

By Senator Deutch

30-02729G-08

20082674\_\_

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.

10  
11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

12  
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 of  
24 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

30-02729G-08

20082674\_\_

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 required  
36 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 may  
41 grant a renewal from one of those other scholarship programs, if  
42 the student meets the renewal eligibility requirements;

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

30-02729G-08

20082674\_\_

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

72       ~~4.3.~~ If a student is receiving a Florida Bright Futures  
73 Scholarship, is a servicemember of the Florida National Guard or  
74 United States Reserves while attending a postsecondary  
75 institution, is called to active duty or state active duty, as  
76 defined in s. 250.01, prior to completing his or her degree, and  
77 meets all other requirements for the scholarship, the student  
78 shall be eligible to continue the scholarship for 2 years after  
79 completing active duty or state active duty.

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