Florida Senate - 2005

By the Committee on Education; and Senators Wise and Baker

581-2064-05

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to student financial
3	assistance; providing legislative intent;
4	creating the Florida Independent Collegiate
5	Assistance (FICA) Grant Program, for the
б	purpose of providing grants to certain students
7	who attend certain nonpublic institutions of
8	higher education and are enrolled in programs
9	leading to specified occupations; requiring the
10	Department of Education to administer the
11	program; providing for eligibility; defining
12	the term "eligible nonpublic institution of
13	higher education"; providing for rulemaking by
14	the State Board of Education; providing an
15	effective date.
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17	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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19	Section 1. Florida Independent Collegiate Assistance
20	<u>Grant Program; legislative intent; creation; administration;</u>
21	eligibility; definitions; rulemaking
22	(1) INTENTThe Legislature finds and declares that
23	residents of this state who seek higher education in the state
24	through nonpublic institutions licensed by the Commission for
25	Independent Education are an integral part of the higher
26	education system in this state. The Legislature finds that a
27	significant number of state residents choose to pursue higher
28	education at these institutions and that these institutions
29	and the students they educate and train make a substantial
30	contribution to the development of the state's economy. The
31	Legislature intends to create a grant program that is not

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2which most financial-aid programs are based, but to create a3tuition-assistance program for state residents.4(2) CREATION,There is created the Florida5Independent Collegiate Assistance Grant Program, or FICA Grant6Program.7(3) ADMINISTRATIONThe Department of Education shall8administer the FICA Grant Program.9(4) ELIGIBILITYThe Department of Education shall10issue an access grant under the FICA Grant Program to any11full-time student who:12(a) Meets the requirements for residency for student13eliqibility as provided in section 1009.40(1)(a)2., Florida14Statutes, except as otherwise provided in this section;15(b) Is enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student16at an eliqible nonpublic institution of higher education as17defined in this section and is seeking an associate's degree18or higher;19(c) Is making satisfactory academic progress as20defined by the nonpublic institution of higher education in21which the student is enrolled; and22(d) Is enrolled in an undergraduate degree program23that leads to employment in one of the top fifteen24Scupations, in numbers of annual openings, as listed on the25Florida Statewide Targeted Occupations List of the Agency for26workforce Innovation, at the time of initial enrollment. The27commission for Independent Education shall develop the28criteria and p	1	<u>based upon a student's financial need or other criteria upon</u>
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29 occupations and eligibility requirements and shall match	28	criteria and priorities by rule for the list of top 15
	29	occupations and eligibility requirements and shall match
30 standard occupational classification titles on the lists of	30	standard occupational classification titles on the lists of
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1 the Agency for Workforce Innovation with Classification of 2 Instructional Programs codes for licensed training programs. 3 (5) DEFINITION .-- As used in this section, the term "eligible nonpublic institution of higher education" means an 4 5 institution: 6 (a) That is licensed by the Commission for Independent 7 Education under chapter 1005, Florida Statutes, is accredited 8 by an accrediting agency that is recognized by the United States Secretary of Education as a reliable authority as to 9 10 the quality of education or training offered at its accredited institutions, and has established performance requirements for 11 12 student achievement, which shall include minimum objective guantitative standards, including completion rates and 13 placement rates; and 14 (b) Whose students are ineligible to participate in 15 16 the Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program 17 (ABLE) or the Florida Resident Access Grant Program (FRAG). 18 (6) RULEMAKING. -- The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to administer the Florida Independent Collegiate 19 20 Assistance Grant Program. 21 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005. 2.2 23 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR 2.4 Senate Bill 1256 25 The Committee Substitute amends the student eligibility 26 criteria for participation in the Florida Independent Collegiate Assistance Grant Program. The change is intended to reduce the number of students who may potentially be eligible 27 2.8 to participate in the tuition assistance program. At the time of initial enrollment, a student must be enrolled in a program that would lead to employment in one of the top 15 occupations 29 listed on the Statewide Targeted Occupations List of the 30 Agency for Workforce Innovation. 31

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