

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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Representative Nixon offered the following:

**Amendment (with title amendment)**

Remove lines 10-22 and insert:

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) and subsection (12) of section 1002.394, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—

(3) SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.—

(a)1. A parent of a student may request ~~and receive~~ from the state a scholarship for the purposes specified in paragraph (4) (a) if the student is a resident of this state and is eligible to enroll in kindergarten through grade 12 in a public school in this state. The eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding

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14 organization must use program funds to award all scholarships  
15 under paragraph (b) before awarding scholarships pursuant to  
16 this paragraph. A parent may not be promised a scholarship under  
17 this paragraph until the organization has determined the amount  
18 of funds still available after the distribution of funds for  
19 scholarships awarded under paragraph (b).

20 2. Priority must be given in the following order:

21 a. A student whose household income level does not exceed  
22 185 percent of the federal poverty level or who is in foster  
23 care or out-of-home care.

24 b. A student whose household income level exceeds 185  
25 percent of the federal poverty level, but does not exceed 400  
26 percent of the federal poverty level.

27 (12) SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

28 (a)1. Scholarships for students determined eligible  
29 pursuant to paragraph (3) (a) may be funded once all scholarships  
30 have been funded in accordance with s. 1002.395(6)(1)2 and  
31 paragraph (3) (a). The calculated scholarship amount for a  
32 participating student determined eligible pursuant to paragraph  
33 (3) (a) shall be based upon the grade level and school district  
34 in which the student was assigned as 100 percent of the funds  
35 per unweighted full-time equivalent in the Florida Education  
36 Finance Program for a student in the basic program established  
37 pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(c)1., plus a per-full-time equivalent  
38 share of funds for the categorical programs established in s.

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39 1011.62(5), (7)(a), and (16), as funded in the General  
40 Appropriations Act. Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, the  
41 General Appropriations Act shall specify a maximum amount for  
42 the total amount of scholarships awarded under this section.  
43 Eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations must use  
44 program funds to award all scholarships under paragraph (3)(b)  
45 before awarding scholarships under paragraph (3)(a). A parent  
46 may not be promised a scholarship under paragraph (3)(a) until  
47 the organization has determined the amount of funds still  
48 available after the distribution of funds for scholarships  
49 awarded under paragraph (3)(b).

50 2. A scholarship of \$750 or an amount equal to the school  
51 district expenditure per student riding a school bus, as  
52 determined by the department, whichever is greater, may be  
53 awarded to an eligible student who is enrolled in a Florida  
54 public school that is different from the school to which the  
55 student was assigned or in a lab school as defined in s. 1002.32  
56 if the school district does not provide the student with  
57 transportation to the school.

58 3. The organization must provide the department with the  
59 documentation necessary to verify the student's participation.  
60 Upon receiving the documentation, the department shall transfer,  
61 beginning August 1, from state funds only, the amount calculated  
62 pursuant to subparagraph 2. to the organization for quarterly  
63 disbursement to parents of participating students each school

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64 year in which the scholarship is in force. For a student exiting  
65 a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program who chooses  
66 to participate in the scholarship program, the amount of the  
67 Family Empowerment Scholarship calculated pursuant to  
68 subparagraph 2. must be transferred from the school district in  
69 which the student last attended a public school before  
70 commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice. When a student  
71 enters the scholarship program, the organization must receive  
72 all documentation required for the student's participation,  
73 including the private school's and the student's fee schedules,  
74 at least 30 days before the first quarterly scholarship payment  
75 is made for the student.

76 4. The initial payment shall be made after the  
77 organization's verification of admission acceptance, and  
78 subsequent payments shall be made upon verification of continued  
79 enrollment and attendance at the private school. Payment must be  
80 by funds transfer or any other means of payment that the  
81 department deems to be commercially viable or cost-effective. An  
82 organization shall ensure that the parent has approved a funds  
83 transfer before any scholarship funds are deposited.

84 5. An organization may not transfer any funds to an  
85 account of a student determined eligible pursuant to paragraph  
86 (3) (a) which has a balance in excess of \$24,000.

87 (b)1. Scholarships for students determined eligible  
88 pursuant to paragraph (3) (b) are established for up to 26,500

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89 | students annually beginning in the 2022-2023 school year;  
90 | however, additional scholarships may be awarded if funded  
91 | through the General Appropriations Act. The General  
92 | Appropriations Act shall specify a maximum amount for the total  
93 | amount of scholarships awarded. Eligible nonprofit scholarship-  
94 | funding organizations must use program funds to award all  
95 | scholarships under paragraph (3) (b) before awarding scholarships  
96 | under paragraph (3) (a). A parent may not be promised a  
97 | scholarship under paragraph (3) (a) until the organization has  
98 | determined the amount of funds still available after the  
99 | distribution of funds for scholarships awarded under paragraph  
100 | (3) (b). Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, the maximum  
101 | number of students participating in the scholarship program  
102 | under this section shall annually

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**T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T**

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Remove lines 3-5 and insert:

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Program; amending s. 1002.394, F.S.; revising the

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requirements for funding and awarding scholarships

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under the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program;

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providing

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