

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Florida Bright Futures  
3           Scholarship Program; amending s. 1009.531; delaying an  
4           initial award and renewal period for students unable  
5           to accept an award immediately after completion of  
6           high school due to a certain religious or service  
7           obligations; revising eligibility requirements for the  
8           Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program for home  
9           education students; amending ss. 1009.534, 1009.535,  
10          and 1009.536, F.S.; requiring a student, as a  
11          prerequisite for the Florida Academic Scholars award,  
12          the Florida Medallion Scholars award, or the Florida  
13          Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award, to identify a  
14          social or civic issue or a professional area of  
15          interest and develop a plan for his or her personal  
16          involvement in addressing the issue or learning about  
17          the area; prohibiting the student from receiving  
18          remuneration or academic credit for the volunteer  
19          service work; requiring the hours of service work to  
20          be documented in writing and the document to be signed  
21          by the student, the student's parent, and a  
22          representative of the organization for which the  
23          student worked; providing an effective date.

24  
25   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
26

27 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) and subsection  
28 (6) of section 1009.531, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:  
29 1009.531 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
30 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.-

31 (2)

32 (c) A student graduating from high school in the 2012-2013  
33 academic year and thereafter is eligible to accept an initial  
34 award for 2 years following high school graduation and to accept  
35 a renewal award for 5 years following high school graduation. A  
36 student who applies for an award by high school graduation and  
37 who meets all other eligibility requirements, but who does not  
38 accept his or her award, may reapply during subsequent  
39 application periods up to 2 years after high school graduation.  
40 For a student who enlists in the United States Armed Forces  
41 immediately after completion of high school, the 2-year  
42 eligibility period for his or her initial award and the 5-year  
43 renewal period shall begin upon the date of separation from  
44 active duty. For a student who is receiving a Florida Bright  
45 Futures Scholarship award and discontinues his or her education  
46 to enlist in the United States Armed Forces, the remainder of  
47 his or her 5-year renewal period shall commence upon the date of  
48 separation from active duty. For a student who is unable to  
49 accept an initial award immediately after completion of high  
50 school due to a full-time religious or service obligation  
51 lasting at least 18 months, the 2-year eligibility period for  
52 his or her initial award and the 5-year renewal period shall

53 begin upon the completion of his or her religious or service  
54 obligation. The full-time religious or service obligation must  
55 be documented in writing and verified by the entity for which  
56 the student completed such obligation. If a course of study is  
57 not completed after 5 academic years, an exception of 1 year to  
58 the renewal timeframe may be granted due to a verifiable illness  
59 or other documented emergency pursuant to s. 1009.40(1)(b)4.

60 (6)(a) The State Board of Education shall publicize the  
61 examination score required for a student to be eligible for a  
62 Florida Academic Scholars award, pursuant to s. 1009.534(1)(a)  
63 or (b), ~~as follows:~~

64 ~~1. For high school students graduating in the 2010-2011~~  
65 ~~and 2011-2012 academic years, the student must earn an SAT score~~  
66 ~~of 1270 or a concordant ACT score of 28.~~

67 ~~2. For high school students graduating in the 2012-2013~~  
68 ~~academic year, the student must earn an SAT score of 1280 which~~  
69 ~~corresponds to the 88th SAT percentile rank or a concordant ACT~~  
70 ~~score of 28.~~

71 ~~3. For High school students graduating in the 2013-2014~~  
72 ~~academic year and thereafter, the student must earn an SAT score~~  
73 ~~of 1290 which corresponds to the 89th SAT percentile rank or a~~  
74 ~~concordant ACT score of 29.~~

75 (b) The State Board of Education shall publicize the  
76 examination score required for a student to be eligible for a  
77 Florida Medallion Scholars award, pursuant to s. 1009.535(1)(a)  
78 or (b), ~~as follows:~~

79           1. ~~For high school students graduating in the 2010-2011~~  
80 ~~academic year, the student must earn an SAT score of 970 or a~~  
81 ~~concordant ACT score of 20 or the student in a home education~~  
82 ~~program whose parent cannot document a college-preparatory~~  
83 ~~curriculum must earn an SAT score of 1070 or a concordant ACT~~  
84 ~~score of 23.~~

