

1   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to law enforcement; amending s. 30.49,  
 3           F.S.; authorizing a sheriff to transfer funds between  
 4           specified categories and code levels after his or her  
 5           budget is approved; amending s. 145.071, F.S.;  
 6           revising salary minimums for county sheriffs; amending  
 7           s. 409.1664, F.S.; providing for adoption benefits for  
 8           law enforcements officers; providing requirements to  
 9           receive such benefits; providing procedures to obtain  
 10          such benefits; creating s. 445.08, F.S.; creating the  
 11          Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment  
 12          Program within the Department of Economic Opportunity;  
 13          providing definitions; providing for one-time bonus  
 14          payments to newly-employed law enforcement officers;  
 15          providing requirements for award of bonus payments;  
 16          requiring the department to develop an annual plan for  
 17          the administration of the program and distribution of  
 18          payments; authorizing employing agencies to assist the  
 19          department with the collection of specified data to  
 20          collect such payments; providing plan requirements;  
 21          providing eligibility requirements for the plan;  
 22          requiring the department to consult quarterly with the  
 23          commission to verify specified information; providing  
 24          for reporting; authorizing the department to submit  
 25          certain information for a specified purpose; providing

26 | for use of a funding; requiring rulemaking; providing  
27 | for expiration of the program; amending s. 683.11,  
28 | F.S.; providing for the designation of "Law  
29 | Enforcement Appreciation Day"; amending s. 943.17,  
30 | F.S.; providing an exemption from certain law  
31 | enforcement officer training requirements for military  
32 | veterans; creating s. 943.1745, F.S.; providing  
33 | requirements for skills training for law enforcement  
34 | officers relating to officer health and safety;  
35 | amending s. 1002.394, F.S.; providing eligibility for  
36 | the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program for  
37 | children of law enforcement officers; creating s.  
38 | 1003.4933, F.S.; providing for each district school  
39 | board to establish a public safety telecommunication  
40 | training program; authorizing the district to partner  
41 | with programs operated by certain entities; requiring  
42 | school districts to allow certain students to enroll  
43 | in such a program under specified circumstances;  
44 | providing exceptions; creating s. 1003.49966, F.S.;  
45 | providing for each district school board to offer a  
46 | law enforcement explorer program; authorizing the  
47 | school board to partner with law enforcement agencies  
48 | to offer such programs; providing for a student to  
49 | receive course credit if such a program is offered as  
50 | an elective; creating s. 1004.098, F.S.; providing

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

75

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

77

78 Section 1. Subsection (12) is added to section 30.49,  
79 Florida Statutes, to read:

80 30.49 Budgets.—

81 (12) Notwithstanding any other law, and in order to  
82 effectuate, fulfil, and preserve the independence of sheriffs as  
83 specified in s. 30.53, a sheriff may transfer funds between the  
84 fund and functional categories and object and subobject code  
85 levels after his or her budget has been approved by the board of  
86 county commissioners or budget commission.

87 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 145.071, Florida  
88 Statutes, is amended to read:

89 145.071 Sheriff.—

90 (1) Each sheriff shall receive as salary the amount  
91 indicated, based on the population of his or her county. In  
92 addition, a compensation shall be made for population increments  
93 over the minimum for each group, which shall be determined by  
94 multiplying the population in excess of the minimum for the  
95 group times the group rate.

96

Pop.			Base	Group Rate
Group	County Pop.	Range	Salary	
	Minimum	Maximum		

97

98	I			<u>28,350</u>	
		-0-	49,999	<del>\$23,350</del>	\$0.07875
99	II			<u>31,500</u>	
		50,000	99,999	<del>26,500</del>	0.06300
100	III			<u>34,650</u>	
		100,000	199,999	<del>29,650</del>	0.02625
101	IV			<u>37,275</u>	
		200,000	399,999	<del>32,275</del>	0.01575
102	V			<u>40,425</u>	
		400,000	999,999	<del>35,425</del>	0.00525
103	VI			<u>43,575</u>	
		1,000,000		<del>38,575</del>	0.00400

