

By Senator Fasano

11-00128-08

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1 A bill to be entitled

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

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

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

13 1009.26 Fee waivers.--

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

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

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

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

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29 Such a waiver for a Purple Heart recipient or recipient of

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30 another combat decoration superior in precedence shall be
31 applicable for 110 percent of the number of required credit hours
32 of the degree or certificate program for which the student is
33 enrolled. If such a student has an outstanding undergraduate
34 student education loan that was certified by a postsecondary
35 institution and that was awarded before receipt of the combat
36 decoration, the Department of Education shall pay the balance due
37 on the student loan as of the date that the tuition waiver was
38 first granted once the repayment of the loan is considered to be
39 in good standing.

40 Section 2. The sum of _____ is appropriated from the
41 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to be used
42 during the 2008-2009 fiscal year for the purpose of repaying
43 outstanding undergraduate student loans made to decorated combat
44 veterans as provided in this act.

45 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.