A bill to be entitled
An act relating to higher education; providing a short
title; amending s. 1001.706, F.S.; requiring state
universities to identify internship opportunities in
high-demand fields; amending s. 1001.7065, F.S.;
revising the preeminent state research universities
program graduation rate requirements and funding
distributions; deleting the authority for such
universities to stipulate a special course requirement
for incoming students; requiring the Board of
Governors to establish certain standards by a
specified date; amending s. 1001.92, F.S.; requiring
certain performance-based metrics to include specified
graduation rates and access benchmarks; amending s.
1004.28, F.S.; directing a state university board of
trustees to limit the services, activities, and
expenses of its direct-support organizations;
requiring the chair of the board of trustees to
appoint at least one representative to the board of
directors and executive committee of a university
direct-support organization; requiring the disclosure
of certain financial documents; creating s. 1004.6497,
F.S.; establishing the World Class Faculty and Scholar
Program; providing the purpose and intent; authorizing
state university investments in certain faculty

CODING: Words **stricken** are deletions; words *underlined* are additions.
retention, recruitment, and recognition activities; specifying funding as provided in the General Appropriations Act; requiring an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date; creating s. 1004.6498, F.S.; establishing the State University Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program; providing the purpose; listing the quality improvement efforts that may be used to elevate the prominence of state university medicine, law, and graduate-level business programs; specifying funding as provided in the General Appropriations Act; requiring an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date; amending s. 1008.30, F.S.; authorizing certain state universities to continue to provide developmental education instruction; amending ss. 1009.22 and 1009.23, F.S.; removing the prohibition on the inclusion of a technology fee in the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program award; amending s. 1009.24, F.S.; removing the prohibition on the inclusion of a technology fee and a tuition differential fee in the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program award; requiring each state university board of trustees to implement a block tuition policy for specified undergraduate students beginning in a specified
academic semester; requiring the Chancellor of the State University System to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date; amending s. 1009.53, F.S.; authorizing a student to use Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program awards for summer term enrollment; amending s. 1009.534, F.S.; specifying Florida Academic Scholars award amounts to cover tuition, fees, textbooks, and other educational expenses; amending s. 1009.535, F.S.; specifying Florida Medallion Scholars award amounts to cover specified tuition and fees; amending s. 1009.701, F.S.; revising the state-to-private match requirement for contributions to the First Generation Matching Grant Program beginning in a specified fiscal year; extending the program to include Florida College System institution students; amending s. 1009.893, F.S.; extending coverage of the Benacquisto Scholarship Program to include tuition and fees for qualified nonresident students; creating s. 1009.894, F.S.; creating the Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship Program; providing a purpose; requiring the Department of Education to administer the scholarship program; providing student eligibility criteria; specifying award amounts and distributions; providing for funding as specified in the General
Appropriations Act; amending s. 1009.98, F.S.; providing that certain payments from the Florida Prepaid College Board to a state university on behalf of a qualified beneficiary may not exceed a specified amount; providing for retroactive application; providing a directive to the Division of Law Revision and Information; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. This act shall be cited as the "Florida Excellence in Higher Education Act of 2018."

Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 1001.706, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—
(5) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO ACCOUNTABILITY.—
(b) The Board of Governors shall develop a strategic plan specifying goals and objectives for the State University System and each constituent university, including each university's contribution to overall system goals and objectives. The strategic plan must:

1. Include performance metrics and standards common for all institutions and metrics and standards unique to institutions depending on institutional core missions, including, but not limited to, student admission requirements,
retention, graduation, percentage of graduates who have attained employment, percentage of graduates enrolled in continued education, licensure passage, average wages of employed graduates, average cost per graduate, excess hours, student loan burden and default rates, faculty awards, total annual research expenditures, patents, licenses and royalties, intellectual property, startup companies, annual giving, endowments, and well-known, highly respected national rankings for institutional and program achievements.

2. Consider reports and recommendations of the Higher Education Coordinating Council pursuant to s. 1004.015 and the Articulation Coordinating Committee pursuant to s. 1007.01.

3. Include student enrollment and performance data delineated by method of instruction, including, but not limited to, traditional, online, and distance learning instruction.

