

By Senator Baker

20-01400-10

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Florida Bright Futures  
3           Scholarship Program; amending s. 1009.53, F.S.;  
4           requiring a student to reimburse the educational  
5           institution for award amounts received for certain  
6           courses dropped by the student or courses from which  
7           the student has withdrawn; requiring reimbursements to  
8           be refunded to the Department of Education; requiring  
9           an institution to notify the department and student of  
10          the amount due within a specified period; providing an  
11          effective date.

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

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15           Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) and subsection  
16           (11) of section 1009.53, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

17           1009.53 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.—

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

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

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30 an award. After the end of the drop and add period, an  
31 institution is not required to reevaluate or revise a student's  
32 eligibility status; however, a student ~~an institution~~ must, make  
33 ~~a refund to the department~~ within 60 ~~30~~ days after the end of  
34 the semester, reimburse or make satisfactory arrangements to  
35 reimburse the institution for the award amount ~~of any funds~~  
36 received for courses dropped by the ~~a~~ student or courses from  
37 which the ~~a~~ student has withdrawn after the end of the drop and  
38 add period, unless the student has been granted an exception by  
39 the department pursuant to subsection (11). A reimbursement to  
40 an institution resulting from a student's dropped course or a  
41 course from which a student has withdrawn after the end of the  
42 drop and add period shall be refunded to the department by the  
43 institution.

44 (11) Funds for any scholarship within the Florida Bright  
45 Futures Scholarship Program may not be used to pay for courses  
46 dropped by a student or courses from which a student has  
47 withdrawn after the end of the drop and add period. However, a  
48 student who receives an award under this program and  
49 subsequently drops one or more courses or withdraws from all  
50 courses after the end of the drop and add period due to a  
51 verifiable illness or other documented emergency may be granted  
52 an exception pursuant to s. 1009.40(1)(b)4., unless the  
53 institution's policy is to refund the cost of the courses. The  
54 department shall notify eligible recipients of the provisions of  
55 this subsection. Each institution shall notify award recipients  
56 of the provisions of this subsection ~~during the registration~~  
57 process. Within 30 days after determining that a student has  
58 dropped a course or has withdrawn from a course after the end of

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59 the drop and add period, in the absence of an exception granted  
60 by the department under this subsection, the institution shall  
61 notify the department and the student of the amount due  
62 resulting from such course drop or withdrawal.

63 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.