

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to state university excess credit hours;
 3 providing legislative intent; providing requirements for
 4 additional payment by state university students for
 5 certain credit hours exceeding degree program completion
 6 requirements; providing criteria for calculating credit
 7 hours; authorizing exceptions; requiring state
 8 universities and community colleges to implement a process
 9 for notifying students of certain information; providing
 10 an effective date.

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

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 14 Section 1. Section 1009.286, Florida Statutes, is created
 15 to read:

16 1009.286 Additional student payment for hours exceeding
 17 baccalaureate degree program completion requirements at state
 18 universities.--

19 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage each
 20 undergraduate student who enrolls in a state university to
 21 complete the student's respective baccalaureate degree program
 22 in the most efficient way possible and, at the same time,
 23 provide for access to additional college coursework. Therefore,
 24 the Legislature intends to enact a policy that provides
 25 incentives for efficient baccalaureate degree completion.

26 (2) State universities shall require a student to pay an
 27 excess hour surcharge equal to 50 percent of the tuition rate
 28 for each credit hour in excess of 120 percent of the number of

29 credit hours required to complete the baccalaureate degree
 30 program in which the student is enrolled.

31 (3) Except as otherwise provided by law and for purposes
 32 of this section, the following hours shall be included when
 33 calculating the number of hours taken by a student:

34 (a) All credit hours for courses taken at the state
 35 university from which a student is seeking a baccalaureate
 36 degree, including:

37 1. Failed courses.

38 2. Courses that are dropped after the university's
 39 advertised last day of the drop and add period.

40 3. Courses from which a student withdraws, except as
 41 provided in subsection (4).

42 4. Repeated courses, except repeated courses for which a
 43 student has paid the full cost of instruction as provided in s.
 44 1009.285.

45 (b) All credit hours earned at another institution and
 46 accepted for transfer by a state university toward a student's
 47 baccalaureate degree program.

48 (4) For purposes of this section, credit hours earned
 49 under the following circumstances are not calculated as hours
 50 required to earn a baccalaureate degree:

51 (a) College credit hours earned through an articulated
 52 accelerated mechanism identified in s. 1007.27.

53 (b) Credit hours earned through internship programs.

54 (c) Credit hours required for certification,
 55 recertification, or certificate programs.

56 (d) Credit hours in courses from which a student must

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57 withdraw due to reasons of medical or personal hardship.

58 (e) Credit hours taken by active duty military personnel.

59 (f) Credit hours required to achieve a dual major
60 undertaken while pursuing a baccalaureate degree.

61 (g) Remedial and English as a Second Language credit
62 hours.

63 (h) Credit hours earned in military science courses that
64 are part of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program.

65 (5) Each state university and community college shall
66 implement a process for notifying students regarding the
67 provisions of this section. Notice must be provided by a state
68 university or a community college upon a student's initial
69 enrollment in the institution. Such notice must be provided a
70 second time by a state university when a student has earned the
71 credit hours required to complete the baccalaureate degree
72 program in which the student is enrolled. The notice must
73 include a recommendation that each student who intends to earn
74 credit hours at a state university beyond the credit hours
75 required for the baccalaureate degree program in which the
76 student is enrolled meet with his or her academic advisor.

77 (6) For purposes of this section, the term "state
78 university" means the institutions identified in s. 1000.21(6)
79 and the term "community college" means the institutions
80 identified in s. 1000.21(3).

81 (7) The provisions of this section become effective for
82 students who enter a community college or a state university for
83 the first time in the 2009-2010 academic year and thereafter.

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