

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Sunshine Scholarship Program;
 3 creating s. 1009.895, F.S.; establishing the Sunshine
 4 Scholarship Program for specified purposes; requiring
 5 the Department of Education to administer the program;
 6 providing definitions; requiring certain financial aid
 7 to be credited to a student's tuition and fees before
 8 award of a sunshine scholarship; providing student
 9 eligibility requirements; requiring a student to repay
 10 the scholarship amount under certain circumstances;
 11 providing the program only applies to a student's
 12 tuition and fees; providing for funding; providing for
 13 rulemaking; providing an effective date.

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 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 17 Section 1. Section 1009.895, Florida Statutes, is created
 18 to read:

19 1009.895 Sunshine Scholarship Program.—

20 (1) There is established the Sunshine Scholarship Program
 21 to be administered by the Department of Education. The Sunshine
 22 Scholarship Program shall provide funding for 100 percent of
 23 tuition and fees for Florida residents pursuing an associate
 24 degree or career certificate from an eligible postsecondary
 25 institution. "Eligible postsecondary institution" is defined as

26 | a Florida College System institution, a career center operated
27 | by a school district, or a charter technical career center.
28 | Financial aid received from the Pell Grant, the Florida Public
29 | Student Assistance Grant Program, and the Florida Bright Futures
30 | Scholarship Program shall be credited first to the student's
31 | tuition and fees.

32 | (2) To be eligible to receive a scholarship pursuant to
33 | this section, a student must:

34 | (a) Be a resident for tuition purposes, as defined in s.
35 | 1009.21.

36 | (b) Meet the general requirements for student eligibility
37 | as provided in s. 1009.40, except as otherwise provided in this
38 | section.

39 | (c) Have a total annual household income equal to or less
40 | than \$50,000.

41 | (d) Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid
42 | (FAFSA) for each academic year in which the scholarship is
43 | sought.

44 | (e) Be accepted by and enroll in an eligible postsecondary
45 | institution.

46 | (f) Maintain continuous enrollment as a full-time student
47 | while receiving the scholarship. "Full-time student" is defined
48 | as a student enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours or the
49 | clock hour equivalent.

50 | (3) Upon completion of his or her program of study or upon

51 disenrollment from an eligible postsecondary institution, the
52 student must reside and work within the state for the same
53 period of time he or she received funds from the program. If the
54 student does not reside and work within the state for the
55 specified period, the student must repay the total amount
56 awarded, plus an annual interest rate equal to the federal
57 student loan interest rate in effect when the student entered
58 the program. The requirements of this subsection do not apply:

59 (a) When a student enlists in the United States Armed
60 Forces; or

61 (b) While a student is continuously enrolled in a
62 baccalaureate degree program or higher at a Florida
63 postsecondary institution. Once the student graduates or
64 disenrolls from a Florida postsecondary institution, the
65 requirements of this subsection apply.

66 (4) To remain eligible for the program, a student must
67 maintain the equivalent of a cumulative grade point average of
68 2.5 on a 4.0 scale while enrolled at an eligible postsecondary
69 institution.

70 (5) The Sunshine Scholarship Program applies only to
71 tuition and fees. Each student is responsible for additional
72 user fees, textbooks, and other college-related expenses.

73 (6) Funding for the program shall be as provided in the
74 General Appropriations Act.

75 (7) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to

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76 | administer this section.

77 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.