

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 a postsecondary educational institution
6 for certain courses; prohibiting the use of funds for
7 certain purposes; requiring the department and
8 institutions to notify students of certain information;
9 amending s. 1009.532, F.S.; revising credit-hour
10 requirements for renewal of a scholarship; providing for
11 restoration of eligibility; requiring the department and
12 institutions to notify students of certain information;
13 providing an effective date.

14
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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17 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section
18 1009.53, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (11) is
19 added to that section, to read:

20 1009.53 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.--

21 (5) The department shall issue awards from the scholarship
22 program annually. Annual awards may be for up to 45 semester
23 credit hours or the equivalent. Before the registration period
24 each semester, the department shall transmit payment for each
25 award to the president or director of the postsecondary
26 education institution, or his or her representative, except that
27 the department may withhold payment if the receiving institution

28 | fails to report or to make refunds to the department as required
 29 | in this section.

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 40 | unless a student has dropped or withdrawn from the course due to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

45 | (11) Funds for any scholarship within the Florida Bright
 46 | Futures Scholarship Program may not be used to pay for courses
 47 | dropped after the end of the drop and add period or courses from
 48 | which students withdraw after the end of the drop and add period
 49 | except as otherwise provided in this section. The department
 50 | shall notify eligible recipients of the provisions of this
 51 | subsection. Each institution shall notify award recipients of
 52 | the provisions of this subsection during the registration
 53 | process.

54 | Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
 55 | 1009.532, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

56 1009.532 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;
57 student eligibility requirements for renewal awards.--

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

61 (a) Effective with students funded in the 2009-2010
62 academic year and thereafter, earn ~~complete~~ at least 24 12
63 semester credit hours or the equivalent in the last academic
64 year in which the student earned a scholarship if the student
65 was enrolled full time or earn a prorated number of credit hours
66 as determined by the Department of Education if the student was
67 enrolled less than full time for any part of the academic year.
68 If a student fails to earn the minimum number of hours required
69 to renew the scholarship, the student shall lose his or her
70 eligibility for renewal for a period equivalent to one academic
71 year. The student is eligible to restore the award the following
72 academic year if the student earns the hours for which the
73 student was enrolled at the level defined by the department and
74 meets the grade point average for renewal. A student is eligible
75 for such a restoration one time. The department shall notify
76 eligible recipients of the requirements of this paragraph. Each
77 institution shall notify award recipients of the requirements of
78 this paragraph during the registration process.

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