Florida Senate - 2007

By Senator Lawson

6-419F-07

	6 HJF 67
1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to postsecondary education;
3	creating the Florida Public Community College
4	and Career Center Working Student Assistance
5	Program; providing legislative intent;
6	providing eligibility criteria for student
7	assistance grants; amending s. 1009.50, F.S.;
8	providing additional elements to be considered
9	in awards of grants to community college
10	students under the Florida Public Student
11	Assistance Grant Program; providing an
12	effective date.
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14	WHEREAS, the primary motive of federal student aid has
15	been to further the country's economic health and
16	competitiveness, and
17	WHEREAS, the investment made in grant aid would be
18	offset by the students' future contribution to the economic
19	development of the community, and
20	WHEREAS, unmet needs of students have forced a reliance
21	on loans, NOW, THEREFORE,
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23	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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25	Section 1. Florida Public Community College and Career
26	<u>Center Working Student Assistance Program</u>
27	(1)(a) The Legislature recognizes the importance of
28	the role of financial aid in ensuring access to postsecondary
29	education and for student success. It is the intent of the
30	Legislature that every student enrolled in a public community
31	college have the resources necessary for graduation. The
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2 <u>of repaying loans, on which graduates have placed high</u> 3 <u>reliance, negatively influences these graduates' ability to</u> 4 <u>provide positive reinforcement for the state's economy.</u> 5 <u>(b) It is the purpose of this act to promote</u> 6 <u>successful student participation in the economic development</u>	
<pre>4 provide positive reinforcement for the state's economy. 5 (b) It is the purpose of this act to promote</pre>	
5 (b) It is the purpose of this act to promote	
6 guagagaful student participation in the agenemia development	
successful student participation in the economic development	
7 of their communities and the state by:	
8 <u>1. Providing financial support that will enable</u>	
9 working students to achieve their degrees and increase their	
10 earning and spending potential.	
11 <u>2. Offering grant assistance to working students to</u>	
12 minimize the use of loans for entry-level training. Student	
13 loans are more appropriate for students who have already mov	<u>ed</u>
14 beyond entry-level jobs and have the income that will allow	
15 repayment of loans.	
16 (c) There is created the Florida Public Community	
17 College and Career Center Working Student Assistance Program	
18 to provide financial support for working students in this	
19 state. This program will provide assistance to students whos	<u>e</u>
20 employment income makes them ineligible for federal and stat	<u>e</u>
21 grant assistance and for whom their income is insufficient t	<u>0</u>
22 <u>commit to long-term debt through any financial assistance</u>	
23 through federal or other loans.	
24 (2)(a) Student grants through the program may be made	
25 to students who enroll in at least 6 semester hours, or the	
26 equivalent, or 10 hours per week of adult vocational training	<u>a</u>
27 per term and who meet other requirements for student	
28 eligibility provided in this section or by rule. The grants	
29 shall be awarded annually for an amount of need determined b	Y
30 the institution but may not exceed an amount specified in th	<u>e</u>
31 General Appropriations Act.	

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1	(b) The primary purpose of this grant is to serve
2	students who are not receiving state or federal grants.
3	Therefore, a student applying for a grant under this section
4	must also complete the application for federal financial aid,
5	so that access to federal and state grants is the first avenue
6	of support. However, for purposes of this grant, the
7	institutional assessment of financial resources available to
8	the student may consider issues beyond that identified in the
9	Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) calculations
10	to determine the unmet need of the student. Such issues
11	include, but are not limited to:
12	1. The inability of family members to contribute to
13	the educational expenses of those under age 24 who must report
14	family income on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid
15	(FAFSA) application.
16	2. Independent or dependent students whose income and
17	expenses only qualify the student for loan programs, but for
18	<u>whom loan debt will be an unreasonable burden.</u>
19	(c) Institutions shall prioritize awards to students
20	having the greatest need and may require students to meet
21	additional criteria for eligibility.
22	(3) The Department of Education shall develop a method
23	to distribute funds to community colleges and career centers
24	and adopt rules necessary to administer this section, and
25	shall require annual reports of such colleges and centers.
26	Community college boards of trustees and school boards shall
27	adopt rules to administer this section locally.
28	Section 2. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (2) of
29	section 1009.50, Florida Statutes, to read:
30	1009.50 Florida Public Student Assistance Grant
31	Program; eligibility for grants

1	(2)
2	(e) For community college students, Pell Grant
3	entitlements shall be considered in the award, but may not be
4	required as a condition of award. The maximum expected family
5	contribution established by the department for community
6	colleges shall recognize that students at community colleges
7	are working and supporting families and that the expected
8	contribution to education cannot equal that at other
9	institutions.
10	Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
11	law.
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14	SENATE SUMMARY
15	Creates a Florida Public Community College and Career Center Working Student Assistance Program to provide a
16	funding source for community college and adult vocational training students as an alternative to student loans.
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