

**FOR CONSIDERATION** By the Committee on Education Postsecondary

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to education; amending s. 251.001, F.S.; requiring each Florida College System institution and state university to waive tuition and fees for members of the Florida State Guard if certain conditions are met; creating s. 413.0114, F.S.; requiring entities that offer fee-based services to individuals who are blind or visually impaired to disclose in writing whether the service may be obtained elsewhere at no cost; providing requirements for the disclosure; authorizing the Department of Education to adopt rules; amending s. 413.208, F.S.; requiring certain service providers to apply to, rather than register with, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; requiring the division to establish minimum qualifications for service providers; requiring the division to establish an annual application period; authorizing the division to approve or deny any service provider application; providing that, as of a specified date, only certain service providers may participate in the vocational rehabilitation program; requiring the division to develop and make publicly available a certain annual report; requiring service providers to meet certain standards to maintain approved status; requiring that the rates for vocational rehabilitation services meet certain criteria; amending s. 1003.437, F.S.; requiring the State Board of Education to establish a uniform weighted grading system for specified courses

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30 and articulated acceleration mechanisms; requiring  
31 district school boards to use such system for a  
32 specified purpose; amending s. 1005.06, F.S.; revising  
33 the list of institutions that are not under the  
34 jurisdiction of the Commission for Independent  
35 Education; amending s. 1007.25, F.S.; revising the  
36 timeframe for Florida College System institutions and  
37 state universities to submit comments in response to a  
38 specified notice of intent; amending s. 1007.271,  
39 F.S.; revising the list of postsecondary institutions  
40 that are eligible to participate in a dual enrollment  
41 program; amending s. 1008.30, F.S.; deleting a  
42 requirement for the State Board of Education to adopt  
43 rules; authorizing school district career centers to  
44 use alternative methods adopted by the board in lieu  
45 of common placement tests to assess students in basic  
46 communication and computation skills; authorizing  
47 Florida College System institutions to request  
48 approval of institution-specific alternative methods;  
49 making conforming changes; amending s. 1008.44, F.S.;  
50 deleting a provision limiting how supplemental funding  
51 may be earned for the CAPE Industry Certification  
52 Funding List; amending s. 1009.21, F.S.; providing  
53 that a person may not lose his or her resident status  
54 for tuition purposes due to incarceration; amending s.  
55 1009.26, F.S.; providing that a fee waiver only  
56 applies to a full-time undergraduate student,  
57 beginning with a specified academic year; revising  
58 requirements for a fee waiver; amending s. 1009.30,

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59 F.S.; requiring that certain postsecondary  
60 institutions be reimbursed for public school students  
61 under the Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program;  
62 amending s. 1009.536, F.S.; revising student  
63 eligibility requirements for the Florida Gold Seal  
64 Vocational Scholars and Florida Gold Seal CAPE  
65 Scholars awards; authorizing a student to apply for  
66 the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award within a  
67 specified timeframe; amending s. 1009.893, F.S.;  
68 authorizing a student to defer an award under the  
69 Benacquisto Scholarship Program; amending s. 1009.983,  
70 F.S.; authorizing a specified designee with certain  
71 credentials to serve as director of the direct-support  
72 organization for the Florida Prepaid College  
73 Foundation, Inc.; amending s. 1009.986, F.S.; revising  
74 the membership of the board of directors of Florida  
75 ABLE, Inc.; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; revising the  
76 academic acceleration options supplement in the  
77 Florida Education Finance Program to include a method  
78 for calculating additional full-time equivalent  
79 membership based on a specified course and test score;  
80 providing specified bonuses; amending s. 1011.84,  
81 F.S.; revising the components to be considered by the  
82 Legislature in determining an apportionment of state  
83 funds to a Florida College System institution;  
84 deleting obsolete provisions; amending s. 1013.841,  
85 F.S.; requiring all Florida College System  
86 institutions, rather than only certain institutions,  
87 to maintain a specified carry forward balance;

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88       providing that a Florida College System institution  
89       may retain an annual reserve amount exceeding the  
90       carry forward balance; deleting obsolete provisions;  
91       authorizing the inclusion in a carry forward spending  
92       plan of the retention of a carry forward balance as a  
93       reserve fund for a specified use; providing an  
94       effective date.

95

96       Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

97

98       Section 1. Subsection (9) of section 251.001, Florida  
99       Statutes, is amended to read:

100       251.001 Florida State Guard Act.—

101       (9) REIMBURSEMENT, BENEFIT, AND COMPENSATION.—

102       (a) The division shall reimburse members of the Florida  
103       State Guard for per diem and travel expenses incurred to attend  
104       required training or in the course of active service as provided  
105       in s. 112.061.

