

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to Groveland Four business loans and  
3           scholarships; amending s. 288.7102, F.S.; requiring  
4           the Department of Economic Opportunity to prioritize  
5           certain applications for the Black Business Loan  
6           Program; creating s. 1009.551, F.S.; creating the  
7           Groveland Four Scholarship Program for specified  
8           recipients; directing the Department of Education to  
9           administer the program; specifying annual award  
10          amounts to students participating in the program;  
11          requiring the department to rank applicants; providing  
12          for transmittal of an award payment to a participating  
13          postsecondary institution; prescribing eligibility  
14          criteria for award recipients; authorizing the State  
15          Board of Education to adopt rules; providing for  
16          program funding; providing an effective date.

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

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20          Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 288.7102, Florida  
21          Statutes, is amended to read:

22                288.7102 Black Business Loan Program.—

23                (2) The department shall establish an application and  
24                annual certification process for entities seeking funds to  
25                participate in providing loans, loan guarantees, or investments

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26 | in black business enterprises pursuant to the Florida Black  
27 | Business Investment Act. The department shall process all  
28 | applications and recertifications submitted by June 1 on or  
29 | before July 31. The department shall prioritize any applications  
30 | for black business enterprises in areas directly impacted by the  
31 | Groveland Four injustice.

32 | Section 2. Section 1009.551, Florida Statutes, is created  
33 | to read:

34 | 1009.551 Groveland Four Scholarship Program.—

35 | (1) The Groveland Four Scholarship Program is created for  
36 | the direct descendants of victims of the Groveland Four  
37 | injustice which occurred in July 1949 and for current African-  
38 | American residents of Groveland.

39 | (2) The Groveland Four Scholarship Program shall be  
40 | administered by the Department of Education.

41 | (3) The annual award to a student under the program may be  
42 | an amount of up to \$6,100, but may not exceed the annual amount  
43 | of the student's tuition and registration fees. The department  
44 | may award up to 50 scholarships per academic year. If funds are  
45 | insufficient to provide a full scholarship to each eligible  
46 | applicant, the department may prorate available funds and make a  
47 | partial award to each eligible applicant.

48 | (4) The department shall rank eligible initial applicants  
49 | for the purposes of awarding scholarships based on need, as  
50 | determined by the department.

51        (5) Payment of an award shall be transmitted in advance of  
52 the registration period each semester on behalf of the student  
53 to the president of the state university or Florida College  
54 System institution, or his or her representative, or to the  
55 director of the career center that the recipient is attending.

56        (6) Beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year, the  
57 department is authorized to make awards for undergraduate study  
58 to students who:

59        (a) Meet the general requirements for student eligibility  
60 as provided in s. 1009.40, except as otherwise provided in this  
61 section.

62        (b) File an application for the scholarship within the  
63 established time limits, as determined by the department.

64        (c) Enroll as certificate-seeking or degree-seeking  
65 students at a state university, Florida College System  
66 institution, or career center authorized by law.

67        (7) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules  
68 necessary to implement and administer this section.

69        (8) Funding for the program shall be as provided in the  
70 General Appropriations Act.

71        Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.