

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; providing an exemption from tuition and fees,
6 including lab fees, for one online course at a state
7 university for certain resident students; prohibiting
8 a state university from charging such students more
9 than a specified percentage of the tuition rate and
10 the tuition differential under certain circumstances;
11 providing a limitation on the application of such
12 tuition discount; providing an effective date.

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

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

18 1009.266 State University Free Seat Program.—

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

22 (2) (a) A student who is a resident for tuition purposes
23 under s. 1009.21 and who has not been enrolled in a
24 postsecondary institution for more than 5 years is exempt from
25 the payment of tuition and fees, including lab fees, for one

26 online course at a state university during each academic year.

27 (b)1. For all other courses, a state university may not
28 charge a student who meets the criteria in paragraph (a) more
29 than 75 percent of the tuition rate as specified in s.

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

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

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