

4-15-2021

## JR-21S-3560: Preservation of the Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Student Government Association University of North Florida

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# SENATE LEGISLATION

## JR-21S-3560

### *JR-21S-3560: Preservation of the Bright Futures Scholarship Program*

- 1   Whereas:   The Student Government of the University of North Florida was established to represent student  
2                   concerns in all University wide matters, and;  
3
- 4   Whereas:   The Senate is the legislative body of the University of North Florida's Student Government given  
5                   the responsibility of carrying out such legislative acts that are necessary and proper for the Student  
6                   Body of the University of North Florida; and;  
7
- 8   Whereas:   ~~Serves~~ The Senate serves to represent the Student Body of the University of North Florida on  
9                   both a campus and state level,  
10
- 11   Whereas:   Senator Dennis Baxley, of Florida (R-District 12) filed Senate Bill 86: Student Financial Aid (SB86)  
12                   on February 25, 2020,  
13
- 14   Whereas:   SB86 alters the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship and how it operates, namely, changing the  
15                   amount of funding that students will receive;  
16
- 17   Whereas:   Scholarship programs created in the original version of the bill, the Bright Opportunities and  
18                   Endeavors programs, would transform state financial aid in positive ways. These programs expand  
19                   financial aid to many low-income students and would have created the first state financial aid  
20                   program open to those without high school diplomas;  
21
- 22   Whereas:   Bright Futures plays an integral part of higher education in the state of Florida and has aided well  
23                   over one-hundred thousand students to afford the cost of Florida universities, leading many to  
24                   continue their education and find employment within the state of Florida,  
25
- 26   Whereas:   Bright ~~F~~utures is relied upon by many students to further their education. Decreasing funding  
27                   of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship will limit higher education opportunities ~~to~~ for many  
28                   Florida students, leading some to pursue education elsewhere and others unable to seek higher  
29                   education;  
30
- 31   Whereas:   As of March 31, 2021, there is not a House companion to SB-86;  
32
- 33   Whereas:   These changes made to the Florida Bright Futures scholarship program will negatively affect a  
34                   large portion of students of the University of North Florida if the program is not fully funded,  
35
- 36   Whereas:   As the Student Government of the University of North Florida, we believe that the maintenance  
37                   of Bright Futures and state financial aid of all kind is of the utmost importance to Florida higher  
38                   education;  
39
- 40   Whereas:   We advocate for the continued funding of Bright Futures at both tier levels with the Florida  
41                   Academic Scholars Awards covering 100% of tuition and fees and the Florida Medallion Award



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covering 75% of tuition and fees, the inclusion of the \$600 per year textbook stipend for Florida Academic Scholars, as well as the maintenance of newly-previously created scholarships like the Bright Opportunities and Endeavors programs;

**Therefore:** Let it be known that the Student Government of the University of North Florida is in opposition to changes being proposed in SB-86; advocates for the continued funding and maintenance of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, as well as newly proposed scholarships outlined in the original version of the bill, and requests that a House companion to the bill not be introduced.

**Furthermore:** Upon passage, let this Joint Resolution be forwarded to Governor Ron DeSantis, Senate President Wilton Simpson; Speaker of the House Chris Sprowls; ~~Senators Joe Graters and Shevvin Jones, Chair and Vice Chair of the Senate Education Committee~~, Senators Kelli Stargel and Aaron Bean, Chair and Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee; Representatives Jay Trumbull and Lawrence McClure, Chair and Vice Chair of the House Appropriations Committee; Representative Bobby DuBose, Democratic Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee; Representatives Amber Mariano and Rene "Coach P" Plasencia, Chair and Vice Chair of the House Post-Secondary Education and Lifelong Learning Subcommittee; Representative Geraldine Thompson, Democratic Ranking Member of the House Post-Secondary Education and Lifelong Learning Subcommittee; and Heather Duncan, UNF Vice President of Governmental Affairs.

### Legislative Action

*Rachel Saunders, Student Senate  
President*

**Author:** Senate President Rachel Saunders, President Ally Schneider, and Vice President Kayla Dougherty

**Sponsor:** Senate President Rachel Saunders

**Committee:** University and Student Affairs

Time Stamp Here:

**Committee Action:** 6-0-0

**Senate Action:** Unanimous Consent 81

**Date of Action:** 4/9/21 82

### Executive Action

Signed and Delivered to the Student Body President 84

on this 4 day of April, 2021 85

Let it be known that JR-21S-3560 is hereby

APPROVED / VETOED

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ 86  
\_\_\_\_\_ 87

on this 15 day of April, 2021 88



Student  
Government  
University of North Florida

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*of the Bright Futures Scholarship Program*

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Sign \_\_\_\_\_

*Ally Schneider, Student Body*

*President*

Signed and Delivered to the Senate Secretary

Time Stamp Here: