

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 appropriation; providing an
 17 effective date.

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

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

23 1009.701 First Generation Matching Grant Program.--
 24 (1) The First Generation Matching Grant Program is created
 25 to enable each state university and community college to provide
 26 donors with a matching grant incentive for contributions that
 27 will create grant-based student financial aid for undergraduate

28 | students who demonstrate financial need and whose parents, as
29 | defined in s. 1009.21(1), have not earned a baccalaureate
30 | degree.

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

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

54 (4) Each participating state university and community
55 college shall establish an application process, determine
56 student eligibility for initial and renewal awards in
57 conformance with subsection (5), identify the amount awarded to
58 each recipient, and notify recipients of the amount of their
59 awards.

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

62 (a) Be a resident for tuition purposes pursuant to s.
63 1009.21.

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

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

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

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

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

81 (7) Each participating institution shall report to the
82 Office of Student Financial Assistance, by the date established
83 by the office, the eligible students to whom grant moneys are
84 disbursed each academic term. Institutions shall certify to the
85 Office of Student Financial Assistance the amount of funds
86 disbursed to each student and shall remit to the office any
87 undisbursed advances by June 1 of each year.

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

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

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

101 1009.255 Out-of-state fee exemption.--

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

105 (a) The student resided in Florida with a parent for at
106 least 3 consecutive years immediately preceding the date the
107 student received a high school diploma, or its equivalent, and

108 attended a Florida public high school for at least 3 consecutive
109 school years during such time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

133 (c) In order to retain the exemption, a student must have
134 completed at least 12 semester credit hours or the equivalent in

135 the previous academic year and maintain at least a 2.0
136 cumulative grade point average.

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

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

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

145 Section 3. For the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the sum of \$14
146 million is appropriated from recurring general revenue to the
147 Office of Student Financial Assistance for the First Generation
148 Matching Grant Program. The Office of Student Financial
149 Assistance shall allocate these funds pursuant to the provisions
150 of s. 1009.701, Florida Statutes.

151 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.