85           2. ~~For high school students graduating in the 2011-2012~~  
86 ~~academic year, the student must earn an SAT score of 980 which~~  
87 ~~corresponds to the 44th SAT percentile rank or a concordant ACT~~  
88 ~~score of 21 or the student in a home education program whose~~  
89 ~~parent cannot document a college-preparatory curriculum must~~  
90 ~~earn an SAT score of 1070 or a concordant ACT score of 23.~~

91           3. ~~For high school students graduating in the 2012-2013~~  
92 ~~academic year, the student must earn an SAT score of 1020 which~~  
93 ~~corresponds to the 51st SAT percentile rank or a concordant ACT~~  
94 ~~score of 22 or the student in a home education program whose~~  
95 ~~parent cannot document a college-preparatory curriculum must~~  
96 ~~earn an SAT score of 1070 or a concordant ACT score of 23.~~

97           4. ~~For High school students graduating in the 2013-2014~~  
98 ~~academic year and thereafter, the student must earn an SAT score~~  
99 ~~of 1170 which corresponds to the 75th SAT percentile rank or a~~  
100 ~~concordant ACT score of 26 or the student in a home education~~  
101 ~~program whose parent cannot document a college-preparatory~~  
102 ~~curriculum must earn an SAT score of 1220 or a concordant ACT~~  
103 ~~score of 27.~~

104           Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 1009.534, Florida

105 Statutes, is amended to read:

106 1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.—

107 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Academic Scholars  
 108 award if he or she ~~the student~~ meets the general eligibility  
 109 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program  
 110 and ~~the student~~:

111 (a) Has achieved a 3.5 weighted grade point average as  
 112 calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or its equivalent, in high  
 113 school courses that are designated by the State Board of  
 114 Education as college-preparatory academic courses~~r~~ and has  
 115 attained at least the score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s.  
 116 1009.531(6) (a) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of  
 117 the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or  
 118 the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College  
 119 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT  
 120 Assessment Program;

121 (b) Has attended a home education program according to s.  
 122 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12, or ~~or~~ has completed the  
 123 International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the  
 124 International Baccalaureate Diploma, or has completed the  
 125 Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum but  
 126 failed to earn the Advanced International Certificate of  
 127 Education Diploma, and has attained at least the score required  
 128 under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1009.531(6) (a) on the combined verbal and  
 129 quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the  
 130 Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic

131 Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an  
 132 equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

133 (c) Has been awarded an International Baccalaureate  
 134 Diploma from the International Baccalaureate Office or an  
 135 Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma from the  
 136 University of Cambridge International Examinations Office;

137 (d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement  
 138 programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a  
 139 scholar or finalist; or

140 (e) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic  
 141 Recognition Program as a scholar recipient.

142  
 143 The ~~A~~ student must complete a program of volunteer ~~community~~  
 144 service work, as approved by the district school board, the  
 145 administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of  
 146 Education for home education program students, which must ~~shall~~  
 147 include a minimum of 75 hours of service work for high school  
 148 students graduating in the 2010-2011 academic year and 100 hours  
 149 of service work for high school students graduating in the 2011-  
 150 2012 academic year and thereafter. The student, ~~and~~ must  
 151 identify a social or civic issue or a professional area ~~problem~~  
 152 that interests him or her, develop a plan for his or her  
 153 personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about  
 154 the area ~~problem~~, and, through papers or other presentations,  
 155 evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience. The student may  
 156 not receive remuneration or academic credit for the volunteer

157 service work. Such work may include, but is not limited to, a  
 158 business or government internship or employment with a nonprofit  
 159 community service organization. The hours of service work must  
 160 be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the  
 161 student, the student's parent, and a representative of the  
 162 organization for which the student worked.

