

By Senator Constantine

22-03155B-08

20082614\_\_

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to postsecondary tuition rates; creating  
3 s. 1009.286, F.S.; providing legislative intent; requiring  
4 that freshmen entering a secondary institution after a  
5 specified date who exceed 150 percent of the number of  
6 credit hours required to receive a degree must pay an  
7 increase of 50 percent per credit hour above the normal  
8 in-state tuition rate; requiring that the institution  
9 provide counseling and advisement to a student under  
10 certain circumstances; requiring the Department of  
11 Education to develop a performance-based methodology for  
12 community colleges to help students meet their academic  
13 goals; providing that a student may be granted an  
14 exemption from the increased tuition rate; providing an  
15 effective date.

16  
17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

18  
19 Section 1. Section 1009.286, Florida Statutes, is created  
20 to read:

21 1009.286 Additional payment for credit hours exceeding  
22 graduation requirements.--

23 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage each  
24 undergraduate student in postsecondary education to complete the  
25 student's respective degree program in the most efficient way  
26 possible while, at the same time, providing for access to  
27 additional college coursework. The Legislature therefore intends  
28 to enact a policy that provides incentives for efficient degree  
29 completion and requires a student to pay 50 percent more than the

22-03155B-08

20082614\_\_

30 in-state tuition rate for each credit hour in excess of 150  
31 percent of the number of credit hours required to complete the  
32 degree program in which he or she is enrolled.

33 (2) This section applies to each freshman entering  
34 postsecondary education as a first-time college student in the  
35 2008 fall semester and to all first-time college freshmen  
36 thereafter.

37 (3) For purposes of this section, the term "first-time  
38 college student" means a student attending a state postsecondary  
39 institution for the first time who has no prior credit toward a  
40 degree or formal award from any other postsecondary institution  
41 and who is enrolled in college-level courses pursuing completion  
42 of a degree.

43 (4) Each community college district board of trustees may  
44 enact policies requiring counseling and advising for any student  
45 subject to this section prior to completion of 24 earned credit  
46 hours to ensure that the student is making efficient and  
47 appropriate progress toward a degree.

48 (5) Any student subject to this section who has earned  
49 credits in excess of 120 percent of the required credit hours  
50 toward completion of his or her degree program shall meet with an  
51 advisor in order to prepare an educational plan outlining  
52 efficient completion of his or her degree prior to registering  
53 for further classes.

54 (6) The Department of Education shall develop a  
55 performance-based budgeting methodology to encourage community  
56 colleges to support students in progressing quickly toward their  
57 academic goal. Specifically, the methodology should measure and  
58 reward the following policy goals:

22-03155B-08

20082614\_\_

59        (a) Increase the percentage of students graduating with  
60 fewer than 120 percent of the credit hours needed to complete a  
61 degree;

62        (b) Decrease the number of unqualified withdrawals; and

63        (c) Decrease the number of students persisting towards  
64 their academic goal with more than 120 percent of the credit  
65 hours required for a degree.

66        (7) Any student subject to this section who has earned in  
67 excess of 150 percent of the credit hours required for completion  
68 of his or her degree shall pay an increase of 50 percent per  
69 credit hour above the normal in-state tuition rate. A student may  
70 be granted an exemption from the additional fee only if an appeal  
71 has been granted by the postsecondary institution based upon  
72 documented extenuating circumstances.

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