

By Senator Wise

6-1203C-02

See CS for HB 459

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Florida Bright Futures
3 Scholarship Program; amending ss. 240.40201,
4 240.40202, F.S.; revising eligibility
5 requirements; providing eligibility
6 requirements for students who enter the
7 military service; providing for reinstatement
8 of awards; creating s. 240.40215, F.S.;
9 providing for Florida Bright Futures
10 Scholarship awards for students attending
11 United States military service academies;
12 providing for the issuance of warrants;
13 providing an effective date.

15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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17 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 240.40201,
18 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

19 240.40201 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship
20 Program.--

21 (1) The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is
22 created to establish a lottery-funded scholarship program to
23 reward any Florida high school graduate who merits recognition
24 of high academic achievement and who enrolls in an eligible
25 Florida public or private postsecondary education institution
26 within 7 ~~3~~ years of graduation from high school. Regardless of
27 the year in which the student first receives scholarship
28 funding, all eligibility shall end 7 years after high school
29 graduation; however, students who enter the military service
30 within 7 years following high school graduation shall have
31 their Bright Futures Scholarship eligibility extended for 7

1 years after the student ends active military duty, provided
2 that the student was discharged or released from active duty
3 under conditions other than dishonorable.

4 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 240.40202,
5 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

6 240.40202 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;
7 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.--

8 ~~(2) A student is eligible to accept an initial award~~
9 ~~for 3 years following high school graduation and to accept a~~
10 ~~renewal award for 7 years following high school graduation.~~A
11 student who applies for an award by April 1 and who meets all
12 other eligibility requirements, but who does not accept his or
13 her award, may apply for reinstatement of the award.

14 Reinstatement applications must be received by the deadline
15 established by the Department of Education ~~reapply during~~
16 ~~subsequent application periods up to 3 years after high school~~
17 ~~graduation.~~

18 Section 3. Section 240.40215, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 240.40215 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship
21 recipients attending United States military service
22 academies.--

23 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of ss.
24 240.40201-240.40209 relating to postsecondary education
25 institutions, a student who is otherwise eligible to receive
26 an award under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
27 and who is accepted and enrolls as a student in the U.S. Air
28 Force Academy, the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval
29 Academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, or the U.S. Merchant
30 Marine Academy shall receive a fixed award calculated by using
31 the average matriculation and fee calculation for full-time

1 attendance at a public postsecondary education institution at
2 the comparable level.

3 (2) Upon verification by the Department of Education
4 that the student is enrolled in a United States military
5 service academy and meets the eligibility requirements for
6 receipt of an award, the Comptroller shall issue an individual
7 warrant made payable to the student and mailed by the
8 Department of Education to the United States military service
9 academy in which the student is enrolled.

10 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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13 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

14 With respect to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship
15 Program, revises eligibility requirements and provides
16 for awards to students attending United States military
17 service academies.