

April 30, 2010

The Conference Committee Amendment for HB 5201, 1st Eng., relating to Postsecondary Education Funding, provides for the following:

- Modifies Bright Futures by:
 - Increasing test score eligibility requirements;
 - allowing the restoration of a Bright Futures scholarship for first year students;
 - reducing the number of credits covered by Bright Futures from 110% of program requirements to 100%;
 - reducing the time to utilize the award to 5 years from 7 years;
 - encouraging use of acceleration credit, by allowing students who graduate in less than 4 years to utilize up to 15 hours of any remaining award towards 1 semester of graduate study; and
 - authorizing flat award amounts to be established in the General Appropriation Act.
- Requires state residency confirmation for Workforce Education Programs.
- Encourages the adoption of open access textbooks.
- Provides a process for the coordinated licensing of electronic library resources for use by secondary and postsecondary students in Florida.
- Encourages continued implementation of online registration for online learning.
- Appropriates \$25 million for the Bright Futures program contingent upon the receipt of Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) funds.
- Modifies university fee limits by:
 - authorizing all universities to increase the sum of the activity and service, health, and athletic fees up to 15% or the amount to reach the 2009-10 statewide average for the total these fees, whichever is greater; and
 - authorizing the sum of these fees to increase each year by 5% or the same percentage increase in tuition authorized by the legislature, whichever is greater.
- Requires the study of a possible merger of public school workforce into community or state colleges by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Governmental Accounting (OPPAGA).
- Removes specific appropriation provisions for funding baccalaureate degrees at Florida colleges; and establishes that upper-division and lower-division enrollment estimating and expenditure reporting shall be done separately.
- Requires full fee support for Continuing Workforce Education (CWE).
- Authorizes state universities to utilize funds from the 30% tuition differential set-aside for need-based financial aid for students utilizing a prepaid postsecondary tuition scholarship.

- Clarifies statutory provisions relating to the Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans (CSDDV) Program on the use of funds, the award amounts, and the definition of eligible educational institutions.
- Clarifies statutory provisions relating to the Jose Marti and Mary McLeod Bethune scholarship programs to remove obsolete language requiring the deposit of appropriated funds into a trust fund.
- Establishes a reversion schedule for any unencumbered and/or undisbursed funds that were transferred from the Department of Financial Services Workers' Compensation Administration Trust Fund.
- Allows a client in the Injured Workers Program to attend a non-public program if recommended by a vocational evaluator and no public college program is available.
- Prohibits a college in the Florida College System from using its resources, including staff, faculty, land, and facilities to support the establishment of a new independent nonpublic educational institution.
- Permits the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Library Improvement funds to be used to purchase electronic as well as print media.
- Establishes October 15 as the transmittal date for the list of eligible projects for the Florida college and state university challenge grant programs.
- Encourages each Florida college and state university to reduce its campus-wide energy consumption by 10 percent and requires a report by January 1, 2011.
- Limits community college president salaries to \$225,000 from appropriated state funds.
- Requires the operating agreement entered into with the University of Miami Medical School and the local teaching hospital be transmitted annually to the Department of Education.
- Requires an OPPAGA review of postsecondary educational opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Authorizes the Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of South Florida (USF) and physically locates the program at the new campus of the USF Polytechnic.
- Authorizes reciprocity of student residency classification from one public institution to another public institution.