

By Representative Ausley

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to education and training
 3 opportunities for state employees; amending s.
 4 110.1099, F.S.; authorizing certain state
 5 employees to enroll in tuition-free courses on
 6 a space-available basis; providing for
 7 appropriation of funds to reimburse education
 8 institutions for administrative costs;
 9 providing duties of the Department of
 10 Education, the State Comptroller, and the
 11 Auditor General; clarifying language and
 12 deleting obsolete provisions; providing an
 13 effective date.

14
 15 WHEREAS, space-available tuition waivers have been
 16 offered to Florida's state employees as an important benefit
 17 to allow productive employees an opportunity to enhance their
 18 education, and

19 WHEREAS, valued and valuable employees, and potential
 20 employees, have always considered space-available tuition
 21 waivers to be of tremendous benefit, and

22 WHEREAS, one of the most effective methods for
 23 accomplishing tasks more efficiently is to provide access to
 24 education and training, and

25 WHEREAS, with fewer employees handling more tasks,
 26 education and training provide avenues to meet these
 27 challenges, enhance performance, and reward outstanding
 28 productivity, and

29 WHEREAS, the results of this benefit will be a more
 30 educated, well-rounded, productive, driven, appreciative, and
 31 efficient workforce, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

2

3 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 110.1099, Florida
4 Statutes, is amended to read:

5 110.1099 Education and training opportunities for
6 state employees.--

7 (1)(a) Education and training are an integral
8 component in improving the delivery of services to the public.
9 Recognizing that the application of productivity-enhancing
10 technology and practice demands continuous educational and
11 training opportunities, a state employee may be authorized to
12 receive a voucher or grant, for matriculation fees, to attend
13 work-related courses at public community colleges, public
14 technical centers, or public universities. ~~Student credit~~
15 ~~hours generated by state employee fee waivers shall be~~
16 ~~fundable credit hours.~~The department may implement the
17 provisions of this paragraph ~~section~~ from funds appropriated
18 to the department for this purpose. In the event insufficient
19 funds are appropriated to the department, each state agency
20 may supplement these funds to support the training and
21 education needs of its employees from funds appropriated to
22 the agency.

23 (b)1. As a benefit to employers and employees of the
24 state, subject to approval of an employee's agency head, a
25 non-State-University-System state employee who meets academic
26 requirements may enroll for up to 6 credit hours of
27 tuition-free courses per term on a space-available basis at a
28 public community college or public university. From funds
29 appropriated by the Legislature for implementation of this
30 paragraph, public community colleges and public universities
31 shall be reimbursed for administrative costs on a pro rata

1 basis according to the cost assessment data developed by the
2 Division of Community Colleges and the Division of Colleges
3 and Universities of the Department of Education.

4 2. The State Comptroller, in cooperation with the
5 Florida Community College System and the State University
6 System, shall identify and implement ways to ease the
7 administrative burden to public community colleges and public
8 universities, including, but not limited to, providing easier
9 access to verify state employment.

10 3. The Auditor General shall include a review of the
11 cost assessment data in conjunction with his or her audit
12 responsibilities for public community colleges, public
13 universities, and the Division of Community Colleges and the
14 Division of Colleges and Universities of the Department of
15 Education.

16 ~~(b) For the 2001-2002 fiscal year only and~~
17 ~~notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a), state~~
18 ~~employees may not be authorized to receive fundable tuition~~
19 ~~waivers on a space-available basis. This paragraph expires~~
20 ~~July 1, 2002.~~

21 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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23 HOUSE SUMMARY

24
25 Authorizes non-State-University-System state employees to
26 enroll for up to 6 credit hours of tuition-free courses
27 per term on a space-available basis at public community
28 colleges and public universities. Provides for
29 appropriation of funds to reimburse education
30 institutions for administrative costs. Provides duties of
31 the Department of Education, the State Comptroller, and
the Auditor General.