

By Senator Detert

28-00309-16

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to tuition and fee exemptions;  
3           amending s. 1009.25, F.S.; exempting certain students  
4           who were adopted from the Department of Children and  
5           Families or who are or were in the custody of the  
6           department under specified circumstances from paying  
7           tuition and fees to workforce education programs,  
8           Florida College System institutions, and state  
9           universities; requiring Florida College System  
10          institutions and state universities to adopt certain  
11          rules and regulations regarding the exemptions;  
12          providing an effective date.

13  
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15  
16           Section 1. Section 1009.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
17           read:

18           1009.25 Fee exemptions.—

19           (1) The following students are exempt from the payment of  
20           tuition and fees, including lab fees, at a school district that  
21           provides workforce education programs, Florida College System  
22           institution, or state university:

23           (a) A student enrolled in a dual enrollment or early  
24           admission program pursuant to s. 1007.271.

25           (b) A student enrolled in an approved apprenticeship  
26           program, as defined in s. 446.021.

27           (c) A student who is or was at the time he or she reached  
28           18 years of age in the custody of the Department of Children and  
29           Families or who, after spending at least 6 months in the custody

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30 of the department ~~after reaching 16 years of age~~, was placed in  
31 a guardianship by the court. Such exemption includes fees  
32 associated with enrollment in applied academics for adult  
33 education instruction. The exemption remains valid until the  
34 student reaches 28 years of age.

35 (d) A student who is or was at the time he or she reached  
36 18 years of age in the custody of a relative or nonrelative  
37 under s. 39.5085 ~~or who was adopted from the Department of~~  
38 ~~Children and Families after May 5, 1997.~~ The Such exemption  
39 includes fees associated with enrollment in applied academics  
40 for adult education instruction. The exemption remains valid  
41 until the student reaches 28 years of age.

42 (e) A student who was adopted from the Department of  
43 Children and Families and has not reached 28 years of age. The  
44 exemption includes fees associated with enrollment in applied  
45 academics for adult education instruction.

46 (f) A student who is or was at the time he or she reached  
47 18 years of age in the custody of the Department of Children and  
48 Families and who:

49 1. Is or was placed with a nonrelative pursuant to s.  
50 39.402. The exemption remains valid until the student reaches 28  
51 years of age.

52 2. Is or was placed with a relative who is not or was not a  
53 participant in the Relative Caregiver Program under s. 39.5085.  
54 The exemption remains valid until the student reaches 28 years  
55 of age.

56 (g) ~~(e)~~ A student enrolled in an employment and training  
57 program under the welfare transition program. The regional  
58 workforce board shall pay the state university, Florida College

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59 System institution, or school district for costs incurred for  
60 welfare transition program participants.

61 (h)~~(f)~~ A student who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate  
62 nighttime residence or whose primary nighttime residence is a  
63 public or private shelter designed to provide temporary  
64 residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a  
65 public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as,  
66 a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

67 (i)~~(g)~~ A student who is a proprietor, owner, or worker of a  
68 company whose business has been at least 50 percent negatively  
69 financially impacted by the buyout of property around Lake  
70 Apopka by the State of Florida. Such student may receive a fee  
71 exemption only if the student has not received compensation  
72 because of the buyout, the student is designated a Florida  
73 resident for tuition purposes, pursuant to s. 1009.21, and the  
74 student has applied for and been denied financial aid, pursuant  
75 to s. 1009.40, which would have provided, at a minimum, payment  
76 of all student fees. The student is responsible for providing  
77 evidence to the postsecondary education institution verifying  
78 that the conditions of this paragraph have been met, including  
79 supporting documentation provided by the Department of Revenue.  
80 The student must be currently enrolled in, or begin coursework  
81 within, a program area by fall semester 2000. The exemption is  
82 valid for ~~a period of~~ 4 years after the date that the  
83 postsecondary education institution confirms that the conditions  
84 of this paragraph have been met.

85 (j)~~(h)~~ Pursuant to s. 402.403, child protection and child  
86 welfare personnel as defined in s. 402.402 who are enrolled in  
87 an accredited bachelor's degree or master's degree program in

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88 social work ~~program~~, provided that the student attains at least  
89 a grade of "B" in all courses for which tuition and fees are  
90 exempted.

91 (2) Each Florida College System institution may ~~is~~  
92 ~~authorized to~~ grant student fee exemptions from all fees adopted  
93 by the State Board of Education and the Florida College System  
94 institution board of trustees for up to 54 full-time equivalent  
95 students or 1 percent of its ~~the institution's~~ total full-time  
96 equivalent enrollment, whichever is greater, ~~at each~~  
97 ~~institution.~~

98 (3) Each Florida College System institution shall adopt  
99 rules and each state university shall adopt regulations to  
100 administer this section. Such rules and regulations must:

101 (a) Prohibit a restriction on the number of credit hours  
102 which may be earned by a student who is exempt from paying  
103 tuition.

104 (b) Specify that a student who is exempt from paying  
105 tuition and fees may enroll in remedial courses and college  
106 preparatory courses.

107 (c) Eliminate limitations on the type of courses in which a  
108 student who is exempt from paying tuition and fees may enroll.

109 (d) Eliminate limitations on the number of times that a  
110 student who is exempt from paying tuition and fees may enroll in  
111 a course.

112 (e) Require the Department of Education, each Florida  
113 College System institution, and each state university to include  
114 information on their respective websites about the tuition and  
115 fees exemption under this section.

116 (f) Require financial aid officers at Florida College

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117 System institutions and state universities to contact and  
118 provide advice and information to each student who indicates on  
119 a financial aid form that the student may be eligible for a  
120 tuition and fees exemption under this section.

121 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.