

By the Committee on Fiscal Policy; and Senators Lee and Gaetz

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Florida Bright Futures  
3           Scholarship Program; amending s. 1009.531, F.S.;  
4           providing that the initial award period and the  
5           renewal period for students who are unable to accept  
6           an initial award immediately after completion of high  
7           school due to a full-time religious or service  
8           obligation begin upon the completion of the religious  
9           or service obligation; specifying requirements for an  
10          entity that is sponsoring the obligation; requiring  
11          verification from the entity for which the student  
12          completed such obligation; revising eligibility  
13          requirements for the Florida Bright Futures  
14          Scholarship Program; deleting obsolete provisions;  
15          amending s. 1009.532, F.S.; providing that certain  
16          students may receive an award for a specified number  
17          of credits towards specified programs and degree  
18          programs; amending ss. 1009.534 and 1009.535, F.S.;  
19          requiring a student, as a prerequisite for the Florida  
20          Academic Scholars award or the Florida Medallion  
21          Scholars award, to identify a civic issue or a  
22          professional area of interest and develop a plan for  
23          his or her personal involvement in addressing the  
24          issue or learning about the area; prohibiting the  
25          student from receiving remuneration or academic credit  
26          for the volunteer service work performed except in  
27          certain circumstances; requiring the hours of  
28          volunteer service work to be documented in writing and  
29          signed by the student, the student's parent or  
30          guardian, and a representative of the organization for  
31          which the student performed the volunteer service  
32          work; amending s. 1009.536, F.S.; creating the Florida

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33 Gold Seal CAPE-Vocational Scholars award within the  
34 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program; requiring  
35 a student, as a prerequisite for the Florida Gold Seal  
36 Vocational Scholars award, to identify a civic issue  
37 or a professional area of interest and develop a plan  
38 for his or her personal involvement in addressing the  
39 issue or learning about the area; prohibiting the  
40 student from receiving remuneration or academic credit  
41 for the volunteer service work performed except in  
42 certain circumstances; requiring the hours of  
43 volunteer service work to be documented in writing and  
44 signed by the student, the student's parent or  
45 guardian, and a representative of the organization for  
46 which the student performed the volunteer service  
47 work; requiring a high school student graduating in  
48 the 2016-2017 academic year to meet certain  
49 requirements to be eligible for a Florida Gold Seal  
50 CAPE-Vocational Scholars award; providing that certain  
51 students may receive an award for a specified number  
52 of credits toward specified programs and degree  
53 programs; providing an effective date.

54  
55 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

56  
57 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) and paragraphs  
58 (a) and (b) of subsection (6) of section 1009.531, Florida  
59 Statutes, are amended to read:

60 1009.531 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
61 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.-

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(2)

(c) A student graduating from high school in the 2012-2013 academic year and thereafter is eligible to accept an initial award for 2 years following high school graduation and to accept a renewal award for 5 years following high school graduation. A student who applies for an award by high school graduation and who meets all other eligibility requirements, but who does not accept his or her award, may reapply during subsequent application periods up to 2 years after high school graduation. For a student who enlists in the United States Armed Forces immediately after completion of high school, the 2-year eligibility period for his or her initial award and the 5-year renewal period shall begin upon the date of separation from active duty. For a student who is receiving a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship award and discontinues his or her education to enlist in the United States Armed Forces, the remainder of his or her 5-year renewal period shall commence upon the date of separation from active duty. For a student who is unable to accept an initial award immediately after completion of high school due to a full-time religious or service obligation lasting at least 18 months, the 2-year eligibility period for his or her initial award and the 5-year renewal period begin upon the completion of his or her religious or service obligation. The organization sponsoring the full-time religious or service obligation must meet the requirements for nonprofit status under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or be a federal government service organization, including, but not limited to, the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps programs. The obligation must be documented in writing and verified by the

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91 entity for which the student completed the obligation on a  
92 standardized form prescribed by the department. If a course of  
93 study is not completed after 5 academic years, an exception of 1  
94 year to the renewal timeframe may be granted due to a verifiable  
95 illness or other documented emergency pursuant to s.

96 1009.40(1)(b)4.

