

By Senator Powell

30-00722-20

20201844\_\_

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to the Florida Bright Futures  
3       Scholarship Program; amending s. 1009.531, F.S.;  
4       revising student eligibility requirements for initial  
5       awards from any of the scholarships under the Florida  
6       Bright Futures Scholarship Program; providing an  
7       effective date.

8  
9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

10  
11       Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 1009.531, Florida  
12       Statutes, is amended to read:

13       1009.531 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
14       student eligibility requirements for initial awards.—

15       (1) In order to be eligible for an initial award from any  
16       of the scholarships under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship  
17       Program, a student must:

18       (a) Be a Florida resident as defined in s. 1009.40 and  
19       rules of the State Board of Education.

20       (b) Earn a standard Florida high school diploma pursuant to  
21       s. 1002.3105(5), s. 1003.4281, or s. 1003.4282 or a high school  
22       equivalency diploma pursuant to s. 1003.435 unless:

23       1. The student completes a home education program according  
24       to s. 1002.41;

25       2. The student earns a high school diploma from a non-  
26       Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who is on  
27       military or public service assignment away from Florida; or

28       3. The student earns a high school diploma from a Florida  
29       private school operating pursuant to s. 1002.42.

30-00722-20

20201844\_\_

30 (c) Be accepted by and enroll in an eligible Florida public  
31 or independent postsecondary education institution.

32 (d) Be enrolled for at least 6 semester credit hours or the  
33 equivalent in quarter hours or clock hours.

34 (e) ~~Not have been found guilty of, or entered a plea of~~  
35 ~~nolo contendere to, a felony charge, unless the student has been~~  
36 ~~granted clemency by the Governor and Cabinet sitting as the~~  
37 ~~Executive Office of Clemency.~~

38 (f) Apply for a scholarship from the program by high school  
39 graduation. However, a student who graduates from high school  
40 midyear must apply no later than December 31 of the student's  
41 graduation year in order to be evaluated for and, if eligible,  
42 receive an award for the current academic year.

43 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.