

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Higher Education Appropriations Committee

BILL: PCS for SB 10-C

INTRODUCER: Higher Education Appropriations and Senator Lynn

SUBJECT: Bright Futures Scholarship Program

DATE: October 1, 2007

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Bryant	Hamon	HI	Pre-meeting
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill makes two changes to the Bright Futures Scholarship Program effective January 1, 2008.

- It repeals eligibility for enrollment for students in the early admission program of a postsecondary education institution who have not completed requirements for a high school diploma. Early admission students are exempt from any requirement for payment of tuition and fees, including lab fees.
- It provides that the amount to be paid for “college-related expenses” for Academic Scholars awards shall be specified in law or the General Appropriations Act.

This bill amends ss. 1009.531 and 1009.534 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Section 1009.53 (1), F.S., creates the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to reward any Florida high school graduate who merits recognition of high academic achievement and who enrolls in a degree program, certificate program, or applied technology program at an eligible Florida public or private postsecondary education institution within 3 years of graduation from high school. The awards are designed to cover certain percentages of tuition and student fees, between 75%-100% of these costs, depending on the scholarship.

However s. 1009.531 (1), F.S., prescribes the eligibility requirements for an initial award of a Bright Future Scholarship to include students “...enrolled full time in the early admission program of an eligible postsecondary education institution...”. Students enrolled in the early

admission program are high school students who do not have a high school diploma. The courses they are taking will apply to the requirements for high school graduation and pursuant to s. 1009.25 F.S. are exempt from any requirement for payment of tuition and fees, including lab fees.

It is estimated that 80 students enrolled in the early admission program during the 2007-2008 academic year are eligible to receive a Bright Futures Scholarship. The effect is a duplicate benefit that is not provided to other Bright Futures Scholarship recipients.

Section 1009.534 (2), F.S., provides that students receiving Florida Academic Scholars Awards (which pay tuition and fees) shall receive an additional \$600 annually for college-related expenses. It is estimated that for the 2007-2008 fiscal year this benefit requires an appropriation of more than \$19,000,000.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 1009.531 (1), F.S., effective January 1, 2008, to delete eligibility for a Bright Futures Scholarship for students enrolled in the early admission program who do not have a high school diploma and are exempt from any requirements for payment of tuition and fees, including lab fees. Enrollment in the early admission program during the 2007-2008 academic year is projected to be 80 students. This change eliminates the double benefit provided to students in the early admission program that is not provided to other Bright Futures Scholarship recipients.

Section 2 amends s. 1009.534 (2), F.S., effective January 1, 2008, to delete the \$600 amount for college-related expenses and to provide that the dollar amount shall be specified in law or the General Appropriations Act. This allows the Legislature to specify annually in the appropriations act an adjustment in the college-related expense amount.

Section 3 provides that the bill is effective upon becoming a law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Under current law, it is estimated that 80 students enrolled in the early admission programs during 2007-2008 will receive a total of \$187,866 in Bright Futures Scholarships from state funds. Under the bill, funding for the second term, which is roughly half this amount, is available only on a funds-available basis after all other awards are paid. The award is discontinued in future years.

It is estimated that 31,950 students will be eligible to receive payment for college-related expenses during the second semester. Under SPB 8002-C, each student will receive \$225 instead of \$300 for college-related expenses during the second semester.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The change in eligibility for a Bright Futures Scholarship will provide an annualized savings of \$187,866 in state funds.

SPB 8002-C specifies that the additional amount for college-related expenses for the second semester of the 2007-2008 academic year shall be \$225. This is a reduction of \$75 per student. With an estimated 31,950 students, the reduction of \$75 provides a savings of \$2,396,250 in the funds required for the appropriations for Bright Futures Scholarships for the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

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 Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
