

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to student financial assistance; creating
 3 s. 1009.701, F.S.; creating the First Generation Matching
 4 Grant Program to provide financial aid to undergraduate
 5 students with financial need whose parents have not earned
 6 a baccalaureate degree; providing for appropriation,
 7 allocation, and distribution of funds; providing student
 8 eligibility requirements; providing the basis for the
 9 amount of awards; providing duties of institutions
 10 participating in the program; creating s. 1009.255, F.S.;
 11 providing an out-of-state fee exemption; providing
 12 eligibility criteria; providing for distribution of the
 13 exemption; limiting participation in the program;
 14 requiring the Department of Education to administer the
 15 exemption program; prohibiting use of the exemption for
 16 certain purposes; providing an effective date.

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

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 20 Section 1. Section 1009.701, Florida Statutes, is created
 21 to read:

22 1009.701 First Generation Matching Grant Program.--

23 (1) The First Generation Matching Grant Program is created
 24 to enable each state university and community college to provide
 25 donors with a matching grant incentive for contributions that
 26 will create grant-based student financial aid for undergraduate
 27 students who demonstrate financial need and whose parents, as

28 defined in s. 1009.21(1), have not earned a baccalaureate
29 degree.

30 (2) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the program
31 shall be allocated by the Office of Student Financial Assistance
32 to match private contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis.
33 Contributions made to a state university or community college
34 and pledged for the purposes of this section are eligible for
35 state matching funds appropriated for this program and are not
36 eligible for any other state matching grant program. Pledged
37 contributions are not eligible for matching prior to the actual
38 collection of the total funds. The Office of Student Financial
39 Assistance shall reserve 50 percent of the total appropriated
40 funds for state universities and the remaining 50 percent for
41 community colleges. Within each 50-percent portion, the Office
42 of Student Financial Assistance shall reserve a proportionate
43 allocation for each state university and community college on
44 the basis of full-time equivalent enrollments. Funds that remain
45 unmatched as of December 1 shall be reallocated to state
46 universities and community colleges that have remaining
47 unmatched private contributions for the program on the basis of
48 full-time equivalent enrollments.

49 (3) Payment of the state matching grant shall be
50 transmitted to the president of each participating institution
51 or his or her representative in advance of the student
52 registration period.

53 (4) Each participating state university and community
54 college shall establish an application process, determine

55 student eligibility for initial and renewal awards in
56 conformance with subsection (5), identify the amount awarded to
57 each recipient, and notify recipients of the amount of their
58 awards.

59 (5) In order to be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to
60 this section, an applicant shall:

61 (a) Be a resident for tuition purposes pursuant to s.
62 1009.21.

63 (b) Be a first generation college student. For the
64 purposes of this section, a student is considered "first
65 generation" if neither of the student's parents, as defined in
66 s. 1009.21(1), earned a college degree at the baccalaureate
67 level or higher.

68 (c) Be accepted at a state university or community
69 college.

70 (d) Be enrolled for a minimum of 6 credit hours per term
71 as a degree-seeking undergraduate student.

72 (e) Have demonstrated financial need by completing the
73 Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

74 (6) The award amount shall be based on the student's need
75 assessment after any scholarship or grant aid, including, but
76 not limited to, a Pell Grant or a Florida Bright Futures
77 Scholarship Program award, has been applied. No award may exceed
78 the institution's estimated annual cost of attendance for
79 comparable undergraduate students attending the institution.

80 (7) Each participating institution shall report to the
81 Office of Student Financial Assistance, by the date established

82 | by the office, the eligible students to whom grant moneys are
83 | disbursed each academic term. Institutions shall certify to the
84 | Office of Student Financial Assistance the amount of funds
85 | disbursed to each student and shall remit to the office any
86 | undisbursed advances by June 1 of each year.

87 | (8) No later than July 1 of each year, each participating
88 | institution shall report to the Executive Office of the
89 | Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
90 | President of the Senate, each community college shall report to
91 | the State Board of Education, and each state university shall
92 | report to the Board of Governors regarding eligibility
93 | requirements for recipients, the aggregate demographics of
94 | recipients, retention and graduation rates of recipients, and a
95 | delineation of funds awarded to recipients.

96 | (9) This section shall be implemented only as specifically
97 | funded.

98 | Section 2. Section 1009.255, Florida Statutes, is created
99 | to read:

100 | 1009.255 Out-of-state fee exemption.--

101 | (1) A student who meets all of the following requirements
102 | may be eligible for an exemption from paying out-of-state fees
103 | assessed pursuant to s. 1009.22, s. 1009.23, or s. 1009.24:

104 | (a) The student resided in Florida with a parent for at
105 | least 3 consecutive years immediately preceding the date the
106 | student received a high school diploma, or its equivalent, and
107 | attended a Florida public high school for at least 3 consecutive
108 | school years during such time.

109 (b) The student is accepted by and enrolls in a community
110 college or state university within 12 months after receiving a
111 high school diploma or its equivalent.

112 (c) The student submits an application for the exemption
113 to the Department of Education in the manner prescribed by the
114 department and by the deadline established by the department.

115 (2) (a) For the 2006-2007 academic year, the Department of
116 Education shall distribute the exemptions in the following
117 manner:

118 1. To the first 1,500 students currently enrolled in a
119 community college or state university who have a cumulative
120 grade point average of at least 2.0 and who submit an
121 application to the department and meet the criteria in
122 subsection (1).

123 2. To the top 500 students in academic performance in
124 Florida public high schools who submit an application to the
125 department and meet the criteria in subsection (1).

126 (b) Beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year, the
127 Department of Education shall issue no more than 500 new
128 exemptions per year to the top 500 students in academic
129 performance in Florida public high schools who submit an
130 application to the department and meet the criteria in
131 subsection (1).

132 (c) In order to retain the exemption, a student must have
133 completed at least 12 semester credit hours or the equivalent in
134 the previous academic year and maintain at least a 2.0
135 cumulative grade point average.

136 (3) (a) The Department of Education shall administer the
137 exemption program, develop an application form, and establish
138 deadlines and guidelines for student participation.

139 (b) The department shall issue the exemptions by August 31
140 of each year and shall notify the student and the community
141 college or state university in which the student is enrolled.

142 (4) The exemption may not be used for remedial courses,
143 graduate-level courses, or professional-level courses.

144 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.