

By the Committees on Governmental Reform and Oversight,  
Education and Senators Grant, Lee, Kirkpatrick, Meadows and  
Bronson

302-1153-98

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to educational fees; amending  
ss. 239.117, 240.235, 240.35, F.S.; revising  
the effective date of certain fee exemptions  
that are provided for students who are placed  
in foster care or in an independent living  
arrangement or who are adopted from the  
Department of Children and Family Services;  
providing for retroactive application;  
providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section  
239.117, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

239.117 Postsecondary student fees.--

(4) The following students are exempt from the payment  
of registration, matriculation, and laboratory fees:

(c) A student for whom the state is paying a foster  
care board payment pursuant to s. 409.145(3) or pursuant to  
parts III and V of chapter 39, for whom the permanency  
planning goal pursuant to part V of chapter 39 is long-term  
foster care or independent living, or who is adopted from the  
Department of Children and Family Services after May 5  
~~December 31~~, 1997. Such exemption includes fees associated  
with enrollment in college-preparatory instruction and  
completion of the college-level communication and computation  
skills testing program. Such exemption shall be available to  
any student adopted from the Department of Children and Family  
Services after May 5 ~~December 31~~, 1997; however, the exemption

1 shall be valid for no more than 4 years after the date of  
2 graduation from high school.

3 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section  
4 240.235, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

5 240.235 Fees.--

6 (5)(a) Any student for whom the state is paying a  
7 foster care board payment pursuant to s. 409.145(3) or parts  
8 III and V of chapter 39, for whom the permanency planning goal  
9 pursuant to part V of chapter 39 is long-term foster care or  
10 independent living, or who is adopted from the Department of  
11 Children and Family Services after May 5 ~~December 31~~, 1997,  
12 shall be exempt from the payment of all undergraduate fees,  
13 including fees associated with enrollment in  
14 college-preparatory instruction or completion of college-level  
15 communication and computation skills testing programs. Before  
16 a fee exemption can be given, the student shall have applied  
17 for and been denied financial aid, pursuant to s. 240.404,  
18 which would have provided, at a minimum, payment of all  
19 undergraduate fees. Such exemption shall be available to any  
20 student adopted from the Department of Children and Family  
21 Services after May 5 ~~December 31~~, 1997; however, the exemption  
22 shall be valid for no more than 4 years after the date of  
23 graduation from high school.

24 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
25 240.35, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

26 240.35 Student fees.--Unless otherwise provided, the  
27 provisions of this section apply only to fees charged for  
28 college credit instruction leading to an associate degree,  
29 including college-preparatory courses defined in s. 239.105.

30 (2)(a) Any student for whom the state is paying a  
31 foster care board payment pursuant to s. 409.145(3) or parts

1 III and V of chapter 39, for whom the permanency planning goal  
2 pursuant to part V of chapter 39 is long-term foster care or  
3 independent living, or who is adopted from the Department of  
4 Children and Family Services after May 5 ~~December 31~~, 1997,  
5 shall be exempt from the payment of all undergraduate fees,  
6 including fees associated with enrollment in  
7 college-preparatory instruction or completion of the  
8 college-level communication and computation skills testing  
9 program. Before a fee exemption can be given, the student  
10 shall have applied for and been denied financial aid, pursuant  
11 to s. 240.404, which would have provided, at a minimum,  
12 payment of all student fees. Such exemption shall be available  
13 to any student adopted from the Department of Children and  
14 Family Services after May 5 ~~December 31~~, 1997; however, the  
15 exemption shall be valid for no more than 4 years after the  
16 date of graduation from high school.

17 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
18 law and shall apply retroactively to May 5, 1997.

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20 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
21 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
22 CS for Senate Bill 306

23 The committee substitute removes the language permitting the  
24 State University System and the Board of Regents to establish  
25 independent policy with regard to use of credit cards, debit  
26 cards, and charge cards in lieu of payment for tuition,  
27 nonresident tuition, and fees without collecting a service fee  
28 or surcharge.  
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