106       (b) Members of the Florida State Guard may be compensated  
107       for time spent training or in the course of active service at  
108       rates established by the director, subject to appropriation.

109       (c) A member of the Florida State Guard may not make any  
110       purchase or enter into any contract or agreement for purchases  
111       or services as a charge against the state without the authority  
112       of the director.

113       (d) As a benefit to the active members of the Florida State  
114       Guard, subject to approval by the director of the Division of  
115       the State Guard, each Florida College System institution and  
116       state university shall waive tuition and fees for active members

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117 of the Florida State Guard to enroll for up to 6 credit hours of  
118 courses per term on a space-available basis.

119       Section 2. Section 413.0114, Florida Statutes, is created  
120 to read:

121       413.0114 Consumer disclosure for blind-related services.—

122       (1) An individual, business, nonprofit, or other entity  
123 offering fee-based services to individuals who are blind or  
124 visually impaired shall, before entering into a contract or  
125 accepting payment, disclose in writing whether equivalent or  
126 substantially similar services may be available at no cost  
127 through the Division of Blind Services or another public agency.

128       (2) The written disclosure must:

129       (a) Be provided in plain language and, upon request, in an  
130 accessible format, such as braille, large print, or audio.

131       (b) Include contact information for the Division of Blind  
132 Services.

133       (c) Be signed or electronically acknowledged by the  
134 consumer or his or her representative.

135       (3) A violation of this section constitutes an unfair or  
136 deceptive trade practice under part II of chapter 501 and is  
137 subject to penalties and enforcement as provided therein.

138       (4) The Department of Education may adopt rules to  
139 implement this section.

140       Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 413.208, Florida  
141 Statutes, is amended to read:

142       413.208 Service providers; quality assurance; fitness for  
143 responsibilities; background screening.—

144       (1) Service providers must apply to register with the  
145 division. To qualify for approval, a registration, the division

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146 ~~must ensure that the service provider~~ must maintain ~~maintains~~ an  
147 internal system of quality assurance, ~~have~~ has proven functional  
148 systems, meet the minimum qualifications, and ~~be~~ is subject to a  
149 due-diligence inquiry as to its fitness to undertake service  
150 responsibilities.

151 (a) The division shall establish minimum qualifications for  
152 service providers. The division shall establish an annual  
153 application period for service providers to submit applications.  
154 The division may approve or deny any service provider  
155 application. Beginning January 1, 2027, only service providers  
156 that meet the minimum qualifications established by the division  
157 and that have been approved to provide employment-related  
158 services to individuals with disabilities may participate in the  
159 vocational rehabilitation program.

160 (b) The division shall develop and make publicly available  
161 an annual report of service provider effectiveness which  
162 includes an evaluation system measuring the effectiveness of all  
163 service providers that are approved by the division to provide  
164 employment-related services to individuals with disabilities.

165 (c) In order to maintain approved status with the division,  
166 service providers must meet minimum standards of effectiveness  
167 in the provision of vocational rehabilitation services,  
168 including placement of individuals in competitive and integrated  
169 employment.

170 (d) Rates for vocational rehabilitation services must be  
171 allocable, reasonable, and necessary, as determined by the  
172 division.

173 Section 4. Section 1003.437, Florida Statutes, is amended  
174 to read:

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175        1003.437 Middle and high school grading system.—The grading  
176 system and interpretation of letter grades used to measure  
177 student success in grade 6 through grade 12 courses for students  
178 in public schools shall be as follows:

179        (1) Grade "A" equals 90 percent through 100 percent, has a  
180 grade point average value of 4, and is defined as "outstanding  
181 progress."

182        (2) Grade "B" equals 80 percent through 89 percent, has a  
183 grade point average value of 3, and is defined as "above average  
184 progress."

185        (3) Grade "C" equals 70 percent through 79 percent, has a  
186 grade point average value of 2, and is defined as "average  
187 progress."

188        (4) Grade "D" equals 60 percent through 69 percent, has a  
189 grade point average value of 1, and is defined as "lowest  
190 acceptable progress."

191        (5) Grade "F" equals zero percent through 59 percent, has a  
192 grade point average value of zero, and is defined as "failure."

193        (6) Grade "I" equals zero percent, has a grade point  
194 average value of zero, and is defined as "incomplete."

195  
196        The State Board of Education must establish a statewide uniform  
197        weighted grading system for honors courses and articulated  
198        acceleration mechanisms identified in s. 1007.27. For the  
199        purposes of class ranking, District school boards shall use the  
200        may exercise a weighted grading system to calculate weighted  
201        high school grade point averages pursuant to s. 1007.271.

