

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Sunshine Scholarship Program;
 3 creating s. 1009.894, F.S.; establishing the Sunshine
 4 Scholarship Program for specified purposes; requiring
 5 the Department of Education to administer the program;
 6 providing student eligibility requirements; requiring
 7 a student to repay the scholarship amount under
 8 certain circumstances; providing the program only
 9 applies to a student's tuition; providing for funding;
 10 providing for rulemaking; providing an effective date.

11
 12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13
 14 Section 1. Section 1009.894, Florida Statutes, is created
 15 to read:

16 1009.894 Sunshine Scholarship Program.—

17 (1) There is established the Sunshine Scholarship Program
 18 to be administered by the Department of Education. The Sunshine
 19 Scholarship Program shall provide funding for 100 percent of an
 20 eligible student's tuition at a Florida College System
 21 institution for up to 72 credit hours for an associate degree
 22 program and 120 credit hours for a baccalaureate degree program.

23 (2) To be eligible to receive a scholarship pursuant to
 24 this section, a student must:

25 (a) Be a resident for tuition purposes, as defined in s.

26 1009.21.

27 (b) Have a total annual household income equal to or less
28 than \$125,000.

29 (c) Be accepted by and enroll in a Florida College System
30 institution.

31 (d) Enroll in at least 30 credit hours per academic year.

32 (3) Upon completion of his or her program of study or upon
33 disenrollment from the Florida College System institution, the
34 student must reside and work within the state for the same
35 period of time he or she received funds from the program. If the
36 student does not reside and work within the state for the
37 specified period, the student must repay the total amount
38 awarded, plus an annual interest rate equal to the federal
39 student loan interest rate in effect when the student entered
40 the program. This subsection does not apply to a student who
41 enlists in the United States Armed Forces.

42 (4) To remain eligible for the program, a student must
43 maintain the equivalent of a cumulative grade point average of
44 2.5 on a 4.0 scale while enrolled at the Florida College System
45 institution.

46 (5) The Sunshine Scholarship Program applies only to
47 tuition. Each student is responsible for additional student
48 fees, textbooks, and other college-related expenses.

49 (6) Funding for the program shall be as provided in the
50 General Appropriations Act.

HB 181

2018

51 (7) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
52 administer this section.

53 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.