



Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee

**Wednesday, January 13, 2016
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
102 HOB**

Meeting Packet

**Steve Crisafulli
Speaker**

**Elizabeth Porter
Chair**



AGENDA

Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee
Wednesday, January 13, 2016
1:00 p.m. –2:00 p.m.
102 HOB

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Opening Remarks
- III. Consideration of the following bill:
 - HB 793 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program by O'Toole
- IV. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 793 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
SPONSOR(S): O'Toole
TIED BILLS: IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 520

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee		Cherry TC	Bishop HB
2) Education Appropriations Subcommittee			
3) Education Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill modifies the initial eligibility period for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program for students who are unable to accept an award due to full-time religious or service obligations lasting at least 18 months. Eligible students can defer the 2-year initial award period and the 5-year renewal period until the student completes the religious or service obligation. The organization sponsoring the full-time religious or service obligation must be a federal government service organization or satisfy the Internal Revenue Code's requirements for nonprofit status.

The bill also modifies student community service work requirements for eligibility for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program awards, including Florida Academic Scholars (FAS), Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS), and the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (FGSVS) awards.

The number of community service hours required for each Bright Futures award remains unchanged, however the requirements for community service are revised by:

- Clarifying that community service work must be volunteer work and prohibits any student from receiving remuneration or academic credit for such work;
- Expanding volunteer service work areas to include a civic issue or a professional area of interest;
- Providing that volunteer work may include, but not be limited to, a business or government internship, employment with a nonprofit community service organization, or activity on behalf of a candidate for public office; and
- Establishing accountability requirements for student volunteer work that includes documentation in writing by the student, the student's parent, and a representative of the organization for which the student worked.

The bill also eliminates references to outdated eligibility requirements for the FAS and FMS awards, and removes the differentiated standardized test score requirement for home education students whose parents cannot document a college-preparatory curriculum.

The fiscal impact of the bill is insignificant.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program (Bright Futures) is a lottery-funded, merit-based scholarship program for Florida high school graduates who meet specified academic requirements and enroll in a degree program, certificate program or applied technology program at an eligible public or private postsecondary institution in Florida after graduating from high school.¹ The Department of Education (DOE) administers the program in accordance with rules and procedures adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE).²

The Bright Futures Scholarship Program consists of three types of awards:³

- Florida Academic Scholarship (FAS),
- Florida Medallion Scholarship (FMS), and
- Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship (FGSVS).

Current law outlines general eligibility requirements for Bright Futures recipients⁴ and specific academic and community service requirements for each type of award.⁵ The community service work performed by the student must be approved by the district school board, administrators of a nonpublic school, or DOE for home education program students.⁶

In 2010, the academic eligibility requirements (grade point average and SAT or ACT scores) were increased and phased in over several academic years. The last phase of the modifications went into effect beginning with high school students graduating in 2013-14 and after. These modifications also included differentiated standardized test score requirements for students in home education programs whose parent could not document a college-preparatory curriculum.⁷

Beginning with the 2011-12 academic year, students must perform community service work, identify a social problem of interest, develop a plan for personal involvement in addressing the problem, and reflect on their experiences through papers or presentations.

The community service work requirement is the same for all three types of awards, however, the required number of volunteer hours differs. To be eligible to receive the FAS award, a student must perform at least 100 hours of community service work.⁸ FMS students must perform a minimum of 75 hours of community service work⁹ and FGSV students must perform a minimum of 30 hours of community service work.¹⁰

¹ Sections 1009.53(1), F.S. and 1009.531(2)(a-c), F.S., specify that a student graduating from high school prior to the 2010-11 academic year is eligible to accept an initial award for 3 years following high school graduation and accept a renewal award for 7 years following high school graduation. Students graduating in the 2010-11 and 2011-12 academic years are eligible to accept an initial award for 3 years following high school graduation and accept a renewal award for 5 years following high school graduation. Beginning with the 2012-13 academic year, graduates may accept an initial award for 2 years following high school graduation and accept renewal awards for 5 years following high school graduation.

² Section 1009.53(3), F.S.

