

By the Committees on Higher Education; Military Affairs and Domestic Security; and Senator Fasano

589-2057-07

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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 education loan that was certified by a
7 postsecondary institution and that was awarded before receipt
8 of the combat decoration, the Department of Education shall
9 pay the balance due on the student loan as of the date that
10 the tuition waiver was first granted once the repayment of the
11 loan is considered to be in good standing.

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

17 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.
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19 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
20 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
21 CS for SB 446

22 The committee substitute specifies that the student education
23 loan to be forgiven must have been certified by a
24 postsecondary institution.
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