

By Senator Constantine

22-00124A-09

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to postsecondary tuition rates;  
3           providing a short title; creating s. 1009.286, F.S.;  
4           providing legislative intent; requiring that a student  
5           who is enrolled at a State University System  
6           institution pay the out-of-state tuition rate per  
7           credit hour if the student exceeds 120 percent of the  
8           number of credit hours required to complete a degree  
9           program; providing for applicability; requiring that  
10          an educational plan be developed for a student who  
11          exceeds the required credit hours; authorizing each  
12          State University System institution to develop a  
13          process for exempting a student from the increased  
14          tuition rate under certain circumstances; providing an  
15          effective date.

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

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19           Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Access to Higher  
20 Education Act."

21           Section 2. Section 1009.286, Florida Statutes, is created  
22 to read:

23           1009.286 Additional tuition for credit hours exceeding  
24 graduation requirements.-

25           (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage each  
26 undergraduate student at a public institution to complete his or  
27 her degree program in the most efficient way possible while  
28 providing for access to additional college coursework.

29 Therefore, as an incentive to efficiently complete a degree,

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30 each student who is enrolled at a State University System  
31 institution shall pay the out-of-state tuition rate for each  
32 credit hour in excess of 120 percent of the number of credit  
33 hours required to complete the degree program in which the  
34 student is enrolled.

35 (2) This section applies to each student who enters a State  
36 University System institution for the first time in the 2009  
37 fall semester or thereafter, who is enrolled in college-level  
38 courses, and who is pursuing a degree.

39 (3) Each student who is subject to this section and who has  
40 earned credits in excess of 120 percent of the required credit  
41 hours toward completion of his or her degree program shall meet  
42 with an advisor. Before registering for additional classes, the  
43 student and the advisor shall prepare an educational plan that  
44 outlines the most efficient approach for completing the  
45 student's degree program.

46 (4) Each State University System institution may develop a  
47 process for exempting a student from the increased tuition rate  
48 required in this section for documented extenuating  
49 circumstances, including, but not limited to, medical or  
50 personal withdrawals, credits taken by active duty military  
51 personnel, military science credits, credits earned through  
52 accelerated mechanisms identified in s. 1007.27, dual majors,  
53 and change of majors.

54 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.