4. Include criteria for designating baccalaureate degree and master's degree programs at specified universities as high-demand programs of emphasis. Fifty percent of the criteria for designation as high-demand programs of emphasis must be based on achievement of performance outcome thresholds determined by the Board of Governors, and 50 percent of the criteria must be based on achievement of performance outcome thresholds specifically linked to:

   a. Job placement in employment of 36 hours or more per week and average full-time wages of graduates of the degree
programs 1 year and 5 years after graduation, based in part on data provided in the economic security report of employment and earning outcomes produced annually pursuant to s. 445.07.

b. Data-driven gap analyses, conducted by the Board of Governors, of the state's job market demands and the outlook for jobs that require a baccalaureate or higher degree. Each state university must use the gap analyses to identify internship opportunities for students to benefit from mentorship by industry experts, earn industry certifications, and become employed in high-demand fields.

Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2), paragraph (c) of subsection (5), and subsections (6), (7), and (8) of section 1001.7065, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1001.7065 Preeminent state research universities program.—

(2) ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE STANDARDS.—The following academic and research excellence standards are established for the preeminent state research universities program:

(d) A 4-year graduation rate of 60 percent or higher for full-time, first-time-in-college students, as reported annually to the IPEDS. However, for the 2018 determination of a state university's preeminence designation and the related distribution of the 2018-2019 fiscal year appropriation associated with preeminence and emerging preeminence, a university is considered to have satisfied this graduation rate
measure by attaining a 6-year graduation rate of 70 percent or higher by October 1, 2017, for full-time, first-time-in-college students, as reported annually to the IPEDS and confirmed by the Board of Governors.

(5) PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES PROGRAM SUPPORT.—

(c) The award of funds under this subsection is contingent upon funding provided in the General Appropriations Act to support the preeminent state research universities program created under this section. Funding increases appropriated beyond the amounts funded in the previous fiscal year shall be distributed as follows:

1. Each designated preeminent state research university that meets the criteria in paragraph (a) shall receive an equal amount of funding.

2. Each designated emerging preeminent state research university that meets the criteria in paragraph (b) shall, beginning in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, receive an amount of funding that is equal to one-fourth one-half of the total increased amount awarded to each designated preeminent state research university.

(6) PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COURSE REQUIREMENT AUTHORITY. In order to provide a jointly shared educational experience, a university that is designated a preeminent state research university may require its incoming
first-time-in-college students to take a six-credit set of unique courses specifically determined by the university and published on the university's website. The university may stipulate that credit for such courses may not be earned through any acceleration mechanism pursuant to s. 1007.27 or s. 1007.271 or any other transfer credit. All accelerated credits earned up to the limits specified in ss. 1007.27 and 1007.271 shall be applied toward graduation at the student's request.

(6) PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY FLEXIBILITY AUTHORITY.—The Board of Governors is encouraged to identify and grant all reasonable, feasible authority and flexibility to ensure that each designated preeminent state research university and each designated emerging preeminent state research university is free from unnecessary restrictions.

(7) PROGRAMS OF EXCELLENCE THROUGHOUT THE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.—The Board of Governors shall establish standards and measures whereby individual undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree programs in state universities that objectively reflect national excellence can be identified and make recommendations to the Legislature by September 1, 2018, as to how any such programs could be enhanced and promoted.

Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 1001.92, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.92 State University System Performance-Based
Incentive.—

(1) A State University System Performance-Based Incentive shall be awarded to state universities using performance-based metrics adopted by the Board of Governors of the State University System. Beginning with the Board of Governors' determination of each university's performance improvement and achievement ratings for 2018, and the related distribution of the 2018-2019 fiscal year appropriation, the performance-based metrics must include 4-year graduation rates; retention rates; postgraduation education rates; degree production; affordability; postgraduation employment and salaries, including wage thresholds that reflect the added value of a baccalaureate degree; access, with benchmarks that reward institutions with access rates at or above 50 percent; and other metrics approved by the board in a formally noticed meeting. The board shall adopt benchmarks to evaluate each state university's performance on the metrics to measure the state university's achievement of institutional excellence or need for improvement and minimum requirements for eligibility to receive performance funding.

