

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1148

TITLE: Resolution Advocating for Additional Funding from the Bright Futures Scholarship Program to Go Towards Textbooks During Fall and Spring Semesters

AUTHOR(S): Senator Zachary Arzt, Senator Gabriela Prieto, Senator Laura Jane Bryan, Senator Roman Quattrochi

SPONSOR(S): Senator Angelina Fentress, Senator Owen Lekebusch, Senator Kishan Nayak, Senator Aleah Henley, Senator Isabel Ponce, Senator Laurel Wentworth, Senator Tyler Robson, Senator Julia Seifer, Senator Reese Marcus, Senator Conor Ruffin, Senator Damian Rodriguez, Senator Emma Antonik, Senator Christian Jubran, Senator Saketh Damera, Senator Catherine Isakson, Senator Watson Hewitt, Senator Maya Idiculla, Senator Annabella Vigna, Senator Bianca Oronato

WHEREAS, the University of Florida acknowledges that the Florida State Government provides scholarship funding to students of particular academic achievement through the Bright Futures Scholarship Program [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida admits students who have been granted the Bright Futures Scholarship Program [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the Bright Futures scholarship awards funds to cover up to 100% of student tuition and applicable fees based on their high school academic achievement [2]; and,

WHEREAS, this scholarship does not allocate funds to cover textbook fees, housing expenses, food costs, etc. [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the average college textbook costs an estimated \$105.37 [4]; and,

WHEREAS, 25% of students reported working extra hours to pay for coursework materials, 11% of students skipped meals to afford coursework materials, 66% of students skipped buying or renting coursework materials due to the expenses, the price of textbooks increases by an average of six percent each year, 20% of students who fail college courses cite that the cause of

failure was due to the cost of coursework materials, and 90% of professors say coursework materials cost their students too much [4]; and,

WHEREAS, the Florida State Legislature revoked the dissemination of an additional disbursement for the use of purchasing textbooks for Bright Futures Florida Academic Scholars recipients in 2021 [5]; and,

WHEREAS, Representatives Chambliss, Daley, and Hunschofsky of the Florida House of Representatives introduced bill HB 1667: Florida Academic Scholars Award (HB 1667), outlining the dissemination of additional funds to students who are recipients of the Bright Futures Florida Academic Scholar Award, for the use of purchasing textbooks [3];

WHEREAS, HB 1667 seeks to reintroduce a reduced textbook disbursement of \$300.00 effective July 1st, 2024 [3]; then,

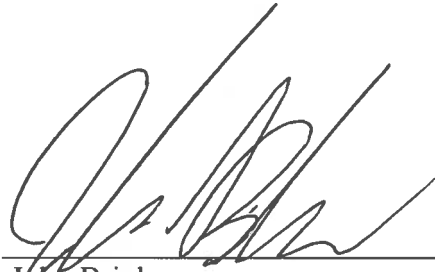
THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of textbooks, as they play a pivotal role in the academic success of students, and ensuring affordability and accessibility to these materials is essential for promoting educational equity and excellence.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the benefit of the Florida State Government providing additional funding to students awarded the Florida Academic Scholars Award through Bright Futures up to \$300.00 for textbooks so that students can purchase their required class materials.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate urges the State of Florida to pass HB 1667 for the awarding of additional funding from the Bright Futures Scholarship Program to go towards textbook costs.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President Ben Sasse, Provost Scott Angle, Student Body President Olivia Green, Vice President of Student Life Heather White, University of Florida Bursar's Office, Student Account Manager Bonita Fletcher, Florida House Representative Kevin D. Chambliss, Florida House Representative Dan Daley, Florida House Representative Christine Hunschofsky

- [1] <https://www.floridabrightfutures.gov/>
- [2] <https://www.sfa.ufl.edu/types-of-aid/bright-futures/>
- [3] <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/1667/BillText/Filed/PDF>
- [4] <https://educationdata.org/average-cost-of-college-textbooks>
- [5] <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/latestInfo.pdf>



John Brinkman
Senate President

3/1/2024
Date