

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 providing that the program shall serve as an incentive
 5 to award recipients to remain and work in the state;
 6 requiring student reimbursement of program awards
 7 unless credit toward reimbursement is earned;
 8 specifying requirements for reimbursement and credit
 9 toward reimbursement; requiring students to submit
 10 information to the Department of Education relating to
 11 residence and employment, if applicable; requiring the
 12 department to determine a reimbursement procedure and
 13 schedule; providing for the deposit of moneys
 14 reimbursed; requiring school districts to distribute
 15 information to students specifying requirements for
 16 reimbursement and credit toward reimbursement;
 17 requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules;
 18 providing an effective date.

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

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 22 Section 1. Subsection (12) is added to section 1009.53,
 23 Florida Statutes, to read:

24 1009.53 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.—

25 (12) Beginning with students receiving an initial Florida
 26 Bright Futures Scholarship Program award in the 2014-2015
 27 academic year, the program shall serve as an incentive for
 28 students to remain and work in the state after graduation by

29 requiring reimbursement of awards received unless the student
30 receives credit toward such reimbursement.

31 (a) A student who receives an award, but who does not
32 graduate or complete the program for which the award was
33 received or who no longer resides in the state after graduation
34 or program completion, must reimburse the state for the amount
35 of the award received or a prorated portion thereof.

36 (b) The requirements for reimbursement and credit toward
37 reimbursement include the following:

38 1. Reimbursement shall be based upon the number of
39 semesters, or the equivalent, for which a student receives an
40 award. To receive credit toward reimbursement for a 1-semester
41 award, or the equivalent, a recipient must be employed in the
42 state for 6 months.

43 2. The period for reimbursement begins upon graduation,
44 completion of the program for which an award is received, or
45 completion of the eligibility period for receipt of an award.
46 The period for reimbursement for students serving in the United
47 States Armed Forces or pursuing graduate studies begins upon
48 completion of the military service or graduate studies. Active
49 duty service in the United States Armed Forces is considered
50 time employed in the state regardless of where the servicemember
51 is located.

52 3. Each year, the recipient of an award must submit to the
53 department, on a form developed by the department, proof of in-
54 state or out-of-state residence and employment in the state, if
55 applicable.

56 (c) The department shall establish a procedure and

57 schedule for reimbursement, allowing additional time for
58 reimbursement if the department finds that circumstances beyond
59 the control of the award recipient caused or contributed to
60 nonreimbursement or default. The department shall also establish
61 procedures to be followed in the event of nonreimbursement or
62 default.

63 (d) Funds reimbursed to the state under this subsection
64 shall be deposited in the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund to
65 be used only for future Florida Bright Futures Scholarship
66 Program awards. The department may recover from such funds its
67 costs of administering the provisions of this subsection.

68 (e) The department shall develop and each school district
69 shall distribute annually to each high school student
70 information that specifies the requirements for reimbursement
71 and for obtaining credit toward reimbursement.

72 (f) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
73 implement this subsection.

74 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.