Section 5. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) and paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 1004.28, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1004.28 Direct-support organizations; use of property; board of directors; activities; audit; facilities.—

(2) USE OF PROPERTY.—
(a) Each state university board of trustees is authorized to permit the use of property, facilities, and personal services at any state university by any university direct-support organization, and, subject to the provisions of this section, direct-support organizations may establish accounts with the State Board of Administration for investment of funds pursuant to part IV of chapter 218. Beginning July 1, 2023, a state university board of trustees may not permit any university direct-support organization to use personal services.

(b) The board of trustees, in accordance with regulations and guidelines of the Board of Governors, shall prescribe by regulation rules conditions with which a university direct-support organization must comply in order to use property, facilities, or personal services at any state university. Such regulations rules shall provide for budget and audit review and oversight by the board of trustees.

(c) The board of trustees shall not permit the use of property, facilities, or personal services at any state university by any university direct-support organization that does not provide equal employment opportunities to all persons regardless of race, color, religion, gender, age, or national origin.

(d) The board of trustees may not permit the use of state funds for travel expenses by any university direct-support organization.
(3) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—The chair of the university board of trustees shall appoint at least one representative to the board of directors and the executive committee of any direct-support organization established under this section. The president of the university for which the direct-support organization is established, or his or her designee, shall also serve on the board of directors and the executive committee of any direct-support organization established to benefit that university.

(4) ACTIVITIES; RESTRICTION.—A university direct-support organization is prohibited from giving, either directly or indirectly, any gift to a political committee as defined in s. 106.011 for any purpose other than those certified by a majority roll call vote of the governing board of the direct-support organization at a regularly scheduled meeting as being directly related to the educational mission of the university.

(5) ANNUAL AUDIT; PUBLIC RECORDS EXEMPTION; PUBLIC MEETINGS EXEMPTION.—

(b) All records of the organization other than the auditor's report, management letter, any records related to the expenditure of state funds, any records related to the expenditure of private funds for travel, and any supplemental data requested by the Board of Governors, the university board of trustees, the Auditor General, and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall be...
Section 6. Section 1004.6497, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1004.6497 World Class Faculty and Scholar Program.—

(1) PURPOSE AND LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—The World Class Faculty and Scholar Program is established to fund, beginning in

the 2017-2018 fiscal year, and support the efforts of state universities to recruit and retain exemplary faculty and research scholars. It is the intent of the Legislature to elevate the national competitiveness of Florida's state universities through faculty and scholar recruitment and retention.

(2) INVESTMENTS.—Retention, recruitment, and recognition efforts, activities, and investments may include, but are not limited to, investments in research-centric cluster hires, faculty research and research commercialization efforts, instructional and research infrastructure, undergraduate student participation in research, professional development, awards for outstanding performance, and postdoctoral fellowships.

(3) FUNDING AND USE.—Funding for the program shall be as provided in the General Appropriations Act. Each state university shall use the funds only for the purpose and investments authorized under this section. These funds may not be used to construct buildings.

(4) ACCOUNTABILITY.—By March 15 of each year, the Board of

confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1).
Governors shall provide to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report summarizing information from the universities in the State University System, including, but not limited to:

(a) Specific expenditure information as it relates to the investments identified in subsection (2).

(b) The impact of those investments in elevating the national competitiveness of the universities, specifically relating to:

1. The success in recruiting research faculty and the resulting research funding;
2. The 4-year graduation rate for undergraduate students;
3. The number of undergraduate courses offered with fewer than 50 students; and
4. The increase in national academic standing of targeted programs, specifically advancement in ranking among top 50 universities in the targeted programs in well-known and highly respected national public university rankings, including, but not limited to, the U.S. News and World Report rankings, which reflect national preeminence, using the most recent rankings.

Section 7. Section 1004.6498, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1004.6498 State University Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program.—

(1) PURPOSE.—The State University Professional and
Graduate Degree Excellence Program is established to fund, beginning in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, and support the efforts of state universities to enhance the quality and excellence of professional and graduate schools and degree programs in medicine, law, and business and expand the economic impact of state universities.

(2) INVESTMENTS.—Quality improvement efforts may include, but are not limited to, targeted investments in faculty, students, research, infrastructure, and other strategic endeavors to elevate the national and global prominence of state university medicine, law, and graduate-level business programs.

(3) FUNDING AND USE.—Funding for the program shall be as provided in the General Appropriations Act. Each state university shall use the funds only for the purpose and investments authorized under this section. These funds may not be used to construct buildings.

