

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to law enforcement officer benefits,
3 recruitment, and training; amending s. 145.071, F.S.;
4 revising salary minimums for county sheriffs; amending
5 s. 409.1664, F.S.; providing for adoption benefits for
6 law enforcements officers; providing requirements to
7 receive such benefits; providing procedures to obtain
8 such benefits; creating s. 445.08, F.S.; creating the
9 Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment
10 Program within the Department of Economic Opportunity;
11 providing definitions; providing for one-time bonus
12 payments to newly-employed law enforcement officers;
13 providing requirements for award of bonus payments;
14 requiring the department to develop an annual plan for
15 the administration of the program and distribution of
16 payments; authorizing employing agencies to assist the
17 department with the collection of specified data to
18 collect such payments; providing plan requirements;
19 providing eligibility requirements for the plan;
20 requiring the department to consult quarterly with the
21 commission to verify specified information; providing
22 for reporting; authorizing the department to submit
23 certain information for a specified purpose; providing
24 for use of a funding; requiring rulemaking; providing
25 for expiration of the program; amending s. 683.11,

26 F.S.; providing for the designation of "Law
27 Enforcement Appreciation Day"; amending s. 943.17,
28 F.S.; providing an exemption from certain law
29 enforcement officer training requirements for military
30 veterans; creating s. 943.1745, F.S.; providing
31 requirements for skills training for law enforcement
32 officers relating to officer health and safety;
33 amending s. 1002.394, F.S.; providing eligibility for
34 the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program for
35 children of law enforcement officers; creating s.
36 1003.4933, F.S.; providing for each district school
37 board to establish a public safety telecommunication
38 training program; authorizing the district to partner
39 with programs operated by certain entities; requiring
40 school districts to allow certain students to enroll
41 in such a program under specified circumstances;
42 providing exceptions; creating s. 1003.49966, F.S.;
43 providing for each district school board to offer a
44 law enforcement explorer program; authorizing the
45 school board to partner with law enforcement agencies
46 to offer such programs; providing for a student to
47 receive course credit if such a program is offered as
48 an elective; creating s. 1004.098, F.S.; providing
49 definitions; requiring the Board of Governors and the
50 State Board of Education to create a process that

51 enables eligible law enforcement officers or former
52 law enforcement officers to earn uniform postsecondary
53 credit across all Florida public postsecondary
54 educational institutions for college-level training
55 and education acquired while serving as a law
56 enforcement officer; requiring the Articulation
57 Coordinating Committee to convene a workgroup by a
58 specified date to facilitate such process; providing
59 membership of the workgroup; providing a timetable for
60 the process; creating s. 1009.896, F.S.; providing
61 definitions; creating the Florida Law Enforcement
62 Academy Scholarship Program; providing requirements
63 for receipt of such a scholarship; providing
64 procedures for the program; providing for the amount of
65 such awards; requiring rulemaking; creating s.
66 1009.8961, F.S.; providing definitions; providing for
67 reimbursement for out-of-state and special operations
68 forces law enforcement equivalency training; providing
69 requirements for receipt of such reimbursement;
70 providing procedures for such reimbursement; providing
71 for amount of such awards; requiring rulemaking;
72 providing an effective date.

73
74 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
75

76 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 145.071, Florida
 77 Statutes, is amended to read:

78 145.071 Sheriff.—

79 (1) Each sheriff shall receive as salary the amount
 80 indicated, based on the population of his or her county. In
 81 addition, a compensation shall be made for population increments
 82 over the minimum for each group, which shall be determined by
 83 multiplying the population in excess of the minimum for the
 84 group times the group rate.

85

Pop. Group	County Pop. Range		Base Salary	Group Rate
	Minimum	Maximum		
I	-0-	49,999	<u>28,350</u> 23,350	\$0.07875
II	50,000	99,999	<u>31,500</u> 26,500	0.06300
III	100,000	199,999	<u>34,650</u> 29,650	0.02625
IV	200,000	399,999	<u>37,275</u>	0.01575

				32,275	
91					
	V			<u>40,425</u>	
		400,000	999,999	35,425	0.00525
92					
	VI			<u>43,575</u>	
		1,000,000		38,575	0.00400
93					

94 Section 2. Paragraphs (b) through (e) of subsection (1) of
 95 section 409.1664, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
 96 paragraphs (c) through (f), respectively, a new paragraph (b) is
 97 added to that subsection, and subsections (2), (3), (4), and (6)
 98 of that section are amended, to read:

99 409.1664 Adoption benefits for qualifying adoptive
 100 employees of state agencies, veterans, ~~and~~ servicemembers, and
 101 law enforcement officers.-

102 (1) As used in this section, the term:

103 (b) "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as
 104 provided in s. 943.10(1).

