

HB 157

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1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to education and training opportunities  
3 for public employees; amending s. 110.1099, F.S.;  
4 providing certain educational opportunities for specified  
5 local government employees; amending s. 1009.265, F.S.;  
6 authorizing the use of fee waivers for specified local  
7 government employees; providing an effective date.  
8

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

11 Section 1. Section 110.1099, Florida Statutes, is amended  
12 to read:

13 110.1099 Education and training opportunities for state  
14 and local government employees.—

15 (1) Education and training are an integral component in  
16 improving the delivery of services to the public. Recognizing  
17 that the application of productivity-enhancing technology and  
18 practice demands continuous educational and training  
19 opportunities, a state or local government employee may be  
20 authorized to receive a voucher or grant, for matriculation  
21 fees, to attend work-related courses at public community  
22 colleges, public career centers, or public universities. The  
23 department may implement ~~the provisions of~~ this section from  
24 funds appropriated to the department for this purpose. If ~~In the~~  
25 ~~event~~ insufficient funds are appropriated to the department,  
26 each state or local government agency may supplement these funds  
27 to support the training and education needs of its employees  
28 from funds appropriated to the agency.

29           (2) The department, in conjunction with the state and  
 30 local government agencies, shall request that public  
 31 universities provide evening and weekend programs for state and  
 32 local government employees. When evening and weekend training  
 33 and educational programs are not available, a state or local  
 34 government ~~an~~ employee may be authorized to take paid time off  
 35 during his or her regular working hours for training and career  
 36 development, ~~as provided in s. 110.105(1)~~, if such training  
 37 benefits the employer as determined by that employee's agency  
 38 head.

39           (3) A state or local government ~~An~~ employee who exhibits  
 40 superior aptitude and performance may be authorized by that  
 41 employee's agency head to take a paid educational leave of  
 42 absence for up to 1 academic year at a time, for specific  
 43 approved work-related education and training. That employee must  
 44 enter into a contract to return to state or local government  
 45 employment for a period of time equal to the length of the leave  
 46 of absence or refund salary and benefits paid during his or her  
 47 educational leave of absence.

48           (4) As a precondition to approving a state or local  
 49 government ~~an~~ employee's training request, the state or local  
 50 government ~~an~~ agency ~~or the judicial branch~~ may require the ~~an~~  
 51 employee to enter into an agreement that requires the employee  
 52 to reimburse the agency ~~or judicial branch~~ for the registration  
 53 fee or similar expense for any training or training series when  
 54 the cost of the fee or similar expense exceeds \$1,000 if the  
 55 employee voluntarily terminates employment or is discharged for  
 56 cause from the agency ~~or judicial branch~~ within a specified

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57 | period of time not to exceed 4 years after the conclusion of the  
 58 | training. This subsection does not apply to any training program  
 59 | that a state or local government ~~an agency or the judicial~~  
 60 | ~~branch~~ requires an employee to attend. A state or local  
 61 | government ~~An agency or the judicial branch~~ may pay the  
 62 | outstanding balance then due and owing on behalf of a state or  
 63 | local government employee under this subsection in connection  
 64 | with the recruitment and hiring of that ~~such state~~ employee.

65 | (5) As used in this section, the term:

66 | (a) "State employee" means an employee of the executive or  
 67 | judicial branch of state government, except for a person  
 68 | employed by a state university.

69 | (b) "Local government employee" means a full-time employee  
 70 | of a county or municipality who is a law enforcement officer as  
 71 | defined in s. 943.10(1), a correctional officer as defined in s.  
 72 | 943.10(2), a firefighter as defined in s. 633.30(1), or an  
 73 | emergency medical technician or paramedic as defined in s.  
 74 | 401.23.

75 | ~~(6)(5)~~ The Department of Management Services, in  
 76 | consultation with the state and local government agencies and,  
 77 | to the extent applicable, with Florida's public community  
 78 | colleges, public career centers, and public universities, shall  
 79 | adopt rules to administer this section.

80 | Section 2. Section 1009.265, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 81 | to read:

82 | 1009.265 ~~State employee~~ Fee waivers.-

83 | (1) As a benefit to the employers ~~employer~~ and employees  
 84 | of ~~the~~ state and local government, subject to approval by an

85 employee's agency head or the equivalent, each state university  
 86 and community college shall waive tuition and fees for state and  
 87 local government employees to enroll for up to 6 credit hours of  
 88 courses per term on a space-available basis.

89 (2) The Chief Financial Officer, in cooperation with the  
 90 community colleges and state universities, shall identify and  
 91 implement ways to ease the administrative burden to community  
 92 colleges and state universities, including, but not limited to,  
 93 providing easier access to verify state and local government  
 94 employment.

95 (3) From funds appropriated by the Legislature for  
 96 administrative costs to implement this section, community  
 97 colleges and state universities shall be reimbursed on a pro  
 98 rata basis according to the cost assessment data developed by  
 99 the Department of Education.

100 (4) The Auditor General shall include a review of the cost  
 101 assessment data in conjunction with his or her audit  
 102 responsibilities for community colleges, state universities, and  
 103 the Department of Education.

104 (5) As used in ~~For purposes of~~ this section, the term:

105 (a) "State employee" means an employee ~~employees of the~~  
 106 ~~state include employees~~ of the executive, legislative, or ~~and~~  
 107 judicial branch ~~branches~~ of state government, except for a  
 108 person ~~persons~~ employed by a state university.

109 (b) "Local government employee" means a full-time employee  
 110 of a county or municipality who is a law enforcement officer as  
 111 defined in s. 943.10(1), a correctional officer as defined in s.  
 112 943.10(2), a firefighter as defined in s. 633.30(1), or an

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113 | emergency medical technician or paramedic as defined in s.

114 | 401.23.

115 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.