(4) ACCOUNTABILITY.—By March 15 of each year, the Board of Governors shall provide to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report summarizing information from the universities in the State University System, including, but not limited to:

(a) Specific expenditure information as it relates to the investments identified in subsection (2).

(b) The impact of those investments in elevating the national and global prominence of the state university medicine,
law, and graduate-level business programs, specifically relating to:

1. The first-time pass rate on the United States Medical Licensing Examination;
2. The first-time pass rate on The Florida Bar Examination;
3. The percentage of graduates enrolled or employed at a wage threshold that reflects the added value of a graduate-level business degree;
4. The advancement in the rankings of the state university medicine, law, and graduate-level programs in well-known and highly respected national graduate-level university rankings, including, but not limited to, the U.S. News and World Report rankings, which reflect national preeminence, using the most recent rankings; and
5. The added economic benefit of the universities to the state.

Section 8. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of section 1008.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.30 Common placement testing for public postsecondary education.—
(5) (c) A university board of trustees may contract with a Florida College System institution board of trustees for the Florida College System institution to provide developmental
education on the state university campus. Any state university
in which the percentage of incoming students requiring
developmental education equals or exceeds the average percentage
of such students for the Florida College System may offer
developmental education without contracting with a Florida
College System institution; however, any state university
offering college-preparatory instruction as of January 1, 1996,
may continue to provide developmental education instruction as
defined in s. 1008.02(1) such services.

Section 9. Subsection (7) of section 1009.22, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.22 Workforce education postsecondary student fees.—
(7) Each district school board and Florida College System
institution board of trustees is authorized to establish a
separate fee for technology, not to exceed 5 percent of tuition
per credit hour or credit-hour equivalent for resident students
and not to exceed 5 percent of tuition and the out-of-state fee
per credit hour or credit-hour equivalent for nonresident
students. Revenues generated from the technology fee shall be
used to enhance instructional technology resources for students
and faculty and shall not be included in any award under the
Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. Fifty percent of
technology fee revenues may be pledged by a Florida College
System institution board of trustees as a dedicated revenue
source for the repayment of debt, including lease-purchase
agreements, not to exceed the useful life of the asset being financed. Revenues generated from the technology fee may not be bonded.

Section 10. Subsection (10) of section 1009.23, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.23 Florida College System institution student fees.—
(10) Each Florida College System institution board of trustees is authorized to establish a separate fee for technology, which may not exceed 5 percent of tuition per credit hour or credit-hour equivalent for resident students and may not exceed 5 percent of tuition and the out-of-state fee per credit hour or credit-hour equivalent for nonresident students. Revenues generated from the technology fee shall be used to enhance instructional technology resources for students and faculty. The technology fee may apply to both college credit and developmental education and shall not be included in any award under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. Fifty percent of technology fee revenues may be pledged by a Florida College System institution board of trustees as a dedicated revenue source for the repayment of debt, including lease-purchase agreements, not to exceed the useful life of the asset being financed. Revenues generated from the technology fee may not be bonded.

Section 11. Subsection (13), paragraph (r) of subsection (14), paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (15), paragraphs (a),
(b), and (e) of subsection (16), and subsection (20) of section 1009.24, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1009.24 State university student fees.—

(13) Each university board of trustees may establish a technology fee of up to 5 percent of the tuition per credit hour. The revenue from this fee shall be used to enhance instructional technology resources for students and faculty. The technology fee may not be included in any award under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program established pursuant to ss. 1009.53-1009.538.

(14) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (15), each university board of trustees is authorized to establish the following fees:

(r) Traffic and parking fines, charges for parking decals, and transportation access fees. Only universitywide transportation access fees may be included in any state financial assistance award authorized under part III of chapter 1009, as specifically authorized by law or the General Appropriations Act.

With the exception of housing rental rates and except as otherwise provided, fees assessed pursuant to paragraphs (h)-(s) shall be based on reasonable costs of services. The Board of Governors shall adopt regulations and timetables necessary to implement the fees and fines authorized under this subsection.
The fees assessed under this subsection may be used for debt
only as authorized under s. 1010.62.

(15)(a) The Board of Governors may approve:

1. A proposal from a university board of trustees to
establish a new student fee that is not specifically authorized
by this section.

