

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to higher education; amending s.
3 1009.26, F.S.; requiring a state university to waive
4 the tuition and fees for certain courses in which
5 certain resident students are enrolled; providing
6 specified criteria for such waiver; providing
7 applicability; prohibiting the reporting of tuition
8 and fees waived for state funding purposes; requiring
9 each state university to report certain information
10 regarding such waiver to the Board of Governors
11 annually; providing that a state university is
12 ineligible for a specified performance-based incentive
13 for failure to comply; requiring the board to adopt
14 regulations; providing an effective date.

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

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

20 1009.26 Fee waivers.—

21 (18) (a) Beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year, for
22 every course in a program of strategic emphasis in which a
23 student pays the full tuition and fees, a state university shall
24 waive 100 percent of the tuition and fees for another course in
25 a program of strategic emphasis for a student who:

26 | 1. Is a resident for tuition purposes under s. 1009.21.

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

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

32 | 4. Enrolls in a program of strategic emphasis in one of
33 | the following categories as identified by the Board of
34 | Governors:

35 | a. Science, technology, engineering, or math.

36 | b. Critical workforce education.

37 | c. Critical workforce healthcare.

38 | d. Critical workforce and undersupplied.

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

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

45 | (d) Each state university shall report to the Board of
46 | Governors the number and value of all waivers granted annually
47 | under this subsection. A state university that fails to comply
48 | with the requirements of this section is ineligible for the
49 | State University System Performance-Based Incentive under s.
50 | 1001.92.

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51 (e) The Board of Governors shall adopt regulations to
52 administer this subsection.

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