

By Senator Brodeur

9-00347B-22

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to fee exemptions for reunited  
3           students; amending s. 1009.25, F.S.; creating a  
4           tuition and fee exemption for students who enter the  
5           custody of the Department of Children and Families  
6           after a specified age and who are reunited with their  
7           biological or legal custodians before reaching a  
8           specified age after spending at least 18 months in  
9           department custody; requiring the student to meet  
10          certain federal financial aid eligibility  
11          requirements; providing that the exemption includes  
12          fees associated with enrollment in applied academics  
13          for adult education instruction; providing that the  
14          exemption remains valid until the student reaches a  
15          specified age; providing an effective date.

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

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19           Section 1. Present paragraphs (e) through (h) of subsection  
20          (1) of section 1009.25, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
21          paragraphs (f) through (i), respectively, and a new paragraph  
22          (e) is added to that subsection, to read:

23           1009.25 Fee exemptions.—

24           (1) The following students are exempt from the payment of  
25          tuition and fees, including lab fees, at a school district that  
26          provides workforce education programs, Florida College System  
27          institution, or state university:

28           (e) A student who was placed in the custody of the  
29          Department of Children and Families, in either protective

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30 supervision or out-of-home care, for a period of at least 18  
31 months on or after his or her 14th birthday and who was  
32 reunited, before his or her 18th birthday, with the biological  
33 or legal custodian who was the subject of the dependency  
34 proceedings that resulted in the child's placement with the  
35 department. The student must meet the eligibility requirements  
36 for federal financial aid under 20 U.S.C. s. 1091. The exemption  
37 includes fees associated with enrollment in applied academics  
38 for adult education instruction. The exemption remains valid  
39 until the student reaches 28 years of age.

40 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.