

1 Resolution of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission
2 A resolution proposing the creation of Section 8 of
3 Article IX of the State Constitution to allocate state
4 spending on financial aid and tuition assistance programs
5 among merit-based, need-based, and other programs.
6

7 Be It Resolved by the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission:
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9 That the following creation of Section 8 of Article IX of
10 the State Constitution is agreed to and shall be submitted to
11 the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next
12 general election or at an earlier special election specifically
13 authorized by law for that purpose:

14 ARTICLE IX

15 EDUCATION

16 SECTION 8. State financial aid and tuition assistance
17 programs.--

18 (a) Of the funds the state appropriates for post secondary
19 student financial aid or tuition assistance programs, at least
20 45 percent must be appropriated to merit-based aid programs, at
21 least 35 percent must be appropriated to need-based aid
22 programs, and no more than 20 percent of the funds may be
23 appropriated to other financial aid or tuition assistance
24 programs.

25 (b) For the purposes of this section, the term:

26 (1) "Merit-based aid" means financial aid that is provided
27 to students based primarily on their academic performance.

28 (2) "Need-based financial aid" means financial aid that is
29 provided to students who:

30 a. Achieve the academic requirements, of and acceptance
 31 at, a state university or community college; a nursing diploma
 32 school approved by the Florida Board of Nursing; a Florida
 33 college, university, or community college which is accredited by
 34 an accrediting agency recognized by the State Board of
 35 Education; any Florida institution the credits of which are
 36 acceptable for transfer to state universities; any career
 37 center; or any private career institution accredited by an
 38 accrediting agency recognized by the State Board of Education;

39 b. Complete the minimum number of credits and achieve a
 40 minimum cumulative grade point average established by law; and

41 c. Are given priority in the distribution of grant moneys
 42 based on their total family resources.

43 (3) "Other financial aid or tuition assistance programs"
 44 means a financial aid or tuition assistance program that
 45 includes, but is not limited to, a tuition assistance program
 46 for Florida residents who attend an independent nonprofit
 47 college or university which is located in, and chartered by, the
 48 state or who pursue a particular course of study.

49 (c) This section shall apply to appropriations for fiscal
 50 year 2009-2010 through fiscal year 2013-2014 and shall expire
 51 July 1, 2014.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
 53 placed on the ballot:

54 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

55 ARTICLE IX, SECTION 8

56 STATE FINANCIAL AID AND TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.--

57 This proposed amendment to the State Constitution allocates
 58 state spending among financial aid and tuition assistance

59 | programs. Under the amendment, at least 45 percent of the funds
60 | must be spent on merit-based programs, at least 35 percent must
61 | be spent on need-based programs, and no more than 20 percent may
62 | be spent on other financial aid or tuition assistance programs.
63 | The amendment applies to spending from fiscal years 2009-2010
64 | through 2013-2014.