

## House Bill No. 795

An act relating to student financial assistance; creating s. 1009.701, F.S.; creating the First Generation Matching Grant Program to provide financial aid to undergraduate students of a state university who have a financial need and whose parents have not earned a baccalaureate degree; providing for the appropriation, allocation, and distribution of funds; providing student eligibility requirements; providing duties of institutions participating in the program; providing an appropriation; creating s. 1009.892, F.S.; requiring postsecondary institutions to include certain testing costs in the costs of attendance; amending s. 1011.85, F.S.; specifying that the matching ratio for donations for scholarships includes scholarships for students who are the first generation in college; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1009.701, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1009.701 First Generation Matching Grant Program.—

(1) The First Generation Matching Grant Program is created to enable each state university to provide donors with a matching grant incentive for contributions that will create grant-based student financial aid for undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need and whose parents, as defined in s. 1009.21(1), have not earned a baccalaureate degree. In the case of any individual who regularly resided with and received support from only one parent, an individual whose only such parent did not complete a baccalaureate degree would also be eligible.

(2) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the program shall be allocated by the Office of Student Financial Assistance to match private contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Contributions made to a state university and pledged for the purposes of this section are eligible for state matching funds appropriated for this program and are not eligible for any other state matching grant program. Pledged contributions are not eligible for matching prior to the actual collection of the total funds. The Office of Student Financial Assistance shall reserve a proportionate allocation of the total appropriated funds for each state university on the basis of full-time equivalent enrollment. Funds that remain unmatched as of December 1 shall be reallocated to state universities that have remaining unmatched private contributions for the program on the basis of full-time equivalent enrollment.

(3) Payment of the state matching grant shall be transmitted to the president of each participating institution or his or her representative in advance of the official drop-add deadline as defined by the institution.

(4) Each participating state university shall establish an application process, determine student eligibility for initial and renewal awards in con-

formance with subsection (5), identify the amount awarded to each recipient, and notify recipients of the amount of their awards.

(5) In order to be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to this section, an applicant must:

(a) Be a resident for tuition purposes pursuant to s. 1009.21.

(b) Be a first-generation college student. For the purposes of this section, a student is considered "first generation" if neither of the student's parents, as defined in s. 1009.21(1), earned a college degree at the baccalaureate level or higher or, in the case of any individual who regularly resided with and received support from only one parent, if that parent did not earn a baccalaureate degree.

(c) Be accepted at a state university.

(d) Be enrolled for a minimum of six credit hours per term as a degree-seeking undergraduate student.

(e) Have demonstrated financial need by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

(f) Meet additional eligibility requirements as established by the institution.

(6) The award amount shall be based on the student's need assessment after any scholarship or grant aid, including, but not limited to, a Pell Grant or a Bright Futures Scholarship, has been applied. An award may not exceed the institution's estimated annual cost of attendance for the student to attend the institution.

(7) Each participating institution shall report to the Office of Student Financial Assistance by the date established by the office the eligible students to whom grant moneys are disbursed each academic term. Each institution shall certify to the Office of Student Financial Assistance the amount of funds disbursed to each student and shall remit to the office any undisbursed advances by June 1 of each year.

(8) No later than July 1, each participating institution shall annually report to the Executive Office of the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Board of Governors, the eligibility requirements for recipients, the aggregate demographics of recipients, the retention and graduation rates of recipients, and a delineation of funds awarded to recipients.

(9) This section shall be implemented only as specifically funded.

Section 2. For the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the recurring sum of \$6.5 million from the General Revenue Fund is appropriated to the Department of Education for the First Generation Matching Grant Program pursuant to this act.

Section 3. Section 1009.892, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1009.892 Cost of attendance; adult norm-referenced testing.—

(1) A public or private postsecondary institution shall include in its cost of attendance adult norm-referenced testing that it requires for eligible students to qualify for accommodations for disabilities.

(2) To be eligible, a student must be a legal resident of this state, as defined in s. 1009.21; must be enrolled in at least 6 semester hours, or the equivalent, per term in a degree, certificate, or diploma program; and must have documented learning disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 or the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Section 4. Subsection (5) of section 1011.85, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1011.85 Dr. Philip Benjamin Matching Grant Program for Community Colleges.—

(5) The matching ratio for donations that are specifically designated to support scholarships, including scholarships for first-generation-in-college students, student loans, or need-based grants shall be \$1 of state funds to \$1 of local private funds.

Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

Approved by the Governor June 2, 2006.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 2, 2006.