

By Senator Taddeo

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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to student eligibility requirements
 3 for state financial aid awards and tuition assistance
 4 grants; amending s. 1009.40, F.S.; providing that a
 5 student may not be denied classification as a resident
 6 for purposes of receiving state financial aid awards
 7 based on his or her immigration status if certain
 8 criteria are met; providing an effective date.

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

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 12 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
 13 1009.40, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

14 1009.40 General requirements for student eligibility for
 15 state financial aid awards and tuition assistance grants.—

16 (1) (a) The general requirements for eligibility of students
 17 for state financial aid awards and tuition assistance grants
 18 consist of the following:

19 1. Achievement of the academic requirements of and
 20 acceptance at a state university or Florida College System
 21 institution; a nursing diploma school approved by the Florida
 22 Board of Nursing; a Florida college or university which is
 23 accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the State
 24 Board of Education; a Florida institution the credits of which
 25 are acceptable for transfer to state universities; a career
 26 center; or a private career institution accredited by an
 27 accrediting agency recognized by the State Board of Education.

28 2. Residency in this state for no less than 1 year
 29 preceding the award of aid or a tuition assistance grant for a

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30 program established pursuant to s. 1009.50, s. 1009.505, s.
31 1009.51, s. 1009.52, s. 1009.53, s. 1009.60, s. 1009.62, s.
32 1009.72, s. 1009.73, s. 1009.77, s. 1009.89, or s. 1009.891.

33 Residency in this state must be for purposes other than to
34 obtain an education. Resident status for purposes of receiving
35 state financial aid awards shall be determined in the same
36 manner as resident status for tuition purposes pursuant to s.
37 1009.21. However, a student may not be denied classification as
38 a resident for purposes of receiving state financial aid awards
39 based solely upon his or her immigration status if he or she:

40 a. Has been granted temporary protected status by the
41 United States Department of Homeland Security; or

42 b. Has been granted deferred action for childhood arrivals
43 status or another form of prosecutorial discretion by the United
44 States Department of Homeland Security.

45 3. Submission of certification attesting to the accuracy,
46 completeness, and correctness of information provided to
47 demonstrate a student's eligibility to receive state financial
48 aid awards or tuition assistance grants. Falsification of such
49 information shall result in the denial of a pending application
50 and revocation of an award or grant currently held to the extent
51 that no further payments shall be made. Additionally, students
52 who knowingly make false statements in order to receive state
53 financial aid awards or tuition assistance grants commit a
54 misdemeanor of the second degree subject to the provisions of s.
55 837.06 and shall be required to return all state financial aid
56 awards or tuition assistance grants wrongfully obtained.

57 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.