

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID IMPACT CONFERENCE

Issue: Bright Futures Scholarship Program Eligibility Requirements

Bill Number(s): SB 2502-A (Ch. 2015-222, L.O.F.)

Entire Bill

Partial Bill: Section 11

Sponsor(s): Senator Lee

Month/Year Impact Begins: July 1, 2015; the section expires on July 1, 2016

Date of Analysis: July 16, 2015

Section 1: Narrative

a. Current Law: In order to be eligible for a Bright Futures Scholarship, a student must complete a program of community service work, as approved by the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of Education (DOE) for home education program students. Students must also identify a social problem that interests them, develop a plan for their personal involvement in addressing the problem, and through papers or presentations evaluate and reflect upon their experience.

Current law does not specifically authorize or prohibit a school district, nonpublic school administration, or the DOE from allowing students to complete the community service work requirement by interning for a business or government agency, working for a nonprofit community service organization, or volunteering for a political campaign.

b. Proposed Change: The bill provides that for the 2015-16 fiscal year, a student may satisfy the community service work requirement by volunteering for a business or government internship, working for a nonprofit community service organization, or volunteering on behalf of a candidate for public office. The student must identify a social or civic issue or a professional area that interests him or her, develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area, and, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience. The bill prohibits the student from receiving remuneration or academic credit for the service hours except for credit earned through approved service-learning courses. The service hours must be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the student’s parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the student performed the volunteer service work.

Section 2: Description of Data and Sources

1. Legislative Staff Analysis of CS/CS/SB 948 (2015)
2. Conversations with DOE/Office of Student Financial Assistance Staff

Section 3: Methodology (Include Assumptions and Attach Details)

According to DOE staff, the majority of school districts already allow for the community service work requirement to be met using the types of volunteering authorized in the bill. For this analysis, it is assumed that most students trying to earn a Bright Futures Scholarship would meet the community service work requirement regardless of whether this bill was passed. There may be a very small number of students who would complete the community service work requirement because of the types of volunteer work specified in the bill, who otherwise would not have met the requirement. However, that number is assumed to be insignificant at most. Thus, the proposed fiscal impact on Bright Futures expenditures is 0 to positive insignificant beginning in the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Section 4: Proposed Fiscal Impact

	High		Middle		Low	
	Cash	Recurring	Cash	Recurring	Cash	Recurring
2015-16			N/A	N/A		
2016-17			0/*	0/*		
2017-18			0/*	0/*		
2018-19			0/*	0/*		
2019-20			0/*	0/*		

List of affected Trust Funds:

Educational Enhancement Trust Fund Expenditures

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Section 5: Consensus Estimate (Adopted 07/22/2015): The Conference adopted the proposed estimate on expenditures of \$0 to positive insignificant. Although this provision is in the budget implementing bill and is effective for only one year (2015-16), it affects all potential future Bright Futures eligible students who are currently enrolled in high school and have not yet completed their community service work requirement.

	GR		Trust		Local/Other		Total	
	Cash	Recurring	Cash	Recurring	Cash	Recurring	Cash	Recurring
2015-16			N/A	N/A				
2016-17			0/*	0/*				
2017-18			0/*	0/*				
2018-19			0/*	0/*				
2019-20			0/*	0/*				