104  
 105 Section 3. Paragraphs (b) through (e) of subsection (1) of  
 106 section 409.1664, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
 107 paragraphs (c) through (f), respectively, a new paragraph (b) is  
 108 added to that subsection, and subsections (2), (3), (4), and (6)  
 109 of that section are amended, to read:

110 409.1664 Adoption benefits for qualifying adoptive

111 employees of state agencies, veterans, ~~and~~ servicemembers, and  
 112 law enforcement officers.—

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

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

116 (2) A qualifying adoptive employee, veteran, or  
 117 servicemember who adopts a child within the child welfare system  
 118 who has special needs described in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is  
 119 eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of  
 120 \$10,000 per such child, subject to applicable taxes. A law  
 121 enforcement officer who adopts a child within the child welfare  
 122 system who has special needs described in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is  
 123 eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of  
 124 \$25,000 per such child, subject to applicable taxes. A  
 125 qualifying adoptive employee, veteran, or servicemember who  
 126 adopts a child within the child welfare system who does not have  
 127 special needs described in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is eligible to  
 128 receive a lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of \$5,000 per  
 129 such child, subject to applicable taxes. A law enforcement  
 130 officer who adopts a child within the child welfare system who  
 131 does not have special needs described in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is  
 132 eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of  
 133 \$10,000 per each such child, subject to applicable taxes. A  
 134 qualifying adoptive employee of a charter school or the Florida  
 135 Virtual School may retroactively apply for the monetary benefit

136 provided in this subsection if such employee was employed by a  
137 charter school or the Florida Virtual School when he or she  
138 adopted a child within the child welfare system pursuant to  
139 chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2015. A veteran or servicemember  
140 may apply for the monetary benefit provided in this subsection  
141 if he or she is domiciled in this state and adopts a child  
142 within the child welfare system pursuant to chapter 63 on or  
143 after July 1, 2020. A law enforcement officer may apply for the  
144 monetary benefit provided in this subsection if he or she is  
145 domiciled in this state and adopts a child within the child  
146 welfare system pursuant to chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2022.

147 (a) Benefits paid to a qualifying adoptive employee who is  
148 a part-time employee must be prorated based on the qualifying  
149 adoptive employee's full-time equivalency at the time of  
150 applying for the benefits.

151 (b) Monetary benefits awarded under this subsection are  
152 limited to one award per adopted child within the child welfare  
153 system.

154 (c) The payment of a lump-sum monetary benefit for  
155 adopting a child within the child welfare system under this  
156 section is subject to a specific appropriation to the department  
157 for such purpose.

158 (3) A qualifying adoptive employee must apply to his or  
159 her agency head, or to his or her school director in the case of  
160 a qualifying adoptive employee of a charter school or the

161 Florida Virtual School, to obtain the monetary benefit provided  
 162 in subsection (2). A veteran or servicemember must apply to the  
 163 department to obtain the benefit. A law enforcement officer must  
 164 apply to the Department of Law Enforcement to obtain the  
 165 benefit. Applications must be on forms approved by the  
 166 department and must include a certified copy of the final order  
 167 of adoption naming the applicant as the adoptive parent.  
 168 Monetary benefits shall be approved on a first-come, first-  
 169 served basis based upon the date that each fully completed  
 170 application is received by the department.

171 (4) This section does not preclude a qualifying adoptive  
 172 employee, veteran, ~~or~~ servicemember, or law enforcement officer  
 173 from receiving adoption assistance for which he or she may  
 174 qualify under s. 409.166 or any other statute that provides  
 175 financial incentives for the adoption of children.

176 (6) The department may adopt rules to administer this  
 177 section. The rules may provide for an application process such  
 178 as, but not limited to, an open enrollment period during which  
 179 qualifying adoptive employees, veterans, ~~or~~ servicemembers, or  
 180 law enforcement officers may apply for monetary benefits under  
 181 this section.