³ Section 1009.53(2), F.S.

⁴ Section 1009.531, F.S.

⁵ Section 1009.534(1), 1009.535(1), and 1009.536(1)(e), F.S.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Chapter 2010-155, L.O.F.

⁸ Section 1009.534(1), F.S.

⁹ Section 1009.535(1), F.S.

¹⁰ Section 1009.536(1)(e), F.S.

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill modifies the initial eligibility period for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program by extending the 2 year initial eligibility and the 5 year renewal period for students who are unable to accept an award due to full-time religious or service obligations for at least 18 months. Eligible students can defer the 2-year initial award period and the 5-year renewal period until the student completes the religious or service obligation. The organization sponsoring the full-time religious or service obligation must be a federal government service organization or satisfy the requirements for nonprofit status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Qualifying organizations include, but are not limited to, the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps programs.

The bill also modifies student community service work requirements for eligibility for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program awards, including Florida Academic Scholars (FAS), Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS), and the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (FGSVS) awards.

The number of community service hours required for each Bright Futures award remains unchanged, however the requirements for community service are revised by:

- Clarifying that community service work must be volunteer work and prohibits any student from receiving remuneration or academic credit for such work;
- Expanding volunteer service work areas to include a civic issue or a professional area of interest;
- Providing that volunteer work may include, but not be limited to, a business or government internship, employment with a nonprofit community service organization, or activity on behalf of a candidate for public office; and
- Establishing accountability requirements for student volunteer work that includes documentation in writing by the student, the student's parent, and a representative of the organization for which the student worked.

The bill also eliminates references to outdated academic eligibility requirements for the FAS and FMS awards and removes the differentiated standardized test score requirement for home education students whose parents cannot document a college-preparatory curriculum.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 1009.531, F.S., revising student eligibility requirements for specified students, eliminating references to outdated eligibility requirements, and removing differentiated requirements for specified home school students.

Section 2. Amends s. 1009.534, F.S., revising student community service requirements for eligibility for the Florida Academic Scholars award.

Section 3. Amends s. 1009.535, F.S., revising student community service requirements for eligibility for the Florida Medallion Scholars award.

Section 4. Amends s. 1009.536, F.S., revising student community service requirements for eligibility for the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award.

Section 5. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2016.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

The fiscal impact of this bill is insignificant.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

The bill will provide more options for students to complete the community service requirement and eliminate an inequity in the test score requirement for home schooled students, which may result in more students becoming eligible for a scholarship. This would result in a positive fiscal impact for those students and their families.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable.

2. Other:

Not applicable.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

Not applicable.

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Florida Bright Futures
3 Scholarship Program; amending s. 1009.531, F.S.;
4 providing that the initial award period and the
5 renewal period for students who are unable to accept
6 an initial award immediately after completion of high
7 school due to a full-time religious or service
8 obligation begin upon the completion of the religious
9 or service obligation; specifying requirements for an
10 entity that is sponsoring the obligation; requiring
11 verification from the entity for which the student
12 completed such obligation; revising eligibility
13 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures
14 Scholarship Program; deleting obsolete provisions;
15 amending ss. 1009.534, 1009.535, and 1009.536, F.S.;
16 requiring a student, as a prerequisite for the Florida
17 Academic Scholars award, the Florida Medallion
18 Scholars award, or the Florida Gold Seal Vocational
19 Scholars award, to identify a social or civic issue or
20 a professional area of interest and develop a plan for
21 his or her personal involvement in addressing the
22 issue or learning about the area; prohibiting the
23 student from receiving remuneration or academic credit
24 for the volunteer service work performed except in
25 certain circumstances; requiring the hours of
26 volunteer service work to be documented in writing and

27 signed by the student, the student's parent or
 28 guardian, and a representative of the organization for
 29 which the student performed the volunteer service
 30 work; providing an effective date.
 31

32 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 33

34 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) and paragraphs
 35 (a) and (b) of subsection (6) of section 1009.531, Florida
 36 Statutes, are amended to read:

37 1009.531 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;
 38 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.—

39 (2)