105 (2) A qualifying adoptive employee, veteran, or
 106 servicemember who adopts a child within the child welfare system
 107 who has special needs described in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is
 108 eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of
 109 \$10,000 per such child, subject to applicable taxes. A law
 110 enforcement officer who adopts a child within the child welfare

111 system who has special needs described in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is
112 eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of
113 \$25,000 per such child, subject to applicable taxes. A
114 qualifying adoptive employee, veteran, or servicemember who
115 adopts a child within the child welfare system who does not have
116 special needs described in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is eligible to
117 receive a lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of \$5,000 per
118 such child, subject to applicable taxes. A law enforcement
119 officer who adopts a child within the child welfare system who
120 does not have special needs described in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is
121 eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of
122 \$10,000 per each such child, subject to applicable taxes. A
123 qualifying adoptive employee of a charter school or the Florida
124 Virtual School may retroactively apply for the monetary benefit
125 provided in this subsection if such employee was employed by a
126 charter school or the Florida Virtual School when he or she
127 adopted a child within the child welfare system pursuant to
128 chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2015. A veteran or servicemember
129 may apply for the monetary benefit provided in this subsection
130 if he or she is domiciled in this state and adopts a child
131 within the child welfare system pursuant to chapter 63 on or
132 after July 1, 2020. A law enforcement officer may apply for the
133 monetary benefit provided in this subsection if he or she is
134 domiciled in this state and adopts a child within the child
135 welfare system pursuant to chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2022.

136 (a) Benefits paid to a qualifying adoptive employee who is
 137 a part-time employee must be prorated based on the qualifying
 138 adoptive employee's full-time equivalency at the time of
 139 applying for the benefits.

140 (b) Monetary benefits awarded under this subsection are
 141 limited to one award per adopted child within the child welfare
 142 system.

143 (c) The payment of a lump-sum monetary benefit for
 144 adopting a child within the child welfare system under this
 145 section is subject to a specific appropriation to the department
 146 for such purpose.

147 (3) A qualifying adoptive employee must apply to his or
 148 her agency head, or to his or her school director in the case of
 149 a qualifying adoptive employee of a charter school or the
 150 Florida Virtual School, to obtain the monetary benefit provided
 151 in subsection (2). A veteran or servicemember must apply to the
 152 department to obtain the benefit. A law enforcement officer must
 153 apply to the Department of Law Enforcement to obtain the
 154 benefit. Applications must be on forms approved by the
 155 department and must include a certified copy of the final order
 156 of adoption naming the applicant as the adoptive parent.
 157 Monetary benefits shall be approved on a first-come, first-
 158 served basis based upon the date that each fully completed
 159 application is received by the department.

160 (4) This section does not preclude a qualifying adoptive

161 employee, veteran, ~~or~~ servicemember, or law enforcement officer
 162 from receiving adoption assistance for which he or she may
 163 qualify under s. 409.166 or any other statute that provides
 164 financial incentives for the adoption of children.

165 (6) The department may adopt rules to administer this
 166 section. The rules may provide for an application process such
 167 as, but not limited to, an open enrollment period during which
 168 qualifying adoptive employees, veterans, ~~or~~ servicemembers, or
 169 law enforcement officers may apply for monetary benefits under
 170 this section.

171 Section 3. Section 445.08, Florida Statutes, is created to
 172 read:

173 445.08 Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment
 174 Program.—

175 (1) For the purposes of this section, the term:

176 (a) "Commission" means the Criminal Justice Standards and
 177 Training Commission within the Department of Law Enforcement.

178 (b) "Employing agency" has the same meaning as provided in
 179 s. 943.10(4).

180 (c) "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as
 181 provided in s. 943.10(1).

182 (d) "Newly employed officer" means a person who gains or
 183 is appointed to full-time employment as a certified law
 184 enforcement officer with a Florida criminal justice employing
 185 agency on or after July 1, 2022, and who has never before been

186 employed as a law enforcement officer in this state.

187 (e) "Program" means the Florida Law Enforcement
 188 Recruitment Bonus Payment Program.

189 (2) There is created within the department the Florida Law
 190 Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment Program, to aid in the
 191 recruitment of law enforcement officers within the state. The
 192 purpose of the program is to administer one-time bonus payments
 193 of up to \$5,000 to each newly employed officer within the state.
 194 Bonus payments provided to eligible newly employed officers are
 195 contingent upon legislative appropriations and shall be prorated
 196 subject to the amount appropriated for the program.