202        Section 5. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
203 1005.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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204        1005.06 Institutions not under the jurisdiction or purview  
205 of the commission.—

206        (1) Except as otherwise provided in law, the following  
207 institutions are not under the jurisdiction or purview of the  
208 commission and are not required to obtain licensure:

209        (b) Any college or, school, or course licensed or approved, as an institution, for establishment and operation by another  
210 state agency. A college or school, or any of its programs or  
211 courses, does not qualify for exemption from the commission's  
212 jurisdiction under this paragraph solely because another state  
213 agency licenses or approves one or more of its programs or  
214 courses for establishment and operation under part I of chapter  
215 464, chapter 466, or chapter 475, or any other chapter of the  
216 Florida Statutes requiring licensing or approval as defined in  
217 this chapter.

219        Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (9) of section  
220 1007.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

221        1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;  
222 other degree requirements.—

223        (9)

224        (b) An associate in arts specialized transfer degree must  
225 include 36 semester hours of general education coursework and  
226 require 60 semester hours or more of college credit. Specialized  
227 transfer degrees are designed for Florida College System  
228 institution students who need supplemental lower-level  
229 coursework in preparation for transfer to another institution.  
230 The State Board of Education shall establish criteria for the  
231 review and approval of new specialized transfer degrees. The  
232 approval process must require:

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233       1. A Florida College System institution to submit a notice  
234 of its intent to propose a new associate in arts specialized  
235 degree program to the Division of Florida Colleges. The notice  
236 must include the recommended credit hours, the rationale for the  
237 specialization, the demand for students entering the field, and  
238 the coursework being proposed to be included beyond the 60  
239 semester hours required for the general transfer degree, if  
240 applicable. Notices of intent may be submitted by a Florida  
241 College System institution at any time.

242       2. The Division of Florida Colleges to forward the notice  
243 of intent within 10 business days after receipt to all Florida  
244 College System institutions and to the Chancellor of the State  
245 University System, who shall forward the notice to all state  
246 universities. State universities and Florida College System  
247 institutions shall have 30 60 days after receipt of the notice  
248 to submit comments to the proposed associate in arts specialized  
249 transfer degree.

250       3. After the submission of comments pursuant to  
251 subparagraph 2., the requesting Florida College System  
252 institution to submit a proposal that, at a minimum, includes:

253       a. Evidence that the coursework for the associate in arts  
254 specialized transfer degree includes demonstration of competency  
255 in a foreign language pursuant to s. 1007.262 and demonstration  
256 of civic literacy competency as provided in subsection (5).

257       b. Demonstration that all required coursework will count  
258 toward the associate in arts degree or the baccalaureate degree.

259       c. An analysis of demand and unmet need for students  
260 entering the specialized field of study at the baccalaureate  
261 level.

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262       d. Justification for the program length if it exceeds 60  
263 credit hours, including references to the common prerequisite  
264 manual or other requirements for the baccalaureate degree. This  
265 includes documentation of alignment between the exit  
266 requirements of a Florida College System institution and the  
267 admissions requirements of a baccalaureate program at a state  
268 university to which students would typically transfer.

269       e. Articulation agreements for graduates of the associate  
270 in arts specialized transfer degree.

271       f. Responses to the comments received under subparagraph 2.

272       Section 7. Subsections (1) and (16) of section 1007.271,  
273 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

274       1007.271 Dual enrollment programs.—

275       (1) The dual enrollment program is the enrollment of an  
276 eligible secondary student in this state or home education  
277 student in this state in a postsecondary course creditable  
278 toward high school completion and a career certificate or an  
279 associate or baccalaureate degree. Postsecondary institutions  
280 that are eligible to participate in the dual enrollment program  
281 are Florida public postsecondary institutions and eligible not-  
282 for-profit independent colleges and universities pursuant to s.  
283 1011.62(1)(i). A student ~~who is~~ enrolled in postsecondary  
284 instruction that is not creditable toward a high school diploma  
285 may not be classified as a dual enrollment student.

286       (16) Students who ~~meet the eligibility requirements of this~~  
287 ~~section and who choose to~~ participate in dual enrollment  
288 programs are exempt from the payment of registration, tuition,  
289 and laboratory fees.