40 (c) A student graduating from high school in the 2012-2013
 41 academic year and thereafter is eligible to accept an initial
 42 award for 2 years following high school graduation and to accept
 43 a renewal award for 5 years following high school graduation. A
 44 student who applies for an award by high school graduation and
 45 who meets all other eligibility requirements, but who does not
 46 accept his or her award, may reapply during subsequent
 47 application periods up to 2 years after high school graduation.
 48 For a student who enlists in the United States Armed Forces
 49 immediately after completion of high school, the 2-year
 50 eligibility period for his or her initial award and the 5-year
 51 renewal period shall begin upon the date of separation from
 52 active duty. For a student who is receiving a Florida Bright

53 Futures Scholarship award and discontinues his or her education
 54 to enlist in the United States Armed Forces, the remainder of
 55 his or her 5-year renewal period shall commence upon the date of
 56 separation from active duty. For a student who is unable to
 57 accept an initial award immediately after completion of high
 58 school due to a full-time religious or service obligation
 59 lasting at least 18 months, the 2-year eligibility period for
 60 his or her initial award and the 5-year renewal period begin
 61 upon the completion of his or her religious or service
 62 obligation. The organization sponsoring the full-time religious
 63 or service obligation must meet the requirements for nonprofit
 64 status under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or be a
 65 federal government service organization, including, but not
 66 limited to, the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps programs. The
 67 obligation must be documented in writing and verified by the
 68 entity for which the student completed the obligation on a
 69 standardized form prescribed by the department. If a course of
 70 study is not completed after 5 academic years, an exception of 1
 71 year to the renewal timeframe may be granted due to a verifiable
 72 illness or other documented emergency pursuant to s.
 73 1009.40(1)(b)4.

74 (6)(a) The State Board of Education shall publicize the
 75 examination score required for a student to be eligible for a
 76 Florida Academic Scholars award, pursuant to s. 1009.534(1)(a)
 77 or (b), ~~as follows:~~

78 ~~1. For high school students graduating in the 2010-2011~~

79 | ~~and 2011-2012 academic years, the student must earn an SAT score~~
80 | ~~of 1270 or a concordant ACT score of 28.~~

81 | ~~2. For high school students graduating in the 2012-2013~~
82 | ~~academic year, the student must earn an SAT score of 1280 which~~
83 | ~~corresponds to the 88th SAT percentile rank or a concordant ACT~~
84 | ~~score of 28.~~

85 | ~~3. For High school students graduating in the 2013-2014~~
86 | ~~academic year and thereafter, the student must earn an SAT score~~
87 | ~~of 1290 which corresponds to the 89th SAT percentile rank or a~~
88 | ~~concordant ACT score of 29.~~

89 | (b) The State Board of Education shall publicize the
90 | examination score required for a student to be eligible for a
91 | Florida Medallion Scholars award, pursuant to s. 1009.535(1)(a)
92 | or (b), ~~as follows:~~

93 | ~~1. For high school students graduating in the 2010-2011~~
94 | ~~academic year, the student must earn an SAT score of 970 or a~~
95 | ~~concordant ACT score of 20 or the student in a home education~~
96 | ~~program whose parent cannot document a college preparatory~~
97 | ~~curriculum must earn an SAT score of 1070 or a concordant ACT~~
98 | ~~score of 23.~~

99 | ~~2. For high school students graduating in the 2011-2012~~
100 | ~~academic year, the student must earn an SAT score of 980 which~~
101 | ~~corresponds to the 44th SAT percentile rank or a concordant ACT~~
102 | ~~score of 21 or the student in a home education program whose~~
103 | ~~parent cannot document a college preparatory curriculum must~~
104 | ~~earn an SAT score of 1070 or a concordant ACT score of 23.~~

105 3. ~~For high school students graduating in the 2012-2013~~
 106 ~~academic year, the student must earn an SAT score of 1020 which~~
 107 ~~corresponds to the 51st SAT percentile rank or a concordant ACT~~
 108 ~~score of 22 or the student in a home education program whose~~
 109 ~~parent cannot document a college preparatory curriculum must~~
 110 ~~earn an SAT score of 1070 or a concordant ACT score of 23.~~

