

## Latest Info from the Senate Higher Education Appropriation Committee on Bright Futures Scholarships.

This comes from the latest meeting packet from the Committee that met today. March 19, 2010.

### Effect of Proposed Changes:

#### Bright Futures Scholarship Program

To increase the academic rigor required for the scholarship the test score requirements are increased pursuant to the following schedule:

Raise the Academic SAT score from 1270 (87<sup>th</sup> percentile) to 1290 (89<sup>th</sup> percentile)

Phase in for awards for high school students graduating in:

2012-2013 - SAT 1280 (88<sup>th</sup> percentile)

2013-2014 - SAT 1290 (89<sup>th</sup> percentile)

<sup>2</sup> Section 1010.87(1), F.S.

#### BILL: PCS/SB 1344 (732374)

Raise the Medallion SAT score from 970 (41<sup>st</sup> percentile) to 1050 (56<sup>th</sup> percentile)

Phase in for awards for high school students graduating in:

2011-2012 - SAT 980 (44<sup>th</sup> percentile)

2012-2013 - SAT 1020 (50<sup>th</sup> percentile)

2013-2014 - SAT 1050 (56<sup>th</sup> percentile)

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The scores are phased in gradually so that current high school students will have time to prepare academically.

The bill removes the restoration of a Bright Futures scholarship after a student academically loses it. It reduces the number of credits covered by Bright Futures from 110% of program requirements to 100% and reduces the time to utilize the award to 4 years from 7 years.

The bill incentivizes early graduation by allowing students, who utilize acceleration hours to graduate in less than 4 years, to use up to 15 of those saved credit hours (in one semester) for graduate courses (paid at Academic or Medallion rates) in targeted graduate programs.

The Bright Futures per credit hour payment rates shall be as specified in the General Appropriations Act, continuing the use of a flat award approach established in the current year.

In an effort to better develop demographic information about the Bright Futures student population, the bill requires the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for application to the program.

#### Block Differential Tuition

The bill specifies that students at the University of Florida, a largely residential institution, may implement the differential fee on a block basis, with students registering for between 11 and 19 hours paying for 15.

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

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The full fiscal impact of the changes in the Bright Futures program will be phased in over a number of years:

- Increase in test score eligibility requirements - Program cost reduction estimated at \$8 million in 2012-13, increasing to an estimated \$100 million in 2017-18.
- Loss of scholarship academic restoration - Program cost reduction estimated at \$4 million for each semester the scholarship is not restored.
- Reduce the number of credits from 110% of program requirements to 100% Program cost reduction estimated at approximately \$9 million annually.
- Limit use the award to four years - Program cost reduction estimated at \$14.8 million in 2014-15 increasing to an estimated \$27 million in 2015-16.

The fiscal impact of each program change has been estimated individually. Certain program changes will have an impact on the other program cost reduction estimates over time.

#### **Block Differential Tuition**

The University of Florida estimates a revenue increase of over \$2 million in the first year of implementation.

#### **VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

#### **VII. Related Issues:**

None.

#### **VIII. Additional Information:**

##### **A. Committee Substitute - Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

##### **B. Amendments:**

None.

This Senate

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