

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Florida Private Student  
3           Assistance Grant Program; amending s. 1009.51, F.S.;  
4           expanding eligibility for the program to full-time  
5           degree-seeking students accepted at a competency-based  
6           nonprofit virtual postsecondary institution that meets  
7           specified criteria; providing an effective date.  
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9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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11           Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
12           1009.51, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

13           1009.51 Florida Private Student Assistance Grant Program;  
14           eligibility for grants.—

15           (2) (a) Florida private student assistance grants may be  
16           made only to full-time degree-seeking students who meet the  
17           general requirements for student eligibility as provided in s.  
18           1009.40, except as otherwise provided in this section. Such  
19           grants shall be awarded for the amount of demonstrated unmet  
20           need for tuition and fees and may not exceed the maximum annual  
21           award amount specified in the General Appropriations Act. A  
22           demonstrated unmet need of less than \$200 shall render the  
23           applicant ineligible for a Florida private student assistance  
24           grant. Recipients of such grants must have been accepted at a  
25           baccalaureate-degree-granting independent nonprofit college or

26 | university, which is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of  
27 | the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and which is  
28 | located in and chartered as a domestic corporation by the state,  
29 | or at a competency-based nonprofit virtual postsecondary  
30 | institution that is accredited by a member of the Council of  
31 | Regional Accrediting Commissions and is created by the governors  
32 | of several states, has established and continually maintains a  
33 | location of operation in this state, and maintains a governing  
34 | body or advisory board in this state. If funds are available, a  
35 | student who received an award in the fall or spring term may  
36 | receive an award in the summer term. Priority in the  
37 | distribution of summer awards shall be given to students who are  
38 | within one semester of completing a degree or certificate  
39 | program. No student may receive an award for more than the  
40 | equivalent of 9 semesters or 14 quarters of full-time  
41 | enrollment, except as otherwise provided in s. 1009.40(3).

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