

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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Representative Bartleman offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Between lines 462 and 463, insert:

Section 4. Section 1011.687, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1011.687 Educational scholarship programs; categorical fund.—

(1) There is created a categorical fund for implementing the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program pursuant to s. 1002.394. These funds shall be in the amount provided in the General Appropriations Act and any additional funds transferred

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13 from the educational enrollment stabilization program pursuant
14 to s. 1011.689.

15 (2) Educational scholarship funding categorical funds
16 shall be used to award scholarships as required in s. 1002.394
17 and in accordance with s. 1002.421. Funds shall be disbursed
18 from this fund based on the full-time equivalent scholarship
19 students forecasted or reported as participating in the program.

20 (3) A "full-time equivalent student" for a student
21 participating in a scholarship program under s. 1002.394 or s.
22 1002.395 means a student who receives all 10 scholarship
23 payments that are distributed on a monthly basis. A student who
24 receives fewer than 10 payments shall generate a fraction of
25 full-time equivalent student membership proportional to the
26 number of payments received.

27 (4) For the purposes of calculating a scholarship award
28 amount, a full-time equivalent student shall be based upon the
29 student's county of residence and equal to the calculation
30 provided under s. 1002.421(5)(a).

31 (5) Contingent upon verification that the organization is
32 in compliance with this section and ss. 1002.421, 1002.394, and
33 1002.395, the department shall release funds from the
34 categorical fund on a quarterly basis to the organization. The
35 funds shall be held by the organization for deposit into the
36 students' accounts in accordance with the payment schedules and
37 may not include any funding for scholarship awards for any time

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38 preceding a student's verified eligibility for or acceptance of
39 a scholarship.

40 (a) The first quarter release payment to the organization
41 shall be based upon the amount of full-time equivalent students
42 forecasted as provided in the General Appropriations Act and in
43 an amount sufficient to make scholarship payments through the
44 third payment installment. The first quarter release payment
45 must be released no later than July 30.

46 (b) The second quarter release payment to the organization
47 shall be based upon the amount of full-time equivalent students
48 cross-checked by the department pursuant to s. 1002.421(3) and
49 in an amount sufficient to make scholarship payments through the
50 fifth payment installment. The second quarter release payment
51 must be released no later than November 1.

52 (c) The third quarter release payment to the organization
53 shall be based upon the amount of full-time equivalent students
54 cross-checked by the department pursuant to s. 1002.421(3) and
55 in an amount sufficient to make scholarship payments through the
56 eighth payment installment. The third quarter release payment
57 must be released no later than January 1.

58 (d) The fourth quarter release payment to the organization
59 shall be based upon the amount of full-time equivalent students
60 cross-checked by the department pursuant to s. 1002.421(3) and
61 in an amount sufficient to make scholarship payments through the

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62 tenth payment installment. The fourth quarter release payment
63 must be released no later than April 1.

64 (6) If the funds released to the organization are in
65 excess of the funds certified to the department by the
66 organization as the amount distributed for student scholarships
67 in accordance with scholarship program requirements, the
68 organization must send back to the department any overpayment
69 within 30 days of certification to the department. The
70 department may not adjust the amount of any overpayment in the
71 second, third, or fourth quarter payment release and must
72 account for each payment back from the organization separately.

73 (7) The department shall have access to the organization's
74 data and records as necessary to conduct a reconciliation of
75 releases and overpayments to the organization.

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T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

78 Remove line 5 and insert:
79 providing an expiration date; creating s. 1011.687,
80 F.S.; creating a categorical fund for implementing the
81 Family Empowerment Scholarship Program; providing
82 requirements for the use and disbursement of funds;
83 defining the term "full-time equivalent student";
84 requiring the Department of Education to release funds
85 if certain criteria are met; providing requirements
86

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87 | for the release of each payment; providing
88 | requirements for excess funds; providing that the
89 | department has access to certain records; amending s.
90 | 1011.62,

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