2. A proposal from a university board of trustees to
increase the current cap for an existing fee authorized pursuant
to paragraphs (14)(a)-(g).

3.a. A proposal from a university board of trustees to
implement flexible tuition policies, such as undergraduate or
graduate block tuition, block tuition differential, or market
tuition rates for graduate-level online courses or graduate-level courses offered through a university's continuing
education program. A block tuition policy for resident
undergraduate students or undergraduate-level courses must shall
be based on the per-credit-hour undergraduate tuition
established under subsection (4). A block tuition policy for
nonresident undergraduate students must shall be based on the
per-credit-hour undergraduate tuition and out-of-state fee
established under subsection (4). Flexible tuition policies,
including block tuition, may not increase the state's fiscal
liability or obligation.

b. A block tuition policy, which must be adopted by each
university board of trustees for implementation beginning in the
fall 2018 academic semester. The policy must apply to the entering freshman class of full-time, first-time-in-college students and may be extended to include other enrolled students. The policy must, at a minimum:

(I) Include block tuition and any required fees, including, but not limited to, tuition differential fees, activity and service fees, financial aid fees, capital improvement fees, athletic fees, health fees, and technology fees.

(II) Require the university to maximize the application of appropriate accelerated credits to minimize unnecessary credits and excess hours.

(III) Enable students to have the flexibility to earn at least 30 credits per academic year in any combination of fall, spring, and summer academic terms or semesters.

(b) A proposal developed pursuant to paragraph (a) shall be submitted in accordance with the public notification requirements of subsection (20) and guidelines established by the Board of Governors. Approval by the Board of Governors of such proposals must be made in accordance with the provisions of this subsection. By April 1, 2018, each state university board of trustees must submit to the Board of Governors its block tuition policy, adopted pursuant to subparagraph (a)3., along with information on the potential impact of the policy on students. By August 1, 2018, the
Chancellor of the State University System must submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a summary report of such policies, the status of the board's review and approval of such policies, and the board's recommendations for improving block tuition and fee benefits for students.

(16) Each university board of trustees may establish a tuition differential for undergraduate courses upon receipt of approval from the Board of Governors. However, beginning July 1, 2014, the Board of Governors may only approve the establishment of or an increase in tuition differential for a state research university designated as a preeminent state research university pursuant to s. 1001.7065(3). The tuition differential shall promote improvements in the quality of undergraduate education and shall provide financial aid to undergraduate students who exhibit financial need.

(a) Seventy percent of the revenues from the tuition differential shall be expended for purposes of undergraduate education. Such expenditures may include, but are not limited to, increasing course offerings, improving graduation rates, increasing the percentage of undergraduate students who are taught by faculty, decreasing student-faculty ratios, providing salary increases for faculty who have a history of excellent teaching in undergraduate courses, improving the efficiency of the delivery of undergraduate education through academic
advisement and counseling, and reducing the percentage of students who graduate with excess hours. This expenditure for undergraduate education may not be used to pay the salaries of graduate teaching assistants. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the remaining 30 percent of the revenues from the tuition differential, or the equivalent amount of revenue from private sources, shall be expended to provide financial aid to undergraduate students who exhibit financial need, including students who are scholarship recipients under s. 1009.984, to meet the cost of university attendance. This expenditure for need-based financial aid shall not supplant the amount of need-based aid provided to undergraduate students in the preceding fiscal year from financial aid fee revenues, the direct appropriation for financial assistance provided to state universities in the General Appropriations Act, or from private sources. The total amount of tuition differential waived under subparagraph (b)7. (b)8. may be included in calculating the expenditures for need-based financial aid to undergraduate students required by this subsection. If the entire tuition and fee costs of resident students who have applied for and received Pell Grant funds have been met and the university has excess funds remaining from the 30 percent of the revenues from the tuition differential required to be used to assist students who exhibit financial need, the university may expend the excess portion in the same manner as required for the other 70 percent
of the tuition differential revenues.

(b) Each tuition differential is subject to the following conditions:

1. The tuition differential may be assessed on one or more undergraduate courses or on all undergraduate courses at a state university.

2. The tuition differential may vary by course or courses, by campus or center location, and by institution. Each university board of trustees shall strive to maintain and increase enrollment in degree programs related to math, science, high technology, and other state or regional high-need fields when establishing tuition differentials by course.