290       Section 8. Subsections (2) and (3) and paragraphs (a) and

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291 (b) of subsection (4) of section 1008.30, Florida Statutes, are  
292 amended to read:

293 1008.30 Assessing college-level communication and  
294 computation skills for public postsecondary education.—

295 (2) ~~By January 31, 2022, the State Board of Education shall~~  
296 ~~adopt rules to develop and implement alternative methods for~~  
297 ~~assessing the basic communication and computation skills of~~  
298 ~~students who intend to enter a degree program at a Florida~~  
299 ~~College System institution. Florida College System institutions~~  
300 ~~and school district career centers may use these alternative~~  
301 ~~methods adopted by the State Board of Education for assessing~~  
302 ~~the basic communication and computation skills of students who~~  
303 ~~intend to enter a degree program at a Florida College System~~  
304 ~~institution or school district career center in lieu of the~~  
305 ~~common placement tests under subsection (1) to assess student~~  
306 ~~readiness for college-level work in communication and~~  
307 ~~computation. Florida College System institutions may request~~  
308 ~~approval of institution-specific alternative methods in~~  
309 ~~accordance with State Board of Education rules.~~

310 (3) The rules adopted under subsection (2) must specify the  
311 following:

312 (a) A student who ~~entered 9th grade in a Florida public~~  
313 ~~school in the 2003-2004 school year, or any year thereafter, and~~  
314 ~~earned a Florida standard high school diploma and who~~  
315 ~~demonstrated readiness for college-level communication and~~  
316 ~~computation skills by any of the approved common placement tests~~  
317 ~~or alternative methods pursuant to this section or a student who~~  
318 ~~is serving as an active duty member of any branch of the United~~  
319 ~~States Armed Services is not required to be assessed for~~

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320 readiness for college-level work in communication and  
321 computation and is not required to enroll in developmental  
322 education instruction in a Florida College System institution or  
323 a school district career center. However, a student who is not  
324 required to be assessed for readiness for college-level work in  
325 communication and computation and is not required to enroll in  
326 developmental education under this paragraph may opt to be  
327 assessed and to enroll in developmental education instruction,  
328 and the college or school district career center shall provide  
329 such assessment and instruction upon the student's request.

330 (b) A student who earned a Florida standard high school  
331 diploma and has not demonstrated readiness for college-level  
332 courses pursuant to subsection (1) or subsection (2) must be  
333 offered the opportunity to be ~~is~~ assessed for readiness for  
334 college-level communication and computation and, if the  
335 student's ~~whose~~ assessment results indicate a need for  
336 developmental education, he or she must be advised of ~~all~~ the  
337 developmental education options offered at the institution. and,  
338 After advisement, the student may enroll in the developmental  
339 education option of his or her choice.

340 (c) A student who demonstrates readiness by achieving or  
341 exceeding the test scores established under subsection (1) by  
342 the state board and enrolls in a Florida College System  
343 institution or a school district career center within 2 years  
344 after achieving such scores may ~~shall~~ not be required to retest  
345 or complete developmental education when admitted to any Florida  
346 College System institution or school district career center.

347 (4) (a) Each Florida College System institution and school  
348 district career center shall implement the developmental

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349 education strategies defined in s. 1008.02 and rules established  
350 by the State Board of Education.

351 (b) Each Florida College System institution and school  
352 district career center shall use placement test results or  
353 alternative methods as established by the State Board of  
354 Education to determine the extent to which each student  
355 demonstrates sufficient communication and computation skills to  
356 indicate readiness for his or her chosen meta-major. Florida  
357 College System institutions and school district career centers  
358 shall counsel students into college credit courses as quickly as  
359 possible, with developmental education limited to that content  
360 needed for success in the meta-major.

361 Section 9. Subsection (1) of section 1008.44, Florida  
362 Statutes, is amended to read:

363 1008.44 CAPE Industry Certification Funding List.—

364 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt, at least  
365 annually, based upon recommendations by the Commissioner of  
366 Education, the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List that  
367 assigns categories of certificates and certifications as  
368 provided for in s. 1003.4203 to certifications identified in the  
369 Master Credentials List under s. 445.004(4) which meet a  
370 statewide, regional, or local demand. ~~Supplemental funding for~~  
371 ~~regional and local demand certifications may only be earned in~~  
372 ~~those areas with regional or local demand as identified by the~~  
373 ~~Credentials Review Committee.~~

374 Section 10. Present subsections (4) through (13) of section  
375 1009.21, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (5)  
376 through (14), respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to  
377 that section, to read:

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378        1009.21 Determination of resident status for tuition  
379 purposes.—Students shall be classified as residents or  
380 nonresidents for the purpose of assessing tuition in  
381 postsecondary educational programs offered by charter technical  
382 career centers or career centers operated by school districts,  
383 in Florida College System institutions, and in state  
384 universities.

385        (4) An individual may not lose his or her resident status  
386 for tuition purposes solely by reason of incarceration in a  
387 state or federal correctional facility in this state.

