

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship
 3 Program; amending s. 1009.532, F.S.; requiring a student
 4 to complete a specified number of community service or
 5 internship hours in order to be eligible to renew a
 6 scholarship under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship
 7 Program; allowing a student to restore eligibility if such
 8 hours are insufficient for renewal; providing an effective
 9 date.

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

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13 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 1009.532, Florida
 14 Statutes, is amended to read:

15 1009.532 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;
 16 student eligibility requirements for renewal awards.--

17 (1) To be eligible to renew a scholarship from any of the
 18 three types of scholarships under the Florida Bright Futures
 19 Scholarship Program, a student must:

20 (a) Complete at least 12 semester credit hours or the
 21 equivalent in the last academic year in which the student earned
 22 a scholarship.

23 (b) Beginning with the 2010-2011 incoming freshman class
 24 of a postsecondary educational institution, complete at least 20
 25 hours of unpaid community service or an unpaid internship within
 26 the state as approved and administered by the Department of
 27 Education during the last academic year in which the student
 28 earned a scholarship. The student may choose to perform unpaid

29 community service or complete an unpaid internship with any of
 30 the following entities, including, but not limited to:

31 1. A municipal or county government, the state government,
 32 or the Federal Government;

33 2. A not-for-profit organization; or

34 3. A service learning program.

35 (c)~~(b)~~ Maintain the cumulative grade point average
 36 required by the scholarship program, except that:

37 1. If a recipient's grades fall beneath the average
 38 required to renew a Florida Academic Scholarship, but are
 39 sufficient to renew a Florida Medallion Scholarship or a Florida
 40 Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship, the Department of Education
 41 may grant a renewal from one of those other scholarship
 42 programs, if the student meets the renewal eligibility
 43 requirements;

44 2. If, at any time during the eligibility period, a
 45 student's grades are insufficient to renew the scholarship, the
 46 student may restore eligibility by improving the grade point
 47 average to the required level. A student is eligible for such a
 48 restoration one time. The Legislature encourages education
 49 institutions to assist students to calculate whether or not it
 50 is possible to raise the grade point average during the summer
 51 term. If the institution determines that it is possible, the
 52 education institution may so inform the department, which may
 53 reserve the student's award if funds are available. The renewal,
 54 however, must not be granted until the student achieves the
 55 required cumulative grade point average. If the summer term is
 56 not sufficient to raise the grade point average to the required

HB 1377

2008

57 renewal level, the student's next opportunity for renewal is the
58 fall semester of the following academic year; ~~or~~

59 3. If, at any time during the eligibility period, a
60 student's community service or internship hours are insufficient
61 to renew the scholarship, the student may restore eligibility by
62 completing the hours for which the student is deficient. A
63 student is eligible for such a restoration one time. The student
64 must inform the Department of Education that restoration is
65 sought, and at such time the department may reserve the
66 student's award if funds are available. The renewal, however,
67 must not be granted until the student completes the required
68 hours for which the student is deficient. If the summer term is
69 not sufficient to complete the required hours for renewal, the
70 student's next opportunity for renewal is the fall semester of
71 the following academic year at which time the student must
72 complete the hours required for restoration and the hours
73 required for renewal; or

74 ~~4.3-~~ If a student is receiving a Florida Bright Futures
75 Scholarship, is a servicemember of the Florida National Guard or
76 United States Reserves while attending a postsecondary
77 institution, is called to active duty or state active duty, as
78 defined in s. 250.01, prior to completing his or her degree, and
79 meets all other requirements for the scholarship, the student
80 shall be eligible to continue the scholarship for 2 years after
81 completing active duty or state active duty.

82 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.