111 4. ~~For High school students graduating in the 2013-2014~~
 112 ~~academic year and thereafter, the student must earn an SAT score~~
 113 ~~of 1170 which corresponds to the 75th SAT percentile rank or a~~
 114 ~~concordant ACT score of 26 or the student in a home education~~
 115 ~~program whose parent cannot document a college preparatory~~
 116 ~~curriculum must earn an SAT score of 1220 or a concordant ACT~~
 117 ~~score of 27.~~

118 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 1009.534, Florida
 119 Statutes, is amended to read:

120 1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.—

121 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Academic Scholars
 122 award if he or she ~~the student~~ meets the general eligibility
 123 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
 124 and ~~the student~~:

125 (a) Has achieved a 3.5 weighted grade point average as
 126 calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or its equivalent, in high
 127 school courses that are designated by the State Board of
 128 Education as college-preparatory academic courses, and has
 129 attained at least the score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s.
 130 1009.531(6)(a) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of

131 | the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or
 132 | the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College
 133 | Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT
 134 | Assessment Program;

135 | (b) Has attended a home education program according to s.
 136 | 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12, ~~or~~ or has completed the
 137 | International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the
 138 | International Baccalaureate Diploma, or has completed the
 139 | Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum but
 140 | failed to earn the Advanced International Certificate of
 141 | Education Diploma, and has attained at least the score required
 142 | under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1009.531(6) (a) on the combined verbal and
 143 | quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the
 144 | Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic
 145 | Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an
 146 | equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

147 | (c) Has been awarded an International Baccalaureate
 148 | Diploma from the International Baccalaureate Office or an
 149 | Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma from the
 150 | University of Cambridge International Examinations Office;

151 | (d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement
 152 | programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a
 153 | scholar or finalist; or

154 | (e) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic
 155 | Recognition Program as a scholar recipient.

156 |

157 | The A student must complete a program of volunteer ~~community~~
 158 | service work, as approved by the district school board, the
 159 | administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of
 160 | Education for home education program students, which must ~~shall~~
 161 | include a minimum of 75 hours of service work for high school
 162 | students graduating in the 2010-2011 academic year and 100 hours
 163 | of service work for high school students graduating in the 2011-
 164 | 2012 academic year and thereafter. The student, ~~and~~ must
 165 | identify a social or civic issue or a professional area ~~problem~~
 166 | that interests him or her, develop a plan for his or her
 167 | personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about
 168 | the area ~~problem~~, and, through papers or other presentations,
 169 | evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience. Except for
 170 | credit earned through service-learning courses adopted pursuant
 171 | to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive remuneration or
 172 | academic credit for the volunteer service work performed. Such
 173 | work may include, but is not limited to, a business or
 174 | government internship, work for a nonprofit community service
 175 | organization, or activity on behalf of a candidate for public
 176 | office. The hours of volunteer service must be documented in
 177 | writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the
 178 | student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the
 179 | organization for which the student performed the volunteer
 180 | service work.

181 | Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 1009.535, Florida
 182 | Statutes, is amended to read:

183 | 1009.535 Florida Medallion Scholars award.—

184 | (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Medallion Scholars
185 | award if he or she ~~the student~~ meets the general eligibility
186 | requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
187 | and ~~the student~~:

188 | (a) Has achieved a weighted grade point average of 3.0 as
189 | calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or the equivalent, in high
190 | school courses that are designated by the State Board of
191 | Education as college-preparatory academic courses, and has
192 | attained at least the score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s.
193 | 1009.531(6)(b) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of
194 | the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or
195 | the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College
196 | Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT
197 | Assessment Program;

198 | (b) Has completed the International Baccalaureate
199 | curriculum but failed to earn the International Baccalaureate
200 | Diploma or has completed the Advanced International Certificate
201 | of Education curriculum but failed to earn the Advanced
202 | International Certificate of Education Diploma, and has attained
203 | at least the score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1009.531(6)(b)
204 | on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic
205 | Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered
206 | Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination,
207 | or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

208 | (c) Has attended a home education program according to s.

