

By Senator Stewart

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to financial aid for female victims of  
3           rape, incest, domestic violence, or human trafficking;  
4           amending s. 1009.25, F.S.; providing that certain low-  
5           income, female students who are pregnant as a result  
6           of rape, incest, domestic violence, or human  
7           trafficking and who decide to carry the pregnancy to  
8           term are exempt from paying specified postsecondary  
9           tuition and fees; authorizing the State Board of  
10          Education and the Board of Governors to adopt rules  
11          and regulations, respectively; creating s. 1009.8963,  
12          F.S.; establishing the Academic Success of Pregnant  
13          Female Students Who Are Victims of Sexual Abuse Grant  
14          Program within the Department of Education; providing  
15          the purpose of the program; providing student  
16          eligibility requirements; providing for program  
17          funding and the disbursement of awards; authorizing  
18          the State Board of Education to adopt rules; providing  
19          an effective date.

20  
21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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23           Section 1. Paragraph (h) is added to subsection (1) of  
24           section 1009.25, Florida Statutes, to read:

25           1009.25 Fee exemptions.—

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

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30 (h) Beginning with a female student who has a conception  
31 date of January 1, 2023, or thereafter, a female student who is  
32 pregnant as a result of rape, incest, domestic violence, or  
33 human trafficking, who decides to carry the pregnancy to term,  
34 and whose household income level does not exceed 185 percent of  
35 the federal poverty level. The State Board of Education may  
36 adopt rules and the Board of Governors may adopt regulations  
37 regarding documentation and procedures to implement this  
38 paragraph.

39 Section 2. Section 1009.8963, Florida Statutes, is created  
40 to read:

41 1009.8963 The Academic Success of Pregnant Female Students  
42 Who Are Victims of Sexual Abuse Grant Program.—There is  
43 established within the Department of Education the Academic  
44 Success of Pregnant Female Students Who Are Victims of Sexual  
45 Abuse Grant Program. The purpose of the program is to provide  
46 funds for child care for low-income, female students who are  
47 pregnant as a result of rape, incest, domestic violence, or  
48 human trafficking and who decide to carry the pregnancy to term.

49 (1) A student is eligible for the program if she:

50 (a) Is pregnant as a result of rape, incest, domestic  
51 violence, or human trafficking; has a conception date of January  
52 1, 2023, or thereafter; and decides to carry the pregnancy to  
53 term.

54 (b) Has a household income level that does not exceed 185  
55 percent of the federal poverty level.

56 (c) Is a Florida resident as described in s. 1009.40 and  
57 rules of the State Board of Education.

58 (d) Is enrolled at a school district career center, charter

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59 career technical center, Florida College System institution, or  
60 state university.

61 (2) (a) Subject to legislative appropriation, the department  
62 shall award grants to eligible students on a first-come, first-  
63 served basis.

64 (b) The amount of a grant award shall be the average cost  
65 of a child care provider that holds a Gold Seal Quality Care  
66 designation under s. 1002.945 for the county in which the  
67 eligible student resides.

68 (c) The department shall disburse grant awards to eligible  
69 students at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters.

70 (3) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to  
71 implement this section.

72 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.