

By the Committee on Military Affairs and Domestic Security;
and Senator Fasano

583-1898-07

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to postsecondary education fee
waivers; amending s. 1009.26, F.S.; requiring
the Department of Education to repay student
loans outstanding after a waiver has been
granted to a decorated combat veteran;
requiring certain conditions be met; providing
an appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (9) of section 1009.26, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.26 Fee waivers.--

(9) A state university or community college shall
waive undergraduate tuition for each recipient of a Purple
Heart or another combat decoration superior in precedence who:

(a) Is enrolled as a full-time, part-time, or
summer-school student in an undergraduate program that
terminates in a degree or certificate;

(b) Is currently, and was at the time of the military
action that resulted in the awarding of the Purple Heart or
other combat decoration superior in precedence, a resident of
this state; and

(c) Submits to the state university or the community
college the DD-214 form issued at the time of separation from
service as documentation that the student has received a
Purple Heart or another combat decoration superior in
precedence.

1 Such a waiver for a Purple Heart recipient or recipient of
2 another combat decoration superior in precedence shall be
3 applicable for 110 percent of the number of required credit
4 hours of the degree or certificate program for which the
5 student is enrolled. If such a student has an outstanding
6 undergraduate student loan that was awarded before receipt of
7 the combat decoration, the Department of Education shall pay
8 the balance due on the student loan as of the date that the
9 tuition waiver was first granted once the repayment of the
10 loan is considered to be in good standing.

11 Section 2. The sum of _____ is appropriated from the
12 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to be used
13 during the 2007-2008 fiscal year for the purpose of repaying
14 outstanding undergraduate student loans made to decorated
15 combat veterans as provided in this act.

16 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.
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18 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
19 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
20 Senate Bill 0446

21 This committee substitute shifts the appropriation to be used
22 for payment of eligible undergraduate student loans from the
23 Department of Veterans Affairs to the Department of Education.
24 This substitute also clarifies that the term "in good
25 standing" refers to an outstanding student loan.
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