197 (3) Each bonus payment shall be adjusted to include 7.65
 198 percent for the officer's share of Federal Insurance
 199 Contribution Act tax on the payment.

200 (4) The department shall develop an annual plan for the
 201 administration of the program and distribution of bonus
 202 payments. Applicable employing agencies shall assist the
 203 department with the collection of any data necessary to
 204 determine bonus payment amounts and to distribute the bonus
 205 payments, and shall otherwise provide the department with any
 206 information or assistance needed to fulfill the requirements of
 207 this section. At a minimum, the plan must include:

208 (a) The method for determining the estimated number of
 209 newly employed officers to gain or be appointed to full-time
 210 employment during the applicable fiscal year.

211 (b) The minimum eligibility requirements a newly employed
212 officer must meet to receive and retain a bonus payment, which
213 must include:

214 1. Obtaining certification for employment or appointment
215 as a law enforcement officer pursuant to s. 943.1395.

216 2. Gaining full-time employment with a Florida criminal
217 justice agency.

218 3. Maintaining continuous full-time employment with a
219 Florida criminal justice agency for at least 2 years from the
220 date on which the officer obtained certification. The required
221 2-year employment period may be satisfied by maintaining
222 employment at one or more employing agencies, but such period
223 must not contain any break in service longer than 15 calendar
224 days.

225 (c) The method that will be used to determine the bonus
226 payment amount to be distributed to each newly employed officer.

227 (d) The method that will be used to distribute bonus
228 payments to applicable employing agencies for distribution to
229 eligible officers. Such method should prioritize distributing
230 bonus payments to eligible officers in the most efficient and
231 quickest manner possible.

232 (e) The estimated cost to the department associated with
233 developing and administering the program and distributing bonus
234 payment funds.

235 (f) The method by which an officer must reimburse the

236 state if he or she received a bonus payment under the program,
237 but failed to maintain continuous employment for the required 2-
238 year period. Reimbursement shall not be required if an officer
239 is discharged by his or her employing agency for a reason other
240 than misconduct as designated on the affidavit of separation
241 completed by the employing agency and maintained by the
242 commission.

243

244 The department may establish other criteria deemed necessary to
245 determine bonus payment eligibility and distribution.

246 (5) The department shall consult quarterly with the
247 commission to verify the certification of newly employed
248 officers and affidavits of separation submitted to the
249 commission which detail officer misconduct.

250 (6) The department shall submit the plan to the Executive
251 Office of the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget, the chair
252 of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and the chair of the
253 House Appropriations Committee by October 1 of each year. The
254 department is authorized to submit budget amendments pursuant to
255 chapter 216 as necessary to release appropriated funds for
256 distribution to applicable employing agencies under this
257 program.

258 (7) The funding allocation for the bonus payments must be
259 used solely to comply with the requirements of this section, but
260 applicable collective bargaining units are not otherwise

261 precluded from wage negotiation.

262 (8) The department shall adopt rules to implement this
263 section.

264 (9) This section expires July 1, 2025.

265 Section 4. Section 683.11, Florida Statutes, is amended to
266 read:

267 683.11 Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and Law
268 Enforcement Appreciation Month.—

269 (1) May 1 of each year is hereby designated as "Law
270 Enforcement Appreciation Day."

271 (2)~~(1)~~ The month of May of each year is hereby designated
272 as "Law Enforcement Appreciation Month."

273 (3)~~(2)~~ The Governor and the mayor of each municipality may
274 issue annually a proclamation designating May 1 as "Law
275 Enforcement Appreciation Day" and the month of May as "Law
276 Enforcement Appreciation Month" and urging all civic, fraternal,
277 and religious organizations and public and private educational
278 institutions to recognize and observe this occasion through
279 appropriate programs, meetings, services, or celebrations in
280 which state, county, and local law enforcement officers are
281 invited to participate.

282 Section 5. Paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of section
283 943.17, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

284 943.17 Basic recruit, advanced, and career development
285 training programs; participation; cost; evaluation.—The

286 commission shall, by rule, design, implement, maintain,
287 evaluate, and revise entry requirements and job-related
288 curricula and performance standards for basic recruit, advanced,
289 and career development training programs and courses. The rules
290 shall include, but are not limited to, a methodology to assess
291 relevance of the subject matter to the job, student performance,
292 and instructor competency.

293 (1) The commission shall:

294 (g) Assure that entrance into the basic recruit training
295 program for law enforcement and correctional officers be limited
296 to those who have passed a basic skills examination and
297 assessment instrument, based on a job task analysis in each
298 discipline and adopted by the commission. However, a person is
299 not required to take the basic skills examination and assessment
300 instrument before entering a law enforcement officer basic
301 recruit training program if he or she is a veteran as defined in
302 s. 1.01(14) or holds an associate degree or higher from an
303 accredited college or university.

