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576-04115-14

Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Appropriations  
(Appropriations Subcommittee on Education)

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to postsecondary education; repealing s. 1004.32, F.S., relating to New College of Florida; amending s. 1009.55, F.S.; increasing the annual maximum number of scholarships that may be awarded; increasing the annual maximum award amount per student; creating s. 1009.893, F.S.; creating the Florida National Merit Scholar Incentive Program; defining terms; providing the purpose of the incentive program; requiring the Department of Education to administer the incentive program, advertise the availability of the incentive program, and notify students, teachers, parents, and school administrators about the incentive program's criteria and application procedures; providing eligibility requirements for the incentive program; requiring certain students who are National Merit Scholars or National Achievement Scholars to receive certain incentive awards; providing eligibility requirements to renew an award; authorizing a student to receive an incentive award for certain maximum percentage amounts of the number of credit hours required to complete an associate degree, a baccalaureate degree, or a career certificate; requiring the department to issue awards from the incentive program and to transmit payment for each award; authorizing the department to withhold payment under certain circumstances; requiring



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28 institutions to certify to the department the  
29 eligibility status of each student to receive a  
30 disbursement of an award during a specified time;  
31 requiring the institution to certify to the department  
32 the disbursement amounts to each student and remit to  
33 the department undisbursed funds; providing for  
34 proration of funds; prohibiting use of funds for  
35 remedial coursework or developmental education;  
36 authorizing a student to use funds during the summer  
37 term under certain circumstances; authorizing  
38 incentive program funds appropriated by the  
39 Legislature to be deposited in the State Student  
40 Financial Assistance Trust Fund; providing for use of  
41 any remaining balance of appropriated funds in the  
42 trust fund; requiring the department to allocate funds  
43 to appropriate institutions and collect and maintain  
44 certain data regarding the incentive program;  
45 requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules;  
46 providing an effective date.

47

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

49

50 Section 1. Section 1004.32, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

51 Section 2. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection  
52 (2) of section 1009.55, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:  
53 1009.55 Rosewood Family Scholarship Program.—

54 (1) There is created a Rosewood Family Scholarship Program  
55 for the direct descendants of the Rosewood families, not to  
56 exceed 50 ~~25~~ scholarships per year.



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57 (2) The Rosewood Family Scholarship Program shall be  
58 administered by the Department of Education. The State Board of  
59 Education shall adopt rules for administering this program which  
60 shall at a minimum provide for the following:

61 (a) The annual award to a student shall be up to \$6,100  
62 ~~\$4,000~~ but should not exceed an amount in excess of tuition and  
63 registration fees.

64 Section 3. Section 1009.893, Florida Statutes, is created  
65 to read:

66 1009.893 Florida National Merit Scholar Incentive Program.-

67 (1) As used in this section, the term:

68 (a) "Department" means the Department of Education.

69 (b) "Incentive program" means the Florida National Merit  
70 Scholar Incentive Program.

71 (2) The Florida National Merit Scholar Incentive Program is  
72 created to reward any Florida high school graduate who receives  
73 recognition as a National Merit Scholar or National Achievement  
74 Scholar and who initially enrolls in the 2014-2015 academic  
75 year, or later, in a degree program, certificate program, or  
76 applied technology program at an eligible Florida public or  
77 independent postsecondary educational institution.

78 (3) The department shall administer the incentive program  
79 according to rules and procedures established by the State Board  
80 of Education. The department shall advertise the availability of  
81 the incentive program and notify students, teachers, parents,  
82 certified school counselors, and principals or other relevant  
83 school administrators of the criteria and application  
84 procedures.

85 (4) In order to be eligible for an award under the



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86 incentive program, a student must:

87 (a) Be a state resident as defined in s. 1009.40 and rules  
88 of the State Board of Education.

89 (b) Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its  
90 equivalent pursuant to s. 1003.428, s. 1003.4281, s. 1003.4282,  
91 or s. 1003.435 unless:

92 1. The student completes a home education program according  
93 to s. 1002.41; or

94 2. The student earns a high school diploma from a non-  
95 Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who is on  
96 military or public service assignment away from this state.

97 (c) Be accepted by and enroll in a Florida public or  
98 independent postsecondary educational institution that meets the  
99 eligibility requirements specified in s. 1009.533.

100 (d) Be enrolled for at least 6 semester credit hours or the  
101 equivalent in quarter hours or clock hours.

102 (5) (a) An eligible student who is a National Merit Scholar  
103 or National Achievement Scholar and who attends a public  
104 postsecondary educational institution must receive an incentive  
105 award equal to the institutional cost of attendance minus the  
106 sum of the student's Florida Bright Futures Scholarship and  
107 National Merit Scholarship or National Achievement Scholarship.

108 (b) An eligible student who is a National Merit Scholar or  
109 National Achievement Scholar and who attends an independent  
110 postsecondary educational institution must receive an incentive  
111 award equal to the highest cost of attendance at a Florida  
112 public university, as reported by the Board of Governors of the  
113 State University System, minus the sum of the student's Florida  
114 Bright Futures Scholarship and National Merit Scholarship or



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115 National Achievement Scholarship.

116 (6) (a) To be eligible for a renewal award, a student must  
117 meet the renewal requirements for the Florida Bright Futures  
118 Scholarship Program set forth in s. 1009.532(1)(a) and for the  
119 Florida Academic Scholars award set forth in s. 1009.534(3).

120 (b) A student may receive the incentive award for a maximum  
121 of 100 percent of the number of credit hours required to  
122 complete an associate degree program or a baccalaureate degree  
123 program or receive an award for a maximum of 100 percent of the  
124 credit hours or clock hours required to complete up to 90 credit  
125 hours of a program that terminates in a career certificate.

126 (7) The department shall annually issue awards from the  
127 incentive program. Before the registration period each semester,  
128 the department shall transmit payment for each award to the  
129 president or director of the postsecondary educational  
130 institution, or his or her representative, except that the  
131 department may withhold payment if the receiving institution  
132 fails to report or to make refunds to the department as required  
133 in this section.

134 (a) Each institution shall certify to the department the  
135 eligibility status of each student to receive a disbursement  
136 within 30 days before the end of its regular registration  
137 period, inclusive of a drop and add period. An institution is  
138 not required to reevaluate the student eligibility after the end  
139 of the drop and add period.

140 (b) An institution that receives funds from the incentive  
141 program must certify to the department the amount of funds  
142 disbursed to each student and remit to the department any  
143 undisbursed advances within 60 days after the end of regular



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144 registration.

145 (c) If funds appropriated are not adequate to provide the  
146 maximum allowable award to each eligible student, awards must be  
147 prorated using the same percentage reduction.

148 (8) Funds from any award within the incentive program may  
149 not be used to pay for remedial coursework or developmental  
150 education.

151 (9) A student may use an award for a summer term if funds  
152 are available and appropriated by the Legislature.

153 (10) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the  
154 incentive program awards may be deposited into the State Student  
155 Financial Assistance Trust Fund. Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and  
156 pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the end  
157 of any fiscal year which has been allocated to the incentive  
158 program must remain in the incentive program and shall be  
159 available for carrying out the purposes of this section. The  
160 department shall allocate funds to the appropriate institutions  
161 and collect and maintain data regarding the incentive program  
162 within the student financial assistance database as specified in  
163 s. 1009.94.

164 (11) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
165 necessary to administer this section.

166 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.