

By Senator Rodriguez

37-00200A-19

20191354\_\_

1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to the Sunshine Scholarship Program;  
3 creating s. 1009.895, F.S.; establishing the Sunshine  
4 Scholarship Program for specified purposes; requiring  
5 the Department of Education to administer the program;  
6 defining the term "eligible postsecondary  
7 institution"; requiring certain financial aid to be  
8 credited to a student's tuition and fees before award  
9 of a Sunshine Scholarship; providing student  
10 eligibility requirements; defining the term "full-time  
11 student"; requiring a student to repay the scholarship  
12 amount under certain circumstances; providing that the  
13 program applies only to a student's tuition and fees;  
14 providing that the award of such scholarship is  
15 contingent on the appropriation of funds by the  
16 Legislature; requiring the department to adopt rules;  
17 providing an effective date.

18  
19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

20  
21 Section 1. Section 1009.895, Florida Statutes, is created  
22 to read:

23 1009.895 Sunshine Scholarship Program.—

24 (1) There is established the Sunshine Scholarship Program  
25 to be administered by the Department of Education. The Sunshine  
26 Scholarship Program shall provide funding for 100 percent of  
27 tuition and fees for Florida residents pursuing an associate  
28 degree or career certificate from an eligible postsecondary  
29 institution. For purposes of this section, "eligible

37-00200A-19

20191354\_\_

30 postsecondary institution" means a Florida College System  
31 institution, a career center operated by a school district, or a  
32 charter technical career center. Financial aid received from the  
33 Pell Grant, the Florida Public Student Assistance Grant Program,  
34 and the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program shall be  
35 credited first to the student's tuition and fees.

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

38 (a) Be a resident for tuition purposes, as defined in s.  
39 1009.21.

40 (b) Meet the general requirements for student eligibility  
41 as provided in s. 1009.40, except as otherwise provided in this  
42 section.

43 (c) Have a total annual household income equal to or less  
44 than \$50,000.

45 (d) Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid  
46 (FAFSA) for each academic year in which the scholarship is  
47 sought.

48 (e) Be accepted by and enroll in an eligible postsecondary  
49 institution.

50 (f) Maintain continuous enrollment as a full-time student  
51 while receiving the scholarship. For purposes of this section,  
52 "full-time student" means a student enrolled in a minimum of 12  
53 semester hours or the clock-hour equivalent.

54 (3) Upon completion of his or her program of study, or upon  
55 disenrollment from an eligible postsecondary institution, the  
56 student must reside and work within the state for the same  
57 period of time he or she received funds from the program. If the  
58 student does not reside and work within the state for the

37-00200A-19

20191354\_\_

59 specified period, the student must repay the total amount  
60 awarded, plus an annual interest rate equal to the federal  
61 student loan interest rate in effect when the student entered  
62 the program. The requirements of this subsection do not apply:

63 (a) When a student enlists in the United States Armed  
64 Forces; or

65 (b) While a student is continuously enrolled in a  
66 baccalaureate degree program or higher at a Florida  
67 postsecondary institution. Once the student graduates or  
68 disenrolls from a Florida postsecondary institution, the  
69 requirements of this subsection apply.

70 (4) To remain eligible for the program, a student must  
71 maintain the equivalent of a cumulative grade point average of  
72 2.5 on a 4.0 scale while enrolled at an eligible postsecondary  
73 institution.

74 (5) The Sunshine Scholarship Program applies only to  
75 tuition and fees. Each student is responsible for additional  
76 user fees, textbooks, and other college-related expenses.

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

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

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