

## Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 10-C

An act relating to higher education; amending s. 1009.531, F.S.; revising the eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program; providing for the disbursement of funds under the program to students enrolled in the early admission program during the 2007-2008 second term; amending s. 1009.534, F.S.; requiring that the amount awarded to Florida Academic Scholars for college-related expenses be specified by law or in the General Appropriations Act; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 1009.531, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.531 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program; student eligibility requirements for initial awards.—

(1) Effective January 1, 2008, in order to be eligible for an initial award from any of the three types of scholarships under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, a student must:

(a) Be a Florida resident as defined in s. 1009.40 and rules of the State Board of Education.

(b) Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its equivalent as described in s. 1003.429, s. 1003.43, or s. 1003.435 unless:

1. ~~The student is enrolled full time in the early admission program of an eligible postsecondary education institution or completes a home education program according to s. 1002.41; or~~

2. The student earns a high school diploma from a non-Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who is on military or public service assignment away from Florida.

(c) Be accepted by and enroll in an eligible Florida public or independent postsecondary education institution.

(d) Be enrolled for at least 6 semester credit hours or the equivalent in quarter hours or clock hours.

(e) Not have been found guilty of, or entered a plea of nolo contendere to, a felony charge, unless the student has been granted clemency by the Governor and Cabinet sitting as the Executive Office of Clemency.

(f) Apply for a scholarship from the program by high school graduation.

Section 2. Disbursement of funds from the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program for the 2007-2008 second term to students who received an initial award for the 2007-2008 academic year for enrollment in the early

admission program is contingent upon funds being available after payment to all other recipients of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship who are required to pay tuition and fees. If funds are insufficient to pay in full all recipients enrolled in the early admission program, the available funds shall be prorated among the eligible students. This section expires July 1, 2008.

Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 1009.534, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.—

(2) Effective January 1, 2008, a Florida Academic Scholar who is enrolled in a public postsecondary education institution is eligible for an award equal to the amount required to pay tuition, fees, and an additional amount \$600 for college-related expenses annually as specified in law or the General Appropriations Act. A student who is enrolled in a nonpublic postsecondary education institution is eligible for an award equal to the amount that would be required to pay for the average tuition and fees of a public postsecondary education institution at the comparable level, plus the annual amount specified in law or the General Appropriations Act for college-related expenses \$600.

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor October 26, 2007.

Filed in Office Secretary of State October 26, 2007.