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1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to the 1920 Ocoee Election Day Riots; 3 amending s. 288.7102, F.S.; requiring the Department 4 of Economic Opportunity to prioritize certain 5 applications for the Black Business Loan Program; 6 creating s. 1009.551, F.S.; creating the Ocoee 7 Scholarship Program for specified recipients; 8 directing the Department of Education to administer 9 the program; specifying annual award amounts to recipients participating in the program; requiring the 10 11 department to rank applicants; providing for 12 transmittal of an award payment to a participating 13 institution; prescribing eligibility criteria for award recipients; authorizing the State Board of 14 15 Education to adopt certain rules; providing for 16 program funding; providing an effective date. 17 18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 19 Section 1. 20 Subsection (2) of section 288.7102, Florida 21 Statutes, is amended to read: 22 288.7102 Black Business Loan Program. -23 The department shall establish an application and 24 annual certification process for entities seeking funds to

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participate in providing loans, loan guarantees, or investments

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in black business enterprises pursuant to the Florida Black

Business Investment Act. The department shall process all applications and recertifications submitted by June 1 on or before July 31. The department shall prioritize any applications for black business enterprises in areas directly impacted by the 1920 Ocoee Election Day Riots.

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

1009.551 Ocoee Scholarship Program.—
(1) The Ocoee Scholarship Program is created for the direct descendants of victims of the Ocoee Election Day Riots in November 1920 and for current African-American residents of Ocoee.

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

- (3) The annual award to a student under the program may be an amount of up to \$6,100, but may not exceed the annual amount of the student's tuition and registration fees. The department may award up to 50 scholarships per academic year. If funds are insufficient to provide a full scholarship to each eligible applicant, the department may prorate available funds and make a partial award to each eligible applicant.
- (4) The department shall rank eligible initial applicants for the purposes of awarding scholarships based on need, as determined by the department.

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(5) Payment of an award shall be transmitted in advance	of
the registration period each semester on behalf of the studen	<u>t</u>
to the president of the accredited college or university, or	his
or her representative, or to the director of the career center	r
that the recipient is attending.	
(6) Beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year, the	

- (6) Beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year, the department is authorized to make awards for undergraduate study to students who:
- (a) Meet the general requirements for student eligibility as provided in s. 1009.40, except as otherwise provided in this section.
- (b) File an application for the scholarship within the established time limits.
- (c) Enroll as certificate-seeking or degree-seeking students at an accredited college or university or career center authorized by law.
- (7) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules necessary to implement and administer this section.
- (8) Funding for the program shall be as provided in the General Appropriations Act.
 - Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.