304 Section 6. Section 943.1745, Florida Statutes, is created
305 to read:

306 943.1745 Training relating to officer health and wellness
307 principles.-

308 (1) By July 1, 2023, the commission shall incorporate into
309 the course curriculum required for initial certification of a
310 law enforcement officer instruction on health and wellness

311 principles specific to the law enforcement profession. The
312 commission shall consult with the Florida State University
313 Institute for Justice Research and Development and the
314 Resiliency Behind the Badge training program to develop the
315 basic skills training component relating to officer health and
316 wellness principles. The training must include, but need not be
317 limited to, understanding the role secondary trauma and work
318 related incidents have on the personal life of an officer;
319 methods for identifying and addressing personal and work related
320 stressors; strategies to better understand when to seek
321 professional help and what kind of professional help to seek;
322 and strategies to normalize conversations about stress, trauma,
323 and mental health within the law enforcement community.

324 (2) By July 1, 2023, the commission shall by rule require
325 that each law enforcement officer receive, as part of the 40
326 hours of required instruction for continued employment or
327 appointment as an officer, instruction on health and wellness
328 principles specific to the law enforcement profession. The
329 commission shall consult with the Florida State University
330 Institute for Justice Research and Development and the
331 Resiliency Behind the Badge training program to develop the
332 training component relating to officer health and wellness
333 principles. The training must include, but need not be limited
334 to, understanding the role secondary trauma and work related
335 incidents have on the personal life of an officer; methods for

336 identifying and addressing personal and work related stressors;
 337 strategies to better understand when to seek professional help
 338 and what kind of professional help to seek; and strategies to
 339 normalize conversations about stress, trauma, and mental health
 340 within the law enforcement community.

341 Section 7. Paragraphs (k) and (l) of subsection (2) of
 342 section 1002.394, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
 343 paragraphs (l) and (m), respectively, a new paragraph (k) is
 344 added to that subsection, and paragraph (a) of subsection (3)
 345 and subsection (12) of that section are amended, to read:

346 1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—

347 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

348 (k) "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as
 349 provided in s. 943.10(1).

350 (3) SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.—

351 (a) A parent of a student may request and receive from the
 352 state a scholarship for the purposes specified in paragraph
 353 (4) (a) if:

354 1. The student is on the direct certification list
 355 pursuant to s. 1002.395(2)(c) or the student's household income
 356 level does not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level;

357 2. The student is currently placed, or during the previous
 358 state fiscal year was placed, in foster care or in out-of-home
 359 care as defined in s. 39.01;

360 3. The student's household income level does not exceed

361 375 percent of the federal poverty level or an adjusted maximum
 362 percent of the federal poverty level that is increased by 25
 363 percentage points in the fiscal year following any fiscal year
 364 in which more than 5 percent of the available scholarships
 365 authorized under paragraph (12)(a) have not been funded;

366 4. The student is a sibling of a student who is
 367 participating in the scholarship program under this subsection
 368 and such siblings reside in the same household; or

369 5. The student is a dependent child of a member of the
 370 United States Armed Forces.

371 6. The student is a dependent child of a law enforcement
 372 officer.

373
 374 Priority must be given to a student whose household income level
 375 does not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level or who
 376 is in foster care or out-of-home care.

377 (12) SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

378 (a)1. Scholarships for students determined eligible
 379 pursuant to paragraph (3)(a) are established for up to 18,000
 380 students annually beginning in the 2019-2020 school year.
 381 Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, the maximum number of
 382 students participating in the scholarship program under this
 383 section shall annually increase by 1.0 percent of the state's
 384 total public school student enrollment. An eligible student who
 385 meets any of the following requirements shall be excluded from

386 the maximum number of students if the student:

387 a. Received a scholarship pursuant to s. 1002.395 during
388 the previous school year but did not receive a renewal
389 scholarship based solely on the eligible nonprofit scholarship-
390 funding organization's lack of available funds after the
391 organization fully exhausted its efforts to use funds available
392 for awards under ss. 1002.395 and 1002.40(11) (i). Eligible
393 nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations with students who
394 meet the criterion in this subparagraph must annually notify the
395 department in a format and by a date established by the
396 department. The maximum number of scholarships awarded pursuant
397 to this subparagraph shall not exceed 15,000 per school year;

398 b. Is a dependent child of a law enforcement officer or a
399 member of the United States Armed Forces, a foster child, or an
400 adopted child; or

401 c. Is determined eligible pursuant to subparagraph
402 (3)(a)1. or subparagraph (3)(a)2. and either spent the prior
403 school year in attendance at a Florida public school or,
404 beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, is eligible to enroll in
405 kindergarten. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "prior
406 school year in attendance" means that the student was enrolled
407 and reported by a school district for funding during either the
408 preceding October or February Florida Education Finance Program
409 surveys in kindergarten through grade 12, which includes time
410 spent in a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program if

411 funded under the Florida Education Finance Program.

