

By the Committee on Education

581-01853-14

20141148\_\_

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to postsecondary education; amending  
3       s. 1009.24, F.S.; deleting a provision relating to the  
4       automatic rate of inflation increase in resident  
5       undergraduate tuition per credit hour at state  
6       universities; deleting a requirement that the Office  
7       of Economic and Demographic Research annually report  
8       the rate of inflation to the Governor, the  
9       Legislature, and the Board of Governors; deleting the  
10      definition of the term "rate of inflation"; lowering  
11      the annual percentage increase allowed in the  
12      aggregate sum of tuition and the tuition differential  
13      at state universities; providing an effective date.  
14

15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
16

17       Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) and paragraph  
18      (b) of subsection (16) of section 1009.24, Florida Statutes, are  
19      amended to read:

20       1009.24 State university student fees.—

21       (4)

22       (b) Beginning with the 2008-2009 fiscal year and each year  
23      thereafter, the resident undergraduate tuition per credit hour  
24      shall increase at the beginning of each fall semester at a rate  
25      ~~equal to inflation, unless otherwise~~ provided in the General  
26      Appropriations Act. If the rate is not provided in the General  
27      Appropriations Act ~~The Office of Economic and Demographic~~  
28      ~~Research shall report the rate of inflation to the President of~~  
29      ~~the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the~~

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30 ~~Governor, and the Board of Governors each year prior to March 1.~~  
31 ~~For purposes of this paragraph, the rate of inflation shall be~~  
32 ~~defined as the rate of the 12-month percentage change in the~~  
33 ~~Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average,~~  
34 ~~All Items, or successor reports as reported by the United States~~  
35 ~~Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, or its~~  
36 ~~successor for December of the previous year. In the event the~~  
37 ~~percentage change is negative, the resident undergraduate~~  
38 ~~tuition shall remain at the same level as the prior fiscal year.~~

39 (16) Each university board of trustees may establish a  
40 tuition differential for undergraduate courses upon receipt of  
41 approval from the Board of Governors. The tuition differential  
42 shall promote improvements in the quality of undergraduate  
43 education and shall provide financial aid to undergraduate  
44 students who exhibit financial need.

45 (b) Each tuition differential is subject to the following  
46 conditions:

47 1. The tuition differential may be assessed on one or more  
48 undergraduate courses or on all undergraduate courses at a state  
49 university.

50 2. The tuition differential may vary by course or courses,  
51 campus or center location, and by institution. Each university  
52 board of trustees shall strive to maintain and increase  
53 enrollment in degree programs related to math, science, high  
54 technology, and other state or regional high-need fields when  
55 establishing tuition differentials by course.

56 3. For each state university that has total research and  
57 development expenditures for all fields of at least \$100 million  
58 per year as reported annually to the National Science

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59 Foundation, the aggregate sum of tuition and the tuition  
60 differential may not be increased by more than 6 ~~15~~ percent of  
61 the total charged for the aggregate sum of these fees in the  
62 preceding fiscal year. For each state university that has total  
63 research and development expenditures for all fields of less  
64 than \$100 million per year as reported annually to the National  
65 Science Foundation, the aggregate sum of tuition and the tuition  
66 differential may not be increased by more than 6 ~~15~~ percent of  
67 the total charged for the aggregate sum of these fees in the  
68 preceding fiscal year.

69 4. The aggregate sum of undergraduate tuition and fees per  
70 credit hour, including the tuition differential, may not exceed  
71 the national average of undergraduate tuition and fees at 4-year  
72 degree-granting public postsecondary educational institutions.

73 5. The tuition differential shall not be included in any  
74 award under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program  
75 established pursuant to ss. 1009.53-1009.538.

76 6. Beneficiaries having prepaid tuition contracts pursuant  
77 to s. 1009.98(2)(b) which were in effect on July 1, 2007, and  
78 which remain in effect, are exempt from the payment of the  
79 tuition differential.

80 7. The tuition differential may not be charged to any  
81 student who was in attendance at the university before July 1,  
82 2007, and who maintains continuous enrollment.

83 8. The tuition differential may be waived by the university  
84 for students who meet the eligibility requirements for the  
85 Florida public student assistance grant established in s.  
86 1009.50.

87 9. Subject to approval by the Board of Governors, the

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88 tuition differential authorized pursuant to this subsection may  
89 take effect with the 2009 fall term.

90 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.