

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.

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

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 17 Section 1. Section 1009.895, 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
 22 have a significant financial need become productive residents of
 23 this state and launch into the workforce, there is established
 24 the Postsecondary Graduation Achievement Housing Scholarship
 25 Program, a lottery-funded program, to be administered by the

26 Department of Education. Funding for such program shall 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
30 determination of significant financial need. Scholarships shall
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,
34 an 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 one year of his or
39 her 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 shall be awarded to individuals for a
46 period of 2 years as follows:

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

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

51 (c) Subject to available funds, each individual awarded a
52 scholarship may receive a one-time award of up to \$1500 for his
53 or her first year in the program.

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

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

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.