

**STORAGE NAME:** h0115a.cu.doc  
**DATE:** November 29, 2001

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON  
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES  
ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 115  
**RELATING TO:** Medical School/Military Academies  
**SPONSOR(S):** Representative(s) Harrell  
**TIED BILL(S):** None

**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COUNCIL(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:**

- (1) COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES YEAS 2 NAYS 9
  - (2) COUNCIL FOR LIFELONG LEARNING
  - (3)
  - (4)
  - (5)
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**I. SUMMARY:**

Section 458.3147, F.S., provides that any Florida resident who is a student or graduate of any of the United States military academies and who has command approval to apply to medical school prior to assignment to the medical corps of the United States military must be admitted to any medical school in the State University System (SUS). The process of obtaining command approval to apply to medical school is highly competitive and selective. The federal government pays for the medical education of such students. The students, in return, commit to serve additional years in the military upon completion of their medical education.

Section 458.3147, F.S., requires that each of the three medical schools within the SUS admit two such applicants each academic year.

HB 115 repeals section 458.3147, Florida Statutes.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact.

The effective date of this bill is upon becoming law.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- |                                   |                              |  |   |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. <u>Less Government</u>         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. <u>Lower Taxes</u>             | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. <u>Individual Freedom</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 4. <u>Personal Responsibility</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 5. <u>Family Empowerment</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

The bill repeals a provision that requires each State University System medical school to accept at least two United States military academy graduates with command approval to apply to medical school, who are Florida residents, per academic year. Repealing this provision could eliminate an opportunity that may not otherwise exist.

Recognition of achievement and personal commitment encourages personal responsibility. The provisions of s. 458.3147, F.S., encourage personal responsibility by recognizing the achievements and personal commitments of a minimum of six Florida residents who receive command approval from one of the U. S. military academies to apply to medical school with admission to one of the three SUS medical schools. This bill repeals those provisions.

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

**Medical school eligibility of military academy students or graduates**

Section 458.3147, F.S., provides that any Florida resident who is a student or graduate of any of the United States military academies and who has command approval to apply to medical school prior to assignment to the medical corps of the United States military must be admitted to any medical school in the State University System (SUS). Additionally, the statute requires that each of the three medical schools within the SUS admit two such applicants each academic year.

**Military academies**

There are five United States military academies established in Federal law: the United States Military Academy (West Point), the United States Naval Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and the United States Coast Guard Academy. The United States military academies provide for tuition, room, and board for all students in exchange for a student's commitment to serve at least five years in a branch of the military.

**Command approval**

Of the five federally established military academies, three approve a group of students to attend medical school upon graduation from the academy. The process of obtaining command approval at each of these institutions is highly competitive and selective. If a student receives command

approval, the government pays for the student's medical education. The student, in return, commits to additional military service upon completion of the student's medical education.

Representatives of the U.S. Naval Academy report the following selection process. Midshipmen who are interested in going to medical school upon graduation apply to be considered by a selection board. The selection board conducts interviews and reviews the student's grades (particularly in chemistry and biology), the student's class standing, and overall character. The student must have approval from the academy prior to applying to medical school. If approved and accepted to a medical school, the government will pay for the midshipman to attend. The Naval Academy selects only 12-15 students out of a graduating class of 1250 each year to go to medical school. Midshipmen generally serve 11 years after medical school.

West Point has a similar selection process for two percent of each class or approximately 20 slots each year. Cadets who want to be considered begin the process in the junior year and appointments are made the senior year. A review board examines each cadet in five criteria: science grade point average, overall grade point average, MCAT scores, military development, and physical development. Two alternatives are provided; West Point reports that most cadets apply to both programs. The first alternative provides that the cadet attend the Department of Defense medical school at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USUHS) in Bethesda, Maryland at no cost to the student. Under this option the cadet becomes an active duty 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. and receives full 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. pay while going to medical school. Under the second option, the Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP), the cadet is given a full scholarship for tuition, fees, and books, plus a stipend of \$1,000 per month. The cadet applies to the medical schools of his or her choice. (*West Point reports that cadets are encouraged to apply to their home state.*) While attending medical school the cadet is given reserve status. The Army pays for the cadet's medical education regardless of the alternative chosen. Upon completion of medical school, a cadet must serve 10 years at a minimum – five years for the academy education, four years for medical school, and at least one year for residency. Additional years for specializing require additional years of service on a 1:1 basis. The USUHS program requires an even higher level of service commitment.

The Air Force Academy, like the Naval Academy and West Point, selects a small group of students each year to continue their studies in the health professions. The Air Force Academy has 40 total scholarships available each year for medical school, dental school, and nursing school (3/4 of the scholarships go for medical school). Cadets are evaluated on grade point average, military performance average, extracurricular activities, and MCAT scores. The government pays for all tuition, books, required materials, and health insurance. In addition, the selected cadets are given a stipend of \$1,080 per month. Cadets who attend the USUHS must serve in the Air Force for 12 years after medical school (five years for the academy and seven for medical school). Cadets who attend a civilian medical school must serve five years for the academy and four years for medical school.

### **State University System Medical Schools**

The State University System has three medical schools: University of Florida (UF), University of South Florida (USF), and Florida State University (FSU). Department of Education staff reports that over the past five years (1997-2001), the three SUS medical schools together have received 111 applications from students who graduated from one of the United States military academies. They have interviewed 24 of these applicants and have offered seats to 15 of the students. The following table details a breakdown by year and institution for the past five years:

Institution	Year	Number of Applications (after withdrawals)	Number Interviewed	Alternate Pool	Number Offered	Enrolled	Denied
UF	2001	16	3	1	2 (2w/d; 1 alt. offered seat)	n/a	13
	2000	7	3	1	2 (2w/d)	n/a	4
	1999	9	2	1	1	n/a	7
	1998	16	3	3	0	n/a	13
	1997	13	0	0	0	n/a	13
<b>Total number of military academy graduates presently enrolled at UF: 2</b>							
USF	2001	8	4 (1w/d)	n/a	3 (2w/d)	1	4
	2000	6	1	n/a	0	0	6
	1999	7	0	n/a	0	0	7
	1998	8	2	n/a	0	0	8
	1997	10	4	n/a	4 (2w/d)	2	6
<b>Total number of military academy graduates presently enrolled at USF: 1</b>							
FSU	2001	5	2	n/a	2 (w/d)	0	3
<b>Total number of military academy graduates presently enrolled at FSU: 0</b>							

## C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The bill repeals s. 458.3147, F.S. State University System medical schools will no longer be required to annually admit two United States military academy students who are Florida residents and who have command approval to apply to medical school.

## D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

See above sections.

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

## A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

## B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

There does not appear to be any fiscal impact on state or local governments.

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

The bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or take an action requiring the expenditure of funds.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

The bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate.

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

The bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

The bill does not appear to violate any constitutional provisions.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

N/A

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES:

Prepared by:

Staff Director:

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Maria L. Eckard

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**PAGE:** 6