412 2. The scholarship amount provided to a student for any
413 single school year shall be for tuition and fees for an eligible
414 private school, not to exceed annual limits, which shall be
415 determined in accordance with this subparagraph. The calculated
416 amount for a participating student shall be based upon the grade
417 level and school district in which the student was assigned as
418 100 percent of the funds per unweighted full-time equivalent in
419 the Florida Education Finance Program for a student in the basic
420 program established pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c)1., plus a per-
421 full-time equivalent share of funds for all categorical
422 programs, except for the Exceptional Student Education
423 Guaranteed Allocation.

424 3. The amount of the scholarship shall be the calculated
425 amount or the amount of the private school's tuition and fees,
426 whichever is less. The amount of any assessment fee required by
427 the participating private school and any costs to provide a
428 digital device, including Internet access, if necessary, to the
429 student may be paid from the total amount of the scholarship.

430 4. A scholarship of \$750 may be awarded to a student who
431 is determined eligible pursuant to subparagraph (3)(a)1. or
432 subparagraph (3)(a)2. and enrolled in a Florida public school
433 that is different from the school to which the student was
434 assigned or in a lab school as defined in s. 1002.32 if the
435 school district does not provide the student with transportation

436 to the school.

437 5. Upon notification from the organization on July 1,
438 September 1, December 1, and February 1 that an application has
439 been approved for the program, the department shall verify that
440 the student is not prohibited from receiving a scholarship
441 pursuant to subsection (6). The organization must provide the
442 department with the documentation necessary to verify the
443 student's participation. Upon verification, the department shall
444 transfer, from state funds only, the amount calculated pursuant
445 to subparagraph 2. to the organization for quarterly
446 disbursement to parents of participating students each school
447 year in which the scholarship is in force. For a student exiting
448 a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program who chooses
449 to participate in the scholarship program, the amount of the
450 Family Empowerment Scholarship calculated pursuant to
451 subparagraph 2. must be transferred from the school district in
452 which the student last attended a public school before
453 commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice. When a student
454 enters the scholarship program, the organization must receive
455 all documentation required for the student's participation,
456 including the private school's and the student's fee schedules,
457 at least 30 days before the first quarterly scholarship payment
458 is made for the student.

459 6. The initial payment shall be made after the
460 organization's verification of admission acceptance, and

461 subsequent payments shall be made upon verification of continued
462 enrollment and attendance at the private school. Payment must be
463 by individual warrant made payable to the student's parent or by
464 funds transfer or any other means of payment that the department
465 deems to be commercially viable or cost-effective. If the
466 payment is made by warrant, the warrant must be delivered by the
467 organization to the private school of the parent's choice, and
468 the parent shall restrictively endorse the warrant to the
469 private school. An organization shall ensure that the parent to
470 whom the warrant is made has restrictively endorsed the warrant
471 to the private school for deposit into the account of the
472 private school or that the parent has approved a funds transfer
473 before any scholarship funds are deposited.

474 (b)1. Scholarships for students determined eligible
475 pursuant to paragraph (3) (b) are established for up to 20,000
476 students annually beginning in the 2021-2022 school year.
477 Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, the maximum number of
478 students participating in the scholarship program under this
479 section shall annually increase by 1.0 percent of the state's
480 total exceptional student education full-time equivalent student
481 enrollment, not including gifted students. An eligible student
482 who meets any of the following requirements shall be excluded
483 from the maximum number of students if the student:

484 a. Received specialized instructional services under the
485 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.

486 | 1002.66 during the previous school year and the student has a
 487 | current IEP developed by the local school board in accordance
 488 | with rules of the State Board of Education;

489 | b. Is a dependent child of a law enforcement officer or a
 490 | member of the United States Armed Forces, a foster child, or an
 491 | adopted child;

492 | c. Spent the prior school year in attendance at a Florida
 493 | public school or the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.
 494 | For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "prior school year
 495 | in attendance" means that the student was enrolled and reported
 496 | by:

497 | (I) A school district for funding during either the
 498 | preceding October or February Florida Education Finance Program
 499 | surveys in kindergarten through grade 12, which includes time
 500 | spent in a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program if
 501 | funded under the Florida Education Finance Program;

502 | (II) The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind during
 503 | the preceding October or February student membership surveys in
 504 | kindergarten through grade 12;

505 | (III) A school district for funding during the preceding
 506 | October or February Florida Education Finance Program surveys,
 507 | was at least 4 years of age when enrolled and reported, and was
 508 | eligible for services under s. 1003.21(1)(e); or

509 | (IV) Received a John M. McKay Scholarship for Students
 510 | with Disabilities in the 2021-2022 school year.

