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 definitions; requiring certain financial aid
7	to be credited to a student's tuition and fees before
8	award of a sunshine scholarship; providing student
9	eligibility requirements; requiring a student to repay
10	the scholarship amount under certain circumstances;
11	providing the program only applies to a student's
12	tuition and fees; providing for funding; providing for
13	rulemaking; providing an effective date.
14	
15	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
16	
17	Section 1. Section 1009.894, Florida Statutes, is created
18	to read:
19	1009.894 Sunshine Scholarship Program
20	(1) There is established the Sunshine Scholarship Program
21	to be administered by the Department of Education. The Sunshine
22	Scholarship Program shall provide funding for 100 percent of
23	tuition and fees for Florida residents pursuing an associate
24	degree or career certificate from an eligible postsecondary
25	institution. "Eligible postsecondary institution" is defined as

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26	a Florida College System institution, a career center operated
27	by a school district, or a charter technical career center.
28	Financial aid received from the Pell Grant, the Florida Public
29	Student Assistance Grant Program, and the Florida Bright Futures
30	Scholarship Program shall be credited first to the student's
31	tuition and fees.
32	(2) To be eligible to receive a scholarship pursuant to
33	this section, a student must:
34	(a) Be a resident for tuition purposes, as defined in s.
35	1009.21.
36	(b) Meet the general requirements for student eligibility
37	as provided in s. 1009.40, except as otherwise provided in this
38	section.
39	(c) Have a total annual household income equal to or less
40	than \$50,000.
41	(d) Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid
42	(FAFSA) for each academic year in which the scholarship is
43	sought.
44	(e) Be accepted by and enroll in an eligible postsecondary
45	institution.
46	(f) Maintain continuous enrollment as a full-time student
47	while receiving the scholarship. "Full-time student" is defined
48	as a student enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours or the
49	clock hour equivalent.
50	(3) Upon completion of his or her program of study or upon
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51	disenrollment from an eligible postsecondary institution, the
52	student must reside and work within the state for the same
53	period of time he or she received funds from the program. If the
54	student does not reside and work within the state for the
55	specified period, the student must repay the total amount
56	awarded, plus an annual interest rate equal to the federal
57	student loan interest rate in effect when the student entered
58	the program. The requirements of this subsection do not apply:
59	(a) When a student enlists in the United States Armed
60	Forces; or
61	(b) While a student is continuously enrolled in a
62	baccalaureate degree program or higher at a Florida
63	postsecondary institution. Once the student graduates or
64	disenrolls from a Florida postsecondary institution, the
65	requirements of this subsection apply.
66	(4) To remain eligible for the program, a student must
67	maintain the equivalent of a cumulative grade point average of
68	2.5 on a 4.0 scale while enrolled at an eligible postsecondary
69	institution.
70	(5) The Sunshine Scholarship Program applies only to
71	tuition and fees. Each student is responsible for additional
72	user fees, textbooks, and other college-related expenses.
73	(6) Funding for the program shall be as provided in the
74	General Appropriations Act.
75	(7) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
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77 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018	
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