

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the John M. McKay Scholarships for
 3 Students with Disabilities Program; amending s. 1002.39,
 4 F.S.; authorizing a John M. McKay Scholarship to fund a
 5 home-based early intervention program for a child with an
 6 Autism Spectrum Disorder; providing an exemption from an
 7 attendance requirement; providing program requirements;
 8 specifying uses for scholarship funds; authorizing a John
 9 M. McKay Scholarship to fund certain community-based
 10 services for a public school student with an Autism
 11 Spectrum Disorder; defining the term "Autism Spectrum
 12 Disorder"; providing an effective date.

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

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 16 Section 1. Subsection (8) of section 1002.39, Florida
 17 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (9) and a new subsection
 18 (8) is added to said section to read:

19 1002.39 The John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with
 20 Disabilities Program.--There is established a program that is
 21 separate and distinct from the Opportunity Scholarship Program
 22 and is named the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with
 23 Disabilities Program, pursuant to this section.

24 (8)(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the
 25 parent of a child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder may receive a
 26 John M. McKay Scholarship to fund a home-based Early Intensive
 27 Behavioral Intervention (EIBI) Program for the child. Such child
 28 shall not be required to have spent the prior school year in

29 attendance at a Florida public school for receipt of a
 30 scholarship.

31 (b) The EIBI Program must be:

32 1. Recommended by a physician or the Early Steps Family
 33 Support Team for EIBI as the most effective treatment option for
 34 the child.

35 2. Planned and regularly supervised by a person who is, at
 36 minimum, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA).

37 3. Provided in the family home with a weekly schedule of
 38 educational activities.

39 (c) A John M. McKay Scholarship may be used to pay for or
 40 reimburse the following:

41 1. Assessment, program planning, staff and parent
 42 training, and supervision by the BCBA.

43 2. Direct intervention with the child by the BCBA.

44 3. Services of a person who possesses an associate degree
 45 or higher and who has completed 15 hours of training in the EIBI
 46 Program.

47 4. Training manuals and books and teaching and learning
 48 materials essential for establishing and maintaining the EIBI
 49 Program.

50 (d) A student with an Autism Spectrum Disorder who is at
 51 least 14 but not more than 22 years of age and in the public
 52 school system is eligible for a John M. McKay Scholarship to pay
 53 for services provided by a community-based organization for or
 54 related to career or life skills preparation.

55 (e) The term "Autism Spectrum Disorder" means one of the
 56 five specific diagnoses enumerated in the DSM-IV for Pervasive

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57 Developmental Disorders which are: Autistic Disorder; Asperger's
58 Disorder; Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise
59 Specified (PDDNOS); Childhood Disintegrative Disorder; and
60 Rett's Disorder.

61 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.