

Ad Hoc Committee on Bright Futures, Prepaid Tuition, and Gambling Dollars
Governmental Services Committee
Taxation and Budget Reform Commission
December 13, 2007

The Ad Hoc Committee on Bright Futures, Prepaid Tuition, and Gambling Dollars for Education makes the following recommendations for consideration by the Governmental Services Committee:

- Continue to reward all top level scholars, but reach out to additionally assist needs-based students with lower academic levels
- Establish income guidelines for students to qualify for Bright Futures (tied to federal application process for Pell Grant and other federal funding sources)
- De-couple Bright Futures awards from tuition rates so that tuition rate can rise but cap Bright Futures award (two options discussed: set an amount per student based on some year and use that amount from year to year as the cap for the award, or pro-rate amount of each year's appropriated funds for Bright Futures based on the number of students that qualify)
- Possibly increase the GPA requirements for entry to Bright Futures award and continuation of award throughout higher education process
- Allow a mechanism whereby the original price of a pre-paid tuition can be "re-negotiated" to adjust for tuition increases or to offer no interest loans to students to make up the difference in tuition rates over time
- Review the status of current surplus in the state's pre-paid fund, who has permission to draw from the fund, and whether it could be used as an endowment to fund Bright Futures scholarships