

By Senator Diaz

36-01364-21

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the State University Free Seat  
3           Program; creating s. 1009.266, F.S.; creating the  
4           State University Free Seat Program; providing a  
5           purpose for the program; providing an exemption from  
6           tuition and fees, including lab fees, for one online  
7           course at a state university for certain resident  
8           students; prohibiting a state university from charging  
9           such students more than a specified percentage of the  
10          tuition rate and the tuition differential under  
11          certain circumstances; providing a limitation on the  
12          application of such tuition discount; providing an  
13          effective date.

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

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17           Section 1. Section 1009.266, Florida Statutes, is created  
18           to read:

19           1009.266 State University Free Seat Program.—

20           (1) The State University Free Seat Program is created to  
21           encourage nontraditional students to enroll in and attend a  
22           state university.

23           (2) (a) A student who is a resident for tuition purposes  
24           under s. 1009.21 and who has not been enrolled in a  
25           postsecondary institution for more than 5 years is exempt from  
26           the payment of tuition and fees, including lab fees, for one  
27           online course at a state university during each academic year.

28           (b)1. For all other courses, a state university may not  
29           charge a student who meets the criteria in paragraph (a) more

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30 than 75 percent of the tuition rate as specified in s.  
31 1009.24(4) and 75 percent of the tuition differential pursuant  
32 to s. 1009.24(16), if the student remains enrolled in at least  
33 one online course during each academic year.

34 2. A student who qualifies for the tuition discount under  
35 subparagraph 1. is eligible to receive the discount for up to  
36 110 percent of the number of required credit hours of the degree  
37 program for which the student is enrolled.

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