



26 | in black business enterprises pursuant to the Florida Black  
27 | Business Investment Act. The department shall process all  
28 | applications and recertifications submitted by June 1 on or  
29 | before July 31. The department shall prioritize any applications  
30 | for black business enterprises in areas directly impacted by the  
31 | 1920 Ocoee Election Day Riots.

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

34 | 1009.551 Ocoee Scholarship Program.—

35 | (1) The Ocoee Scholarship Program is created for the  
36 | direct descendants of victims of the Ocoee Election Day Riots in  
37 | November 1920 and for current African-American residents of  
38 | Ocoee.

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

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

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

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

56        (6) Beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year, the  
57 department is authorized to make awards for undergraduate study  
58 to students who:

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

62        (b) File an application for the scholarship within the  
63 established time limits.

64        (c) Enroll as certificate-seeking or degree-seeking  
65 students at an accredited college or university or career center  
66 authorized by law.

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

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

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