

Amendment No. 1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	___	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	___	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	___	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	___	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	___	(Y/N)
OTHER	_____	

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1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Appropriations Committee  
 2 Representative Melo offered the following:

**Amendment (with title amendment)**

Between lines 1575 and 1576, insert:

Section 31. Section 1009.895, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.895 Open Door Grant Program.—

(1) ~~As used in this section, the term:~~

~~(a) "Cost of the program" means the cost of tuition, fees, examination, books, and materials to a student enrolled in an eligible program.~~

~~(b) "Department" means the Department of Education.~~

~~(c) "Institution" means school district postsecondary technical career centers under s. 1001.44, Florida College System institutions under s. 1000.21(3), charter technical~~

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17 ~~career centers under s. 1002.34, and school districts with~~  
18 ~~eligible integrated education and training programs.~~

19 ~~(d) "Program" means a noncredit industry certification~~  
20 ~~preparation, clock hour career certificate programs, or for-~~  
21 ~~credit short-term career and technical education programs that~~  
22 ~~result in the award of credentials identified under s.~~  
23 ~~445.004(4).~~

24 ~~(e) "Student" means a person who is a resident of this~~  
25 ~~state as determined under s. 1009.21 and is unemployed,~~  
26 ~~underemployed, or furloughed.~~

27 ~~(2) ESTABLISHMENT; PURPOSE.~~The Open Door Grant Program is  
28 established and shall be administered by participating  
29 institutions in accordance with rules of the State Board of  
30 Education. for the purpose of:

31 ~~(a) Creating and sustaining a demand-driven supply of~~  
32 ~~credentialed workers for high-demand occupations by addressing~~  
33 ~~and closing the gap between the skills needed by workers in the~~  
34 ~~state and the skills of the available workforce in the state.~~

35 ~~(b) Expanding the affordability of workforce training and~~  
36 ~~credentialing.~~

37 ~~(c) The program is created to incentivize Increasing the~~  
38 ~~interest of current and future workers to enroll in short-term,~~  
39 ~~high-demand career and technical education that leads to a~~  
40 ~~credential, credentialing and certificate, or degree programs.~~

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41 (2) ELIGIBILITY.—In order to be eligible for the program,  
42 a student must:

43 (a) Meet the requirements under s. 1009.40(1)(a)2. and 3.;

44 (b) Be enrolled in an integrated education and training  
45 program in which institutions establish partnerships with local  
46 workforce development boards to provide basic skills  
47 instruction, contextually and concurrently, with workforce  
48 training that results in the award of credentials under s.  
49 445.004(4) or a workforce education program as defined under s.  
50 1011.80(1)(b)-(f) that is included on the Master Credentials  
51 List under s. 445.004(4); and

52 (c) Be enrolled at a school district postsecondary  
53 technical career center under s. 1001.44, a Florida College  
54 System institution under s. 1000.21(3), or a charter technical  
55 career center under s. 1002.34.

56  
57 An institution may not impose additional criteria to determine a  
58 student's eligibility to receive a grant under this section.

59 (3) GRANT AWARD.—A student is eligible to receive a maximum  
60 award equal to the amount needed to cover 100 percent of tuition  
61 and fees, exam or assessment costs, books, and related materials  
62 for eligible programs after all other federal and state  
63 financial aid is applied. In addition, a student may receive a  
64 stipend up to \$1,500, or an amount specified in the General  
65 Appropriations Act, per academic year to cover other education

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66 expenses related to the institutional cost of attendance. The  
67 institution shall make awards and stipends subject to  
68 availability of funding. Returning students must be given  
69 priority over new students.

70 (4) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.-

71 (a) For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, funding for eligible  
72 institutions must consist of a base amount provided for in the  
73 General Appropriations Act plus each institution's proportionate  
74 share of full-time equivalent students enrolled in career and  
75 technical education programs. Beginning in fiscal year 2024-  
76 2025, the funds appropriated for the Open Door Grant Program  
77 must be distributed to eligible institutions in accordance with  
78 a formula approved by the State Board of Education. The formula  
79 must consider at least the prior year's distribution of funds  
80 and the number of eligible applicants who did not receive  
81 awards.

82 (b) Subject to the appropriation of funds by the  
83 Legislature, the Department of Education shall transmit payment  
84 of grants to the institution in advance of the registration  
85 period. Institutions shall notify students of the amount of  
86 their awards.

87 (c) The eligibility status of each student to receive a  
88 disbursement must be determined by each institution as of the  
89 end of its regular registration period, inclusive of a drop-add  
90 period. Institutions may not be required to reevaluate a

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91 student's eligibility status after this date for purposes of  
92 changing eligibility determinations previously made.

93 (d) Each term, institutions shall certify to the  
94 department within 30 days after the end of the regular  
95 registration period the amount of funds disbursed to each  
96 student. Institutions shall remit to the department any  
97 undisbursed advances for the fall, spring, and summer terms  
98 within 30 days after the end of the summer term.