388        Section 11. Paragraph (a) of subsection (20) of section  
389 1009.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

390        1009.26 Fee waivers.—

391        (20) (a) Beginning with the 2026-2027 ~~2022-2023~~ academic  
392 year, a state university shall waive the out-of-state fee for a  
393 full-time undergraduate student who:

394        1. Has a grandparent who is a legal resident as defined in  
395 s. 1009.21(1). For purposes of this subsection, the term  
396 "grandparent" means a person who has a legal relationship to a  
397 student's parent as the natural or adoptive parent or legal  
398 guardian of the student's parent.

399        2. Earns a high school diploma comparable to a Florida  
400 standard high school diploma, or its equivalent, or completes a  
401 home education program.

402        3.a. Achieves an SAT combined score no lower than the 89th  
403 national percentile on the SAT; or

404        b. Achieves an ACT score concordant to the required SAT  
405 score in sub-subparagraph a., using the latest published  
406 national concordance table developed jointly by the College

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407 Board and ACT, Inc.; or

408 e. ~~If a state university accepts the Classic Learning Test~~  
409 ~~(CLT) for admission purposes, achieves a CLT score concordant to~~  
410 ~~the required SAT score specified in sub-subparagraph a., using~~  
411 ~~the latest published scoring comparison developed by Classic~~  
412 ~~Learning Initiatives.~~

413 4. Beginning with students who initially enroll in the 2022  
414 fall academic term and thereafter, enrolls as a full-time  
415 undergraduate student at a state university in the fall academic  
416 term immediately following high school graduation.

417 Section 12. Subsection (3) of section 1009.30, Florida  
418 Statutes, is amended to read:

419 1009.30 Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program.—

420 (3) (a) The program shall reimburse eligible postsecondary  
421 institutions for tuition and related instructional materials  
422 costs for dual enrollment courses taken during the fall or  
423 spring terms by eligible students, consisting of:

424 1. Private school students who take dual enrollment courses  
425 pursuant to s. 1007.271(24) (b);

426 2. Home education program secondary students; or

427 3. Personalized education program secondary students.

428 (b) The program shall reimburse eligible independent  
429 postsecondary institutions for tuition and related instructional  
430 materials costs for dual enrollment courses taken by public  
431 school students during the fall or spring terms.

432 (c) The program shall reimburse institutions for tuition  
433 and related instructional materials costs for dual enrollment  
434 courses taken by public school, private school, home education  
435 program, or personalized education program secondary students

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436 during the summer term.

437       Section 13. Subsection (2) of section 1009.536, Florida  
438 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (6) is added to that  
439 section, to read:440       1009.536 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars and Florida  
441 Gold Seal CAPE Scholars awards.—The Florida Gold Seal Vocational  
442 Scholars award and the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award are  
443 created within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to  
444 recognize and reward academic achievement and career preparation  
445 by high school students who wish to continue their education.446       (2) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal CAPE  
447 Scholars award if he or she meets the general eligibility  
448 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program,  
449 and the student:450       (a) Earns a minimum of 3 5 postsecondary credits credit  
451 ~~hours~~ through CAPE industry certifications approved pursuant to  
452 s. 1008.44 which articulate for college credit; and453       (b) Earns a minimum cumulative weighted grade point average  
454 of 2.5, as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, on all subjects  
455 required for a standard high school diploma, excluding elective  
456 courses; and457       (c) Completes at least 30 hours of volunteer service, or 75  
458 hours of volunteer service for students entering grade 9 in the  
459 2024-2025 school year and thereafter, or 100 hours of paid work,  
460 approved by the district school board, the administrators of a  
461 nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home  
462 education program students, or 100 hours of a combination of  
463 both. The student may identify a social or civic issue or a  
464 professional area that interests him or her and develop a plan

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465 for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or  
466 learning about the area. The student must, through papers or  
467 other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her  
468 experience. Such volunteer service or paid work may include, but  
469 is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work  
470 for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on  
471 behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer  
472 service or paid work must be documented in writing, and the  
473 document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or  
474 guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the  
475 student performed the volunteer service or paid work.

476 (6) Before or within 3 months after completion of the GATE  
477 Program as provided in s. 1004.933, a student may apply for the  
478 Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award.

479 Section 14. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section  
480 1009.893, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

481 1009.893 Benacquisto Scholarship Program.—

482 (4) In order to be eligible for an initial award under the  
483 scholarship program, a student must meet the requirements of  
484 paragraph (a) or paragraph (b).

