A bill to be entitled
An act relating to higher education; amending s. 1009.26, F.S.; requiring a state university to waive the tuition and fees for certain courses in which certain resident students are enrolled; providing specified criteria for such waiver; providing applicability; prohibiting the reporting of tuition and fees waived for state funding purposes; requiring each state university to report certain information regarding such waiver to the Board of Governors annually; providing that a state university is ineligible for a specified performance-based incentive for failure to comply; requiring the board to adopt regulations; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (18) is added to section 1009.26, Florida Statutes, to read:

1009.26 Fee waivers.—
(18)(a) Beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year, for every course in a program of strategic emphasis in which a student pays the full tuition and fees, a state university shall waive 100 percent of the tuition and fees for another course in a program of strategic emphasis for a student who:
1. Is a resident for tuition purposes under s. 1009.21.

2. Initially enrolls full-time at a state university for the fall academic term immediately following high school graduation.

3. Earns at least 60 semester credit hours towards a baccalaureate degree within 2 years after initial enrollment.

4. Enrolls in a program of strategic emphasis in one of the following categories as identified by the Board of Governors:
   a. Science, technology, engineering, or math.
   b. Critical workforce education.
   c. Critical workforce healthcare.
   d. Critical workforce and undersupplied.

(b) A waiver granted under this subsection is applicable only for upper-level courses and up to 110 percent of the number of required credit hours of the baccalaureate degree program for which the student is enrolled.

(c) Tuition and course fees waived under this subsection may not be reported for state funding purposes.

(d) Each state university shall report to the Board of Governors the number and value of all waivers granted annually under this subsection. A state university that fails to comply with the requirements of this section is ineligible for the State University System Performance-Based Incentive under s. 1001.92.
(e) The Board of Governors shall adopt regulations to administer this subsection.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.