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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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Appropriations Subcommittee on Education (Perry) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Between lines 145 and 146

insert:

Section 5. Section 1009.75, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1009.75 Last Mile Scholarship program.—

(1) Beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year, the Last Mile Scholarship program is established within the Department of Education to annually award the cost of in-state tuition and



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11 required fees to students classified as residents pursuant to s.  
12 1009.21 who are in good standing at Florida College System  
13 institutions and state universities and who are within 12 or  
14 fewer credit hours of completing their first associate degree or  
15 baccalaureate degree. Any student who has earned college credit  
16 from a regionally accredited postsecondary institution within a  
17 period of 8 academic years before the year in which the student  
18 submits an application pursuant to subsection (2) is eligible to  
19 participate in the program.

20 (2) (a) The Department of Education shall create a simple,  
21 web-based, application to allow any eligible student to identify  
22 his or her intent to enroll and complete his or her associate  
23 degree or baccalaureate degree within 3 academic terms at one or  
24 more Florida College System institutions or state universities  
25 or through an online competency-based program at a regionally  
26 accredited, not-for-profit university.

27 (b) The department shall refer the student to the intended  
28 institution or university for continued processing of  
29 eligibility, feasibility of reverse transfer, award status, and  
30 enrollment. The participating Florida College System institution  
31 or state university must determine the eligibility of each  
32 referred student and must report that information to the  
33 department on behalf of the student in a format prescribed by  
34 the department.

35 (c) Once an eligible student has successfully passed the  
36 course or courses for each term in which the student is enrolled  
37 during the program period, the department shall disburse the  
38 award funds to the participating institution or university. The  
39 award amount may not exceed the difference between the student's



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40 full cost of attendance and his or her total financial aid,  
41 excluding loans.

42 (3) Funding for the program specified under this section is  
43 contingent upon legislative appropriation.

44 (4) The State Board of Education and the Board of Governors  
45 shall adopt rules and regulations, respectively, to implement  
46 this section, including, but not limited to, application  
47 processes, priority degree fields for award recipients,  
48 reporting processes, and fees.

49  
50 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

51 And the title is amended as follows:

52 Delete line 21

53 and insert:

54 requirements; creating s. 1009.75, F.S.; establishing  
55 a scholarship program within the Department of  
56 Education beginning with a specified academic year;  
57 providing the purpose of the program; providing  
58 student eligibility requirements relating to the  
59 program; requiring the department to create a web-  
60 based application; providing program requirements;  
61 providing for disbursement of award funds; providing that  
62 funding for the program is contingent upon legislative  
63 appropriation; requiring the State Board of Education  
64 and the Board of Governors to adopt rules and  
65 regulations, respectively; providing an effective  
66 date.