3. For each state university that is designated as a preeminent state research university by the Board of Governors, pursuant to s. 1001.7065, the aggregate sum of tuition and the tuition differential may be increased by no more than 6 percent of the total charged for the aggregate sum of these fees in the preceding fiscal year. The tuition differential may be increased if the university meets or exceeds performance standard targets for that university established annually by the Board of Governors for the following performance standards, amounting to no more than a 2-percent increase in the tuition differential for each performance standard:

   a. An increase in the 4-year 6-year graduation rate for full-time, first-time-in-college students, as reported annually
to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

b. An increase in the total annual research expenditures.

c. An increase in the total patents awarded by the United States Patent and Trademark Office for the most recent years.

4. The aggregate sum of undergraduate tuition and fees per credit hour, including the tuition differential, may not exceed the national average of undergraduate tuition and fees at 4-year degree-granting public postsecondary educational institutions.

5. The tuition differential shall not be included in any award under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program established pursuant to ss. 1009.53-1009.538.

5.6 Beneficiaries having prepaid tuition contracts pursuant to s. 1009.98(2)(b) which were in effect on July 1, 2007, and which remain in effect, are exempt from the payment of the tuition differential.

6.7 The tuition differential may not be charged to any student who was in attendance at the university before July 1, 2007, and who maintains continuous enrollment.

7.8 The tuition differential may be waived by the university for students who meet the eligibility requirements for the Florida public student assistance grant established in s. 1009.50.

8.9 Subject to approval by the Board of Governors, the tuition differential authorized pursuant to this subsection may take effect with the 2009 fall term.
(e) The Board of Governors shall submit a report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor describing the implementation of the provisions of this subsection no later than February 1 of each year. The report shall summarize proposals received by the board during the preceding fiscal year and actions taken by the board in response to such proposals. In addition, the report shall provide the following information for each university that has been approved by the board to assess a tuition differential:

1. The course or courses for which the tuition differential was assessed and the amount assessed.
2. The total revenues generated by the tuition differential.
3. With respect to waivers authorized under subparagraph (b)7. (b)8., the number of students eligible for a waiver, the number of students receiving a waiver, and the value of waivers provided.
4. Detailed expenditures of the revenues generated by the tuition differential.
5. Changes in retention rates, graduation rates, the percentage of students graduating with more than 110 percent of the hours required for graduation, pass rates on licensure examinations, the number of undergraduate course offerings, the percentage of undergraduate students who are taught by faculty, student-faculty ratios, and the average salaries of faculty who

CODING: Words *stricken* are deletions; words *underlined* are additions.
teach undergraduate courses.

(20) Each state university shall publicly notice and notify all enrolled students of any proposal to change increase tuition or fees at least 28 days before its consideration at a board of trustees meeting. The notice must:

(a) Include the date and time of the meeting at which the proposal will be considered.

(b) Specifically outline the details of existing tuition and fees, the rationale for the proposed change increase, and how the funds from the proposed change increase will be used.

(c) Be posted on the university's website and issued in a press release.

Section 12. Subsection (9) of section 1009.53, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.53 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.—

(9) A student may use a Florida Academic Scholar award for summer term enrollment beginning in the 2018 summer term, as funded in the General Appropriations Act. A student may use other Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program awards for summer term enrollment, if funded in the General Appropriations Act if funds are available.

Section 13. Subsection (2) of section 1009.534, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.—

(2) A Florida Academic Scholar who is enrolled in a
certificate, diploma, associate, or baccalaureate degree program at a public or nonpublic postsecondary education institution is eligible, beginning in the 2017-2018 academic year, for an award equal to the amount required to pay 100 percent of tuition and fees established under ss. 1009.22(3), (5), (6), and (7); 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11); and 1009.24(4), (7)-(13), (14)(r), and (16), as applicable, and is eligible for an additional $300 each fall and spring academic semester or the equivalent for textbooks and specified in the General Appropriations Act to assist with the payment of educational expenses.

Section 14. Subsection (2) of section 1009.535, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.535 Florida Medallion Scholars award.—
(2) A Florida Medallion Scholar who is enrolled in a certificate, diploma, associate, or baccalaureate degree program at a public or nonpublic postsecondary education institution is eligible, beginning in the fall 2018 semester, for an award equal to the amount required to pay 75 percent of tuition and fees established under ss. 1009.22(3), (5), (6), and (7); 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11); and 1009.24(4), (7)-(13), (14)(r), and (16), as applicable specified in the General Appropriations Act to assist with the payment of educational expenses.