182 Section 4. Section 445.08, Florida Statutes, is created to  
 183 read:

184 445.08 Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment  
 185 Program.—



- 186        (1) For the purposes of this section, the term:
- 187        (a) "Commission" means the Criminal Justice Standards and
- 188 Training Commission within the Department of Law Enforcement.
- 189        (b) "Employing agency" has the same meaning as provided in
- 190 s. 943.10(4).
- 191        (c) "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as
- 192 provided in s. 943.10(1).
- 193        (d) "Newly employed officer" means a person who gains or
- 194 is appointed to full-time employment as a certified law
- 195 enforcement officer with a Florida criminal justice employing
- 196 agency on or after July 1, 2022, and who has never before been
- 197 employed as a law enforcement officer in this state.
- 198        (e) "Program" means the Florida Law Enforcement
- 199 Recruitment Bonus Payment Program.
- 200        (2) There is created within the department the Florida Law
- 201 Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment Program, to aid in the
- 202 recruitment of law enforcement officers within the state. The
- 203 purpose of the program is to administer one-time bonus payments
- 204 of up to \$5,000 to each newly employed officer within the state.
- 205 Bonus payments provided to eligible newly employed officers are
- 206 contingent upon legislative appropriations and shall be prorated
- 207 subject to the amount appropriated for the program.
- 208        (3) Each bonus payment shall be adjusted to include 7.65
- 209 percent for the officer's share of Federal Insurance
- 210 Contribution Act tax on the payment.

211       (4) The department shall develop an annual plan for the  
212 administration of the program and distribution of bonus  
213 payments. Applicable employing agencies shall assist the  
214 department with the collection of any data necessary to  
215 determine bonus payment amounts and to distribute the bonus  
216 payments, and shall otherwise provide the department with any  
217 information or assistance needed to fulfill the requirements of  
218 this section. At a minimum, the plan must include:

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

222       (b) The minimum eligibility requirements a newly employed  
223 officer must meet to receive and retain a bonus payment, which  
224 must include:

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

227       2. Gaining full-time employment with a Florida criminal  
228 justice agency.

229       3. Maintaining continuous full-time employment with a  
230 Florida criminal justice agency for at least 2 years from the  
231 date on which the officer obtained certification. The required  
232 2-year employment period may be satisfied by maintaining  
233 employment at one or more employing agencies, but such period  
234 must not contain any break in service longer than 15 calendar  
235 days.

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

238 (d) The method that will be used to distribute bonus  
239 payments to applicable employing agencies for distribution to  
240 eligible officers. Such method should prioritize distributing  
241 bonus payments to eligible officers in the most efficient and  
242 quickest manner possible.

243 (e) The estimated cost to the department associated with  
244 developing and administering the program and distributing bonus  
245 payment funds.

246 (f) The method by which an officer must reimburse the  
247 state if he or she received a bonus payment under the program,  
248 but failed to maintain continuous employment for the required 2-  
249 year period. Reimbursement shall not be required if an officer  
250 is discharged by his or her employing agency for a reason other  
251 than misconduct as designated on the affidavit of separation  
252 completed by the employing agency and maintained by the  
253 commission.

254  
255 The department may establish other criteria deemed necessary to  
256 determine bonus payment eligibility and distribution.

257 (5) The department shall consult quarterly with the  
258 commission to verify the certification of newly employed  
259 officers and affidavits of separation submitted to the  
260 commission which detail officer misconduct.

261       (6) The department shall submit the plan to the Executive  
 262 Office of the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget, the chair  
 263 of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and the chair of the  
 264 House Appropriations Committee by October 1 of each year. The  
 265 department is authorized to submit budget amendments pursuant to  
 266 chapter 216 as necessary to release appropriated funds for  
 267 distribution to applicable employing agencies under this  
 268 program.

269       (7) The funding allocation for the bonus payments must be  
 270 used solely to comply with the requirements of this section, but  
 271 applicable collective bargaining units are not otherwise  
 272 precluded from wage negotiation.

273       (8) The department shall adopt rules to implement this  
 274 section.

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

276       Section 5. Section 683.11, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
 277 read:

278       683.11 Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and Law  
 279 Enforcement Appreciation Month.—

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

282       (2)~~(1)~~ The month of May of each year is hereby designated  
 283 as "Law Enforcement Appreciation Month."