511 2. For a student who has a Level I to Level III matrix of
512 services or a diagnosis by a physician or psychologist, the
513 calculated scholarship amount for a student participating in the
514 program must be based upon the grade level and school district
515 in which the student would have been enrolled as the total funds
516 per unweighted full-time equivalent in the Florida Education
517 Finance Program for a student in the basic exceptional student
518 education program pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c)1. and (e)1.c.,
519 plus a per full-time equivalent share of funds for all
520 categorical programs, as funded in the General Appropriations
521 Act, except that for the exceptional student education
522 guaranteed allocation as provided in s. 1011.62(1)(e)1.c. and
523 2., the funds must be allocated based on the school district's
524 average exceptional student education guaranteed allocation
525 funds per exceptional student education full-time equivalent
526 student.

527 3. For a student with a Level IV or Level V matrix of
528 services, the calculated scholarship amount must be based upon
529 the school district to which the student would have been
530 assigned as the total funds per full-time equivalent for the
531 Level IV or Level V exceptional student education program
532 pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c)2.a. or b., plus a per-full time
533 equivalent share of funds for all categorical programs, as
534 funded in the General Appropriations Act.

535 4. For a student who received a Gardiner Scholarship

536 pursuant to s. 1002.385 in the 2020-2021 school year, the amount
537 shall be the greater of the amount calculated pursuant to
538 subparagraph 2. or the amount the student received for the 2020-
539 2021 school year.

540 5. For a student who received a John M. McKay Scholarship
541 pursuant to s. 1002.39 in the 2020-2021 school year, the amount
542 shall be the greater of the amount calculated pursuant to
543 subparagraph 2. or the amount the student received for the 2020-
544 2021 school year.

545 6. Upon notification from an organization on July 1,
546 September 1, December 1, and February 1 that an application has
547 been approved for the program, the department shall verify that
548 the student is not prohibited from receiving a scholarship
549 pursuant to subsection (6). The organization must provide the
550 department with the documentation necessary to verify the
551 student's participation.

552 7. Upon verification, the department shall release, from
553 state funds only, the student's scholarship funds to the
554 organization, to be deposited into the student's account in four
555 equal amounts no later than September 1, November 1, February 1,
556 and April 1 of each school year in which the scholarship is in
557 force.

558 8. Accrued interest in the student's account is in
559 addition to, and not part of, the awarded funds. Program funds
560 include both the awarded funds and accrued interest.

561 9. The organization may develop a system for payment of
 562 benefits by funds transfer, including, but not limited to, debit
 563 cards, electronic payment cards, or any other means of payment
 564 which the department deems to be commercially viable or cost-
 565 effective. A student's scholarship award may not be reduced for
 566 debit card or electronic payment fees. Commodities or services
 567 related to the development of such a system must be procured by
 568 competitive solicitation unless they are purchased from a state
 569 term contract pursuant to s. 287.056.

570 10. Moneys received pursuant to this section do not
 571 constitute taxable income to the qualified student or the parent
 572 of the qualified student.

573 Section 8. Section 1003.4933, Florida Statutes, is created
 574 to read:

575 1003.4933 911 public safety telecommunication training
 576 programs.—

577 (1)(a) Each district school board is encouraged to
 578 establish a public safety telecommunication training program as
 579 defined in s. 401.465 in at least one public high school in the
 580 district.

581 (b) The district school board may partner with an existing
 582 public safety telecommunication training program operated by a
 583 law enforcement agency or Florida College System Institution.

584 (2)(a) A school district shall allow a student attending a
 585 public high school in the district to enroll in the public

586 safety telecommunication training program at another public high
587 school in the district unless:

588 1. The student's school offers a public safety
589 telecommunication training program;

590 2. The student does not meet the minimum enrollment
591 qualifications for the public safety telecommunication training
592 program; or

593 3. Scheduling of the student's courses of study does not
594 allow the student to attend the public safety telecommunication
595 training program at another public high school in the district.

596 (b) This subsection does not require a school district to
597 provide transportation for a student to attend the public safety
598 telecommunication training program at another public high school
599 in the district.