163 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 1009.535, Florida  
 164 Statutes, is amended to read:

165 1009.535 Florida Medallion Scholars award.—

166 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Medallion Scholars  
 167 award if he or she ~~the student~~ meets the general eligibility  
 168 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program  
 169 and ~~the student~~:

170 (a) Has achieved a weighted grade point average of 3.0 as  
 171 calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or the equivalent, in high  
 172 school courses that are designated by the State Board of  
 173 Education as college-preparatory academic courses; and has  
 174 attained at least the score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s.  
 175 1009.531(6)(b) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of  
 176 the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or  
 177 the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College  
 178 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT  
 179 Assessment Program;

180 (b) Has completed the International Baccalaureate  
 181 curriculum but failed to earn the International Baccalaureate  
 182 Diploma or has completed the Advanced International Certificate

183 of Education curriculum but failed to earn the Advanced  
 184 International Certificate of Education Diploma, and has attained  
 185 at least the score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1009.531(6) (b)  
 186 on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic  
 187 Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered  
 188 Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination,  
 189 or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

190 (c) Has attended a home education program according to s.  
 191 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12 and has attained at least the  
 192 score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1009.531(6) (b) on the  
 193 combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic  
 194 Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered  
 195 Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination,  
 196 or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program, if the  
 197 student's parent cannot document a college-preparatory  
 198 curriculum as described in paragraph (a);

199 (d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement  
 200 program of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a  
 201 scholar or finalist but has not completed the ~~a~~ program of  
 202 volunteer community service work required under ~~as provided in~~  
 203 s. 1009.534; or

204 (e) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic  
 205 Recognition Program as a scholar, but has not completed the ~~a~~  
 206 program of volunteer community service work required under ~~as~~  
 207 ~~provided in~~ s. 1009.534.

208



209 A high school student graduating in the 2011-2012 academic year  
 210 and thereafter must complete at least 75 hours ~~a program~~ of  
 211 volunteer ~~community~~ service work approved by the district school  
 212 board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the  
 213 Department of Education for home education program students. The  
 214 student, ~~which shall include a minimum of 75 hours of service~~  
 215 ~~work,~~ and must identify a social or civic issue or a  
 216 professional area ~~problem~~ that interests him or her, develop a  
 217 plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue  
 218 or learning about the area ~~problem~~, and, through papers or other  
 219 presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience.  
 220 The student may not receive remuneration or academic credit for  
 221 the volunteer service work. Such work may include, but is not  
 222 limited to, a business or government internship or employment  
 223 with a nonprofit community service organization. The hours of  
 224 service work must be documented in writing, and the document  
 225 must be signed by the student, the student's parent, and a  
 226 representative of the organization for which the student worked.

227 Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 1009.536, Florida  
 228 Statutes, is amended to read:

229 1009.536 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award.—The  
 230 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award is created within  
 231 the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to recognize and  
 232 reward academic achievement and career preparation by high  
 233 school students who wish to continue their education.

234 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal

235 Vocational Scholars award if he or she ~~the student~~ meets the  
236 general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures  
237 Scholarship Program and ~~the student~~:

238 (a) Completes the secondary school portion of a sequential  
239 program of studies that requires at least three secondary school  
240 career credits. On-the-job training may not be substituted for  
241 any of the three required career credits.

242 (b) Demonstrates readiness for postsecondary education by  
243 earning a passing score on the Florida College Entry Level  
244 Placement Test or its equivalent as identified by the Department  
245 of Education.

246 (c) Earns a minimum cumulative weighted grade point  
247 average of 3.0, as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, on all  
248 subjects required for a standard high school diploma, excluding  
249 elective courses.

250 (d) Earns a minimum unweighted grade point average of 3.5  
251 on a 4.0 scale for secondary career courses that compose  
252 ~~comprising~~ the career program.

253 (e) Beginning with high school students graduating in the  
254 2011-2012 academic year and thereafter, completes at least 30  
255 hours ~~a program~~ of volunteer ~~community~~ service work approved by  
256 the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic  
257 school, or the Department of Education for home education  
258 program students. The student must identify, ~~which shall include~~  
259 ~~a minimum of 30 hours of service work,~~ and identifies a social  
260 or civic issue or a professional area ~~problem~~ that interests him

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261 or her, develop ~~develops~~ a plan for his or her personal  
262 involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area  
263 ~~problem~~, and, through papers or other presentations, evaluate  
264 ~~evaluates~~ and reflect ~~reflects~~ upon his or her experience. The  
265 student may not receive remuneration or academic credit for the  
266 volunteer service work. Such work may include, but is not  
267 limited to, a business or government internship or employment  
268 with a nonprofit community service organization. The hours of  
269 service work must be documented in writing, and the document  
270 must be signed by the student, the student's parent, and a  
271 representative of the organization for which the student worked.

272 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.