by the Lifelong Learning Society, is hereby designated the "Barry and Florence Friedberg Lifelong Learning Center" in recognition of the generosity, dedication, and active support of Barry and Florence Friedberg.

Section 8. The swim/dive office and training facility at the University of Florida is hereby designated the "Wayne and Jimmie Carse Swimming and Diving Complex" in recognition of the generosity of Wayne and Jimmie Carse to the university and its students.

Section 9. Flint Hall at the University of Florida is hereby renamed "Keene-Flint Hall" in recognition of Kenneth K. Keene's generosity to the university and its students.

Section 10. The residence currently known as 2nd Court, Pei Residence Halls, located on the Sarasota/Manatee Campus of New College of the University of South Florida, is hereby designated the "Peggy Bates Residence Hall" in recognition of the tireless and dedicated services of Dr. Margaret L. Bates to New College and the Sarasota/Manatee community.

Section 11. The library tower located on the campus of Florida International University is hereby designated the "Steven and Dorothea Green Library" in recognition of the generosity of Steven and Dorothea Green to the university libraries and to the Art Museum.

Section 12. The recording facility donated to Florida State University by Echelon International Development Corporation is hereby designated "Critchfield Hall" in recognition of Dr. Jack Critchfield's generosity to Florida State University and his philanthropic contributions to the State of Florida.

Section 13. The respective universities are authorized to erect suitable markers for the designations made by this act.

Section 14. Section 240.605, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

240.605 The William L. Boyd, IV Florida resident access grants.—

(1) The Legislature finds and declares that independent nonprofit colleges and universities eligible to participate in the William L. Boyd, IV

Florida Resident Access Grant Program are an integral part of the higher education system in this state and that a significant number of state residents choose this form of higher education. The Legislature further finds that a strong and viable system of independent nonprofit colleges and universities reduces the tax burden on the citizens of the state. Because the William L. Boyd, IV Florida Resident Access Grant Program is not related to a student's financial need or other criteria upon which financial aid programs are based, it is the intent of the Legislature that the William L. Boyd, IV Florida Resident Access Grant Program not be considered a financial aid program but rather a tuition assistance program for its citizens.

(2) The William L. Boyd, IV Florida Resident Access Grant Program shall be administered by the Department of Education. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for the administration of the program.

(3) The department shall issue through the program a William L. Boyd, IV Florida resident access grant to any full-time degree-seeking undergraduate student registered at an independent nonprofit college or university which is located in and chartered by the state; which is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; which grants baccalaureate degrees; which is not a state university or state community college; and which has a secular purpose, so long as the receipt of state aid by students at the institution would not have the primary effect of advancing or impeding religion or result in an excessive entanglement between the state and any religious sect. Any independent college or university that was eligible to receive tuition vouchers on January 1, 1989, and which continues to meet the criteria under which its eligibility was established, shall remain eligible to receive William L. Boyd, IV Florida resident access grant payments.

(4) A person is eligible to receive such William L. Boyd, IV Florida resident access grant if:

(a) He or she meets the general requirements, including residency, for student eligibility as provided in s. 240.404, except as otherwise provided in this section; and

(b)1. He or she is enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student at an eligible college or university;

2. He or she is not enrolled in a program of study leading to a degree in theology or divinity; and

3. He or she is making satisfactory academic progress as defined by the college or university in which he or she is enrolled.

(5)(a) Funding for the William L. Boyd, IV Florida resident access grant shall be based on a formula composed of planned enrollment and the state cost of funding undergraduate enrollment at public institutions pursuant to s. 240.271. However, the amount of the William L. Boyd, IV Florida resident access grant issued to a full-time student shall be 30 percent in 1996-1997, 35 percent in 1997-1998, and 40 percent in 1998-1999 and thereafter of the full cost to the state per academic year of an undergraduate student in public

postsecondary education established pursuant to s. 240.209 or an amount as specified in the General Appropriations Act. The Florida William L. Boyd, IV resident access grant may be paid on a prorated basis in advance of the registration period. The department shall make such payments to the college or university in which the student is enrolled for credit to the student's account for payment of tuition and fees. Institutions shall certify to the department the amount of funds disbursed to each student and shall remit to the department any undisbursed advances or refunds within 60 days of the end of regular registration. Students shall not be eligible to receive the award for more than 9 semesters or 14 quarters, except as otherwise provided in s. 240.404(3).

