

By Senator Jones

35-01706-21

20211406__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Postsecondary Graduation
3 Achievement Housing Scholarship Program; creating s.
4 1009.895, F.S.; establishing the Postsecondary
5 Graduation Achievement Housing Scholarship Program;
6 requiring the Department of Education to administer
7 the program; providing for funding; providing
8 department duties; providing eligibility requirements;
9 providing scholarship amounts; authorizing
10 scholarships to be prorated under certain
11 circumstances; providing requirements for the use of
12 scholarship funds; authorizing the State Board of
13 Education to adopt rules; providing an effective date.

14
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16
17 Section 1. Section 1009.895, Florida Statutes, is created
18 to read:

19 1009.895 Postsecondary Graduation Achievement Housing
20 Scholarship Program.—

21 (1) To help high-achieving postsecondary graduates who have
22 significant financial need become productive residents of this
23 state and join the workforce, there is established the
24 Postsecondary Graduation Achievement Housing Scholarship
25 Program, a lottery-funded program to be administered by the
26 Department of Education. Funding for the program must be
27 annually allocated from the Education Enhancement Trust Fund.

28 (2) The department shall establish an application process
29 for eligible individuals and criteria for, at a minimum, the

35-01706-21

20211406__

30 determination of significant financial need. Scholarships must
31 be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to
32 available funding.

33 (3) To be eligible for a scholarship under this program, an
34 individual must:

35 (a) Have been a resident for tuition purposes pursuant to
36 s. 1009.21 during his or her postsecondary education.

37 (b) Have been a recipient of a state-funded scholarship or
38 grant award under chapter 1009 for at least 1 year of his or her
39 postsecondary education.

40 (c) Have a significant financial need as determined
41 pursuant to subsection (2).

42 (d) Have graduated from a postsecondary education
43 institution in this state with at least a cumulative grade point
44 average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in the last 2 years.

45 (4) Scholarships must be awarded to individuals for a
46 period of 2 years as follows:

47 (a) For the first year, each individual must receive \$400
48 per month.

49 (b) For the second year, each individual must receive \$300
50 per month.

51 (c) Subject to available funds, each individual awarded a
52 scholarship may receive a one-time award of up to \$1,500 for his
53 or her first year in the program.

54
55 If appropriated funds are not sufficient, funds for each
56 scholarship must be prorated.

57 (5) Scholarship funds must be used to pay for housing and
58 security deposits for housing in this state.

35-01706-21

20211406__

59 (6) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to
60 administer this section.

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