485 (a) A student who is a resident of this state, as  
486 determined in s. 1009.40 and rules of the State Board of  
487 Education, must:

488 1. Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its  
489 equivalent pursuant to s. 1002.3105, s. 1003.4281, s. 1003.4282,  
490 or s. 1003.435 unless:

491 a. The student completes a home education program according  
492 to s. 1002.41; or

493 b. The student earns a high school diploma from a non-

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494 Florida school while living with a parent who is on military or  
495 public service assignment out of this state;

496 2. Be accepted by and enroll in a Florida public or  
497 independent postsecondary educational institution that is  
498 regionally accredited; and

499 3. Be enrolled full-time in a baccalaureate degree program  
500 at an eligible regionally accredited Florida public or  
501 independent postsecondary educational institution during the  
502 fall academic term following high school graduation. A student  
503 may defer the initial scholarship award for up to 1 year.

504 Section 15. Subsection (5) of section 1009.983, Florida  
505 Statutes, is amended to read:

506 1009.983 Direct-support organization; authority.—

507 (5) The chair of the board or a designee who possesses  
508 knowledge, skill, and experience in the areas of accounting,  
509 risk management, or investment management shall serve as a  
510 director of the direct-support organization. The chair and the  
511 executive director of the board shall jointly name, at a  
512 minimum, four other individuals to serve as directors of the  
513 organization.

514 Section 16. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section  
515 1009.986, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

516 1009.986 Florida ABLE program.—

517 (3) DIRECT-SUPPORT ORGANIZATION; FLORIDA ABLE, INC.—

518 (d) 1. The board of directors of Florida ABLE, Inc., shall  
519 consist of:

520 a. The chair of the Florida Prepaid College Board, or a his  
521 or her designee who possesses knowledge, skill, and experience  
522 in the areas of accounting, risk management, or investment

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523 management.524       b. Up to three individuals who possess knowledge, skill,  
525 and experience in the areas of accounting, risk management, or  
526 investment management, one of whom may be a current member of  
527 the Florida Prepaid College Board, who shall be appointed by the  
528 Florida Prepaid College Board.529       c. One individual who possesses knowledge, skill, and  
530 experience in the areas of accounting, risk management, or  
531 investment management, who shall be appointed by the Governor.532       d. Two individuals who are advocates of persons with  
533 disabilities, one of whom shall be appointed by the President of  
534 the Senate and one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of  
535 the House of Representatives. At least one of the individuals  
536 appointed under this sub subparagraph must be an advocate of  
537 persons with developmental disabilities, as that term is defined  
538 in s. 393.063.539       2.a. The term of the appointees under sub subparagraph 1.b.  
540 shall be up to 3 years as determined by the Florida Prepaid  
541 College Board. Such appointees may be reappointed.542       b. The term of the appointees under sub subparagraphs 1.c.  
543 and d. shall be 3 years. Such appointees may be reappointed.544       3. Unless authorized by the board of directors of Florida  
545 ABLE, Inc., an individual director has no authority to control  
546 or direct the operations of Florida ABLE, Inc., or the actions  
547 of its officers and employees.

548       4. The board of directors of Florida ABLE, Inc.:

549           a. Shall meet at least quarterly and at other times upon  
550 the call of the chair.

551           b. May use any method of telecommunications to conduct, or

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552 establish a quorum at, its meetings or the meetings of a  
553 subcommittee or other subdivision if the public is given proper  
554 notice of the telecommunications meeting and provided reasonable  
555 access to observe and, if appropriate, to participate.

556 c. Shall annually elect a board member to serve as chair.

557 5. A majority of the total current membership of the board  
558 of directors of Florida ABLE, Inc., constitutes a quorum of the  
559 board.

560 6. Members of the board of directors of Florida ABLE, Inc.,  
561 and the board's subcommittees or other subdivisions shall serve  
562 without compensation; however, the members may be reimbursed for  
563 reasonable, necessary, and actual travel expenses pursuant to s.  
564 112.061.

565 Section 17. Present paragraphs (h) and (i) of subsection  
566 (17) of section 1011.62, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
567 paragraphs (i) and (j), respectively, and a new paragraph (h) is  
568 added to that subsection, to read:

569 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual  
570 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each  
571 district for operation of schools is not determined in the  
572 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing  
573 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as  
574 follows:

575 (17) ACADEMIC ACCELERATION OPTIONS SUPPLEMENT.—The academic  
576 acceleration options supplement is created to assist school  
577 districts in providing academic acceleration options, career-  
578 themed courses, and courses that lead to digital tool  
579 certificates and industry certifications for prekindergarten  
580 through grade 12 students and shall be allocated annually in the

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581 General Appropriations Act.