(b) If the combined amount of the William L. Boyd, IV Florida resident access grant issued pursuant to this act and all other scholarships and grants for tuition or fees exceeds the amount charged to the student for tuition and fees, the department shall reduce the William L. Boyd, IV Florida resident access grant issued pursuant to this act by an amount equal to such excess.

(c) For the 1997-1998 fiscal year only, funding for the William L. Boyd, IV Florida resident access grant shall be the amount set forth in the General Appropriations Act. This paragraph is repealed on July 1, 1998.

Section 15. (1) The Rodman Dam, in Putnam County, Florida, is renamed the "Senator George Kirkpatrick Dam."

(2) The Department of Environmental Protection is directed to erect suitable markers bearing the new designation made by this section.

Section 16. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Became a law without the Governor's approval May 31, 1998.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 29, 1998.

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(2) The William L. Boyd, IV Florida Resident Access Grant Program shall be administered by the Department of Education. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for the administration of the program.

(3) The department shall issue through the program a William L. Boyd, IV Florida resident access grant to any full-time degree-seeking undergraduate student registered at an independent nonprofit college or university which is located in and chartered by the state; which is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; which grants baccalaureate degrees; which is not a state university or state community college; and which has a secular purpose, so long as the receipt of state aid by students at the institution would not have the primary effect of advancing or impeding religion or result in an excessive entanglement between the state and any religious sect. Any independent college or university that was eligible to receive tuition vouchers on January 1, 1989, and which continues to meet the criteria under which its eligibility was established, shall remain eligible to receive William L. Boyd, IV Florida resident access grant payments.

(4) A person is eligible to receive such William L. Boyd, IV Florida resident access grant if:

(a) He or she meets the general requirements, including residency, for student eligibility as provided in s. 240.404, except as otherwise provided in this section; and

(b)1. He or she is enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student at an eligible college or university;

2. He or she is not enrolled in a program of study leading to a degree in theology or divinity; and

3. He or she is making satisfactory academic progress as defined by the college or university in which he or she is enrolled.

(5)(a) Funding for the William L. Boyd, IV Florida resident access grant shall be based on a formula composed of planned enrollment and the state cost of funding undergraduate enrollment at public institutions pursuant to s. 240.271. However, the amount of the William L. Boyd, IV Florida resident access grant issued to a full-time student shall be 30 percent in 1996-1997, 35 percent in 1997-1998, and 40 percent in 1998-1999 and thereafter of the full cost to the state per academic year of an undergraduate student in public

postsecondary education established pursuant to s. 240.209 or an amount as specified in the General Appropriations Act. The Florida William L. Boyd, IV resident access grant may be paid on a prorated basis in advance of the registration period. The department shall make such payments to the college or university in which the student is enrolled for credit to the student's account for payment of tuition and fees. Institutions shall certify to the department the amount of funds disbursed to each student and shall remit to the department any undisbursed advances or refunds within 60 days of the end of regular registration. Students shall not be eligible to receive the award for more than 9 semesters or 14 quarters, except as otherwise provided in s. 240.404(3).

(b) If the combined amount of the William L. Boyd, IV Florida resident access grant issued pursuant to this act and all other scholarships and grants for tuition or fees exceeds the amount charged to the student for tuition and fees, the department shall reduce the William L. Boyd, IV Florida resident access grant issued pursuant to this act by an amount equal to such excess.

(c) For the 1997-1998 fiscal year only, funding for the William L. Boyd, IV Florida resident access grant shall be the amount set forth in the General Appropriations Act. This paragraph is repealed on July 1, 1998.

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