A bill to be entitled
An act relating to student eligibility requirements for state financial aid awards and tuition assistance grants; amending s. 1009.26, F.S.; deleting a requirement that certain students be ineligible for state financial aid; amending s. 1009.40, F.S.; providing that certain individuals may not be denied classification as residents for purposes of receiving state financial aid awards based on his or her immigration status if certain criteria are met; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (12) of section 1009.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.26 Fee waivers.—
(12)
(c) A state university student granted an out-of-state fee waiver under this subsection must be considered a nonresident student for purposes of calculating the systemwide total enrollment of nonresident students as limited by regulation of the Board of Governors. In addition, a student who is granted an out-of-state fee waiver under this subsection may is not eligible for state financial aid under part III of this chapter.
Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 1009.40, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.40 General requirements for student eligibility for state financial aid awards and tuition assistance grants.—

(1)(a) The general requirements for eligibility of students for state financial aid awards and tuition assistance grants consist of the following:

1. Achievement of the academic requirements of and acceptance at a state university or Florida College System institution; a nursing diploma school approved by the Florida Board of Nursing; a Florida college or university which is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the State Board of Education; a Florida institution the credits of which are acceptable for transfer to state universities; a career center; or a private career institution accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the State Board of Education.

2. Residency in this state for no less than 1 year preceding the award of aid or a tuition assistance grant for a program established pursuant to s. 1009.50, s. 1009.505, s. 1009.51, s. 1009.52, s. 1009.53, s. 1009.60, s. 1009.62, s. 1009.71, s. 1009.73, s. 1009.77, s. 1009.89, or s. 1009.891. Residency in this state must be for purposes other than to obtain an education. Resident status for purposes of receiving state financial aid awards shall be determined in the same
manner as resident status for tuition purposes pursuant to s. 1009.21. However, a student may not be denied classification as a resident for purposes of receiving state financial aid awards based solely upon his or her immigration status if he or she has met the conditions for an out-of-state fee waiver under s. 1009.26(12)(a).

3. Submission of certification attesting to the accuracy, completeness, and correctness of information provided to demonstrate a student's eligibility to receive state financial aid awards or tuition assistance grants. Falsification of such information shall result in the denial of a pending application and revocation of an award or grant currently held to the extent that no further payments shall be made. Additionally, students who knowingly make false statements in order to receive state financial aid awards or tuition assistance grants commit a misdemeanor of the second degree subject to the provisions of s. 837.06 and shall be required to return all state financial aid awards or tuition assistance grants wrongfully obtained.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.