284       (3)~~(2)~~ The Governor and the mayor of each municipality may  
 285 issue annually a proclamation designating May 1 as "Law

286 Enforcement Appreciation Day" and the month of May as "Law  
287 Enforcement Appreciation Month" and urging all civic, fraternal,  
288 and religious organizations and public and private educational  
289 institutions to recognize and observe this occasion through  
290 appropriate programs, meetings, services, or celebrations in  
291 which state, county, and local law enforcement officers are  
292 invited to participate.

293 Section 6. Paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of section  
294 943.17, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

295 943.17 Basic recruit, advanced, and career development  
296 training programs; participation; cost; evaluation.—The  
297 commission shall, by rule, design, implement, maintain,  
298 evaluate, and revise entry requirements and job-related  
299 curricula and performance standards for basic recruit, advanced,  
300 and career development training programs and courses. The rules  
301 shall include, but are not limited to, a methodology to assess  
302 relevance of the subject matter to the job, student performance,  
303 and instructor competency.

304 (1) The commission shall:

305 (g) Assure that entrance into the basic recruit training  
306 program for law enforcement and correctional officers be limited  
307 to those who have passed a basic skills examination and  
308 assessment instrument, based on a job task analysis in each  
309 discipline and adopted by the commission. However, a person is  
310 not required to take the basic skills examination and assessment

311 instrument before entering a law enforcement officer basic  
312 recruit training program if he or she is a veteran as defined in  
313 s. 1.01(14) or holds an associate degree or higher from an  
314 accredited college or university.

315 Section 7. Section 943.1745, Florida Statutes, is created  
316 to read:

317 943.1745 Training relating to officer health and wellness  
318 principles.-

319 (1) By July 1, 2023, the commission shall incorporate into  
320 the course curriculum required for initial certification of a  
321 law enforcement officer instruction on health and wellness  
322 principles specific to the law enforcement profession. The  
323 commission shall consult with the Florida State University  
324 Institute for Justice Research and Development and the  
325 Resiliency Behind the Badge training program to develop the  
326 basic skills training component relating to officer health and  
327 wellness principles. The training must include, but need not be  
328 limited to, understanding the role secondary trauma and work  
329 related incidents have on the personal life of an officer;  
330 methods for identifying and addressing personal and work related  
331 stressors; strategies to better understand when to seek  
332 professional help and what kind of professional help to seek;  
333 and strategies to normalize conversations about stress, trauma,  
334 and mental health within the law enforcement community.

335 (2) By July 1, 2023, the commission shall by rule require

336 that each law enforcement officer receive, as part of the 40  
337 hours of required instruction for continued employment or  
338 appointment as an officer, instruction on health and wellness  
339 principles specific to the law enforcement profession. The  
340 commission shall consult with the Florida State University  
341 Institute for Justice Research and Development and the  
342 Resiliency Behind the Badge training program to develop the  
343 training component relating to officer health and wellness  
344 principles. The training must include, but need not be limited  
345 to, understanding the role secondary trauma and work related  
346 incidents have on the personal life of an officer; methods for  
347 identifying and addressing personal and work related stressors;  
348 strategies to better understand when to seek professional help  
349 and what kind of professional help to seek; and strategies to  
350 normalize conversations about stress, trauma, and mental health  
351 within the law enforcement community.

352 Section 8. Paragraphs (k) and (l) of subsection (2) of  
353 section 1002.394, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
354 paragraphs (l) and (m), respectively, a new paragraph (k) is  
355 added to that subsection, and paragraph (a) of subsection (3)  
356 and subsection (12) of that section are amended, to read:

357 1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—  
358 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:  
359 (k) "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as  
360 provided in s. 943.10(1).

361 (3) SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.—

362 (a) A parent of a student may request and receive from the  
363 state a scholarship for the purposes specified in paragraph

364 (4)(a) if:

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

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

371 3. The student's household income level does not exceed  
372 375 percent of the federal poverty level or an adjusted maximum  
373 percent of the federal poverty level that is increased by 25  
374 percentage points in the fiscal year following any fiscal year  
375 in which more than 5 percent of the available scholarships  
376 authorized under paragraph (12)(a) have not been funded;

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

380 5. The student is a dependent child of a member of the  
381 United States Armed Forces.