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

101 ~~1. For high school students graduating in the 2010-2011 and~~  
102 ~~2011-2012 academic years, the student must earn an SAT score of~~  
103 ~~1270 or a concordant ACT score of 28.~~

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

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

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

116 ~~1. For high school students graduating in the 2010-2011~~  
117 ~~academic year, the student must earn an SAT score of 970 or a~~  
118 ~~concordant ACT score of 20 or the student in a home education~~  
119 ~~program whose parent cannot document a college preparatory~~

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120 ~~curriculum must earn an SAT score of 1070 or a concordant ACT~~  
121 ~~score of 23.~~

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

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

134 ~~4. For High school students graduating in the 2013-2014~~  
135 ~~academic year and thereafter, the student must earn an SAT score~~  
136 ~~of 1170 which corresponds to the 75th SAT percentile rank or a~~  
137 ~~concordant ACT score of 26 or the student in a home education~~  
138 ~~program whose parent cannot document a college-preparatory~~  
139 ~~curriculum must earn an SAT score of 1220 or a concordant ACT~~  
140 ~~score of 27.~~

141 Section 2. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (3) of  
142 section 1009.532, Florida Statutes, to read:

143 1009.532 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
144 student eligibility requirements for renewal awards.-

145 (3)

146 (d)1. A student who is initially eligible in the 2017-2018  
147 academic year and thereafter for a Florida Gold Seal CAPE-  
148 Vocational Scholars award under s. 1009.536(2) may receive an

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149 award for a maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours  
150 or equivalent clock hours required to complete one of the  
151 following at a Florida public or nonpublic education institution  
152 that offers these specific programs: for an applied technology  
153 diploma program as defined in s. 1004.02(7), up to 60 credit  
154 hours or equivalent clock hours; for a technical degree  
155 education program as defined in s. 1004.02(13), up to the number  
156 of hours required for a specific degree, not to exceed 72 credit  
157 hours or equivalent clock hours; or for a career certificate  
158 program as defined in s. 1004.02(20), up to the number of hours  
159 required for a specific certificate, not to exceed 72 credit  
160 hours or equivalent clock hours. A student who transfers from  
161 one of these program levels to another program level is eligible  
162 for the higher of the two credit hour limits.

163 2. A Florida Gold Seal CAPE-Vocational Scholar who  
164 completes a technical degree education program as defined in s.  
165 1004.02(13) may also receive an award for:

166 a. A maximum of 60 credit hours for a bachelor of science  
167 degree program for which there is a statewide associate in  
168 science degree program to bachelor of science degree program  
169 articulation agreement; or

170 b. A maximum of 60 credit hours for a bachelor of applied  
171 science degree program at a Florida College System institution.

172 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 1009.534, Florida  
173 Statutes, is amended to read:

174 1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.—

175 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Academic Scholars  
176 award if he or she ~~the student~~ meets the general eligibility  
177 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

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178 and ~~the student~~:

179 (a) Has achieved a 3.5 weighted grade point average as  
180 calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or its equivalent, in high  
181 school courses that are designated by the State Board of  
182 Education as college-preparatory academic courses~~;~~ and has  
183 attained at least the score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s.  
184 1009.531(6) (a) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of  
185 the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or  
186 the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College  
187 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT  
188 Assessment Program;

189 (b) Has attended a home education program according to s.  
190 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12, ~~or~~ or has completed the  
191 International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the  
192 International Baccalaureate Diploma, or has completed the  
193 Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum but  
194 failed to earn the Advanced International Certificate of  
195 Education Diploma, and has attained at least the score required  
196 under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1009.531(6) (a) on the combined verbal and  
197 quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the  
198 Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic  
199 Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an  
200 equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

201 (c) Has been awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma  
202 from the International Baccalaureate Office or an Advanced  
203 International Certificate of Education Diploma from the  
204 University of Cambridge International Examinations Office;

205 (d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement  
206 programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a

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207 scholar or finalist; or

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

210  
211 The ~~A~~ student must complete a program of volunteer ~~community~~  
212 service work, as approved by the district school board, the  
213 administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of  
214 Education for home education program students, which must ~~shall~~  
215 include a minimum of 75 hours of service work for high school  
216 students graduating in the 2010-2011 academic year and 100 hours  
217 of service work for high school students graduating in the 2011-  
218 2012 academic year and thereafter. The student, ~~and~~ must  
219 identify a social or civic issue or a professional area ~~problem~~  
220 that interests him or her, develop a plan for his or her  
221 personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about  
222 the area ~~problem~~, and, through papers or other presentations,  
223 evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience. Except for  
224 credit earned through service-learning courses adopted pursuant  
225 to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive remuneration or  
226 academic credit for the volunteer service work performed. Such  
227 work may include, but is not limited to, a business or  
228 governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service  
229 organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public  
230 office. The hours of volunteer service must be documented in  
231 writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the  
232 student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the  
233 organization for which the student performed the volunteer  
234 service work.

