

CS/HB 719

2009

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship  
3       Program; amending s. 1009.53, F.S.; revising provisions  
4       relating to a refund to the Department of Education of  
5       funds received by an educational institution for certain  
6       courses; prohibiting the use of funds for certain  
7       purposes; amending s. 1009.532, F.S.; revising credit-hour  
8       requirements for renewal of a scholarship; providing for  
9       restoration of eligibility; providing an effective date.

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

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13       Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section  
14       1009.53, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (11) is  
15       added to that section, to read:

16       1009.53 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.--

17       (5) The department shall issue awards from the scholarship  
18       program annually. Annual awards may be for up to 45 semester  
19       credit hours or the equivalent. Before the registration period  
20       each semester, the department shall transmit payment for each  
21       award to the president or director of the postsecondary  
22       education institution, or his or her representative, except that  
23       the department may withhold payment if the receiving institution  
24       fails to report or to make refunds to the department as required  
25       in this section.

26       (a) Within 30 days after the end of regular registration  
27       each semester, the educational institution shall certify to the  
28       department the eligibility status of each student who receives

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29 an award. After the end of the drop and add period, an  
30 institution is not required to reevaluate or revise a student's  
31 eligibility status; however, an institution ~~but~~ must make a  
32 refund to the department within 30 days after the end of the  
33 semester of any funds received for courses dropped by students  
34 after the end of the drop and add period or courses from which  
35 students withdraw after the end of the drop and add period  
36 unless a student has dropped or withdrawn from the course due to  
37 a verifiable illness or other documented emergency ~~if a student~~  
38 ~~who receives an award disbursement terminates enrollment for any~~  
39 ~~reason during an academic term and a refund is permitted by the~~  
40 ~~institution's refund policy.~~

41 (11) Funds for any scholarship within the Florida Bright  
42 Futures Scholarship Program may not be used to pay for courses  
43 dropped after the end of the drop and add period or courses from  
44 which students withdraw after the end of the drop and add period  
45 except as otherwise provided in this section.

46 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section  
47 1009.532, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

48 1009.532 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
49 student eligibility requirements for renewal awards.--

50 (1) To be eligible to renew a scholarship from any of the  
51 three types of scholarships under the Florida Bright Futures  
52 Scholarship Program, a student must:

53 (a) Effective with students funded in the 2009-2010  
54 academic year and thereafter, earn complete at least 24 ~~12~~  
55 semester credit hours or the equivalent in the last academic  
56 year in which the student earned a scholarship if the student

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57 was enrolled full time or earn a prorated number of credit hours  
58 as determined by the Department of Education if the student was  
59 enrolled less than full time for any part of the academic year.  
60 If a student fails to earn the minimum number of hours required  
61 to renew the scholarship, the student shall lose his or her  
62 eligibility for renewal for a period equivalent to one academic  
63 year. The student is eligible to restore the award the following  
64 academic year if the student earns the hours for which the  
65 student was enrolled at the level defined by the department and  
66 meets the grade point average for renewal. A student is eligible  
67 for such a restoration one time.

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