

By Senator Constantine

22-166-06

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to tuition rates at state  
3           colleges and universities; creating s.  
4           1009.286, F.S.; requiring students to pay 75  
5           percent of the actual cost per credit hour for  
6           credit hours in excess of a specified number  
7           for community-college credits and for overall  
8           credits applied to a baccalaureate degree;  
9           excluding certain credit hours from calculation  
10          as hours required to earn a baccalaureate  
11          degree; providing for notification of students  
12          by a postsecondary institution; providing  
13          applicability; providing an effective date.

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

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17           Section 1. Section 1009.286, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19           1009.286 Additional student payment required for hours  
20 exceeding graduation requirements.--

21           (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to discourage  
22 undergraduate students in postsecondary education from  
23 exceeding the number of credit hours required to complete the  
24 students' respective degree programs. Accordingly, a student  
25 must pay 75 percent over the in-state tuition rate for any  
26 credit hours that the student takes in excess of 120 percent  
27 of the number of credit hours required to complete the degree  
28 program in which he or she is enrolled.

29           (2) A student who is enrolled in a community college  
30 must pay 75 percent over the in-state tuition rate for credit  
31 hours that the student takes in excess of 120 percent of the

1 credit hours required to earn an associate degree, except that  
2 a community college student who has earned the associate  
3 degree need not pay the full cost for a maximum of 24 hours  
4 taken while enrolled at a community college which apply to his  
5 or her baccalaureate degree.

6 (3) An undergraduate student who is enrolled in a  
7 university that is part of the state university system must  
8 pay 75 percent over the in-state tuition rate for credit hours  
9 that the student takes in excess of 120 percent of the credit  
10 hours required to complete the degree program in which he or  
11 she is enrolled, regardless of whether those hours were taken  
12 while enrolled at a community college, a state university, or  
13 any private postsecondary institution if the student received  
14 state funds while enrolled at the private postsecondary  
15 institution.

16 (4) An undergraduate student who is enrolled in a  
17 baccalaureate degree program at a community college must pay  
18 75 percent over the in-state tuition rate for credit hours  
19 that the student takes in excess of 120 percent of the number  
20 of credit hours required to complete the degree program in  
21 which he or she is enrolled, regardless of whether those hours  
22 were taken while enrolled at a community college, a state  
23 university, or any private postsecondary institution if the  
24 student received state funds while enrolled at the private  
25 postsecondary institution.

26 (5) Credit hours earned under the following  
27 circumstances are not calculated as hours required to earn a  
28 degree:

29 (a) College credits earned through an accelerated  
30 mechanism identified in s. 1007.27;

31 (b) Credit hours earned through internship programs;

1           (c) Credit hours required for certification,  
2 recertification, or certificate degrees;

3           (d) Credit hours in courses from which a student must  
4 withdraw due to reasons of medical or personal hardship;

5           (e) Credit hours taken by active-duty military  
6 personnel;

7           (f) Credit hours required to achieve a dual major  
8 undertaken while pursuing a degree;

9           (g) Remedial and English as a Second Language credit  
10 hours; and

11           (h) Credit hours earned in military science courses  
12 (R.O.T.C).

13           (6) Each postsecondary institution shall implement a  
14 process for notifying students regarding this section. The  
15 notice must be provided upon the student's initial enrollment  
16 in the institution and again upon the student's having earned  
17 the credit hours required to complete the degree program in  
18 which he or she is enrolled. The notice must include a  
19 recommendation that each student who intends to earn credit  
20 hours at the institution beyond those required for his or her  
21 enrolled degree program meet with his or her academic advisor.

22           Section 2. Section 1009.286, Florida Statutes, as  
23 created by this act, applies to freshmen enrolled in the fall  
24 of 2006 and all freshmen thereafter.

25           Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.  
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SENATE SUMMARY

Requires that students pay 75 percent of the actual cost per credit hour for credit hours in excess of a specified number for community college credits and for overall credits applied to a baccalaureate degree. Excludes certain credit hours from calculation as hours required to earn a baccalaureate degree. Provides for notification of students by a postsecondary institution.