600 Section 9. Section 1003.49966, Florida Statutes, is
601 created to read:

602 1003.49966 Law Enforcement Explorer Program.—

603 (1) Each district school board is encouraged to partner
604 with a law enforcement agency to offer a law enforcement
605 explorer program at public middle and high schools in the state
606 to educate students about law enforcement careers and the
607 criminal justice system.

608 (2) A law enforcement explorer program may be integrated
609 into existing curriculum, offered as an elective course, or
610 offered as an after-school program.

611 (3) If a district school board offers a law enforcement
 612 explorer program as an elective course, a student enrolled in
 613 such course shall receive middle school or high school course
 614 credit for successful completion of the course.

615 Section 10. Section 1004.098, Florida Statutes, is created
 616 to read:

617 1004.098 College credit for law enforcement training.—

618 (1) As used in this section:

619 (a) "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as
 620 provided in s. 943.10(1).

621 (b) "Law enforcement training and experience" means
 622 training courses, specialized assignments or work experience,
 623 and other similar activities performed by a person during his or
 624 her service as a law enforcement officer that require education
 625 beyond the basic skills of an officer.

626 (2) The Board of Governors shall adopt regulations and the
 627 State Board of Education shall adopt rules that create a process
 628 that enables eligible law enforcement officers or former law
 629 enforcement officers to earn uniform postsecondary credit across
 630 all Florida public postsecondary educational institutions for
 631 college-level training and education acquired while serving as a
 632 law enforcement officer. The regulations and rules shall include
 633 procedures for credential evaluation and the uniform award of
 634 postsecondary credit or career education clock hours, including,
 635 but not limited to, equivalency and alignment of law enforcement

636 training with appropriate postsecondary courses and course
637 descriptions.

638 (3) The Articulation Coordinating Committee shall convene
639 a workgroup by September 1, 2022, which is responsible for
640 developing a process for determining postsecondary course
641 equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or career
642 education clock hours that must be awarded for law enforcement
643 training and experience.

644 (a) The workgroup shall be composed of the following 14
645 members:

646 1. The chair of the Articulation Coordinating Committee,
647 or his or her designee, who shall serve as chair.

648 2. Four members representing academic affairs
649 administrators and faculty from state universities, appointed by
650 the chair of the Board of Governors.

651 3. Four members representing academic affairs
652 administrators and faculty from Florida College System
653 institutions, appointed by the chair of the State Board of
654 Education.

655 4. Two members representing faculty from career centers,
656 appointed by the State Board of Education.

657 5. A representative from the Florida Sheriffs Association.

658 6. A representative from the Florida Police Chiefs
659 Association.

660 7. A representative from the Criminal Justice Standards

661 and Training Commission.

662 (b) The Office of K-20 Articulation shall provide
663 administrative support for the workgroup.

664 (c) The workgroup shall establish a process for
665 prioritizing and determining postsecondary course equivalencies
666 and the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock
667 hours that must be awarded for law enforcement training and
668 experience. The workgroup shall provide recommendations to the
669 Board of Governors and the State Board of Education by March 1,
670 2023, for approval at the next meeting of each board to allow
671 for adequate public notice. The workgroup shall terminate upon
672 submission of its recommendations.

673 (d) Upon approval of the workgroup's recommendations by
674 the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education, the
675 Articulation Coordinating Committee shall facilitate the review
676 of law enforcement training and experience for postsecondary
677 course equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or
678 career education clock hours that must be awarded in accordance
679 with the approved process.

680 (e) Within 1 year after approval of the workgroup's
681 recommendations by the Board of Governors and the State Board of
682 Education pursuant to paragraph (c), the Articulation
683 Coordinating Committee shall approve a prioritized list of
684 postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary
685 credit or career education clock hours that must be awarded for

686 law enforcement training and experience. The list must be
687 updated annually. The Board of Governors and the State Board of
688 Education shall timely adopt the list approved by the
689 Articulation Coordinating Committee at the next meeting of each
690 board to allow for adequate public notice. For the purpose of
691 statewide application, postsecondary course equivalencies and
692 the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock hours
693 that must be awarded for law enforcement training and experience
694 shall be delineated by the State Board of Education and the
695 Board of Governors in the statewide articulation agreement
696 required by s. 1007.23(1).