235 Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 1009.535, Florida



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236 Statutes, is amended to read:

237 1009.535 Florida Medallion Scholars award.—

238 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Medallion Scholars  
239 award if he or she ~~the student~~ meets the general eligibility  
240 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program  
241 and ~~the student~~:

242 (a) Has achieved a weighted grade point average of 3.0 as  
243 calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or the equivalent, in high  
244 school courses that are designated by the State Board of  
245 Education as college-preparatory academic courses; and has  
246 attained at least the score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s.  
247 1009.531(6) (b) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of  
248 the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or  
249 the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College  
250 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT  
251 Assessment Program;

252 (b) Has completed the International Baccalaureate  
253 curriculum but failed to earn the International Baccalaureate  
254 Diploma or has completed the Advanced International Certificate  
255 of Education curriculum but failed to earn the Advanced  
256 International Certificate of Education Diploma, and has attained  
257 at least the score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1009.531(6) (b)  
258 on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic  
259 Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered  
260 Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination,  
261 or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

262 (c) Has attended a home education program according to s.  
263 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12 and has attained at least the  
264 score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1009.531(6) (b) on the

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265 combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic  
266 Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered  
267 Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination,  
268 or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program, if the  
269 student's parent cannot document a college-preparatory  
270 curriculum as described in paragraph (a);

271 (d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement program  
272 of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a scholar or  
273 finalist but has not completed the a program of volunteer  
274 ~~community~~ service work required under as provided in s.  
275 1009.534; or

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

280  
281 A high school student graduating in the 2011-2012 academic year  
282 and thereafter must complete at least 75 hours a program of  
283 volunteer community service work approved by the district school  
284 board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the  
285 Department of Education for home education program students. The  
286 ~~student, which shall include a minimum of 75 hours of service~~  
287 ~~work, and~~ must identify a social or civic issue or a  
288 professional area problem that interests him or her, develop a  
289 plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue  
290 or learning about the area problem, and, through papers or other  
291 presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience.  
292 Except for credit earned through service-learning courses  
293 adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive

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294 remuneration or academic credit for volunteer service work  
295 performed. Such work may include, but is not limited to, a  
296 business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit  
297 community service organization, or activities on behalf of a  
298 candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service must  
299 be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the  
300 student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative  
301 of the organization for which the student performed the  
302 volunteer service work.

303 Section 5. Section 1009.536, Florida Statutes, is amended  
304 to read:

305 1009.536 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars and Florida  
306 Gold Seal CAPE-Vocational Scholars awards ~~award~~.—The Florida  
307 Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award and the Florida Gold Seal  
308 CAPE-Vocational Scholars award ~~is~~ created within the Florida  
309 Bright Futures Scholarship Program to recognize and reward  
310 academic achievement and career preparation by high school  
311 students who wish to continue their education.

312 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal  
313 Vocational Scholars award if he or she ~~the student~~ meets the  
314 general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures  
315 Scholarship Program and ~~the student~~:

316 (a) Completes the secondary school portion of a sequential  
317 program of studies that requires at least three secondary school  
318 career credits. On-the-job training may not be substituted for  
319 any of the three required career credits.

320 (b) Demonstrates readiness for postsecondary education by  
321 earning a passing score on the Florida College Entry Level  
322 Placement Test or its equivalent as identified by the Department

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323 of Education.

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

328 (d) Earns a minimum unweighted grade point average of 3.5  
329 on a 4.0 scale for secondary career courses that comprise  
330 ~~comprising~~ the career program.

331 (e) Beginning with high school students graduating in the  
332 2011-2012 academic year and thereafter, completes at least 30  
333 hours a program of volunteer community service work approved by  
334 the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic  
335 school, or the Department of Education for home education  
336 program students. The student must identify, which shall include  
337 a minimum of 30 hours of service work, and identifies a social  
338 or civic issue or a professional area problem that interests him  
339 or her, develop ~~develops~~ a plan for his or her personal  
340 involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area  
341 problem, and, through papers or other presentations, evaluate  
342 evaluates and reflect ~~reflects~~ upon his or her experience.  
343 Except for credit earned through service-learning courses  
344 adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive  
345 remuneration or academic credit for the volunteer service work  
346 performed. Such work may include, but is not limited to, a  
347 business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit  
348 community service organization, or activities on behalf of a  
349 candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service must  
350 be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the  
351 student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative

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352 of the organization for which the student performed the  
353 volunteer service work.