Section 15. Subsections (1), (2), and (4) and paragraph
(c) of subsection (5) of section 1009.701, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1009.701 First Generation Matching Grant Program.—
(1) The First Generation Matching Grant Program is created to enable each state university and Florida College System institution to provide donors with a matching grant incentive for contributions that will create grant-based student financial aid for undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need and whose parents, as defined in s. 1009.21(1), have not earned a baccalaureate degree. In the case of any individual who regularly resided with and received support from only one parent, an individual whose only such parent did not complete a baccalaureate degree would also be eligible.

(2) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the program shall be allocated by the Office of Student Financial Assistance to match private contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis; however, beginning in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, such funds shall be allocated at a ratio of $2 of state funds to $1 of private contributions. Contributions made to a state university or a Florida College System institution and pledged for the purposes of this section are eligible for state matching funds appropriated for this program and are not eligible for any other state matching grant program. Pledged contributions are not eligible for matching prior to the actual collection of the total funds. The Office of Student Financial Assistance shall
reserve a proportionate allocation of the total appropriated funds for each state university and Florida College System institution on the basis of full-time equivalent enrollment. Funds that remain unmatched as of December 1 shall be reallocated to state universities and colleges that have remaining unmatched private contributions for the program on the basis of full-time equivalent enrollment.

(4) Each participating state university and Florida College System institution shall establish an application process, determine student eligibility for initial and renewal awards in conformance with subsection (5), identify the amount awarded to each recipient, and notify recipients of the amount of their awards.

(5) In order to be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to this section, an applicant must:

(c) Be accepted at a state university or Florida College System institution.

Section 16. Subsections (2), (4), and (5) of section 1009.893, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1009.893 Benacquisto Scholarship Program.—

(2) The Benacquisto Scholarship Program is created to reward any Florida high school graduate who receives recognition as a National Merit Scholar or National Achievement Scholar and who initially enrolls in the 2014-2015 academic year or, later, in a baccalaureate degree program at an eligible
Florida public or independent postsecondary educational institution.

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

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

1. (b) Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its equivalent pursuant to s. 1002.3105, s. 1003.4281, s. 1003.4282, or s. 1003.435 unless:

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

   b. The student earns a high school diploma from a non-Florida school while living with a parent who is on military or public service assignment out of this state;

2. (c) Be accepted by and enroll in a Florida public or independent postsecondary educational institution that is regionally accredited; and

3. (d) Be enrolled full-time in a baccalaureate degree program at an eligible regionally accredited Florida public or independent postsecondary educational institution during the fall academic term following high school graduation.

(b) A student who initially enrolls in a baccalaureate degree program in the 2018-2019 academic year or later and who
is not a resident of this state, as determined in s. 1009.40 and rules of the State Board of Education, must:

1. Physically reside in this state on or near the campus of the postsecondary educational institution in which the student is enrolled;

2. Earn a high school diploma from a school outside Florida which is comparable to a standard Florida high school diploma or its equivalent pursuant to s. 1002.3105, s. 1003.4281, s. 1003.4282, or s. 1003.435 or must complete a home education program in another state; and

3. Be accepted by and enrolled full-time in a baccalaureate degree program at an eligible regionally accredited Florida public or independent postsecondary educational institution during the fall academic term following high school graduation.

(5)(a)1. An eligible student who meets the requirements of paragraph (4)(a), who is a National Merit Scholar or National Achievement Scholar, and who attends a Florida public postsecondary educational institution shall receive a scholarship award equal to the institutional cost of attendance minus the sum of the student's Florida Bright Futures Scholarship and National Merit Scholarship or National Achievement Scholarship.

2. An eligible student who meets the requirements under paragraph (4)(b), who is a National Merit Scholar, and who
attends a Florida public postsecondary educational institution shall receive a scholarship award equal to the institutional cost of attendance for a resident of this state minus the student's National Merit Scholarship. Such student is exempt from the payment of out-of-state fees.

