

By Senator Gaetz

4-01594-09

20092216\_\_

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to state employee fee waivers;  
3           amending s. 1009.265, F.S.; revising provisions  
4           relating to the waiver of state university and  
5           community college tuition and fees for state  
6           employees; providing that distance learning and online  
7           courses are included in the types of courses available  
8           for the waiver; requiring that a state employee  
9           receive approval from his or her supervisor before  
10          using the waiver to take a course during normal  
11          working hours; requiring that the available space in a  
12          course be determined no later than the end of the  
13          drop-add period; prohibiting the use of the waiver for  
14          work on a dissertation or thesis, directed individual  
15          study, or other one-on-one instruction; authorizing  
16          state universities and community colleges to include  
17          credit hours generated by students who are using the  
18          waiver in the calculation of full-time equivalent  
19          enrollments for state funding purposes; providing an  
20          effective date.

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

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24           Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 1009.265, Florida  
25   Statutes, is amended to read:

26           1009.265 State employee fee waivers.—

27           (1) As a benefit to the employer and employees of the  
28   state, ~~subject to approval by an employee's agency head or the~~  
29   ~~equivalent,~~ each state university and community college shall

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30 waive tuition and fees for state employees to enroll for up to 6  
31 credit hours of courses, including distance learning or online  
32 courses, per term on a space-available basis. The employee must  
33 have the approval of his or her supervisor before using the  
34 waiver to take a course during normal working hours. For  
35 purposes of implementing this section, the space available in a  
36 course must be determined no later than the end of the drop-add  
37 period based on the number of seats or capacity remaining in the  
38 course. The waiver may not be used for work on a dissertation or  
39 thesis, directed individual study (DIS), or other one-on-one  
40 instruction. Credit hours generated by students using a state  
41 employee fee waiver may be included in the calculation of full-  
42 time equivalent enrollments for state funding purposes.

43 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.