

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to financial assistance for postsecondary
3 students; creating s. 1009.892, F.S.; creating the Florida
4 Reimbursement Grant Program to Provide Postsecondary
5 Psycho-Academic Testing to Students with Disabilities;
6 providing for rulemaking by the State Board of Education;
7 providing that the Department of Education shall
8 administer the program; providing legislative intent;
9 providing eligibility requirements; prescribing a limit on
10 testing costs; providing that the cost of psycho-academic
11 testing is part of the student's attendance cost;
12 requiring a student who applies for such a grant to apply
13 for a Pell Grant; providing that Pell Grant entitlement
14 must be considered in determining a student's monetary
15 need for a grant under this section; requiring
16 participating institutions to report specified information
17 to the department; requiring that the amount of such
18 grants be specified in the General Appropriations Act;
19 providing procedures; requiring participating institutions
20 to return undisbursed grant moneys to the department;
21 providing that the act be implemented only to the extent
22 that it is funded and authorized; providing an effective
23 date.

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

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27 Section 1. Section 1009.892, Florida Statutes, is created
28 to read:

29 1009.892 Florida Reimbursement Grant Program to Provide
 30 Postsecondary Psycho-Academic Testing to Students with
 31 Disabilities.--

32 (1) There is created the Florida Reimbursement Grant
 33 Program to Provide Postsecondary Psycho-Academic Testing for
 34 Students with Disabilities. The State Board of Education shall
 35 adopt rules for administering the program, and the department
 36 shall administer the program. It is the intent of the
 37 Legislature that this program provide to eligible students with
 38 disabilities reimbursement for postsecondary psycho-academic
 39 testing conducted by postsecondary institutions, or conducted by
 40 private providers under contract with postsecondary
 41 institutions, to assist in providing the appropriate
 42 accommodations and services for students who have specified
 43 learning and cognitive disabilities.

44 (2) (a) A grant may be made under this section only to an
 45 eligible student with disabilities who:

46 1. Is enrolled in a degree, certificate, or diploma
 47 program;

48 2. Is enrolled in at least 6 semester hours per term, or
 49 the equivalent thereof, at a state university, community
 50 college, or private postsecondary institution in this state
 51 which requires documentation for accommodations for
 52 disabilities;

53 3. Meets the general requirements for student eligibility
 54 as provided in s. 1009.40, except as otherwise provided in this
 55 section; and

56 4. Has a disability or disabilities as documented under

57 the Americans with Disabilities Act.

58 (b) The grants shall be awarded annually for the cost of
59 psycho-academic testing required by participating institutions,
60 and the postsecondary institution shall determine the cost in an
61 amount not to exceed \$1,000.

62 (c) Any required psycho-academic testing for students with
63 disabilities must be considered a part of the student's cost of
64 attendance. An eligible student with a disability who applies
65 for a Florida Reimbursement Grant to Provide Postsecondary
66 Psycho-Academic Testing for Students with Disabilities must also
67 apply for the Pell Grant. A student's entitlement to a Pell
68 Grant must be considered in determining need when conducting an
69 assessment of the financial resources available to the student.
70 The participating institution shall defer the cost of required
71 psycho-academic testing for eligible students.

72 (3) Each participating institution shall report to the
73 department, by a date stipulated by the department, the number
74 of eligible students to whom grant moneys are disbursed each
75 academic term and the necessary demographic and eligibility data
76 concerning such students.

77 (4) (a) The amount that may be awarded for each grant under
78 this section must be specified in the General Appropriations
79 Act. The funds appropriated for such grants must be transmitted
80 to the president of an eligible institution, or to his or her
81 designated representative, in advance of the registration
82 period.

83 (b) A student's eligibility to receive a disbursement
84 under this section shall be determined by each institution as of

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85 the end of its regular registration period, inclusive of a drop-
86 add period. The institution need not reevaluate a student's
87 eligibility status after that date for purposes of changing
88 eligibility determinations previously made. The institution in
89 which an eligible student is enrolled shall notify the student
90 of the amount of his or her award.

91 (c) Each participating institution shall certify to the
92 department the amount of funds disbursed to each eligible
93 student under this section and shall remit to the department any
94 undisbursed advances or refunds within 60 days after the end of
95 regular registration.

96 (5) This section shall be implemented only to the extent
97 specifically funded and authorized by law.

98 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.