382 6. The student is a dependent child of a law enforcement  
383 officer.

384  
385 Priority must be given to a student whose household income level



386 does not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level or who  
 387 is in foster care or out-of-home care.

388 (12) SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

389 (a)1. Scholarships for students determined eligible  
 390 pursuant to paragraph (3) (a) are established for up to 18,000  
 391 students annually beginning in the 2019-2020 school year.  
 392 Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, the maximum number of  
 393 students participating in the scholarship program under this  
 394 section shall annually increase by 1.0 percent of the state's  
 395 total public school student enrollment. An eligible student who  
 396 meets any of the following requirements shall be excluded from  
 397 the maximum number of students if the student:

398 a. Received a scholarship pursuant to s. 1002.395 during  
 399 the previous school year but did not receive a renewal  
 400 scholarship based solely on the eligible nonprofit scholarship-  
 401 funding organization's lack of available funds after the  
 402 organization fully exhausted its efforts to use funds available  
 403 for awards under ss. 1002.395 and 1002.40(11) (i). Eligible  
 404 nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations with students who  
 405 meet the criterion in this subparagraph must annually notify the  
 406 department in a format and by a date established by the  
 407 department. The maximum number of scholarships awarded pursuant  
 408 to this subparagraph shall not exceed 15,000 per school year;

409 b. Is a dependent child of a law enforcement officer or a  
 410 member of the United States Armed Forces, a foster child, or an

411 adopted child; or  
 412 c. Is determined eligible pursuant to subparagraph  
 413 (3)(a)1. or subparagraph (3)(a)2. and either spent the prior  
 414 school year in attendance at a Florida public school or,  
 415 beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, is eligible to enroll in  
 416 kindergarten. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "prior  
 417 school year in attendance" means that the student was enrolled  
 418 and reported by a school district for funding during either the  
 419 preceding October or February Florida Education Finance Program  
 420 surveys in kindergarten through grade 12, which includes time  
 421 spent in a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program if  
 422 funded under the Florida Education Finance Program.

423 2. The scholarship amount provided to a student for any  
 424 single school year shall be for tuition and fees for an eligible  
 425 private school, not to exceed annual limits, which shall be  
 426 determined in accordance with this subparagraph. The calculated  
 427 amount for a participating student shall be based upon the grade  
 428 level and school district in which the student was assigned as  
 429 100 percent of the funds per unweighted full-time equivalent in  
 430 the Florida Education Finance Program for a student in the basic  
 431 program established pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c)1., plus a per-  
 432 full-time equivalent share of funds for all categorical  
 433 programs, except for the Exceptional Student Education  
 434 Guaranteed Allocation.

435 3. The amount of the scholarship shall be the calculated

436 amount or the amount of the private school's tuition and fees,  
437 whichever is less. The amount of any assessment fee required by  
438 the participating private school and any costs to provide a  
439 digital device, including Internet access, if necessary, to the  
440 student may be paid from the total amount of the scholarship.

441 4. A scholarship of \$750 may be awarded to a student who  
442 is determined eligible pursuant to subparagraph (3)(a)1. or  
443 subparagraph (3)(a)2. and enrolled in a Florida public school  
444 that is different from the school to which the student was  
445 assigned or in a lab school as defined in s. 1002.32 if the  
446 school district does not provide the student with transportation  
447 to the school.

448 5. Upon notification from the organization on July 1,  
449 September 1, December 1, and February 1 that an application has  
450 been approved for the program, the department shall verify that  
451 the student is not prohibited from receiving a scholarship  
452 pursuant to subsection (6). The organization must provide the  
453 department with the documentation necessary to verify the  
454 student's participation. Upon verification, the department shall  
455 transfer, from state funds only, the amount calculated pursuant  
456 to subparagraph 2. to the organization for quarterly  
457 disbursement to parents of participating students each school  
458 year in which the scholarship is in force. For a student exiting  
459 a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program who chooses  
460 to participate in the scholarship program, the amount of the

461 Family Empowerment Scholarship calculated pursuant to  
462 subparagraph 2. must be transferred from the school district in  
463 which the student last attended a public school before  
464 commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice. When a student  
465 enters the scholarship program, the organization must receive  
466 all documentation required for the student's participation,  
467 including the private school's and the student's fee schedules,  
468 at least 30 days before the first quarterly scholarship payment  
469 is made for the student.

