

By the Committee on Higher Education; and Senators Constantine and Lynn

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to postsecondary education; amending s.
3 1009.24, F.S.; modifying the criteria for establishing a
4 uniform maximum undergraduate tuition differential;
5 creating s. 1009.286, F.S.; providing legislative intent;
6 requiring that freshmen entering a secondary institution
7 after a specified date who exceed 150 percent of the
8 number of credit hours required to receive a degree must
9 pay an increase of 50 percent per credit hour above the
10 normal in-state tuition rate; requiring that the
11 institution provide counseling and advisement to a student
12 under certain circumstances; requiring the Department of
13 Education to develop a performance-based methodology for
14 community colleges to help students meet their academic
15 goals; providing that a student may be granted an
16 exemption from the increased tuition rate; providing an
17 effective date.

18
19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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21 Section 1. Subsection (16) of section 1009.24, Florida
22 Statutes, is amended to read:

23 1009.24 State university student fees.--

24 (16) The Board of Governors may establish a uniform maximum
25 undergraduate tuition differential that does not exceed 40
26 percent of tuition for all universities that meet the criteria
27 for Funding Level 1 under s. 1004.635(3), and may establish a
28 uniform maximum undergraduate tuition differential that does not
29 exceed 30 percent of tuition for all universities that have

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30 research awards or expenditures from externally awarded contracts
31 and grants of at least \$100 million per year, as reported by the
32 National Science Foundation Survey of Research and Development
33 Expenditures at Universities and Colleges ~~meet the criteria for~~
34 ~~Funding Level 2 under s. 1004.635(3).~~ However, the board shall
35 ensure that the maximum tuition differential it establishes for
36 universities meeting the Funding Level 1 criteria is at least 30
37 percent greater than the maximum tuition differential the board
38 establishes for universities that meet the required Funding Level
39 2 criteria for research contracts. The tuition differential is
40 subject to the following conditions:

41 (a) The sum of tuition and the tuition differential may not
42 be increased by more than 15 percent of the total charged for
43 these fees in the preceding fiscal year.

44 (b) The tuition differential may not be calculated as a
45 part of the scholarship programs established in ss. 1009.53-
46 1009.537.

47 (c) Beneficiaries having prepaid tuition contracts pursuant
48 to s. 1009.98(2)(b) which were in effect on July 1, 2007, and
49 which remain in effect, are exempt from the payment of the
50 tuition differential.

51 (d) The tuition differential may not be charged to any
52 student who was in attendance at the university before July 1,
53 2007, and who maintains continuous enrollment.

54 (e) The tuition differential may be waived by the
55 university for students who meet the eligibility requirements for
56 the Florida public student assistance grant established in s.
57 1009.50.

58 (f) A university board of trustees that has been authorized

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59 | by the Board of Governors to establish a tuition differential
60 | pursuant to this subsection may establish the tuition
61 | differential at a rate lower than the maximum tuition
62 | differential established by the board, but may not exceed the
63 | maximum tuition differential established by the board.

64 | (g) The revenue generated from the tuition differential
65 | must be spent solely for improving the quality of direct
66 | undergraduate instruction and support services.

67 | (h) Information relating to the annual receipt and
68 | expenditure of the proceeds from the assessment of the tuition
69 | differential shall be reported by the university in accordance
70 | with guidelines established by the Board of Governors.

71 | Section 2. Section 1009.286, Florida Statutes, is created
72 | to read:

73 | 1009.286 Additional payment for credit hours exceeding
74 | graduation requirements.--

75 | (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage each
76 | undergraduate student in postsecondary education to complete the
77 | student's respective degree program in the most efficient way
78 | possible while, at the same time, providing for access to
79 | additional college coursework. The Legislature therefore intends
80 | to enact a policy that provides incentives for efficient degree
81 | completion and requires a student to pay 50 percent more than the
82 | in-state tuition rate for each credit hour in excess of 150
83 | percent of the number of credit hours required to complete the
84 | degree program in which he or she is enrolled.

85 | (2) This section applies to each freshman entering
86 | postsecondary education as a first-time college student in the
87 | 2008 fall semester and to all first-time college freshmen

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88 thereafter.

89 (3) For purposes of this section, the term "first-time
90 college student" means a student attending a state postsecondary
91 institution for the first time who has no prior credit toward a
92 degree or formal award from any other postsecondary institution
93 and who is enrolled in college-level courses pursuing completion
94 of a degree.

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

100 (5) Any student subject to this section who has earned
101 credits in excess of 120 percent of the required credit hours
102 toward completion of his or her degree program shall meet with an
103 advisor in order to prepare an educational plan outlining
104 efficient completion of his or her degree prior to registering
105 for further classes.

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

111 (a) Increase the percentage of students graduating with
112 fewer than 120 percent of the credit hours needed to complete a
113 degree;

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

115 (c) Decrease the number of students persisting towards
116 their academic goal with more than 120 percent of the credit

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117 | hours required for a degree.

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

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