By the Committee on Education and Senators Grant and Lee

304-719-98

 1   A bill to be entitled
 2   An act relating to educational fees; amending
 3   ss. 239.117, 240.235, 240.35, F.S.; revising
 4   the effective date of certain fee exemptions
 5   that are provided for students who are placed
 6   in foster care or in an independent living
 7   arrangement or who are adopted from the
 8   Department of Children and Family Services;
 9   amending s. 240.289, F.S.; authorizing the use
10   of credit card, charge card, and debit card
11   payments for tuition and fees without a service
12   fee or surcharge; providing for retroactive
13   application; providing an effective date.
14
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
16
17   Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section
18 239.117, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
19   239.117 Postsecondary student fees.--
20   (4) The following students are exempt from the payment
21 of registration, matriculation, and laboratory fees:
22   (c) A student for whom the state is paying a foster
23 care board payment pursuant to s. 409.145(3) or pursuant to
24 parts III and V of chapter 39, for whom the permanency
25 planning goal pursuant to part V of chapter 39 is long-term
26 foster care or independent living, or who is adopted from the
27 Department of Children and Family Services after May 5
28 December 31, 1997. Such exemption includes fees associated
29 with enrollment in college-preparatory instruction and
30 completion of the college-level communication and computation
31 skills testing program. Such exemption shall be available to

                              1

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

 1 any student adopted from the Department of Children and Family
 2 Services after <u>May 5</u> <s>December 31</s>, 1997; however, the exemption
 3 shall be valid for no more than 4 years after the date of
 4 graduation from high school.
 5   Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section
 6 240.235, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 7   240.235 Fees.--
 8   (5)(a) Any student for whom the state is paying a
 9 foster care board payment pursuant to s. 409.145(3) or parts
10 III and V of chapter 39, for whom the permanency planning goal
11 pursuant to part V of chapter 39 is long-term foster care or
12 independent living, or who is adopted from the Department of
13 Children and Family Services after <u>May 5</u> <s>December 31</s>, 1997,
14 shall be exempt from the payment of all undergraduate fees,
15 including fees associated with enrollment in
16 college-preparatory instruction or completion of college-level
17 communication and computation skills testing programs. Before
18 a fee exemption can be given, the student shall have applied
19 for and been denied financial aid, pursuant to s. 240.404,
20 which would have provided, at a minimum, payment of all
21 undergraduate fees. Such exemption shall be available to any
22 student adopted from the Department of Children and Family
23 Services after <u>May 5</u> <s>December 31</s>, 1997; however, the exemption
24 shall be valid for no more than 4 years after the date of
25 graduation from high school.
26   Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
27 240.35, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
28   240.35 Student fees.--Unless otherwise provided, the
29 provisions of this section apply only to fees charged for
30 college credit instruction leading to an associate degree,
31 including college-preparatory courses defined in s. 239.105.

 1   (2)(a) Any student for whom the state is paying a
 2   foster care board payment pursuant to s. 409.145(3) or parts
 3   III and V of chapter 39, for whom the permanency planning goal
 4   pursuant to part V of chapter 39 is long-term foster care or
 5   independent living, or who is adopted from the Department of
 6   Children and Family Services after May 5 ~~December 31~~, 1997,
 7   shall be exempt from the payment of all undergraduate fees,
 8   including fees associated with enrollment in
 9   college-preparatory instruction or completion of the
10   college-level communication and computation skills testing
11   program. Before a fee exemption can be given, the student
12   shall have applied for and been denied financial aid, pursuant
13   to s. 240.404, which would have provided, at a minimum,
14   payment of all student fees. Such exemption shall be available
15   to any student adopted from the Department of Children and
16   Family Services after May 5 ~~December 31~~, 1997; however, the
17   exemption shall be valid for no more than 4 years after the
18   date of graduation from high school.
19   Section 4. Section 240.289, Florida Statutes, is
20   amended to read:
21   240.289 Credit card, charge card, and debit card use
22   in university system; authority.--The several universities in
23   the State University System are authorized, <u>notwithstanding</u>
24   ~~pursuant to~~ s. 215.322, to enter into agreements and accept
25   credit card, charge card, or debit card payments as
26   compensation for goods, services, tuition, and fees in
27   accordance with rules established by the Board of Regents. <u>The</u>
28   <u>rules of the board shall allow the universities to accept</u>
29   <u>credit card, charge card, or debit card payments for tuition,</u>
30   <u>nonresident tuition, and fees without collecting a service fee</u>
31   <u>or surcharge.</u>

                              3

1   Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 1998,

2   except that this section and sections 1-3 of this act shall

3   take effect upon becoming a law and shall apply retroactively

4   to May 5, 1997.

5

6   STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
                    COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
7   SB 306

8

9   The Committee Substitute differs from Senate Bill 306 in that
    it would authorize children who were adopted from the
10 Department of Children and Families between May 6, 1997, and
    December 31, 1997, to be exempt from all fees for their
11 enrollment at any public postsecondary education institution.
    Children adopted after December 31, 1997, will retain their
12 current exemption from fees as well.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31