

HB 809

2016

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to tuition and fee exemptions;  
3           amending s. 1009.25, F.S.; requiring the State Board  
4           of Education and the Board of Governors of the State  
5           University System to adopt certain rules and  
6           regulations relating to tuition and fee exemptions for  
7           specified students; providing an effective date.

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

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11           Section 1. Subsection (3) is added to section 1009.25,  
12           Florida Statutes, and paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (1)  
13           of that section are republished, to read:

14           1009.25 Fee exemptions.—

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

19           (c) A student who is or was at the time he or she reached  
20           18 years of age in the custody of the Department of Children and  
21           Families or who, after spending at least 6 months in the custody  
22           of the department after reaching 16 years of age, was placed in  
23           a guardianship by the court. Such exemption includes fees  
24           associated with enrollment in applied academics for adult  
25           education instruction. The exemption remains valid until the  
26           student reaches 28 years of age.

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

34 (3) The State Board of Education and the Board of  
35 Governors shall adopt rules and regulations, respectively, to  
36 administer this section. The rules and regulations must:

37 (a) Prohibit a restriction on the number of credit hours  
38 that a student who is exempt from paying tuition and fees under  
39 paragraph (1)(c) or paragraph (1)(d) may earn.

40 (b) Specify that a student who is exempt from paying  
41 tuition and fees under paragraph (1)(c) or paragraph (1)(d) may  
42 enroll in remedial courses and college preparatory courses if  
43 necessary.

44 (c) Eliminate the limitations on the type of courses in  
45 which a student who is exempt from paying tuition and fees under  
46 paragraph (1)(c) or paragraph (1)(d) may enroll.

47 (d) Eliminate the limitations on the maximum number of  
48 times a student who is exempt from paying tuition and fees under  
49 paragraph (1)(c) or paragraph (1)(d) may enroll in a course.

50 (e) Require the Department of Education, each Florida  
51 College System institution, and each state university to include  
52 on their websites information about the tuition and fees

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53 exemption under this section.

54 (f) Require financial aid officers at Florida College  
55 System institutions and state universities to contact each  
56 student who indicates on a financial aid form that the student  
57 may be eligible for the tuition and fees exemption under this  
58 section and to provide advice and information regarding the  
59 exemption.

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