582       (h) Calculation of additional full-time equivalent  
583 membership based on the Florida Advanced Courses and Tests  
584 (FACT) College Algebra course and test score of students.-A  
585 value of 0.16 full-time equivalent student membership shall be  
586 calculated for each student in the Florida Advanced Courses and  
587 Tests (FACT) College Algebra course who achieves a minimum score  
588 on an assessment identified by the Department of Education  
589 pursuant to s. 1007.27(2) and added to the total full-time  
590 equivalent student membership in basic programs for grades 9  
591 through 12 in the subsequent fiscal year. Each district shall  
592 allocate at least 80 percent of the funds provided to the  
593 district for the FACT College Algebra course instruction, in  
594 accordance with this paragraph, to the high school that  
595 generates the funds. The school district shall distribute to  
596 each classroom teacher who provided the FACT College Algebra  
597 course instruction:

598       1. A bonus in the amount of \$50 for each student taught by  
599 the FACT College Algebra course teacher in each FACT College  
600 Algebra course who achieves a minimum score on an assessment  
601 identified by the Department of Education pursuant to s.  
602 1007.27(2).

603       2. An additional bonus of \$500 to each FACT College Algebra  
604 course teacher in a school designated with a grade of "D" or "F"  
605 who has at least one student who achieves a minimum score on an  
606 assessment identified by the Department of Education pursuant to  
607 s. 1007.27(2), regardless of the number of classes taught or of  
608 the number of students who achieve a minimum score on an  
609 assessment identified by the Department of Education pursuant to

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610 s. 1007.27(2) .

611       Section 18. Paragraphs (b) and (e) of subsection (3) of  
612 section 1011.84, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

613       1011.84 Procedure for determining state financial support  
614 and annual apportionment of state funds to each Florida College  
615 System institution district.—The procedure for determining state  
616 financial support and the annual apportionment to each Florida  
617 College System institution district authorized to operate a  
618 Florida College System institution under the provisions of s.  
619 1001.61 shall be as follows:

620       (3) DETERMINING THE APPORTIONMENT FROM STATE FUNDS.—

621       (b) The apportionment to each Florida College System  
622 institution from the Florida College System Program Fund shall  
623 be determined annually in the General Appropriations Act. In  
624 determining each college's apportionment, the Legislature shall  
625 consider the following components:

626       1. Base budget, which includes the state appropriation to  
627 the Florida College System Program Fund in the current year plus  
628 the related student tuition and out-of-state fees assigned in  
629 the current General Appropriations Act.

630       2. The cost-to-continue allocation, which consists of  
631 incremental changes to the base budget, including salaries,  
632 price levels, and other related costs allocated through a  
633 funding model developed by the Florida College System presidents  
634 in consultation with the Department of Education and approved by  
635 the Legislature. The model must which may recognize a minimum  
636 level of funding per FTE and differing economic factors arising  
637 from the individual educational approaches of the various  
638 Florida College System institutions, including, but not limited

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639 to:

640 a. Program offerings, weighting workforce FTE to account  
641 for priorities and costs ~~Direct Instructional Funding, including~~  
642 ~~class size, faculty productivity factors, average faculty~~  
643 ~~salary, ratio of full time to part time faculty, costs of~~  
644 ~~programs, and enrollment factors.~~

645 b. Completion of credentials, including certificates,  
646 certifications, and degrees ~~Academic Support, including small~~  
647 ~~colleges factor, multicampus factor, and enrollment factor.~~

648 c. Size of the college Student Services Support, including  
649 ~~headcount of students as well as FTE count and enrollment~~  
650 ~~factors.~~

651 d. Economies of scale Library Support, including volume and  
652 ~~other materials/audiovisual requirements.~~

653 e. Regional cost differentials Special Projects.

654 f. Operations and Maintenance of Plant, including square  
655 ~~footage and utilization factors.~~

656 g. ~~Comparable wage factor.~~

657 3. Students enrolled in a recreation and leisure program  
658 and students enrolled in a lifelong learning program who may not  
659 be counted as full-time equivalent enrollments for purposes of  
660 enrollment workload adjustments.

661 4. ~~Operating costs of new facilities adjustments, which~~  
662 ~~shall be provided, from funds available, for each new facility~~  
663 ~~that is owned by the college and is recommended in accordance~~  
664 ~~with s. 1013.31.~~

665 5. New and improved program enhancements, which shall be  
666 determined by the Legislature.

