

By Senator Perry

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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.

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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 the
33 following categories as identified by the Board of Governors:

34 a. Science, technology, engineering, or math.

35 b. Critical workforce education.

36 c. Critical workforce healthcare.

37 d. Critical workforce and undersupplied.

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

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

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

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

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