

By Senator Gruters

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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

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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.