354 (2) A high school student graduating in the 2016-2017  
355 academic year and thereafter is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal  
356 CAPE-Vocational Scholars award if he or she meets the general  
357 eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures  
358 Scholarship Program, and the student:

359 (a) Earns a minimum of 5 postsecondary credit hours through  
360 CAPE industry certifications approved pursuant to s. 1008.44  
361 which articulate for college credit; and

362 (b) Completes at least 30 hours of volunteer service work  
363 approved by the district school board, the administrators of a  
364 nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home  
365 education program students. The student must identify a social  
366 or civic issue or a professional area that interests him or her,  
367 develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing  
368 the issue or learning about the area, and, through papers or  
369 other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her  
370 experience. Except for credit earned through service-learning  
371 courses adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497, the student may not  
372 receive remuneration or academic credit for the volunteer  
373 service work performed. Such work may include, but is not  
374 limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a  
375 nonprofit community service organization, or activities on  
376 behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer  
377 service work must be documented in writing, and the document  
378 must be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian,  
379 and a representative of the organization for which the student  
380 performed the volunteer service work.

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381        (3)~~(2)~~ A Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholar who is  
382 enrolled in a public or nonpublic postsecondary education  
383 institution is eligible for an award equal to the amount  
384 specified in the General Appropriations Act to assist with the  
385 payment of educational expenses.

386        (4)~~(3)~~ To be eligible for a renewal award as a Florida Gold  
387 Seal Vocational Scholar, a student must maintain the equivalent  
388 of a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale with  
389 an opportunity for restoration one time as provided in this  
390 chapter.

391        (5) (a)~~(4) (a)~~ A student who is initially eligible prior to  
392 the 2010-2011 academic year may earn a Florida Gold Seal  
393 Vocational Scholarship for 110 percent of the number of credit  
394 hours required to complete the program, up to 90 credit hours or  
395 the equivalent.

396        (b) Students who are initially eligible in the 2010-2011  
397 and 2011-2012 academic years may earn a Florida Gold Seal  
398 Vocational Scholarship for 100 percent of the number of credit  
399 hours required to complete the program, up to 90 credit hours or  
400 the equivalent.

401        (c) A student who is initially eligible in the 2012-2013  
402 academic year and thereafter may earn a Florida Gold Seal  
403 Vocational Scholarship for a maximum of 100 percent of the  
404 number of credit hours or equivalent clock hours required to  
405 complete one of the following at a Florida public or nonpublic  
406 education institution that offers these specific programs: for  
407 an applied technology diploma program as defined in s.  
408 1004.02(7), up to 60 credit hours or equivalent clock hours; for  
409 a technical degree education program as defined in s.

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410 1004.02(13), up to the number of hours required for a specific  
411 degree not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent clock hours;  
412 or for a career certificate program as defined in s.

413 1004.02(20), up to the number of hours required for a specific  
414 certificate not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent clock  
415 hours.

416 (d)1. A student who is initially eligible in the 2017-2018  
417 academic year and thereafter for a Florida Gold Seal CAPE-  
418 Vocational Scholars award under subsection (2) may receive an  
419 award for a maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours  
420 or equivalent clock hours required to complete one of the  
421 following at a Florida public or nonpublic education institution  
422 that offers these specific programs: for an applied technology  
423 diploma program as defined in s. 1004.02(7), up to 60 credit  
424 hours or equivalent clock hours; for a technical degree  
425 education program as defined in s. 1004.02(13), up to the number  
426 of hours required for a specific degree, not to exceed 72 credit  
427 hours or equivalent clock hours; or for a career certificate  
428 program as defined in s. 1004.02(20), up to the number of hours  
429 required for a specific certificate, not to exceed 72 credit  
430 hours or equivalent clock hours. A student who transfers from  
431 one of these program levels to another program level is eligible  
432 for the higher of the two credit hour limits.

433 2. A Florida Gold Seal CAPE-Vocational Scholar who  
434 completes a technical degree education program as defined in s.  
435 1004.02(13) may also receive an award for:

436 a. A maximum of 60 credit hours for a bachelor of science  
437 degree program for which there is a statewide associate in  
438 science degree program to bachelor of science degree program

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439 articulation agreement; or

440 b. A maximum of 60 credit hours for a bachelor of applied  
441 science degree program at a Florida College System institution.

442 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.