

1                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship  
 3           Program; amending s. 1009.53, F.S.; providing that the  
 4           program shall serve as an incentive to recipients of  
 5           awards to remain and work in the state; requiring  
 6           repayment of an award unless a student receives credit for  
 7           repayment by meeting an employment obligation; specifying  
 8           employment obligations and conditions for repayment;  
 9           providing for deposit of moneys repaid and use of such  
 10          moneys; amending s. 1009.531, F.S.; requiring intent to  
 11          work in the state for receipt of an initial award;  
 12          providing an effective date.

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

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 16          Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 1009.53, Florida  
 17          Statutes, is amended to read:

18          1009.53 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.—

19          (1) (a) The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is  
 20          created to establish a lottery-funded scholarship program to  
 21          reward any Florida high school graduate who merits recognition  
 22          of high academic achievement and who enrolls in a degree  
 23          program, certificate program, or applied technology program at  
 24          an eligible Florida public or private postsecondary education  
 25          institution within 3 years of graduation from high school.

26          (b)1. Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, the  
 27          Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program shall serve as an  
 28          incentive for students receiving an initial award to remain and

29 work in the state by requiring repayment of each award received  
30 unless the student receives credit for repayment. To receive  
31 credit for repayment of a full-year award, a student must be  
32 employed in the state for a period of 12 months. To receive  
33 credit for repayment of less than a full-year award, the student  
34 must be employed in the state for a prorated period, as  
35 determined by the Department of Education, based on the number  
36 of terms for which the award was received.

37 2. The scholarship employment obligation period shall  
38 begin after completion of the program for which an award is  
39 received or completion of the eligibility period for receipt of  
40 an award.

41 3. A student who does not complete his or her employment  
42 obligation shall repay, on a schedule determined by the  
43 Department of Education, the total amount awarded plus annual  
44 interest of 8 percent. The department may allow additional time  
45 for repayment if the department finds that circumstances beyond  
46 the control of the award recipient caused or contributed to the  
47 default. The employment obligation period may be postponed  
48 according to a schedule determined by the department for a  
49 student seeking a graduate degree or entering military service.

50 4. Moneys repaid shall be deposited in the Educational  
51 Enhancement Trust Fund and used for awards in the following  
52 year. The department may recover from such funds its costs for  
53 administering the program.

54 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 1009.531, Florida  
55 Statutes, is amended to read:

56 1009.531 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
57 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.—

58 (1) Effective January 1, 2008, in order to be eligible for  
59 an initial award from any of the three types of scholarships  
60 under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, a student  
61 must:

62 (a) Be a Florida resident as defined in s. 1009.40 and  
63 rules of the State Board of Education.

64 (b) Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its  
65 equivalent as described in s. 1003.429, s. 1003.43, or s.  
66 1003.435 unless:

67 1. The student completes a home education program  
68 according to s. 1002.41; or

69 2. The student earns a high school diploma from a non-  
70 Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who is on  
71 military or public service assignment away from Florida.

72 (c) Be accepted by and enroll in an eligible Florida  
73 public or independent postsecondary education institution.

74 (d) Be enrolled for at least 6 semester credit hours or  
75 the equivalent in quarter hours or clock hours.

76 (e) Not have been found guilty of, or entered a plea of  
77 nolo contendere to, a felony charge, unless the student has been  
78 granted clemency by the Governor and Cabinet sitting as the  
79 Executive Office of Clemency.

80 (f) Apply for a scholarship from the program by high  
81 school graduation.

82 (g) Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, declare the  
83 intention to be employed in the state after completion of the

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84 | program for which an award is received or completion of the  
85 | eligibility period for receipt of an award under the program.

86 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.