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668 ~~Student fees in the base budget plus student fee revenues~~  
669 ~~generated by increases in fee rates shall be deducted from the~~  
670 ~~sum of the components determined in subparagraphs 1.-5. The~~  
671 ~~amount remaining shall be the net annual state apportionment to~~  
672 ~~each college.~~

673 (e) If at any time the unencumbered balance in the general  
674 fund of the Florida College System institution board of trustees  
675 approved operating budget goes below 7 5 percent for a Florida  
676 College System institution ~~with a final FTE less than 15,000 for~~  
677 ~~the prior year, or below 7 percent for a Florida College System~~  
678 ~~institution with a final FTE of 15,000 or greater for the prior~~  
679 ~~year, the president must shall~~ provide written notification to  
680 the State Board of Education. By September 30 of each year, the  
681 chief financial officer of each Florida College System  
682 institution shall certify the unexpended amount of state funds  
683 remaining in the general fund of an institution as of June 30 of  
684 the previous fiscal year.

685 Section 19. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section  
686 1013.841, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

687 1013.841 End of year balance of Florida College System  
688 institution funds.—

689 (2) (a) Each Florida College System institution ~~with a final~~  
690 ~~FTE less than 15,000 for the prior year~~ shall maintain a minimum  
691 carry forward balance of at least 7 5 percent of its state  
692 operating budget; however, a Florida College System institution  
693 may retain and report to the State Board of Education an annual  
694 reserve balance exceeding that amount. If a Florida College  
695 System institution fails to maintain a 7 5 percent balance in  
696 state operating funds, the president must ~~shall~~ provide written

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697 notification to the State Board of Education.

698 (b) Each Florida College System institution ~~with a final~~  
699 ~~FTE less than 15,000 for the prior year~~ that retains a state  
700 operating fund carry forward balance in excess of the 7 5  
701 percent minimum shall submit a spending plan for its excess  
702 carry forward balance. The spending plan must shall include all  
703 excess carry forward funds from state operating funds. The  
704 spending plan must shall be submitted to the Florida College  
705 System institution's board of trustees for approval by September  
706 30 of each year, 2020, and each September 30 thereafter. The  
707 State Board of Education shall review and publish each Florida  
708 College System institution's carry forward spending plan by  
709 November 15 of each year, 2020, and each November 15 thereafter.

710 (3)(a) Each Florida College System institution ~~with a final~~  
711 ~~FTE of 15,000 or greater for the prior year~~ shall maintain a  
712 ~~minimum carry forward balance of at least 7 percent of its state~~  
713 ~~operating budget. If a Florida College System institution fails~~  
714 ~~to maintain a 7 percent balance in state operating funds, the~~  
715 ~~institution shall submit a plan to the State Board of Education~~  
716 ~~to attain the minimum balance.~~

717 (b) Each Florida College System institution ~~with a final~~  
718 ~~FTE of 15,000 or greater for the prior year~~ that retains a state  
719 operating fund carry forward balance in excess of the ~~7 percent~~  
720 ~~minimum~~ shall submit a spending plan for its excess carry  
721 ~~forward balance. The spending plan shall include all excess~~  
722 ~~carry forward funds from state operating funds. The spending~~  
723 ~~plan shall be submitted to the Florida College System~~  
724 ~~institution's board of trustees for approval by September 30,~~  
725 ~~2020, and each September 30 thereafter. The State Board of~~

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726 ~~Education shall review and publish each Florida College System~~  
727 ~~institution's carry forward spending plan by November 15, 2020,~~  
728 ~~and each November 15 thereafter.~~

729 (4) A Florida College System institution identified in  
730 paragraph (2) (b) (3) (b) must include in its carry forward  
731 spending plan the estimated cost per planned expenditure and a  
732 timeline for completion of the expenditure. A carry forward  
733 spending plan may include retention of the carry forward balance  
734 as a reserve fund to be used for authorized expenses in  
735 subsequent years. Authorized expenditures in a carry forward  
736 spending plan may include:

737 (a) Commitment of funds to a public education capital  
738 outlay project for which an appropriation was previously  
739 provided, which requires additional funds for completion, and  
740 which is included in the list required by s. 1001.03(18) (d);

741 (b) Completion of a renovation, repair, or maintenance  
742 project that is consistent with s. 1013.64(1) or replacement of  
743 a minor facility;

744 (c) Completion of a remodeling or infrastructure project,  
745 if such project is survey recommended pursuant to s. 1013.31;

746 (d) Completion of a repair or replacement project necessary  
747 due to damage caused by a natural disaster for buildings  
748 included in the inventory required pursuant to s. 1013.31;

749 (e) Operating expenditures that support the Florida College  
750 System institution's mission;

751 (f) Any purpose approved by the state board or specified in  
752 the General Appropriations Act; and

753 (g) A commitment of funds to a contingency reserve for  
754 expenses incurred as a result of a state of emergency declared

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755 by the Governor pursuant to s. 252.36.

756 Section 20. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.