

Senate Bill No. 354

An act relating to education; amending s. 240.605, F.S.; providing for the carry-forward of certain funds; deleting an obsolete provision; amending s. 216.136, F.S.; adding to the duties of the Education Estimating Conference; amending s. 240.40205, F.S.; providing that a student who is a recipient of the National Hispanic Scholar Award and who meets certain other eligibility requirements is eligible for a Florida Academic Scholars award; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section 240.605, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

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

(5)(a) Funding for the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program 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 William L. Boyd, IV, Florida 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).

(6) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program shall be deposited in the State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund. Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the end of any fiscal year which has been allocated to the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program shall remain therein and shall be available for carrying out the purposes of this section. If the number of eligible students exceeds the total authorized in the General Appropriations Act, an institution may use its own resources to assure that each eligible student receives the full benefit of the grant amount authorized.

Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 216.136, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

216.136 Consensus estimating conferences; duties and principals.—

(4) EDUCATION ESTIMATING CONFERENCE.—

(a) Duties.—The Education Estimating Conference shall develop such official information relating to the state public and private educational system, including forecasts of student enrollments, the number of students qualified for state financial aid programs and for the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program and the appropriation required to fund the full award amounts for each program, fixed capital outlay needs, and Florida Education Finance Program formula needs, as the conference determines is needed for the state planning and budgeting system. The conference's initial projections of enrollments in public schools shall be forwarded by the conference to each school district no later than 2 months prior to the start of the regular session of the Legislature. Each school district may, in writing, request adjustments to the initial projections. Any adjustment request shall be submitted to the conference no later than 1 month prior to the start of the regular session of the Legislature and shall be considered by the principals of the conference. A school district may amend its adjustment request, in writing, during the first 3 weeks of the legislative session, and such amended adjustment request shall be considered by the principals of the conference. For any adjustment so requested, the district shall indicate and explain, using definitions adopted by the conference, the components of anticipated enrollment changes that correspond to continuation of current programs with workload changes; program improvement; program reduction or elimination; initiation of new programs; and any other information that may be needed by the Legislature. For public schools, the conference shall submit its full-time equivalent student consensus estimate to the Legislature no later than 1 month after the start of the regular session of the Legislature. No conference estimate may be changed without the agreement of the full conference.

Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 240.40205, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

240.40205 Florida Academic Scholars award.—

(1) A student is eligible for a Florida Academic Scholars award if the student meets the general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and the student:

(a) Has achieved a 3.5 weighted grade point average as calculated pursuant to s. 240.40202, or its equivalent, in high school courses that are adopted by the Board of Regents and recommended by the State Board of Community Colleges as college-preparatory academic courses; and

(b) Has attained at least the score identified by rules of the Department of Education on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the American College Testing Program; or

(c) Has attended a home education program according to s. 232.0201 during grades 11 and 12 or has completed the International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the International Baccalaureate Diploma, and has attained at least the score identified by rules of the Department of Education on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the American College Testing Program; or

(d) Has been awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma from the International Baccalaureate Office; or

(e) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a scholar or finalist; or;

(f) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic Recognition Program as a scholar recipient.

Effective with the 1998-1999 school year, a student must complete a program of community service work, as approved by the district school board or the administrators of a nonpublic school, which shall include a minimum of 75 hours of service work and require the student to identify a social problem that interests him or her, develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the problem, and, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

Approved by the Governor June 5, 2000.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 5, 2000.