470 6. The initial payment shall be made after the  
471 organization's verification of admission acceptance, and  
472 subsequent payments shall be made upon verification of continued  
473 enrollment and attendance at the private school. Payment must be  
474 by individual warrant made payable to the student's parent or by  
475 funds transfer or any other means of payment that the department  
476 deems to be commercially viable or cost-effective. If the  
477 payment is made by warrant, the warrant must be delivered by the  
478 organization to the private school of the parent's choice, and  
479 the parent shall restrictively endorse the warrant to the  
480 private school. An organization shall ensure that the parent to  
481 whom the warrant is made has restrictively endorsed the warrant  
482 to the private school for deposit into the account of the  
483 private school or that the parent has approved a funds transfer  
484 before any scholarship funds are deposited.

485 (b)1. Scholarships for students determined eligible

486 pursuant to paragraph (3) (b) are established for up to 20,000  
487 students annually beginning in the 2021-2022 school year.  
488 Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, the maximum number of  
489 students participating in the scholarship program under this  
490 section shall annually increase by 1.0 percent of the state's  
491 total exceptional student education full-time equivalent student  
492 enrollment, not including gifted students. An eligible student  
493 who meets any of the following requirements shall be excluded  
494 from the maximum number of students if the student:

495 a. Received specialized instructional services under the  
496 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.  
497 1002.66 during the previous school year and the student has a  
498 current IEP developed by the local school board in accordance  
499 with rules of the State Board of Education;

500 b. Is a dependent child of a law enforcement officer or a  
501 member of the United States Armed Forces, a foster child, or an  
502 adopted child;

503 c. Spent the prior school year in attendance at a Florida  
504 public school or the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.  
505 For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "prior school year  
506 in attendance" means that the student was enrolled and reported  
507 by:

508 (I) A school district for funding during either the  
509 preceding October or February Florida Education Finance Program  
510 surveys in kindergarten through grade 12, which includes time

511 | spent in a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program if  
 512 | funded under the Florida Education Finance Program;

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

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

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

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

536 funds per exceptional student education full-time equivalent  
537 student.

538 3. For a student with a Level IV or Level V matrix of  
539 services, the calculated scholarship amount must be based upon  
540 the school district to which the student would have been  
541 assigned as the total funds per full-time equivalent for the  
542 Level IV or Level V exceptional student education program  
543 pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c)2.a. or b., plus a per-full time  
544 equivalent share of funds for all categorical programs, as  
545 funded in the General Appropriations Act.

546 4. For a student who received a Gardiner Scholarship  
547 pursuant to s. 1002.385 in the 2020-2021 school year, the amount  
548 shall be the greater of the amount calculated pursuant to  
549 subparagraph 2. or the amount the student received for the 2020-  
550 2021 school year.

551 5. For a student who received a John M. McKay Scholarship  
552 pursuant to s. 1002.39 in the 2020-2021 school year, the amount  
553 shall be the greater of the amount calculated pursuant to  
554 subparagraph 2. or the amount the student received for the 2020-  
555 2021 school year.

556 6. Upon notification from an organization on July 1,  
557 September 1, December 1, and February 1 that an application has  
558 been approved for the program, the department shall verify that  
559 the student is not prohibited from receiving a scholarship  
560 pursuant to subsection (6). The organization must provide the

561 department with the documentation necessary to verify the  
562 student's participation.

563 7. Upon verification, the department shall release, from  
564 state funds only, the student's scholarship funds to the  
565 organization, to be deposited into the student's account in four  
566 equal amounts no later than September 1, November 1, February 1,  
567 and April 1 of each school year in which the scholarship is in  
568 force.

