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Senator Shevrin Jones and Representative Felicia Robinson File Sunshine Scholarship Program Bill

Tallahassee, Fla - Today, **Senator Shevrin Jones (D–West Park) and Representative Felicia Robinson (D–Miami Gardens)** filed a bill (**[SB 888/HB 503](#)**) to establish the **Sunshine Scholarship Program**. The program shall provide funding for 100 percent of tuition and fees for Florida residents pursuing an associate degree or career certificate from eligible postsecondary institutions, including Florida College System institutions, career centers operated by school districts, and charter technical career centers.

The program will have certain eligibility requirements, including a maximum total annual household income of \$50,000. Recipients will also be required to maintain continuous enrollment as a full-time student with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5/4.0. To ensure retention of the trained students, the bill stipulates that the student must reside and work in Florida for the same period that they receive funding from the program, with some exceptions.

“As a state that touts itself as one that puts people to work, it’s important that we be both attentive to businesses coming to our state as well as to the people seeking higher earning power through their education and workforce development,” said **Senator Jones**. “We have a role to play in alleviating the student debt crisis that burdens so many families and students entering the workforce, especially considering our current crises. This bill puts Florida on a path toward true economic development and prosperity.”

“Retaining talent in the state of Florida is extremely important,” said **Representative Robinson**. “The Sunshine State Scholarship program gives students an opportunity to work in their fields while keeping their expertise in Florida. This is a great step to stopping the brain drain that has become the norm in our great state.”

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