697 (f) State universities, Florida College System
698 institutions, and career centers must award postsecondary credit
699 or career education clock hours for law enforcement training and
700 experience based on the list adopted by the Board of Governors
701 and the State Board of Education pursuant to paragraph (e) if
702 the credit or career education clock hours are applicable toward
703 the student's degree or certificate. Institutions may award
704 additional postsecondary credit or career education clock hours
705 if appropriate. Credit or career education clock hours awarded
706 in accordance with minimum postsecondary credit and clock hour
707 requirements, respectively, are guaranteed to transfer to other
708 state universities, Florida College System institutions, and
709 career centers.

710 Section 11. Section 1009.896, Florida Statutes, is created

711 to read:

712 1009.896 Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship
 713 Program.—

714 (1) As used in this section, the term:

715 (a) "Commission" means the Criminal Justice Standards and
 716 Training Commission within the Department of Law Enforcement.

717 (b) "Department" means the Department of Education.

718 (c) "Employing agency" has the same meaning as provided in
 719 s. 943.10(4).

720 (d) "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as
 721 provided in s. 943.10(1).

722 (e) "Scholarship program" means the Florida Law
 723 Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program.

724 (2) Beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year, the
 725 Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program is created
 726 to assist in the recruitment of law enforcement officers within
 727 the state by providing financial assistance to trainees who
 728 enroll in a commission-approved law enforcement officer basic
 729 recruit training program.

730 (3) The department shall administer the scholarship
 731 program, in consultation with the Department of Law Enforcement,
 732 according to the rules and procedures established by the State
 733 Board of Education.

734 (4) The scholarship shall be awarded on a first-come,
 735 first-served basis based on the date the department receives

736 each completed application, and is contingent upon an
737 appropriation by the Legislature.

738 (5) To be eligible for the scholarship award a trainee
739 must:

740 (a) Be enrolled in a commission-approved basic recruit
741 training program at a Florida College System institution or
742 school district technical center for the purposes of meeting the
743 minimum qualifications under s. 943.13(9) for employment or
744 appointment as a law enforcement officer.

745 (b) Not be sponsored by an employing agency that is
746 already covering the cost of a basic recruit training program.

747 (6) The award to eligible trainees shall be an amount
748 equal to any costs and fees described in this subsection which
749 are necessary to complete the basic recruit training program,
750 less any state financial aid received by the trainee. The award
751 to trainees shall cover:

752 (a) The cost of tuition.

753 (b) Any applicable fees required by ss. 1009.22(3), (5),
754 (6), and (7), and 1009.23 (3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11);
755 however, any award for a nonresident trainee shall not include
756 the out-of-state fee.

757 (c) Up to \$1,000 for eligible expenses including:

758 1. The officer certification examination fee established
759 pursuant to s. 943.1397.

760 2. Textbooks.

761 3. Uniforms.
 762 4. Ammunition.
 763 5. Required insurance.
 764 6. Any other costs or fees for necessary consumable
 765 materials required to complete the basic recruit training
 766 program.
 767 (7) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
 768 necessary to administer this section.
 769 Section 12. Section 1009.8961, Florida Statutes, is
 770 created to read:
 771 1009.8961 Reimbursement for out-of-state and special
 772 operations forces law enforcement equivalency training.-
 773 (1) As used in this section, the term:
 774 (a) "Commission" means the Criminal Justice Standards and
 775 Training Commission within the Department of Law Enforcement.
 776 (b) "Department" means the Department of Education.
 777 (c) "Employing agency" has the same meaning as provided in
 778 s. 943.10(4).
 779 (d) "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as
 780 provided in s. 943.10(1).
 781 (e) "Special operations forces" has the same meaning as
 782 provided in s. 943.10(22).
 783 (2) Beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year, the
 784 department, in consultation with the Department of Law
 785 Enforcement, shall reimburse eligible applicants who relocate

786 from outside the state or who transition from service in the
787 special operations forces to become a full-time law enforcement
788 officer within this state for eligible expenses incurred while
789 obtaining a Florida law enforcement officer certification.

790 (3) To be eligible for reimbursement under this section,
791 an applicant's employing agency must certify that he or she:

792 (a) Meets the requirements of s. 943.131(2) to qualify for
793 an exemption from the basic recruit training program.

794 (b) Was not sponsored by the employing agency to cover the
795 cost of any commission required training.

796 (4) Reimbursement shall be awarded on a first-come, first-
797 served basis based on the date the department received each
798 completed application and is contingent upon an appropriation by
799 the Legislature.

800 (5) Eligible applicants may be reimbursed for eligible
801 costs and fees up to \$1,000, which include any cost or fee
802 incurred for:

803 (a) Any equivalency assessment administered to determine
804 required equivalency training.

805 (b) Any equivalency training required by the commission.

806 (c) The law enforcement officer certification examination.

807 (6) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
808 necessary to administer this section.

809 Section 13. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.