209 | 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12 and has attained at least the
 210 | score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1009.531(6)(b) on the
 211 | combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic
 212 | Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered
 213 | Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination,
 214 | or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program, if the
 215 | student's parent cannot document a college-preparatory
 216 | curriculum as described in paragraph (a);

217 | (d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement
 218 | program of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a
 219 | scholar or finalist but has not completed the ~~a~~ program of
 220 | volunteer community service work required under ~~as provided in~~
 221 | s. 1009.534; or

222 | (e) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic
 223 | Recognition Program as a scholar, but has not completed the ~~a~~
 224 | program of volunteer community service work required under ~~as~~
 225 | ~~provided in~~ s. 1009.534.

226 |
 227 | A high school student graduating in the 2011-2012 academic year
 228 | and thereafter must complete at least 75 hours ~~a program~~ of
 229 | volunteer community service work approved by the district school
 230 | board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the
 231 | Department of Education for home education program students. The
 232 | student, ~~which shall include a minimum of 75 hours of service~~
 233 | ~~work,~~ and must identify a social or civic issue or a
 234 | professional area ~~problem~~ that interests him or her, develop a

235 | plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue
 236 | or learning about the area ~~problem~~, and, through papers or other
 237 | presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience.
 238 | Except for credit earned through service-learning courses
 239 | adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive
 240 | remuneration or academic credit for volunteer service work
 241 | performed. Such work may include, but is not limited to, a
 242 | business or government internship, work for a nonprofit
 243 | community service organization, or activity on behalf of a
 244 | candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service must
 245 | be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the
 246 | student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative
 247 | of the organization for which the student performed the
 248 | volunteer service work.

249 | Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 1009.536, Florida
 250 | Statutes, is amended to read:

251 | 1009.536 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award.—The
 252 | Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award is created within
 253 | the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to recognize and
 254 | reward academic achievement and career preparation by high
 255 | school students who wish to continue their education.

256 | (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal
 257 | Vocational Scholars award if he or she ~~the student~~ meets the
 258 | general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures
 259 | Scholarship Program and ~~the student~~:

260 | (a) Completes the secondary school portion of a sequential

261 program of studies that requires at least three secondary school
 262 career credits. On-the-job training may not be substituted for
 263 any of the three required career credits.

264 (b) Demonstrates readiness for postsecondary education by
 265 earning a passing score on the Florida College Entry Level
 266 Placement Test or its equivalent as identified by the Department
 267 of Education.

268 (c) Earns a minimum cumulative weighted grade point
 269 average of 3.0, as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, on all
 270 subjects required for a standard high school diploma, excluding
 271 elective courses.

272 (d) Earns a minimum unweighted grade point average of 3.5
 273 on a 4.0 scale for secondary career courses that comprise
 274 ~~comprising~~ the career program.

275 (e) Beginning with high school students graduating in the
 276 2011-2012 academic year and thereafter, completes at least 30
 277 hours ~~a program~~ of volunteer ~~community~~ service work approved by
 278 the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic
 279 school, or the Department of Education for home education
 280 program students. The student must identify, ~~which shall include~~
 281 ~~a minimum of 30 hours of service work,~~ and identifies a social
 282 or civic issue or a professional area ~~problem~~ that interests him
 283 or her, develop ~~develops~~ a plan for his or her personal
 284 involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area
 285 ~~problem,~~ and, through papers or other presentations, evaluate
 286 ~~evaluates~~ and reflect ~~reflects~~ upon his or her experience.

287 | Except for credit earned through service-learning courses
 288 | adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive
 289 | remuneration or academic credit for the volunteer service work
 290 | performed. Such work may include, but is not limited to, a
 291 | business or government internship, work for a nonprofit
 292 | community service organization, or activity on behalf of a
 293 | candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service must
 294 | be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the
 295 | student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative
 296 | of the organization for which the student performed the
 297 | volunteer service work.

298 | Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.