99 (5) INSTITUTIONAL REPORTING.—Each institution shall report  
100 to the department by the established date:

101 (a) The number of students eligible for the program for  
102 each academic term. Each institution shall also report to the  
103 department any necessary demographic and eligibility data for  
104 students; and

105 ~~(3) The department shall provide grants to institutions on~~  
106 ~~a first-come, first-serve basis for students who enroll in an~~  
107 ~~eligible program. The department shall prioritize funding for~~  
108 ~~integrated education and training programs in which institutions~~  
109 ~~establish partnerships with local workforce development boards~~  
110 ~~to provide basic skills instruction, contextually and~~  
111 ~~concurrently, with workforce training that results in the award~~  
112 ~~of credentials under s. 445.004(4). One-quarter of the~~  
113 ~~appropriated funds must be prioritized to serve students~~  
114 ~~attending rural institutions. No more than one-quarter of the~~

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115 ~~appropriated funds may be disbursed annually to any eligible~~  
116 ~~institution.~~

117 ~~(4) Subject to the availability of funds:~~

118 ~~(a) A student who enrolls in an eligible program offered~~  
119 ~~by an institution and who does not receive state or federal~~  
120 ~~financial aid may apply for and be awarded a grant to cover two-~~  
121 ~~thirds of the cost of the program, if at the time of enrollment~~  
122 ~~the student pays one-third of the cost of the program and signs~~  
123 ~~an agreement to either complete the program or pay an additional~~  
124 ~~one-third of the cost of the program in the event of~~  
125 ~~noncompletion. The department shall reimburse the institution in~~  
126 ~~an amount equal to one-third of the cost of the program upon a~~  
127 ~~student's completion of the program. An additional one-third~~  
128 ~~shall be provided upon attainment of a workforce credential or~~  
129 ~~certificate by the student. Grant funds may be used to cover the~~  
130 ~~student's one-third of the cost of the program for students in~~  
131 ~~integrated education and training programs and students who do~~  
132 ~~not have a high school diploma and meet the requirements~~  
133 ~~established by the department. An institution may cover the~~  
134 ~~student's one-third of the cost of the program based on student~~  
135 ~~need, as determined by the institution.~~

136 ~~(b) A student receiving state or federal financial aid who~~  
137 ~~enrolls in an eligible program offered by an institution may~~  
138 ~~apply for and be awarded a grant to cover the unmet need of the~~  
139 ~~cost of the program after the application of all eligible~~

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140 ~~financial aid. Financial aid and grants received by the student~~  
141 ~~shall be credited first to the student's costs before the award~~  
142 ~~of an open door grant. After a student is enrolled in an~~  
143 ~~eligible program, the department shall award the grant to the~~  
144 ~~institution for the amount of unmet need for the eligible~~  
145 ~~student.~~

146 ~~(5) The department may not reimburse any institution more~~  
147 ~~than \$3,000 per completed workforce training program by an~~  
148 ~~eligible student.~~

149 ~~(6) The department shall administer the grant and shall~~  
150 ~~carry out the goals and purposes of the grant set forth in~~  
151 ~~subsection (2). In administering the grant, the department~~  
152 ~~shall:~~

153 ~~(a) Require eligible institutions to provide student-~~  
154 ~~specific data.~~

155 ~~(b) Undertake periodic assessments of the overall success~~  
156 ~~of the grant program and recommend modifications, interventions,~~  
157 ~~and other actions based on such assessments.~~

158 ~~(c) Establish the procedure by which eligible institutions~~  
159 ~~shall notify the department when eligible students enroll in~~  
160 ~~eligible programs.~~

161 ~~(d) Require each eligible institution to~~ Submit a report  
162 with data from the previous fiscal year on program completion  
163 and credential attainment by students participating in the grant  
164 program that, at a minimum, includes:

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- 165 1. A list of the programs offered.  
166 2. The number of students who enrolled in the programs.  
167 3. The number of students who completed the programs.  
168 4. The number of students who attained workforce  
169 credentials, categorized by credential name and relevant  
170 occupation, after completing training programs.

171 ~~5. The average cost per workforce credential attained,~~  
172 ~~categorized by credential name and relevant occupation.~~

173 ~~(6)-(7) REPORTING.~~—The department shall compile the data  
174 provided under paragraph ~~(5)(b)~~ ~~(6)(d)~~ and annually report such  
175 aggregate data, ~~in the aggregate and categorize such information~~  
176 ~~by eligible institution~~, to the State Board of Education. ~~The~~  
177 ~~report shall also include information on the average wage, age,~~  
178 ~~gender, race, ethnicity, veteran status, and other relevant~~  
179 ~~information, of students who have completed workforce training~~  
180 ~~programs categorized by credential name and relevant occupation.~~

181 ~~(7)-(8) RULES.~~—The State Board of Education shall adopt  
182 rules to implement this section.

183  
184 -----

**T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

185 Remove line 141 and insert:  
186 amending s. 1009.895, F.S.; deleting definitions; providing that  
187 the Open Door Grant Program shall be administered by specified  
188 entities; providing eligibility requirements; providing what the  
189



COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Bill No. PCS for HB 7051 (2023)

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190 grant award may cover; providing requirements for the  
191 distribution of funds; deleting the requirement to distribute a  
192 specified grant in certain ratios; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.;  
193 conforming cross-

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