

By Senator Gaetz

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to state university student fees; amending
3 s. 1009.24, F.S.; revising provisions relating to
4 adjustments to out-of-state fees or tuition for graduate
5 and professional programs; providing an effective date.
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7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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9 Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 1009.24, Florida
10 Statutes, as amended by chapter 2007-329, Laws of Florida, is
11 amended to read:

12 1009.24 State university student fees.--

13 (4) (a) Effective January 1, 2008, the resident
14 undergraduate tuition for lower-level and upper-level coursework
15 shall be \$77.39 per credit hour.

16 (b) Beginning with the 2008-2009 fiscal year and each year
17 thereafter, the resident undergraduate tuition per credit hour
18 shall increase at the beginning of each fall semester at a rate
19 equal to inflation, unless otherwise provided in the General
20 Appropriations Act. The Office of Economic and Demographic
21 Research shall report the rate of inflation to the President of
22 the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
23 Governor, and the Board of Governors each year prior to March 1.
24 For purposes of this paragraph, the rate of inflation shall be
25 defined as the rate of the 12-month percentage change in the
26 Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average,
27 All Items, or successor reports as reported by the United States
28 Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, or its successor
29 for December of the previous year. In the event the percentage

4-02863-08

20082556__

30 change is negative, the resident undergraduate tuition shall
31 remain at the same level as the prior fiscal year.

32 (c) The Board of Governors, or the board's designee, may
33 establish tuition for graduate and professional programs, and
34 out-of-state fees for all programs. The sum of tuition and out-
35 of-state fees assessed to nonresident students must be sufficient
36 to offset the full instructional cost of serving such students.
37 However, adjustments to out-of-state fees or tuition for graduate
38 and professional programs pursuant to this section may not exceed
39 10 percent in any year for any student who is formally admitted
40 to and maintains continuous enrollment in a graduate or
41 professional program.

42 (d) The sum of the activity and service, health, and
43 athletic fees a student is required to pay to register for a
44 course shall not exceed 40 percent of the tuition established in
45 law or in the General Appropriations Act. No university shall be
46 required to lower any fee in effect on the effective date of this
47 act in order to comply with this subsection. Within the 40
48 percent cap, universities may not increase the aggregate sum of
49 activity and service, health, and athletic fees more than 5
50 percent per year unless specifically authorized in law or in the
51 General Appropriations Act. A university may increase its
52 athletic fee to defray the costs associated with changing
53 National Collegiate Athletic Association divisions. Any such
54 increase in the athletic fee may exceed both the 40 percent cap
55 and the 5 percent cap imposed by this subsection. Any such
56 increase must be approved by the athletic fee committee in the
57 process outlined in subsection (12) and cannot exceed \$2 per
58 credit hour. Notwithstanding the provisions of ss. 1009.534,

4-02863-08

20082556__

59 | 1009.535, and 1009.536, that portion of any increase in an
60 | athletic fee pursuant to this subsection that causes the sum of
61 | the activity and service, health, and athletic fees to exceed the
62 | 40 percent cap or the annual increase in such fees to exceed the
63 | 5 percent cap shall not be included in calculating the amount a
64 | student receives for a Florida Academic Scholars award, a Florida
65 | Medallion Scholars award, or a Florida Gold Seal Vocational
66 | Scholars award.

67 | (e) This subsection does not prohibit a university from
68 | increasing or assessing optional fees related to specific
69 | activities if payment of such fees is not required as a part of
70 | registration for courses.

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