

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to state university student fees; creating
3 s. 1009.245, F.S.; authorizing the establishment of an
4 academic enhancement fee at the University of Florida to
5 support the academic enhancement pilot program approved by
6 the Board of Governors of the State University System;
7 providing guidelines for the fee; providing exceptions;
8 providing for use of proceeds; requiring grant aid or
9 waivers for certain students; providing restrictions with
10 respect to coverage by certain scholarships; requiring an
11 annual report; amending s. 1009.98, F.S.; authorizing the
12 Florida Prepaid College Board to provide advance payment
13 contracts for the academic enhancement fee; providing
14 exemption from payment of the fee; providing an effective
15 date.

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

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19 Section 1. Section 1009.245, Florida Statutes, is created
20 to read:

21 1009.245 University of Florida Academic Enhancement Pilot
22 Program.--

23 (1) The University of Florida Board of Trustees is
24 authorized to establish an academic enhancement fee to support
25 the academic enhancement pilot program approved by the Board of
26 Governors to improve the quality of education provided to
27 undergraduate students at the University of Florida. The fee may
28 be implemented beginning Fall 2008.

29 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section and
30 notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the
31 sum of the activity and service, health, and athletic fees
32 authorized pursuant to s. 1009.24 and the academic enhancement
33 fee authorized pursuant to this section shall not exceed 40
34 percent of the undergraduate tuition established in law or in
35 the General Appropriations Act. Annual increases in the
36 aggregate sum of the activity and service, health, athletic, and
37 academic enhancement fees are not subject to the 5 percent cap
38 imposed by s. 1009.24. The provisions of this paragraph shall
39 not apply to new undergraduate students who enter the University
40 of Florida in Fall 2012 or thereafter.

41 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the
42 academic enhancement fee may be assessed to any student who
43 registers for an undergraduate course.

44 (c) An increase in the academic enhancement fee may occur
45 only once each fiscal year and must be implemented beginning
46 with the fall term.

47 (d) Effective with new undergraduate students entering the
48 University of Florida in Fall 2012 and thereafter, the academic
49 enhancement fee may not exceed \$500 per semester or \$1,000 per
50 year, whichever is less.

51 (e) The proceeds from the academic enhancement fee
52 authorized by this section shall be used to hire additional
53 tenure-track faculty and academic counselors to serve
54 undergraduate students, improve the undergraduate student-
55 faculty ratio, reduce the class size in undergraduate courses,
56 and offer more high-demand undergraduate courses.

57 (2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the
58 University of Florida shall provide grant aid or a waiver from
59 the academic enhancement fee authorized by this section for:

60 (a) Any student who demonstrates financial need by
61 completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid unless
62 the fee would otherwise be covered by the Florida Bright Futures
63 Scholarship Program pursuant to the provisions of this section.
64 A student is not required to receive a Pell Grant to be eligible
65 for the grant aid or waiver required by this paragraph.

66 (b) That portion of the academic enhancement fee not
67 covered by the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program for
68 any student who receives a Florida Medallion Scholars award or a
69 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award if the student
70 entered the University of Florida prior to Fall 2012 and is the
71 beneficiary of an advance payment contract issued pursuant to s.
72 1009.98 and entered into prior to July 1, 2007.

73 (c) Any student who is the beneficiary of an advance
74 payment contract issued pursuant to s. 1009.98 and entered into
75 prior to July 1, 2007, if the student entered the University of
76 Florida prior to Fall 2012 and is not eligible to receive an
77 award from the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

78 (d) Any student who enters the University of Florida in
79 Fall 2012 or thereafter and is the beneficiary of an advance
80 payment contract issued pursuant to s. 1009.98 and entered into
81 prior to July 1, 2007.

82 (3) Effective with new undergraduate students entering the
83 University of Florida in Fall 2012 and thereafter, and
84 notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the

85 academic enhancement fee authorized by this section is not
86 covered by the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
87 established pursuant to ss. 1009.53-1009.536.

88 (4) The University of Florida shall report annually by
89 December 1 to the Board of Governors, the Executive Office of
90 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
91 the House of Representatives on the revenues collected pursuant
92 to this section, the number of students paying the fee, the
93 number of students for whom grant aid was provided or the fee
94 was waived, the number of new faculty hired from fee revenues,
95 the number of new academic counselors hired from fee revenues,
96 improvements in the student-faculty ratio, improvements in
97 undergraduate class size, increases in the number of
98 undergraduate course offerings, improvements in retention rates,
99 and improvements in graduation rates.

100 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) and subsection
101 (7) of section 1009.98, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

102 1009.98 Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program.--

103 (2) PREPAID COLLEGE PLANS.--At a minimum, the board shall
104 make advance payment contracts available for two independent
105 plans to be known as the community college plan and the
106 university plan. The board may also make advance payment
107 contracts available for a dormitory residence plan. The board
108 may restrict the number of participants in the community college
109 plan, university plan, and dormitory residence plan,
110 respectively. However, any person denied participation solely on
111 the basis of such restriction shall be granted priority for
112 participation during the succeeding year.

113 (b)1. Through the university plan, the advance payment
114 contract shall provide prepaid registration fees for a specified
115 number of undergraduate semester credit hours not to exceed the
116 average number of hours required for the conference of a
117 baccalaureate degree. Qualified beneficiaries shall bear the
118 cost of any laboratory fees associated with enrollment in
119 specific courses. Each qualified beneficiary shall be classified
120 as a resident for tuition purposes pursuant to s. 1009.21,
121 regardless of his or her actual legal residence.

122 2. Effective July 1, 1998, the board may provide advance
123 payment contracts for additional fees delineated in s.
124 1009.24(8)-(11), for a specified number of undergraduate
125 semester credit hours not to exceed the average number of hours
126 required for the conference of a baccalaureate degree, in
127 conjunction with advance payment contracts for registration
128 fees. Such contracts shall provide prepaid coverage for the sum
129 of such fees, to a maximum of 45 percent of the cost of
130 registration fees. University plan contracts purchased prior to
131 July 1, 1998, shall be limited to the payment of registration
132 fees as defined in s. 1009.97.

133 3. Effective July 1, 2007, the board may provide advance
134 payment contracts for the academic enhancement fee authorized in
135 s. 1009.245, for a specified number of undergraduate semester
136 credit hours not to exceed the average number of hours required
137 for the conference of a baccalaureate degree, in conjunction
138 with advance payment contracts for registration fees.

139 (7) OBLIGATIONS OF BOARD.--

CS/HB 905

2007

140 (a) The state shall agree to meet the obligations of the
141 board to qualified beneficiaries if moneys in the fund fail to
142 offset the obligations of the board. The Legislature shall
143 appropriate to the Florida Prepaid College Trust Fund the amount
144 necessary to meet the obligations of the board to qualified
145 beneficiaries.

146 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the
147 contrary, the Florida Prepaid College Board and the Florida
148 Prepaid College Trust Fund are exempt from all payment of the
149 fee assessed pursuant to s. 1009.245 on behalf of all contract
150 beneficiaries except those with advance payment contracts
151 provided by the Florida Prepaid College Board for the fee
152 authorized pursuant to s. 1009.245.

153 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.