

HB 281

2009

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Florida Prepaid Tuition Scholarship
3 Program; amending s. 1009.984, F.S.; providing for the
4 aggregation into one pool per program of unused student
5 credit hours purchased by a private sector entity;
6 providing for reissuance of such credit hours as prepaid
7 tuition scholarships for eligible students; defining the
8 term "unused student credit hour"; providing an effective
9 date.

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

12
13 Section 1. Section 1009.984, Florida Statutes, is amended
14 to read:

15 1009.984 Florida Prepaid Tuition Scholarship Program.--The
16 Florida Prepaid Tuition Scholarship Program is established to
17 provide economically disadvantaged youth with prepaid
18 postsecondary tuition scholarships. The direct-support
19 organization established pursuant to s. 1009.983 shall
20 administer the program with the assistance and cooperation of
21 the Department of Education to:

22 (1) Provide an incentive for economically disadvantaged
23 youth to improve school attendance and academic performance in
24 order to graduate and pursue a postsecondary education.

25 (2) Obtain the commitment and involvement of private
26 sector entities by virtue of funding matches with a ratio of 50
27 percent provided by the private sector and 50 percent provided
28 by the state.

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29 (3) Purchase prepaid tuition scholarships for students
30 certified by the Department of Education to the direct-support
31 organization who meet minimum economic and school requirements
32 and remain drug free and crime free.

33 (a) For the purpose of this subsection, "drug free" means
34 not being convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent for, any
35 violation of chapter 893 after being designated a recipient of a
36 Florida prepaid tuition scholarship.

37 (b) For the purpose of this subsection, "crime free" means
38 not being convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent for, any
39 felony or first degree misdemeanor as defined in ss. 775.08 and
40 775.081 after being designated a recipient of a Florida prepaid
41 tuition scholarship.

42 (4) Provide for the aggregation into one pool per program
43 of any unused student credit hours that have been purchased by a
44 private sector entity. The aggregated unused student credit
45 hours may be reissued as prepaid tuition scholarships for
46 students meeting the requirements of this section. For purposes
47 of this subsection, "unused student credit hour" means any
48 student credit hour remaining unused after:

49 (a) The period of time stated in a student's participation
50 agreement with the private sector entity for the student to
51 complete the program of study;

52 (b) The student has graduated from the program of study;
53 or

54 (c) The student executes a withdrawal letter to the
55 private sector entity.

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