

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 117 The Historically Black Colleges and Universities Matching Endowment Scholarship Program

SPONSOR(S): Hogan Johnson and others

TIED BILLS: HB 119 **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 456

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Higher Education & Career Readiness Subcommittee	13 Y, 1 N	McAlarney	Bishop
2) Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee			
3) Education Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill creates the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Matching Endowment Scholarship Program (Program). The Program will be administered by the Florida Department of Education (DOE) and provides funds to participating Florida-based historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) in order to provide scholarships to enrolled students.

Florida has four HBCUs: Bethune-Cookman University, Edward Waters College, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, and Florida Memorial University.

The bill requires a \$2 million appropriation from the Legislature for the Program and each HBCU in the state will be required to provide \$500,000 in matching funds to participate in the Program. All funds transferred to the trust fund for the Program will be invested. The appropriated funds and all matching funds will remain in the trust fund and interest from the fund will be used for the scholarships. The annual accumulated interest will be allocated by the DOE to each participating HBCU and must be used to provide scholarships to enrolled students with unmet financial need.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

An HBCU is any historically black college or university that was established prior to 1964, whose principal mission was, and is, the education of black Americans, and that is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association determined by the U.S. Secretary of Education to be a reliable authority as to the quality of training offered or is making reasonable progress toward accreditation.¹

There are four HBCUs in Florida² - Bethune-Cookman University (B-CU), Edward Waters College (EWC), Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), and Florida Memorial University (FMU).

Bethune-Cookman University

B-CU is a private university located in Daytona Beach, Florida, founded in 1904, and is affiliated with the United Methodist Church.³ B-CU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).⁴ It is also a member of the Independent Colleges & Universities of Florida (ICUF).⁵ B-CU currently enrolls approximately 3,992 students⁶ and awards Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Master of Athletic Training, Master of Education, Master of Public Health, and Master of Science degrees.⁷

Edward Waters College

EWC is a private college located in Jacksonville, Florida, founded in 1866, and affiliated with the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It is the oldest private institution of higher education in the state of Florida.⁸ EWC is accredited by the SACSCOC and is a member of ICUF.⁹ EWC's current enrollment is 839 students. Approximately 51% of the student body is male, 49% female, and over 90% of the students rely on financial aid.¹⁰ Bachelor's degrees are offered in Communications, Music, Psychology, Criminal Justice, Biology, Elementary Education, Mathematics, and Business Administration.¹¹

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

FAMU is a public university within the State University System of Florida with a main campus in Tallahassee, Florida and a law school in Orlando, Florida. FAMU is an 1890 land-grant institution and is accredited by SACSCOC.¹² FAMU currently enrolls approximately 11,000 students¹³ and offers 54 bachelor's degrees, 29 master's degrees, 3 professional degrees, and 12 doctoral degrees.¹⁴

¹ U.S. Department of Education, White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, *What is an HBCU?*, <https://sites.ed.gov/whhbcu/one-hundred-and-five-historically-black-colleges-and-universities/> (last visited Jan. 25, 2019).

² Miami Herald, Historically black colleges face challenges, but seeing more interest amid racial tensions, Lance Dixon, Feb. 25, 2017, <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/education/article134927419.html> (last visited Jan. 25, 2019).

³ Bethune-Cookman University, About B-CU, http://www.cookman.edu/about_BCU/index.html (last visited Jan. 25, 2019).

⁴ Bethune-Cookman University, Accreditation, <http://www.cookman.edu/academics/accreditation.html> (last visited Jan. 25, 2019).

⁵ Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida, Institutions, <http://www.icuf.org/institutions/> (last visited Jan. 25, 2019).

⁶ US News & World Report, Higher Education, Colleges, Bethune-Cookman University, Overview, <https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/bethunecookman-university-1467> (last visited Mar. 14, 2019).

⁷ Bethune-Cookman University, Degree Offerings, <http://catalog.cookman.edu/content.php?catoid=29&navoid=1843> (last visited Jan. 25, 2019).

⁸ Edwards Waters College, About EWC, <http://www.ewc.edu/about/> (last visited Jan. 25, 2019).

⁹ Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida, Institutions, <http://www.icuf.org/institutions/> (last visited Jan. 25, 2019).

¹⁰ Edwards Waters College, About EWC, <http://www.ewc.edu/about/> (last visited March 14, 2019).

¹¹ Edwards Waters College, Academic, Academic Departments, <https://ewc.edu/departments/> (last visited Jan. 25, 2019).

¹² Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Accrediting Associations, <http://www.famu.edu/index.cfm?AboutFAMU&AccreditingAssociations> (last visited Jan. 25, 2019).

Florida Memorial University¹⁵

FMU is a private university located in Miami Gardens, Florida and established by the Baptist Church¹⁶ in 1879.¹⁷ FMU is accredited by SACSCOC and is a member of ICUF.¹⁸ FMU offers 28 Bachelor degree programs and 3 master's programs.¹⁹ In addition to typical undergraduate degree programs found at other Florida colleges and universities, FMU offers several unique, specialized programs such as a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Science with a concentration in Flight Education or Air Traffic Control, and a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management.²⁰

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill creates the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Matching Endowment Scholarship Program (Program). The Program will be administered by the DOE and provide funds to participating Florida based HBCUs in order to provide scholarships to enrolled students.

The bill requires a \$2 million appropriation from the Legislature for the Program and each HBCU in the state will be required to provide \$500,000 in matching funds to participate in the Program. All funds transferred to the trust fund for the Program will be invested. The appropriated funds and all matching funds will remain in the trust fund and the annual accumulated interest will be allocated by the DOE to each participating HBCU and must be used to award scholarships to enrolled students with unmet financial need.

This bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Creates s. 1009.895, F.S., establishing the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Matching Endowment Scholarship Program; requiring an appropriation; providing parameters for participation in the program.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2019.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

The bill requires a \$2 million appropriation from the Legislature to transfer into a Historically Black Colleges and Universities Matching Endowment Scholarship Trust Fund. Each HBCU wishing to

¹³ Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Quick Facts, Overview, <http://www.famu.edu/index.cfm?AboutFAMU&Overview> (last visited Jan. 25, 2019).

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ Florida Memorial University, About, <http://www.fmuniv.edu/about/> (last visited Jan. 25, 2019).

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida, Institutions, <http://www.icuf.org/institutions/> (last visited Jan. 25, 2019).

¹⁹ Florida Memorial University, Academics, <http://www.fmuniv.edu/academics/> (last visited Mar 14, 2019).

²⁰ Florida Memorial University, Undergraduate Degree Programs, <http://www.fmuniv.edu/academics/undergraduate-degree-programs/> (last visited Jan. 25, 2019).

participate in the program must provide \$500,000 in matching funds. The corresponding trust fund is created in HB 119.

Costs to the DOE in administering the program are unknown; however, these costs are likely insignificant.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

If HBCUs raise the funds to participate in the Program, students at HBCUs will benefit from scholarships provided through the program, thus decreasing their education costs.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to administer the Program.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

None.