(b) An eligible student who is a National Merit Scholar or National Achievement Scholar and who attends a Florida independent postsecondary educational institution shall receive a scholarship award equal to the highest cost of attendance for a resident of this state enrolled at a Florida public university, as reported by the Board of Governors of the State University System, minus the sum of the student's Florida Bright Futures Scholarship and National Merit Scholarship or National Achievement Scholarship.

Section 17. Section 1009.894, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1009.894 Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship Program.—The Legislature recognizes the vital contribution of farmworkers to the economy of this state. The Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship Program is created to provide scholarships for farmworkers, as defined in s. 420.503, and the children of such farmworkers.

(1) The Department of Education shall administer the Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship Program according to rules and procedures established by the State Board of
Education. Beginning in the 2017-2018 academic year, up to 50 scholarships shall be awarded annually according to the criteria established in subsection (2) and contingent upon an appropriation in the General Appropriations Act.

(2)(a) To be eligible for an initial scholarship, a student must, at a minimum:

1. Have a resident status as required by s. 1009.40 and rules of the State Board of Education;

2. Earn a minimum cumulative weighted grade point average of 3.5 for all high school courses creditable toward a diploma;

3. Complete a minimum of 30 hours of community service;

and

4. Have at least a 90 percent attendance rate and not have had any disciplinary action brought against him or her, as documented on the student's high school transcript.

For purposes of this section, students who are undocumented for federal immigration purposes are not eligible for an award.

(b) The department shall rank eligible initial applicants for the purposes of awarding scholarships based on need, as determined by the department.

(c) To renew a scholarship awarded pursuant to this section, a student must maintain at least a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale for college coursework.
(3) A scholarship recipient must enroll in a minimum of 12 credit hours per term, or the equivalent, at a public postsecondary educational institution in this state to receive funding.

(4) A scholarship recipient may receive an award for a maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours required to complete an associate or baccalaureate degree program or receive an award for a maximum of 100 percent of the credit hours or clock hours required to complete up to 90 credit hours of a program that terminates in a career certificate. The scholarship recipient is eligible for an award equal to the amount required to pay the tuition and fees established under ss. 1009.22(3), (5), (6), and (7); 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11); and 1009.24(4), (7)-(13), (14)(r), and (16), as applicable, at a public postsecondary educational institution in this state. Renewal scholarship awards must take precedence over new scholarship awards in a year in which funds are not sufficient to accommodate both initial and renewal awards. The scholarship must be prorated for any such year.

(5) Subject to appropriation in the General Appropriations Act, the department shall annually issue awards from the scholarship program. Before the registration period each semester, the department shall transmit payment for each award to the president or director of the postsecondary educational institution, or his or her representative. However, the
The department may withhold payment if the receiving institution fails to submit the following reports or make the following refunds to the department:

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

(b) An institution that receives funds from the scholarship program must certify to the department the amount of funds disbursed to each student and remit to the department any undisbursed advance within 60 days after the end of the regular registration period.

(6) The department shall allocate funds to the appropriate institutions and collect and maintain data regarding the scholarship program within the student financial assistance database as specified in s. 1009.94.

(7) Funding for this program shall be as provided in the General Appropriations Act.

Section 18. Present paragraphs (e) and (f) of subsection (10) of section 1009.98, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (f) and (g), respectively, and a new paragraph (e) is added to that subsection, to read:

1009.98 Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program.—
(10) PAYMENTS ON BEHALF OF QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES.—

(e) Notwithstanding the number of credit hours used by a state university to assess the amount for registration fees, tuition, tuition differential, or local fees, the amount paid by the board to any state university on behalf of a qualified beneficiary of an advance payment contract purchased before July 1, 2024, may not exceed the number of credit hours taken by that qualified beneficiary at the state university.

Section 19. The provisions of this act creating ss. 1004.6497, 1004.6498, and 1009.894, Florida Statutes, and the provisions amending ss. 1009.22, 1009.23, 1009.24, 1009.53, and 1009.534(2), Florida Statutes, apply retroactively to July 1, 2017.

Section 20. The Division of Law Revision and Information is directed to substitute the term "Effective Access to Student Education Grant Program" for "Florida Resident Access Grant Program" and the term "Effective Access to Student Education grant" for "Florida resident access grant" wherever those terms appear in the Florida Statutes.

Section 21. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.