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

572 9. The organization may develop a system for payment of  
573 benefits by funds transfer, including, but not limited to, debit  
574 cards, electronic payment cards, or any other means of payment  
575 which the department deems to be commercially viable or cost-  
576 effective. A student's scholarship award may not be reduced for  
577 debit card or electronic payment fees. Commodities or services  
578 related to the development of such a system must be procured by  
579 competitive solicitation unless they are purchased from a state  
580 term contract pursuant to s. 287.056.

581 10. Moneys received pursuant to this section do not  
582 constitute taxable income to the qualified student or the parent  
583 of the qualified student.

584 Section 9. Section 1003.4933, Florida Statutes, is created  
585 to read:



586 1003.4933 911 public safety telecommunication training  
 587 programs.—

588 (1) (a) Each district school board is encouraged to  
 589 establish a public safety telecommunication training program as  
 590 defined in s. 401.465 in at least one public high school in the  
 591 district.

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

595 (2) (a) A school district shall allow a student attending a  
 596 public high school in the district to enroll in the public  
 597 safety telecommunication training program at another public high  
 598 school in the district unless:

599 1. The student's school offers a public safety  
 600 telecommunication training program;

601 2. The student does not meet the minimum enrollment  
 602 qualifications for the public safety telecommunication training  
 603 program; or

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

607 (b) This subsection does not require a school district to  
 608 provide transportation for a student to attend the public safety  
 609 telecommunication training program at another public high school  
 610 in the district.

611 Section 10. Section 1003.49966, Florida Statutes, is  
 612 created to read:

613 1003.49966 Law Enforcement Explorer Program.—

614 (1) Each district school board is encouraged to partner  
 615 with a law enforcement agency to offer a law enforcement  
 616 explorer program at public middle and high schools in the state  
 617 to educate students about law enforcement careers and the  
 618 criminal justice system.

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

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

626 Section 11. Section 1004.098, Florida Statutes, is created  
 627 to read:

628 1004.098 College credit for law enforcement training.—

629 (1) As used in this section:

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

632 (b) "Law enforcement training and experience" means  
 633 training courses, specialized assignments or work experience,  
 634 and other similar activities performed by a person during his or  
 635 her service as a law enforcement officer that require education

636 beyond the basic skills of an officer.

637 (2) The Board of Governors shall adopt regulations and the  
638 State Board of Education shall adopt rules that create a process  
639 that enables eligible law enforcement officers or former law  
640 enforcement officers to earn uniform postsecondary credit across  
641 all Florida public postsecondary educational institutions for  
642 college-level training and education acquired while serving as a  
643 law enforcement officer. The regulations and rules shall include  
644 procedures for credential evaluation and the uniform award of  
645 postsecondary credit or career education clock hours, including,  
646 but not limited to, equivalency and alignment of law enforcement  
647 training with appropriate postsecondary courses and course  
648 descriptions.

649 (3) The Articulation Coordinating Committee shall convene  
650 a workgroup by September 1, 2022, which is responsible for  
651 developing a process for determining postsecondary course  
652 equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or career  
653 education clock hours that must be awarded for law enforcement  
654 training and experience.

655 (a) The workgroup shall be composed of the following 14  
656 members:

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

659 2. Four members representing academic affairs  
660 administrators and faculty from state universities, appointed by

661 the chair of the Board of Governors.

662 3. Four members representing academic affairs  
 663 administrators and faculty from Florida College System  
 664 institutions, appointed by the chair of the State Board of  
 665 Education.

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

668 5. A representative from the Florida Sheriffs Association.

669 6. A representative from the Florida Police Chiefs  
 670 Association.

671 7. A representative from the Criminal Justice Standards  
 672 and Training Commission.

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

675 (c) The workgroup shall establish a process for  
 676 prioritizing and determining postsecondary course equivalencies  
 677 and the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock  
 678 hours that must be awarded for law enforcement training and  
 679 experience. The workgroup shall provide recommendations to the  
 680 Board of Governors and the State Board of Education by March 1,  
 681 2023, for approval at the next meeting of each board to allow  
 682 for adequate public notice. The workgroup shall terminate upon  
 683 submission of its recommendations.

684 (d) Upon approval of the workgroup's recommendations by  
 685 the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education, the

686 Articulation Coordinating Committee shall facilitate the review  
687 of law enforcement training and experience for postsecondary  
688 course equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary credit or  
689 career education clock hours that must be awarded in accordance  
690 with the approved process.

691 (e) Within 1 year after approval of the workgroup's  
692 recommendations by the Board of Governors and the State Board of  
693 Education pursuant to paragraph (c), the Articulation  
694 Coordinating Committee shall approve a prioritized list of  
695 postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary  
696 credit or career education clock hours that must be awarded for  
697 law enforcement training and experience. The list must be  
698 updated annually. The Board of Governors and the State Board of  
699 Education shall timely adopt the list approved by the  
700 Articulation Coordinating Committee at the next meeting of each  
701 board to allow for adequate public notice. For the purpose of  
702 statewide application, postsecondary course equivalencies and  
703 the minimum postsecondary credit or career education clock hours  
704 that must be awarded for law enforcement training and experience  
705 shall be delineated by the State Board of Education and the  
706 Board of Governors in the statewide articulation agreement  
707 required by s. 1007.23(1).

708 (f) State universities, Florida College System  
709 institutions, and career centers must award postsecondary credit  
710 or career education clock hours for law enforcement training and

711 experience based on the list adopted by the Board of Governors  
712 and the State Board of Education pursuant to paragraph (e) if  
713 the credit or career education clock hours are applicable toward  
714 the student's degree or certificate. Institutions may award  
715 additional postsecondary credit or career education clock hours  
716 if appropriate. Credit or career education clock hours awarded  
717 in accordance with minimum postsecondary credit and clock hour  
718 requirements, respectively, are guaranteed to transfer to other  
719 state universities, Florida College System institutions, and  
720 career centers.

721 Section 12. Section 1009.896, Florida Statutes, is created  
722 to read:

723 1009.896 Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship  
724 Program.—

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

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

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

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

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

733 (e) "Scholarship program" means the Florida Law  
734 Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program.

735 (2) Beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year, the

736 Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program is created  
737 to assist in the recruitment of law enforcement officers within  
738 the state by providing financial assistance to trainees who  
739 enroll in a commission-approved law enforcement officer basic  
740 recruit training program.

741 (3) The department shall administer the scholarship  
742 program, in consultation with the Department of Law Enforcement,  
743 according to the rules and procedures established by the State  
744 Board of Education.

745 (4) The scholarship shall be awarded on a first-come,  
746 first-served basis based on the date the department receives  
747 each completed application, and is contingent upon an  
748 appropriation by the Legislature.

749 (5) To be eligible for the scholarship award a trainee  
750 must:

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

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

758 (6) The award to eligible trainees shall be an amount  
759 equal to any costs and fees described in this subsection which  
760 are necessary to complete the basic recruit training program,

761 less any state financial aid received by the trainee. The award  
 762 to trainees shall cover:

763 (a) The cost of tuition.

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

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

769 1. The officer certification examination fee established  
 770 pursuant to s. 943.1397.

771 2. Textbooks.

772 3. Uniforms.

773 4. Ammunition.

774 5. Required insurance.

775 6. Any other costs or fees for necessary consumable  
 776 materials required to complete the basic recruit training  
 777 program.

778 (7) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
 779 necessary to administer this section.

780 Section 13. Section 1009.8961, Florida Statutes, is  
 781 created to read:

782 1009.8961 Reimbursement for out-of-state and special  
 783 operations forces law enforcement equivalency training.-

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

785 (a) "Commission" means the Criminal Justice Standards and



786 Training Commission within the Department of Law Enforcement.

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

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

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

792 (e) "Special operations forces" has the same meaning as  
793 provided in s. 943.10(22).

794 (2) Beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year, the  
795 department, in consultation with the Department of Law  
796 Enforcement, shall reimburse eligible applicants who relocate  
797 from outside the state or who transition from service in the  
798 special operations forces to become a full-time law enforcement  
799 officer within this state for eligible expenses incurred while  
800 obtaining a Florida law enforcement officer certification.

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

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

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

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

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

814           (a) Any equivalency assessment administered to determine  
 815 required equivalency training.

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

817           (c) The law enforcement officer certification examination.

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

820           Section 14. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.